



Nebraska Supplement

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Grand Commander's Comments

Why Am I a Mason Why do I Continue to be a Mason?

What Can I do to Encourage Others to Remain or Become Masons?

There are several reasons why men decide to become Masons. Some have a family history of Masons. Some are inspired by a Mason to become a Mason by that person's actions and the way they carry themselves among other people. Others join Masonry out of curiosity of what Masons do through all of their appendant groups and want to become involved with those groups. My reason for joining Masonry is twofold, it is because they did something for me and my family when I was born and then my dad decided he wanted to become involved with an organization that would do what they did without asking anything from the people they helped.

All that being said, a bigger question is what makes a man continue to want to be a Mason? Some would say it is the fellowship and comradery associated with the fraternity. Others would say it is the social and moral lessons that Masonry offers, and those that take to heart those lessons profit from them in one way or another and want to continue to learn more through the different Masonic bodies. Many want to continue being Masons because they truly want to support the philanthropies of the different Masonic bodies and work diligently to do so. These are the nobler reasons for wanting to continue to be a Mason. In the end, I would state it is a combination of these different reasons that cause a man to want to continue to be a Mason and then join the other appendant bodies.

But what can we do as active Masons to encourage more junior Masons to remain in the fraternity? First and foremost, if you are a mentor for or leader of a Masonic body, be the example that you would expect others to follow. Also, if you are that leader, understand what is expected of you and do all in your power to perform the obligations of your office to the best of your ability. Remember Masonry is not about titles!! Those will come with dedicated service and with the recognition of your brothers because of your proven performance. If you are in the fraternity for titles, you have the wrong group and may give the wrong impression to those new members who judge the fraternity by your actions and your position in the fraternity. You should always be willing to help a brother out whether with improving ritual, obtaining answers to questions or just being there to talk to. This exemplifies the brotherhood of the fraternity and will probably encourage him to return for meetings and gatherings especially if all basically have the attitude mentioned above. Get back to and support you Blue Lodges by being the mentors, helping the Lodge with candidates during degree work and helping in selecting good men to become candidates for Masonry. Remember the first impression a Mason gets is a lasting impression and it is incredibly hard to change if it was a bad one. Remember those items you have learned in your charges and through the rituals and by them be the example of them to other Masons both new and old and the fraternity in the end will hopefully prosper by your actions. Together let's make Masonry what it is meant to be a fellowship of like-minded men that support good moral and social virtues always willing and wanting to improve ourselves and opportunities and livelihoods or others who are in need. At this time in world events, we have a lot to offer so let's do it together!! Reflect on these items and honestly aske yourself why am I a Mason and what else can I do.

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