

**ARIZONA
SUPPLEMENT**

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“The Ninety and Nine”

We’ve probably all heard Jesus’ parable about the lost sheep. If you recall the story concerns the shepherd that has one hundred sheep. One becomes lost and the “good shepherd” leaves the “ninety and nine” and searches for the one that is now missed. His efforts prove successful and as you can imagine, there is much rejoicing at bringing the lost one back into the fold.

This is analogous to the “Rusty Nail Degree” that you may have heard about in the Blue Lodge. In the case of the lodge, the “lost sheep” of the lodge are contacted. It is brought to their attention that they have been missed at the various lodge meetings and functions. They are also informed that they are invited to a special meeting in which the basic signs, steps and passwords of the blue lodge will be demonstrated as a sort of refresher course. This instruction could perhaps be delegated to the District Deputy Grand Master or a seasoned Past Master of the lodge. Although this idea is being presented in the context of blue lodge Masonry, it could easily be “tweaked” for any Masonic organization.

We actually had a “rusty nail” night a while back at my lodge, Chalcedony #6, in Holbrook. Although only one Brother responded to the invitation, the evening could be deemed a great success. As it turned out, the Brother that showed up for the instruction was just waiting to get back into Masonry. His only hold up was that he felt inadequate in regard to the previously mentioned signs and passwords of the degrees.

He is now one of the lodge’s most vital members. He enthusiastically attends meetings and social function and is frequently visible at events at out of town lodges. His cheerful attitude is contagious and makes even the work details of the lodge an enjoyable experience. He and another Brother who is a Fellowcraft even defrosted the freezer, a job that had been put off for a long time. They actually seemed to have a fun time pulling the freezer out into the parking lot and beating the offending ice into submission.

I mention this incident from up here in “fly over country” in hopes that your organization may also consider a “Rusty Nail Degree.” You never know, it might be a big flop, but then again, you might bring a good Brother back into the fold like we did.



Are you in earnest? Then seize
this very minute.
What you can do, or dream you can,
begin it;
Boldness has genius, power and magic in it;
only engage then the mind grows heated;
Begin, and then the work will be completed.

---Goethe