

Keep Our Brethren Active and Our Lodges Healthy

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Editor's Note: This information is from the manual "Jobs to Keep Our Brethren Active and Our Lodges Healthy".

Many of our Brethren joined Freemasonry because they were interested in the Fraternity, its history and traditions, its philosophy, and its values. They want to know more about Masonic symbolism, famous Masons, and some of our charitable endeavors.

You can capitalize on this interest by approaching a number of the Brethren and asking them to prepare a brief paper on some aspect of Freemasonry to present at a stated communication. Remember not to neglect the inactive Brethren who may be waiting for an invitation to become more active. Tell them you only want a five-minute presentation and give them a set date when you want them to be on the program. If all you are asking for is a five-minute talk you can easily fit two such talks into your schedule at each stated communication. If you do this, you will be able to give twenty-four Brethren a useful function each year.

Some Brethren will be self-starters and able to come up with a virtually endless number of topics, others will have "writer's block" and need your help in generating ideas. You can help these Brethren by getting a supply of good books on Freemasonry and looking in the Index or Table of Contents for topics to suggest. You can get additional topic ideas from the many "Short Talk" bulletins published by the Masonic Service Association, and from the many good Masonic websites.

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The benefits of enlisting the Brethren to prepare these five-minute talks are many. First, the Brother preparing the talk will learn more about Freemasonry by reading the book or chapter you may have pointed out, by finding other books, or by doing research on the Internet. Second, his efforts will improve your meetings. Third, there is a benefit for all the Brethren. They will leave each meeting knowing more about Freemasonry than when they arrived, and they will be more motivated to attend the next meeting.

If you integrate this idea into your advance planning, you can tell all twenty-four Brethren about the full set of topics, and when each Brother is scheduled to speak on each topic. You may be able to generate enough interest that many of the speakers will decide to attend all of the meetings to hear the short talks the other Brethren will be presenting.

Masonic education can provide additional avenues for greater involvement by your members. Here are a few additional ideas that can occupy thirty more of the Brethren.

- Appoint a Lodge Educational Officer (LEO).
- Appoint three Brothers to give a short talk during the break in each of our three degrees.
- Appoint a Brother to read a section from the Book of Constitutions at each stated communication.
- Appoint a knowledgeable Brother to start a Masonic study group.
- Appoint twelve Brothers and ask each of them to go through ten of the questions and answers (Q & As) from the candidate alternate method EA/FC/MM degree booklets at a stated communication. Over the course of the year, you will have covered one hundred twenty questions, a little more than half of the Q & As in the three booklets. In less than two years, you can cover the entire set of Q & As.
- Appoint twelve Brothers to be responsible for one longer talk at Lodge – or assign them to read the monthly talk provided by the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education.

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When you add together all of these opportunities to participate in the educational program in your Lodge, you can have forty-eight Brethren actively engaged on tasks that will help to make your Lodge meetings more interesting and exciting.