



GRAND COMMANDERY of MONTANA
 Information and stories for November, 2021
 Current Grand Commander: Alan T Frohberg, MWPGM / REGC
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Step up again!

I pulled the main body of this article from the past but have updated it for the times. As we get into the swing of things for this Masonic year following the attendance layoff due to covid, I want to encourage all of my Brothers to really step up your game this year and going forward. Attendance has fallen off since the covid restrictions and it has not fully returned to where it needs to be.

If you are an active member of you Blue Lodge and York Rite bodies, that's great, is there more you can be doing? Are there committees you can volunteer for or maybe you can start a committee for a project you feel strongly about and want to see your lodge or chapters get involved with? Is there a cause or purpose you want to see made into an annual observance or event? Perhaps you have an idea to start a tradition within your lodge or chapter. You know, nothing can start or become a tradition unless someone try's it for the first time!

If you are currently a member by occasional attendance alone, keep in mind that what get out of something is proportionate to what you put in. Only attending a meeting returns only a meeting night. Since you are attending already, why not speak up about some ideas you may have about things to do within the Lodge or Chapter to make it interesting for everyone. Partner up with a fellow member and start learning degree parts so you can play an active role in bringing new members in and creating memories for them, I guarantee that we all remember who was on our degree teams as we traveled on our Masonic journey. As stated before, start up, or volunteer for a committee on something. If your tired of everyone talking about what they want to do but not doing anything about it, be the one to start it.

If you are only a dues paying member and do not participate in any part of our Masonic family, Why is that? Have we done something to cause your lack of continued interest? Is your lack of interest due to our lack of activity? Is there something we can do to get you active again? As stated before, you get out what is put in so if you are only a dues paying member than the only thing you will get back is membership, what can we do to change that?

I have mentioned this several times before, and I will say it again, I know there are hundreds of reasons why someone becomes disenchanted with Masonry. If someone is not attending due to health reasons i.e.; in assisted living or cannot drive at night, no problem, we will come and get you and take you home. If someone thinks they are of no use because they cannot do any of the degree work anymore, No problem, they have forgotten more than most of us will ever know, we need them so we can learn from them while there is still time and who else is going to pass on the stories of the members who we have already lost?





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A few of the things I have thought about to increase interest and activity thus far include:

1. More committees, committees for meals and refreshment, membership, sick & distressed, ritual proficiency, degree teams, audio/video improvements, publicity, observances, anything, give someone a job and they will come.....
2. Get a couple guys together who are in charge of your Lodge/Chapter/Commandry/ building history, charge them with gathering, preserving, displaying and presenting the past before it is gone. Put it on display so when the public come in, it may bring up memories of their own and spur questions, communication and interest which could lead to membership growth. Give someone a job and they will come.....
3. In lodge we have an instructor who is in charge of education as well, we do not have that in our other orders, why not? There is a bunch to learn and we can assign someone to teach us or facilitate our educational sessions. Hey! here's an idea, how about a sword/drill instructor??? There are several Commanderies who have no clue what to do with a sword other than putting it on. Reason being, there is no one in charge to pass on the information or skills, or moreover, there is no one who will step up and learn the drills so they can pass them on to their fellow Sir Knights. Give someone a job and they will come.....
4. A store and/or lending library. I personally have kicked around the idea of having a small area set aside in our hall stocked with Masonic items for our members to purchase. A lot of us see something cool we would like to have but often times the effort spent to find it, order it and wait for it makes it not worth the effort so we don't get it. This store could be stocked with pertinent items for your order. Stickers, pins, patches etc. There are several places to buy Masonic gear, I would avoid it if possible, but there is a bunch of really neat Masonic stuff on Amazon. If possible, always try to stock up with the Masonic supply houses and keep it in the family. I have purchased vintage Masonic stuff on eBay as well which one could turn around and resell in your store. Give someone a job and they will come....

As you can see, I firmly believe that if you want people to be engaged and participate, you have to give them a reason to do so. If the only people who “need: to be at a meeting are the line officers, than that is all that is going to show up and once they are through the line, they will stop coming as well because they are not “needed” anymore. We all know that is not the case but maybe we should start showing it.



Respectfully submitted by:
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