

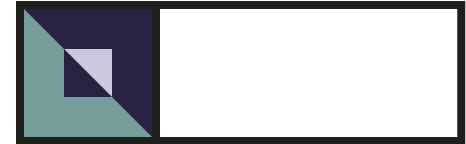
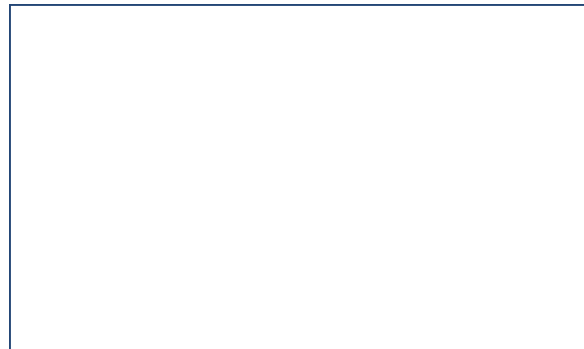
## Program of the Month

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

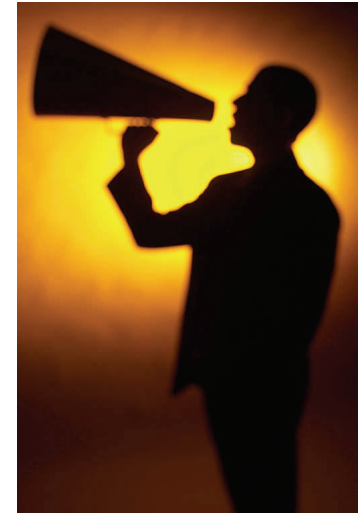
If your Lodge already has a program similar to the program that is contained in this brochure, by all means continue your efforts. If however, you are not conducting this type of program please consider using this information provided for you.

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.



## Tell a Story Night Program



## Tell a Story Program



**Everybody likes a good scary story!**

One of the most enjoyable aspects of being a Mason is meeting and discovering new people and new ideas, hearing where they are from and what their experiences have been. Story telling is an art form that is quickly loosing ground as more interactive methods of conveying tales becomes available. However, for

millennia, men gathered around the fire and regaled each other with tales of heroism, humor, virtue and honor. Our program for this month asks you to consider having a “story” night. The premise is very simple. Tell a tale! It doesn't have to be true, it doesn't even have to be good, but it does have to be a tale. Just think of Garrison Keilor and his News from Lake Woebegone.

Who can forget the lines, “it was a dark and stormy night”, or “who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men?” (remember the rest?)

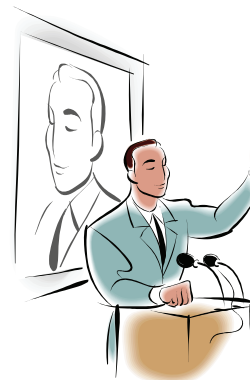
These stories are the substance of who we are and from whence we came, they make up the collective knowledge of our lives and the people who touched them. Through stories, our imagination is allowed to run and our creativity is allowed to expand far beyond the normal boundaries that media like television will allow. So this month, tell a story, perhaps about you, perhaps about the spooky old house down at the end of the street. Perhaps about the cowboy who saved the fair lady! Above all, have fun and tell your tale.

### How does it work?

Announce in your lodge newsletter that at an upcoming meeting you're going to set aside half of the meeting for story telling time. Some of your members won't have any problem at all getting in front of your group, but others, perhaps newer members may have a bit of an issue speaking in front of the older members. Remember, the intent of the program is not only to entertain the brothers but also to teach skills to the newer members. Specifically Public Speaking. This is a great opportunity to provide the newer members with a skill that they can use the rest of their lives, and have fun doing it.

Basically the program is very simple. Encourage two or three brothers to develop a story between 10 and 15 minutes long. Give the brothers the choice of whether to tell their story in the lodge room, the dining room, or some other place. Allow the story teller these choices, and let him build the setting for the story. All good story tellers develop the scene in your imagination through the use of words, but the setting can be very helpful. Casual or formal, safe or uncomfortable, can all be used to set the circumstances for the story. But let the story teller decide. He needs the experience.

Be sure to remember this. Off color stories are never in good taste. The story needs to be in good taste and provide a memorable experience. Whether it's a good laugh, or a strong moral message, this needs to be conveyed to the teller. It is perfectly acceptable for you to set a theme for the evenings stories. Some possible ideas are:



An historical drama about an early settler of the area.

Does your town have a local ghost? If so it makes a great Halloween story.

**Give your members plenty of time to prepare their talk and assist them with putting it together.**

Make your evening a story about the Masonic fraternity. Possible a fictional account with a moral lesson.

Fishing, hunting and outdoors activities, always provide dozens of opportunities for story telling.

And of course others that you can think of. Or you can always make the night “open microphone” and allow the participants to choose their own story.

The important part to remember in this program is that it is a good thing to allow others to talk and take part in the program of the evening. Far too often the only people that speak at lodge meetings are the secretary and the Master and while these things have to occur for the business of the lodge to take place, there must be an opportunity for other members to grow and become better men because of their membership in the craft.

Have fun telling tales, spooky, or historical, moral or all of the above. We guarantee that you will long remember story night at the lodge and hopefully this will start a tradition that will endure long after your gone. Who knows, maybe you'll be the subject of someone's story years from now!

### Masonic Renewal Committee Program of the Month

If you need assistance with this program  
Please contact:  
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800-632-8764 x 112