

OREGON SUPPLEMENT

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Sir Knights,

Many of our Commanderies have been meeting, using the short form opening proscribed by the Grand Master of Knights Templar, and getting together has been great.

The Grand Master of Masons of Oregon has requested that I remain the membership Chairman for Oregon A.F.&A.M Grand Lodge which I am pleased to do.

The membership committee is working to create a plan to replenish the masons lost through age and a lack of inspiration. We are promoting men to ask. Are you prepared to answer?

Think about this, only a small percentage of those men seeking admission into our fraternity become Master Masons, about one in ten. If our statewide Masonic membership falls during the year by 300 men, we would need to bring 3,000 men to light on the first degree. With a little more than 100 active lodges in Oregon, each Lodge will have to confer the E.A. on 30 men. That would replace the 300 lost. But there would be no gain.

There is another way. We need to find good men, hear them, understand their needs, and make certain they stay. We must have quality first contact, genuine hospitality at first association, quality work in our degrees, and rewarding values for those to attend meetings and function. Be certain to not over sell Masonry then under deliver on the reason they came.

Have a “first look” at our lodges and temples. Review if possible, what the first impression of our facility is. Really look it over. No peeling paint, broken glass, or cracked plaster walls. We need clean restrooms, comfortable facilities, warm in winter, cool in summer. We are not a men’s club! We are Masons, Companions and Knights. We claim to make good men better!

Let’s Get’r done!

Some of our Commanderies and Lodges have very adequate treasuries. Some of our facilities are owned by Lodges. They need more members. We need more membership. I know that we are consumed by the money in the bank, however at a meeting of four in the asylum, we are more concerned that we need five to open.

At times our rent for use of the facility is extremely low compared to the value we receive. Please review your lodge facility, and remember, should you ever encounter a fellow man, especially a brother, or maybe our lodge in need, you should come to his aid as far as his needs require and your ability permits. The Grand Lodge of Oregon is providing rehabilitation grants to upgrade our facilities. Use them! Can we help make matching funds to assist them?

Many Commanderies are dark during the summer, but how about working to better impress the candidates this fall by working at a cleanup day for the Lodge. We have quite a few candidates awaiting the orders and men are awaiting the degrees. Do a good job, seek help when needed, and impress the candidates with the excellent work. Good men seek better men. We can only make one first impression on a man and it takes a good Mason to become a Knight.

Sincerely;

S.K. Grant Sharp, Grand Commander of Oregon