

Program of the Month

Throughout this Masonic year your Lodge will receive a **Program of the Month**. This Program is created for you to utilize in your Lodge.

If your lodge already has a program similar to the program that is contained in this brochure, by all means continue your efforts. If however, you are not conducting this type of program please utilize this procedure.

These programs are created to help your lodge retain your members and it is specifically tied to our Renewal Effort.

Be sure to let us know how this program is working in your Lodge.



Masonic Re-Obligation Night



Re-Obligation Night

The Masonic Obligation is the foundation and the basis of Freemasonry. It is the obligation which makes a man a Mason. When the candidate is asked "What makes you a Mason"? The answer has always been "The obligation". Over the years of Masonic service we tend to forget those sacred words we repeated at the altar when we became Brothers of the Fraternity of Freemasons. It is not unusual for a Brother to forget the words but he almost never forgets the meaning.

The practice of having a Re-Obligation Night ceremony is performed in many jurisdictions around the world. There is a set ceremony in some jurisdictions and there is no set ceremony in the others. In the Grand Lodge of Michigan, Lodges have performed the retaking of the obligation by its members from time to time, depending on the desires of the Worshipful Master. This practice has been mostly performed under older Worshipful Masters who had taken their degrees many years ago.

In as much as the Obligations of our Fraternity are the basis of our being Freemasons and that they form the foundation upon which it rest, we should from time to time renew those vows we once assumed.

We should renew our vows from time to time so that we may continue to be reminded of those truths and values we hold dear. The moral code of Freemasonry is found in our obligations and to insure we are familiar with that code we need to be reminded once in awhile of that moral code and to remind us that we are Brothers.

Re-Obligation Ceremony

There is currently no set ceremony in the Grand Lodge of Texas for Re-Obligation Night. In some Grand Lodges there is one required. There are Texas Lodges that do have a program of Re-Obligation that they use. It really doesn't matter what format that is used, what does matter is that the Obligation be repeated by all present. There must be a knowledgeable Brother in the Lodge, one who confers the degrees, available for the ceremony.

One Ceremony That Has Been Used

The following is one such ceremony that has been utilized.

The Worshipful Master assembles the Officers at the altar, with the Senior Warden and Junior Warden kneeling. The other officers are assembled behind the Senior and Junior Wardens, placing their right hand on the shoulder of the Brother immediately in front of him. The Worshipful Master descends from the East and leads the members in the Master Masons Obligation. When completed the Lodge will return to order. In the case the Worshipful Master can not remember the Master Masons Obligation, another knowledgeable Brother may lead the reciting of the Obligation.

This is only **one** ceremony that has been used. You may have heard of other formats of reciting the Obligation. What ever format desired is OK. It has been observed that some Lodges have not had a degree in a long while and no member is sure that he can remember the Master Masons Obligation well enough for the ceremony. The Grand Lodge District Deputy Instructor can be of great service to your Lodge in the fulfillment of this program.

Conclusion

While it is not necessary to have a Re-Obligation Ceremony, it does provide us with the reminder that we are all Brothers. Our Obligation is what makes us Masons and if we, as a Fraternity, do not live by those vows we

which we all assumed, our future will be very different from our past. Remember that we are all Brothers each bound to one another by that Obligation, and some times we may need to be reminded of those vows. The goal of our Fraternity is to "take a good man and make him better".

One of the best ways to remind ourselves of our Obligation is to repeat it from time to time in a re-dedication to our Masonic Vows.



If you need assistance with this program
Please contact:
Robert Conley
Grand Lodge of Michigan
800-632-8764