

No Time Wasted in Lodge

Some of the best initiatives come from the grass roots - from Districts, Lodges or individual Masons. Here is something developed in Wellington District that is awesome in its elegance. The equipment consists of three Masonic Apron Graphics which we suggest you print off, get laminated and hang on a hook in the ante-room of your lodge. Then arrange for the brethren to use them:

Our newest Masons are the most curious, most interested, most easily instructed members we have. At the same time that they are seeking their own understanding of our curious institution, we are at greatest risk of losing their interest. If you can, recall the feeling you most likely had during your degree progress, when you were told perhaps for several months running, that you were to sit outside the lodge while another member received his next degree. We must better employ the time of our newest Masons. There should be no wasted evenings at lodge. New members are understandably impatient to progress. They need to learn that we care about their progress and that we are committed to their advancement.

This is a simple plan, and which should be well within the capabilities of every lodge to employ. On every degree planning sheet, the Master should designate the appropriate chairman, or a well-skilled member to retire with those members who are being excused for a time, and to ensure that good use is made of that “teachable moment”.

The Tyler is not necessarily the ideal person to be instructing those keen new Masons who are excused to the anteroom for 45 minutes or so. It may be necessary in a very busy lodge to run anteroom sessions for several meetings in succession with the same new Mason, or group of Masons. This is an unprecedented opportunity to enhance his knowledge. Think of this as player development. Team building. Expert coaching, practically on a one-to-one basis.

The topics suggested for presentation are starting points. I encourage you to be thorough and creative. Team-teaching is appropriate. Have the material for the evening prepared. Let your newest Masons know that there will be something for them at lodge this month. A phone call or e-mail contact would encourage their attendance and participation.

Please take whatever time this initiative requires in your own lodge situation Use whatever teaching / presentation / instructional / discussion techniques you find appropriate. Let your DDGM know about your successes and share your best presentations.

By R. W. Bro. Donald Hamilton
for the Committee on Masonic Education
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Please share this Bulletin with the members of your Lodge, District and any other Masons you wish.