



21 Ideas for Worshipful Masters

With credit to Bro Chris Hodapp, Broad Ripple Lodge No. 643 in Indianapolis and his blog website Freemasonry for Dummies - his Lodge was on it's last legs and he and several others revived it with a similar plan of ideas.

1. Hold business meetings as 'table lodges' in the dining room. *Open, set the meeting at ease, go get your dinner, and hash out upcoming business and decide a plan of action over dessert.*
2. Insist on a regular gathering at a local tavern or restaurant for members, spouses, friends. *Do NOT hang out in the parking lot of the Lodge moaning after meetings. That's not how to forge new friendships.*
3. Add stereo system and big screen TV to dining room. *Perhaps hold rugby nights after rehearsal. Make the Lodge a place to hang around in, not just eat, meet and flee.*
4. Start an Annual Cook-Off at Lodge with a trophy. *The noisier the rivalry gets, the better. Encourage outlandish claims, trash talking between chefs, and bragging rights. Invite other lodges to join in the competition.*
5. Hold a Joint Lodge picnic with other Lodges.
6. Establish monthly display board with photos. *Make Lodge look fun, and if they don't come, they're missing great experiences.*
7. Avoid charging for meals by budgeting in advance. *Catered or convenience food rather than the same few brothers chained to the kitchen or bringing plates. They will burn out.*
8. Make sure Lodge name is seen out in the community. *Business cards, pins, jackets with S&C and Lodge name, who to contact for info on door of Lodge along with web address. If the building is closed, how will a new man find someone to ask?*
9. Always keep Freemasons brochures in your brief case and car. *Let's say that again: Always keep brochures in your brief case and car.*
10. Have a professional looking Lodge web page. *If a potential member sees that your site is dated 2006 and none of the hyperlinks work, they'll move on.*



THE FREEMASONS TOOLBOX



11. Redecorate the lobby and entry area of your Lodge building. *Ratty furniture, no art, and accessories from the beginning of last century make a terrible first impression on potential new members. If you think it's ugly, how will a new member see it? If you don't know, ASK YOUR WIFE / PARTNER!)*
12. Landscape the front yard of the property. *Is it full of rocks and overgrown shrubs? If your building looks tired, unkempt and decayed, what does that say about Freemasonry to a potential new member? What does it say about your own pride of membership?*
13. Ensure easy accessibility. *Purchase motorized stair-climbers to assist older members (many Lodges have lots of steps)*
14. Make \$200 donation to the Freemasons Charity or other Masonic Trust in memory of every member who passes away.
15. Present Poinsettias for Lodge Widows at Christmas time and perhaps chocolates at Easter, hand delivered by the Master. *They'll love you forever. Get them on your side and their grandson may join.*
16. Recognise older members who come to every meeting and degree. *These men built our Lodges. Acknowledge their achievements publicly and often.*
17. Seek out degree help from other Lodges. *Liberal use of honorary memberships for regular visiting helpers can contribute to their regular long-term attendance, and perhaps, affiliation.*
18. Establish or expand a Lodge library. *Get members to write book reviews of new ones and promote it in your Notice Board or Newsletter.*
19. Start a non-Masonic book exchange open to everyone in Lodge family. *Install a bookshelf in the dining room.*
20. Leave officers chairs empty for a year rather than push new members into them immediately.
21. Make a long-term plan with your Wardens so there is continuity for years to come. *Stop reinventing the wheel every year. Do NOT hide good ideas from each other so one can claim victory during your year. Do NOT pass on problems to the next Master. Solve them now!*

