

*The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons
of
The State of Michigan*



Masonic Awareness Program

Welcome to the Masonic Awareness Program, sponsored by the Grand Lodge of Michigan. We do not wish to claim originality or authorship for the presentation and materials you are about to review. This program was developed from numerous sources; especially the Masonic Renewal Committee of North America's Program and the Massachusetts Masonic Awareness Program.

The major factor that has made this Program possible was the change made by the Grand Lodge of Michigan in the conferral of the three Blue Lodge degrees; that is the elimination of a large portion of the memory work for the candidates, with a detailed explanation of Freemasonry to the candidates and their families.

The Awareness Program has been available to the Lodges since 1993. It is proven, that for this Program to be successful, it **MUST** be presented **EXACTLY** as laid out. Lodges that try to cut corners and by pass several of the steps, will not experience favorable results. This Program should also be used in conjunction with the ACACIA+ Program. ACACIA+ teaches the skills and provides the Lodge Leadership and Membership with materials necessary to make the Lodge inviting and appealing to the influx of new members. Unless the Lodge is ready to accept new members, and has made changes to make their meetings interesting and satisfying, the retention of a new member may be in jeopardy.

We would like to thank the Grand Master of the State of Michigan and the officers for the support given the Masonic Awareness Program. It is our hope that you will view this program in a positive manner. As the world about us changes, so has Freemasonry changed throughout the centuries. As Masons, we must welcome change, not in our tenets and ritual, but as we portray our Fraternity to the world around us.

You are about to view the Masonic Awareness Program! It is change - change in the way our friends and associates view us, their knowledge of our history, our values and principles and the Brotherhood of Man!



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MASONIC AWARENESS PROGRAM

**THE PROMOTION
OF THE
BROTHERHOOD OF MAN
UNDER THE
FATHERHOOD OF GOD!**

Reviewed and Adapted by Grand Lodge Publication Committee - 1993

OUTLINE OF MASONIC AWARENESS PROGRAM FOR LODGES

- I. Formation of (working) Masonic Awareness Committee.
- II. Presentation of Schedule and Budget to Lodge for approval.
- III. Meeting of Lodge Masonic Awareness Committee.
 - a. All local members of the Lodge are invited.
 - b. All members of the Lodge requested to furnish names and addresses of those friends and family who they would like to see belong to the Fraternity.
 - c. Explanation of the complete Masonic Awareness Program.
- IV. Mail invitation letter to attend the "Masonic Awareness Night."
 - a. All local members of the Lodge.
 - b. All candidates who did not finish their degree work.
 - c. All friends of members who they would like to see belong.
- V. Masonic Awareness Night
 - a. Social Hour.
 - b. Fine Dinner.
 - c. Masonic Awareness Program.
- VI. Regular Communication of Lodge when petitions are received and turned over to Visitation Committees.
- VII. Regular Communication of Lodge when reports of Visitation Committees are received and petitions are voted on.
- VIII. Conferral of Entered Apprentice Degree on candidates.
- IX. Entered Apprentice Degree Historical Lectures for the candidates and their ladies.
- X. Entered Apprentice Proficiencies and Conferral of Fellowcraft Degree.
- XI. Fellowcraft Degree Historical Lectures for the candidates and their ladies.
(Fellowcraft proficiencies may be given this same day).
- XII. Conferral of Master Mason Degree, including Banquet with the ladies.
- XIII. Master Mason Degree Historical Lectures for the candidates and their ladies.

MASONIC AWARENESS PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

The "Masonic Awareness Program" sponsored by the Grand Lodge of Michigan is based on a program developed by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts and has proven to be highly successful in a two year test case with one of the lodges in the Jurisdiction of Michigan. Simply stated, the program makes the public aware of the many desirable aspects of Freemasonry and "what It Means To Be A Mason."

The Program was presented to interested men - and their ladies - in the lodge's community, and a good percentage of those who attended the "Awareness" programs indicated a desire to belong to the Fraternity, with the result that many of them have petitioned for the degrees and the lodge has shown a marked increase in candidates.

During the five years from 1986 to 1991, the test lodge (which had a membership of 127 in 1991) only raised a total of ten Master Masons and showed a net loss of 22 members. Then in 1992, following the first "Awareness Night," the lodge initiated 28 Entered Apprentices and raised 21 Master Masons with a NET GAIN of 19; the first gain in members in that lodge in over forty years! In addition, simply because the "word" has spread that the lodge is "active and doing something," five Master Masons transferred in and at least one former member was restored to membership in 1992. It was a very exciting and interesting year.

Some of the other by-products of the excitement in this lodge have been a great increase in activities, an increase in attendance by both "old" and "new" members, the expectation that 1993 will be the last year that a Past Master will have to fill any of the chairs in the officer "line", the proficiency of the degree work has shown improvement and they are witnessing some competition for the Steward's chairs. Changes are also being made in the manner in which meetings are being conducted, with more emphasis being placed on social and charitable activities rather than the same old "business as usual" and there is evidence of a "snowball" effect, whereby friends of the new members have also shown an interest in belonging, and in some cases have turned in their petitions.

Why was this Program developed? When Past Grand Master William Skrepnek issued the decision in late 1991 concerning the Michigan Masonic Membership Program, whereby stress was placed on Masonic Education rather than on a lengthy memorization program to advance in Masonry it was felt that this change was going to move Freemasonry in Michigan into the 21st Century and would not only allow the lodges a greater opportunity to bring new men into the Fraternity, but would also give them a much better idea of the principles of the Craft. However, the Grand Lodge was concerned that while it was felt that the program would, and has, resulted in a tremendous

increase in the number of new Master Masons; it 'night only result in "old material," that is, men being reached who had not completed the degrees throughout the years.

The Grand Lodge reasoned that with the Michigan Membership Program, unless some of the public were made aware of the advantages of becoming a Freemason, the well of "unfinished work" would eventually run dry and the number of new Master Masons 'night again even off and perhaps once again decline. The Grand Lodge is, therefore, embarking on a program of making the public more "aware" of what it means to be a Mason.

Thus, with the permission of our Most Worshipful Grand Master, W. Don Baugher, the Grand Lodge is making this program available to all the lodges in our Jurisdiction.

The Grand Lodge is very enthusiastic about the "Masonic Awareness Program." It has been a great success in the test lodge, and combined with the Michigan Membership Program, as well as the Masonic Renewal Program, which is being promoted by the Grand Lodge as well as the Masonic Renewal Committee of North America, can and will turn the tide and make some great accomplishments possible in our Fraternity in the very near future. We have a mission - a vision. We can make it happen - but it will take an effort by all of us - especially by you men, who are the leaders in your lodges.

SYNOPSIS OF PROGRAM

The Masonic Awareness Program of the Grand Lodge of Michigan is built around the promotion of a “Masonic Awareness Night.” We believe that this is best accomplished with a social hour, dinner and then the program concerning “what It Means To Be A Mason.”

Timing of the event is critical. The recommended program includes a two minute introduction, fifteen minute video tape presentation, eight minute general Masonry talk and five minute wind up. The total program is thirty minutes. It should be no longer!

It is suggested that the Masonic Awareness Committee Chairman, Event Chairman, or Worshipful Master give the brief (two minute) welcome and then introduce the video tape “What It Means To Be A Mason.” The video tape presentation is fifteen minutes in length.

The selected speaker should then give the brief (eight minute) talk on Masonry in general. The text of this talk is enclosed. There may be instances where you desire an outside speaker to assist in presenting the program. On request, the Grand Lodge Speakers Bureau will provide a speaker for the event. Don’t hesitate to request a speaker from them.

Following this talk, the chairman should then conclude the program with the brief (five minute) wind up talk discussing the individual Lodges and in particular, meeting nights, total time requirements for degrees, Michigan Membership historical lectures, suggested dress, fees for the degrees and annual lodge dues.

Questions and answers may follow.

Your audience is there because they want to know “What It Means To Be A Mason.” But please remember, time is of value. Let the people know you value their time by keeping all parts of your program concise and to the point. Your audience will appreciate it.

This guide is to provide the key points to success in planning a “Masonic Awareness Night” and to stress the importance of a proper invitation to the event.

KEYS TO THE EVENT PLAN AND INVITATION

I. PLANNING THE EVENT

1. Form a committee.
2. Establish a budget.
3. Determine the type of program (eg. Social Hour and Dinner, Open House).
4. Determine who you wish to invite to the event (involve every member of the Lodge to develop the list.)
5. Personally invite each guest (not just by letter, but also in person or by phone).
6. Organize the event.
 - a. Plan program and sequence.
 - b. Line up key speakers (two speakers needed for the recommended program).
 - c. Prepare materials (include name tags for guests and members, have handouts - e.g. "Should I Ask?", "Masonic Membership Has Its Privileges").
7. Send a written invitation to each personally invited guest, but be sure to also personally invite them. Do they need a ride to the event?
8. Day of the event - arrive early.
 - a. Make sure all guests are taken care of properly (brethren should greet guests and see to their needs; seating, conversation, etc.)
 - b. It is important that each guest be in the company of a Lodge member at all times.
 - c. Keep the program moving, light and concise!
9. Thank you notes should be sent to all who attended the event. Give a call within a week for feedback.

II. THE PROPER INVITATION

The Grand Lodge would like to stress the importance of a personal invitation to the program. Any of us who have ever received a form letter or invitation without explanation should understand how impersonal it feels. The committee should have made a sincere effort to establish the guest list. The invited guest will appreciate a sincere invitation. Remember, not all invitations will be answered with a yes, but you will be remembered for your invitation and that you are a Mason.

III. ACACIA+ PROGRAM

Following the "Masonic Awareness Night" and the influx of what we expect will be new candidates for the Lodge, it is hoped that each Lodge will take advantage of the ACACIA+ Program. This Program teaches Lodge Leaders and Membership was to make their Lodge exciting and vibrant and to welcome the new Mason into our Lodge Family.

There are four precepts that are supported by ACACIA+:

“New members will join the Fraternity if they are exposed from their first contact with Freemasonry to knowledgeable, trained, committed Masons who offer them the promise of strong, personal relationships with other men in a fraternal setting.”

“When a man becomes a Mason, his satisfaction, interest and retention are directly related to the relationships he builds with other men, the quality of the programs in the Lodge and the realization that his original expectations have been met or exceeded.”

“Participation by, and the education of Masons, results when Lodges are led by men who have demonstrated interest in the needs of the Lodge and the training in leadership and management to bring the process together.”

“Effective Lodge management requires enthusiastic Masons willing to commit time and energy to first understanding the changing nature of the society in which the Fraternity must survive; and who have the courage to recognize the strategic requirements of Freemasonry if it is to survive, and thrive in the year 2000 and beyond.”

The ACACIA+ Program recognizes that the individual Mason is the most important person in the Lodge. It believes that the members represent a real and tangible asset for the Fraternity and that they, like all assets, need to be carefully developed and managed.

In this environment, Masons have an awesome responsibility. Those in leadership can believe that members are dependent upon the Fraternity or that the Fraternity is dependent upon its members.

The skills and materials provided through the ACACIA+ Leadership Development series of Seminars, clearly support the needs of members as the driving force in Freemasonry.

In reality, the responsibility for the future of Freemasonry rests with all Masons. In this exciting but challenging role, each must decide individually if he can make a difference. He must accept as his fraternal obligation the task of renewing Freemasonry with a personal commitment to quality and excellence.

To Community Leaders of Lodges in the Immediate Area.

(Use Lodge Stationary)

Date

John A. Doe
123 Fourth Street
Your City, Michigan (Zip)

Dear Brother Doe:

Two important events have taken place in Masonry during the past couple of years. In 1991, the Grand Lodge changed the requirements to complete the three Symbolic Lodge degrees, whereby most of the memory work for candidates has been eliminated.. Then, in 1993, the Grand Lodge approved a "Masonic Awareness Program" which has proven to be very successful in a test Lodge.

We feel that these changes have moved Freemasonry in Michigan into the 21st Century, and will allow the Lodges to bring new men into the Fraternity, while also giving them a much better idea of the principles of the Craft.

With that in mind, (name) Lodge is going to undertake a very exciting membership development program, but we need your help!

We are planning a "Masonic Awareness Night" to be held on (day of week), (month and date) 2000 in (place of program). We are hopeful that we may expect 100 to 150 prospective members and their ladies to enjoy the refreshments, dinner and an explanation of a "What It Means To Be A Mason."

In order to carry out this plan, we are asking you to attend a short meeting at the Masonic Temple on (day of week),____(month and date), 2000 at (time). At that meeting, we hope that you will do three things for your Lodge.

1. Allow us to use your name on a letter-head as a member of the (name) Lodge Masonic Awareness Committee.
2. Bring along 5-10 names and addresses of your friends who you believe should be Masons, and to whom we would extend an invitation to attend the "Masonic Awareness Night."
3. You and your wife would also agree to attend the "Masonic Awareness Night" in order to make your guests feel at home.

Although we plan that all of the non-Masonic guests would not be charged for the dinner on (date), we do hope that you, as a member of the Lodge, would be agreeable to pay a nominal charge of \$_____ per plate for the social hour and dinner that evening. We believe that the "Masonic Awareness Night" will be a great evening for __(name) Lodge and for Masonry in our area and sincerely hope that you will want to join with us in this exciting program.

Please let us know your intentions by returning the enclosed card immediately. Many thanks in advance.

(Worshipful Master)

enc.

THE FOLLOWING LIST OF MEMBERS WILL BE REDUCED

TO FIT DOWN ONE SIDE OF THE LETTER-HEAD

“MASONIC AWARENESS COMMITTEE”

(NAME), WORSHIPFUL MASTER

(NAME), SENIOR WARDEN.

(NAME), JUNIOR WARDEN

(LIST BALANCE OF OFFICERS)

(LIST [ACTIVE] MEMBERS)

CHAIRMAN FIRST, THEN

COMMUNITY LEADERS WHO

BELONG TO THE LODGE.

RETURN POSTCARD FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS WHO BELONG TO THE LODGE:

Thank you for the letter of (date) concerning the Masonic Awareness night by (name) Lodge.

I will ____ (or will not ____ be able to attend the committee meeting next - (day and date).

If unable to attend: You may ____ (or may not ____) use my name as a member of the Masonic Awareness Committee.

If unable to attend: I will ____ (or will not ____) forward a list of my friends who should be Masons to the Secretary of the Lodge. (Name of Secretary, Street Address, City, State, Zip)

Comments:

Signed _____

To Members of The Lodges in the Immediate Area.

A separate letter to go to Community leaders who belong to the Lodges
(Use Lodge Stationary)

John A. Doe
123 Fourth Street
Your City, Michigan (Zip)

Dear Brother Doe:

Two important events have taken place in Masonry during the past couple of years. In 1991, the Grand Lodge changed the requirements to complete the three Symbolic Lodge degrees, whereby most of the memory work for candidates has been eliminated. Then, in 1993, the Grand Lodge approved a "Masonic Awareness Program" which has proven to be very successful in a test Lodge.

We feel that these changes have moved Freemasonry in Michigan into the 21st Century, and will allow the Lodges to bring new men into the Fraternity, while also giving them a much better idea of the principles of the Craft.

With that in mind, (name)___Lodge is going to undertake a very exciting membership development program, but we need your help!

We are planning a "Masonic Awareness Night" to be held on (day of week), (month and date), 2000 in ___(place of program)____. We are hopeful that we may expect 100 to 150 prospective members and their ladies to enjoy the refreshments, dinner and an explanation of "What It Means To Be A Mason."

In order to carry out this plan, we are asking you, as a member of (name) Lodge, to attend a short meeting at the Masonic Temple on (day of week)____, ____ (month and date)____, 2000 at (time)__. At that meeting, we hope that you will do two things for your Lodge.

1. Bring along 5-10 names and addresses of your friends who you believe should be Masons - and to whom we would extend an invitation to attend the "Masonic Awareness Night."
2. You and your wife would also agree to attend the "Masonic Awareness Night" in order to make your guests feel at home.

Although we plan that all of the non-Masonic guests would not be charged for the dinner on ___(date), we do hope that you, as a member of the Lodge, would be agreeable to pay a nominal charge of \$_____ per plate for the social hour and dinner that evening.

We believe that the "Masonic Awareness Night" will be a great evening for (name) Lodge and for Masonry in our area and sincerely hope that you will want to join with us in this exciting program.

Please let us know your intentions by returning the enclosed card immediately. Many thanks in advance.

(Worshipful Master)

enc.

RETURN POSTCARD FOR MEMBERS OF THE LODGE

(A different card will go to Community leaders who belong to the Lodge)

Thank you for the letter of~(date) concerning the Masonic Awareness night by
____(name)____Lodge.

I will (or will ___ not___ be able to attend the committee meeting next (day and date).

If unable to attend: I will ___ (or will not ___) forward a list of my friends who should be Masons
to the Secretary of the Lodge. (Name of Secretary, Street Address, City, State, Zip)

Comments:

Signed _____

(NAME) LODGE MASONIC AWARENESS MEETING AGENDA

1. Greetings by ____ (Name), Worshipful Master.
2. Presentation of ____ (Name), who will explain about the Michigan Membership Program 5 minutes.
3. Presentation of ____ (Name)____, Chairman of the Masonic Awareness Program for the Lodge, who will explain ____ (Name)____ Lodge's Masonic Awareness Program 5 minutes.
4. Presentation of ____ (Name)____, who will be the Master of Ceremonies when the Masonic Awareness Program is held; who will go through the program to be presented at the "Masonic Awareness Night."
 - a. Master of Ceremonies gives introductory talk (welcome and introduction of video tape (2 minutes)
 - b. Showing of video - WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MASON (15 minutes)
 - c. (Name) _____, who will give a General Masonry talk (8 minutes)
 - d. Master of Ceremonies winds up talk, followed by questions and answers (5 minutes)
5. Presentation of influential member of the Lodge who will give a "Charge" to all the members present to take action on the Masonic Awareness Program. (5 minutes)
6. Thank you by Worshipful Master for attending, and hope to see all of you at the Masonic Awareness Program.

(NAME) LODGE MASONIC AWARENESS MEETING

Explanation of Michigan Membership Program:

As Masonry evolved in the late seventeenth century, the ritual was developed principally by William Preston. The Preston ritual came to this country during the pre-colonial period. In the late eighteenth century, the Preston ritual was Americanized by Thomas Smith Webb. As the United States developed, the Preston-Webb ritual spread from state to state with various interpretations.

During this period many were unable to read. The only means by which they could understand the principles of Freemasonry was to memorize the ritual. The custom of ritual memorization to advance a candidate to the next higher degree is still practiced in some Grand Lodges today.

Two national surveys have been conducted by the Masonic Renewal Task Force. One of the surveys was conducted with non-Masons in regard to their opinions about the Fraternity. The other survey was conducted within the Fraternity. In each of the surveys, the amount of time available for participation was a major finding.

In today's society, men have far less time to devote to activities such as Freemasonry.

It is imperative that Freemasonry be compatible with the society in which it seeks to spread its influence. While men may have less time to devote, we can make more meaningful use of that time by altering the traditional candidate proficiency. In recent years, several Grand Lodges have altered the candidate proficiency by reducing the memorization of the ritual and substituting education about the history, precepts and meaning of Freemasonry. In this way, the candidate understands the meaning of Freemasonry in his life rather than the recitation of the ritualistic ceremonies.

The Grand Lodge of Iowa is but one example of a change in the candidate proficiency. Over a five year period they averaged 22 percent of their Entered Apprentices that were raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. Since the proficiency change, they now raise 99 percent of their Entered Apprentices to Master Mason.

The Michigan Membership Program was developed to further educate new Masons and their families and was mailed to each Lodge in 1991.

The Michigan Membership Program consists of educational lectures that must be presented to the candidate before he can be advanced to the next degree. The lectures should be presented to both the candidate and his wife and can be done in any suitable room in the Masonic Temple. It should be a social experience for the candidate and his wife in addition to an educational experience.

The Michigan Membership Program does not take the place of any part of a degree conferral. When conferring the three degrees, the complete degree must be conferred, including all sections, charges and lectures.

One of the major changes with this program is that the candidate has very little to memorize to advance to the Fellowcraft and Master Mason degrees.

As a result of the Michigan Membership program, the number of Master Masons raised in 1992 was over 2,000 as compared to only 625 in 1991-AN INCREASE OF OVER 300 PERCENT!

(NAME) LODGE MASONIC AWARENESS MEETING

Explanation of the Lodge's Masonic Awareness Program:

Each of you has a sheet, as well as two booklets. The sheet entitled "Masonic Awareness Program" lists the schedule of activities for the Lodge's program. The booklets are "Should I Ask?" and "Masonic Membership Has Its Privileges."

Before going through the Masonic Awareness Program as listed on the sheet, we must stress how important it is to this program for each of you to get involved! We especially need to have some names of your friends and acquaintances who you think should be members of our great Fraternity in order to invite them and their ladies to our kick-off dinner.

The first paragraph explains what we plan to do. We want, and expect, that we will have 100 to 150 GOOD MEN joining our Lodge with this program. (Name~ just explained about the Michigan Membership Program as instituted by our Grand Lodge, and while most of us here had to learn all of the lessons, it is the feeling of myself and many others that following the new program we will be able to make better informed and, hopefully, more active members of the Lodge, than most of us were when we first joined. This will happen simply because of the increased information they will be receiving.

It is more important to know something about Masonry and what it stands for than to memorize words.

You will also notice that we plan to include the candidates' ladies in the program, which we feel will make the ladies more informed about the Fraternity and thus allow them to know that their husbands are joining something very worthwhile.

We will be running through the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts program as amended for Michigan in just a few minutes, so you will know what we plan to do at the "Masonic Awareness Night" on _____(date)

Now, on to the schedule:

The program was presented to the Lodge on _____(date)_____ and approved, so we do have permission and funds to carry it out.

TONIGHT IS ONE OF OUR MOST IMPORTANT MEETINGS; We need your cooperation at the social hour, dinner and meeting! We need your attendance to make your friends feel at home, so please plan to attend with your lady.

How are we going to invite the prospects? We have a short letter which we plan to send out on _____(date)_____ to all the prospects. (Read the letter here) On the backside of the letter will be the Grand Lodge's Declaration of Principles, which is a very good piece of literature and will give each prospect a good idea of what we stand for. Also, included in the invitation will be the two booklets you have in front of you. If the prospect reads the letter, reads the Declaration of Principles and reads the two booklets; and then states that he will attend the "Masonic Awareness Program," we feel sure that he is definitely interested and should become a candidate for the Fraternity! **HOWEVER**, we do want each of you to personally invite any prospect whose name you turn in!

We definitely would like to have all the petitions in by _____(date)_____, and here again, we are asking for your help. If one of your friends attends the Masonic Awareness Night, we hope that you will personally contact him and see if he is interested, so that his petition and deposit may be turned over to a Visitation Committee on that date. We also hope that as many of you as possible will attend the

Regular Communication that day, since, if we do have a lot of petitions, we will need men to serve on those Visitation Committees.

DON'T LET THAT FRIGHTEN YOU. Being on such a committee is actually a pleasant job; you have the opportunity to meet some new people, you only need to visit with them a short time and we have a booklet informing you about the duties. All you need to do is to pick up a form which they will already have filled out, and then get the report back to the Secretary by the next month's Regular Communication. At that time, the Lodge will vote on the petitions.

(Date - day, month, year): The statement is very simple. We are hopeful that we will confer the first section of the Entered Apprentice degree as many times as we need to. The candidates will be invited to arrive at the Temple at a certain time so that they do not have to spend the time just sitting. Then, we plan to have them all back so that they can watch the final conferral which will be followed by the lectures, charge and closing of the Lodge. (Also, a lunch or dinner). Here again, if you have a friend in the class, we hope that you will be present when he receives the degree as well as for the final conferral.

The "Historical Lectures" will be given on ____ (date, time and place)~ Both the candidates and their ladies will be invited, and we hope that all of the officers of the Lodge as well as their endorsers will also attend.

The Fellowcraft degree will then be conferred on ____ (date, time and place)~ We will open Lodge, then examine all of the candidates (either individually or as a class, as your Lodge prefers). That will be followed by a dinner with the degree being conferred after dinner, followed by the Fellowcraft degree lectures and charge. We expect Lodge will close by ____ (time)~. Here again, if you have a friend in the class, we hope that you will be present in order to welcome him and make him feel comfortable.

____ (Date, time and place)_. The Historical Lectures will be given with the candidates and their ladies in the dining room. The ladies will remain in the dining room (for entertainment) while the men go to the Lodge room, open Lodge, have the candidates give their proficiencies and then vote on them.

Finally, on ____ (date, time and place)~, we will be conferring the Master Mason degree. Lodge will open, we will confer the First Section on all of the candidates, then do the short form on them individually (this takes about 15 minutes each) and then conclude the degree work with the full form Second Section with a highly proficient team (even if other Lodges are requested to assist), do the lectures and charge, close Lodge and then have a dinner and/or banquet with the ladies invited.

To complete the work on these candidates, we will give the Historical Lecture on ____ (date, time and place)~. We will again invite the ladies to attend and will have coffee and donuts, or some other form of refreshments and make it some kind of a social evening.

Now that sounds like a lot of dates and a lot of your time, however, if you examine it closely, we are only really asking you to be present for the dinner on (date)___ with your lady, the regular meeting on ___(date~, and the three degree dates. We do cordially invite and encourage each of you to also attend all of the schedule and would also encourage you to bring your lady along when the ladies are invited.

Brothers, we have a great fraternity We have a standard of morality and ethics which this country needs at this time. We need to take advantage of this opportunity to spread the light of Freemasonry on our good friends - good men -men who need Masonry just as much as Masonry needs them.

End of story Are there any questions?

MASONIC AWARENESS PROGRAM

(For presentation to the Lodge)

We are planning that a goodly number of new candidates will be joining our Lodge during the months following the “Masonic Awareness Program,” and using the “Michigan Membership Program” as adopted by our Grand Lodge.

The schedule is as follows:

STEP ONE: Program to be presented to the Lodge, including a request for appropriation of funds to get the program accomplished.

STEP TWO: Meeting of Lodge Masonic Awareness Committee. At this meeting, those selected to serve on the Committee will be invited to attend and bring along the names and addresses of 10 - 15 friends who should belong to the Fraternity. The complete Masonic Awareness Program will be explained to them that evening. All members of the Lodge in the local area will also be invited to attend.

STEP THREE: Masonic Awareness Night

(Time): Social Hour

(Time): Fine Dinner

(Time): Program

It is hoped and expected that approximately (number) guests will attend (free of charge), and as many members of the Lodge and their ladies as possible will also be present at a charge of \$_____ per plate.

STEP FOUR: Regular Communication of Lodge: Petitions should be received and turned over to Visitation Committees.

STEP FIVE: Regular Communication of Lodge: Reports of Visitation Committees and vote on petitions.

STEP SIX: Entered Apprentice Degree Day: Degree to be conferred on all candidates at the Temple, followed by the lectures, charge and closing of Lodge (followed by a lunch or dinner.)

STEP SEVEN: Entered Apprentice Historical Lectures for the candidates and their ladies, followed by dinner and/or refreshments.

STEP EIGHT: Entered Apprentice proficiencies, followed by Fellowcraft Degree on all candidates as a group, followed by dinner.

STEP NINE: Fellowcraft Historical Lectures: All candidates and their ladies. Following the lectures in the dining room, the ladies will remain, with a program of entertainment, while the men go to the Lodge room where Lodge will be opened and the candidates will give their proficiencies in the Fellowcraft Degree, followed by a vote on their proficiencies.

STEP TEN: Master Mason Degree Day: First Section on all candidates as a group, followed by individual “Short Forms” of Second Section. Then, the full form Second Section, the charge, closing of Lodge and a dinner or banquet with the ladies. Ladies entertained while Lodge is open, or they must arrive at the Temple in time for dinner.

STEP ELEVEN: Master Mason Historical Lectures with the ladies, followed or preceded by a social hour with refreshments.

MASONIC AWARENESS PROGRAM

(For presentation to the Lodge continued)

BUDGET

A Budget should also be prepared for presentation and approval by the Lodge.

Income would largely be the fees and dues of the candidates, plus the charge for any members attending the various dinners.

Disbursements could be new letterhead stationary, envelopes, postcards, postage, various meals, social hours, etc.

No matter what the budget may total, there should be a substantial profit for the Lodge, not only monetary-wise, but also membership-wise. Much of the budget may depend on the location of the Masonic Awareness Night. (The Masonic Temple or some other location.)

It should also be noted that the items mentioned above are for this particular program. There will be some other normal expenses for each candidate, such as mailing them notices of the various meetings, aprons, etc. However, this is normal Lodge business for any candidate and should not be part of this particular budget.

Booklets to be included with letters



Both Booklets may be obtained free of charge by contacting the Grand Lodge of Michigan Office.

“THE MASONIC AWARENESS NIGHT”
(date, time and location)

1. Welcome at the door by volunteers from the Lodge.
2. Registration with name tags for all who attend.
3. Social Hour at (time). (6:30 p.m. is suggested)
4. Dinner Program:
 - a. Master of Ceremonies presents Chaplain of the Lodge for the invocation.
 - b. Dinner - This should be a very fine dinner; not the normal swiss steak, mashed potatoes and green beans.
 - c. Welcome to dinner and meeting by Master of Ceremonies.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: On behalf of (name) Lodge, I would like to welcome you here. We hope that you enjoyed the social hour and dinner (pause). Many people do not know what it means to be a Mason. It is our hope to answer that question for you. We begin with a video tape presentation which provides a good deal of information. This video precedes a brief talk on Masonry; after which we will be happy to answer any questions.

We do want to make a special note that the video was prepared for use in the State of Massachusetts, however, essentially everything in it would be the same for any State in the United States.

Again, thank you very much for coming this evening. We hope that you will enjoy the program.

(Be smiling all the time during the above)

- d. Show video tape: “What It Means To Be A Mason” (15 minutes)

(This should be shown on as large a screen as possible)

- e. Presentation of Brother _____, who will give the following General Talk on Masonry (8 minutes)

(This man should be a very good speaker to be effective.)

FREEMASONRY - WHO - WHAT - WHY - WHERE AND HOW

MOST OF US AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER HAVE WITNESSED FREEMASONRY AT WORK OR PLAY IT MAY HAVE BEEN A SHRINE OR COMMANDERY PARADE. IT COULD BE A GROUP OF MEN SERVING DINNER TO SENIOR CITIZENS. PERHAPS IT WAS MEN WEARING WHITE APRONS GATHERED ABOUT A GRAVESITE TO PAY THEIR FINAL RESPECTS TO A DECEASED BROTHER. YOU MAY HAVE WONDERED, "WHO ARE THESE GUYS?" "WHAT IS MASONRY ALL ABOUT?"

YOU SEE, MASONS COME IN EVERY SHAPE AND SIZE. IT IS A BROTHERHOOD OF OVER 5 MILLION MEN WORLD-WIDE. WHEN WE WELCOME A MAN OF GOOD CHARACTER, WE DO SO WITH THE HOPE THAT IN OUR CEREMONIES AND TEACHINGS, WE CAN MAKE HIM BETTER; A BETTER FAMILY MAN, A BETTER

CHURCHMAN, A BETTER CITIZEN. HE MUST HAVE A BELIEF IN A SUPREME BEING. MASONS WORSHIP IN CHURCHES AND TEMPLES TO SHOW THEIR BELIEF IN GOD, AND MEET IN LODGES TO CELEBRATE AND ENJOY THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN.

AS YOU HAVE NOW HEARD, WE DO NOT SOLICIT MEMBERS. A MAN MUST WANT TO JOIN US IN OUR CHARITABLE, EDUCATIONAL AND SPIRITUAL ENDEAVORS. OUR NUMBERS INCLUDES MEN OF EVERY FAITH, THE MOSLEM, THE JEW, THE BUDDHIST AND THE CHRISTIAN. WE ARE MEN OF EVERY COLOR AND EVERY CREED. IT'S A TRUE BROTHERHOOD, WHERE ONE TIME STRANGERS BECOME LIFETIME FRIENDS.

OUR THREE DEGREES TEACH A SYSTEM OF MORALITY THROUGH ALLEGORY AND SYMBOLISM WHICH HAS BEEN PASSED DOWN FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS.

MODERN FREEMASONRY'S FORMAL ORGANIZATION COMMENCED IN ENGLAND IN 1717 WITH THE FORMATION OF THE UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND. THE GRAND LODGE OF MICHIGAN WAS FORMED IN 1826. SINCE THAT TIME, THE PRINCIPLES OF MASONRY: BROTHERLY LOVE, RELIEF, TRUTH, CHARITY, INTEGRITY~ JUSTICE AND UNITY HAVE BEEN HANDED DOWN FROM MASON TO MASON. THERE ARE 385 LODGES WHICH MEET IN MICHIGAN. AS A MASON, WHEN YOU VISIT A LODGE, BE IT IN THE NEXT COMMUNITY OR HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD, YOU WILL JOIN WITH MEN WHO SHARE THE SAME IDEALS. A MASON MAY ENTER A LODGE ROOM FULL OF UNFAMILIAR FACES, YET HE KNOWS HE IS AMONG FRIENDS.

THERE ARE LODGES IN EVERY FREE COUNTRY IN THE WORLD.. THERE ARE 51 GRAND LODGES OR JURISDICTIONS IN THE UNITED STATES. NAMELY, THE FIFTY STATES AND WASHINGTON D.C. THE TWO OLDEST GRAND LODGES IN THE WORLD ARE IN ENGLAND AND IRELAND. THERE IS A LODGE IN EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND, CANONGATE KILWINNING NO.2 WHICH HAS BEEN MEETING IN THE SAME BUILDING CONTINUOUSLY FOR OVER 500 YEARS. YOU HAVE HEARD OF ROBERT BURNS AND RUDYARD KIPLING - THEY SERVED AS POETS LAUREATE FOR

THAT LODGE.

AS INDIVIDUALS, MASONS HAVE RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES, BUT THESE DIFFERENCES ARE TRANSCENDED BY LIKE THINKING AND A SHARED PHILOSOPHY THAT MEN OF TOTALLY DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS, EDUCATION AND INTERESTS SHOULD MEET ON COMMON GROUND. THERE IS A SAYING THAT "FREEMASONRY IS LARGELY INVISIBLE." THE WHOLE OF IT IS NEVER FOUND IN ANY ONE PLACE, NOR IN ANY ONE TIME, NOR COMPRISED BY ANY ONE THING THAT IT DOES. MUCH OF IT BELONGS TO THE INNER LIFE OF A MEMBER, ESPECIALLY TO HIS HEART AND HIS MIND. FREEMASONRY IS NOT A RELIGION OR A SUBSTITUTE FOR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS. IT IS NOT A SECRET SOCIETY, WE ENJOY PRIVACY, NOT SECRECY, JUST AS YOU HAVE PRIVACY IN YOUR FAMILY, YOUR HOME, BUSINESS OR PROFESSION. FREEMASONRY IS A WAY OF LIFE, A DISCIPLINE FOR INCULCATING A CODE OF MORALS, THE POINTING OF A WAY TO A BETTER LIFE.

ONE OF OUR GREATEST STRENGTHS IS THE MEN WHO PRECEDED US - REVOLUTIONARY WAR GENERAL, JOSEPH WARREN, WHO FOUGHT AND WAS SLAIN AT BREEDS HILL, AND PAUL REVERE. BOTH SERVED AS GRAND MASTER OF MASONS IN MASSACHUSETTS. GEORGE WASHINGTON WAS AN ACTIVE MASON. HE SERVED AS WORSHIPFUL MASTER OR HEAD OF HIS LODGE, WHILE IN OFFICE AS THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. MASONIC HISTORY OUR COUNTRIES FIGHT TO GAIN FREEDOM, AND OUR PAST STRUGGLES TO PRESERVE THOSE FREEDOMS HAVE BEEN SO CLOSELY ENTWINED THEY ARE PRACTICALLY ONE AND THE SAME.

YOU MAY RECOGNIZE A FEW NAMES OF MASONS IN THE PUBLIC EYE. THERE HAVE BEEN THIRTEEN PRESIDENTS WHO WERE OR ARE MASONS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, THEODORE ROOSEVELT, HARRY S. TRUMAN (WHO SERVED AS GRAND MASTER OF MISSOURI) AND MICHIGAN'S OWN, GERALD R. FORD, TO

NAME A FEW SOME FAMOUS NAMES FAMILIAR TO US WHO HAVE BEEN MEMBERS WOULD INCLUDE: JOHN WAYNE - ARNOLD PALMER - WILL ROGERS - DANNY THOMAS - MARK TWAIN - ROY ROGERS - RED SKELTON - HENRY FORD - ERNEST BORGNINE - WALTER CHRYSLER.

ASTRONAUTS JOHN GLENN, ALAN SHEPARD, GORDON COOPER AND GUS GRISSOM.

DOCTORS, SUCH AS FLEMING, JENNER, MAYO AND MENNINGER.

MUSICIANS, SUCH AS MOZART, SIBELIUS, LISZT AND HAYDEN.

AS YOU CAN SEE, OUR MEMBERSHIP HAS NUMBERED MEN FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE. FROM KINGS, PRESIDENTS AND STATESMEN TO SUPREME COURT JUDGES, ARTISANS AND CRAFTSMEN MICHIGAN'S FIRST TERRITORIAL GOVERNOR, LEWIS

CASS, WAS A MEMBER - HE BECAME OUR FIRST GRAND MASTER OF MASONS IN MICHIGAN.

IT IS LITTLE KNOWN THAT FREEMASONRY PROVIDED THE SEED MONEY, IN 1817, TO FOUND THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN IN DETROIT, THE OLDEST STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING IN THE UNITED STATES.

LOCALLY, OUR MEMBERSHIP RANKS HAVE INCLUDED - INDUSTRIALISTS, FINANCIERS, BANKERS, POLITICAL LEADERS, BUSINESSMEN, ATTORNEYS, DOCTORS, EDUCATORS AND CRAFTSMEN.

SPEAKING OF FAMILIAR NAMES, ALMOST EVERYONE HAS HEARD OF THE SHRINERS. WELL, SOMETHING YOU MAY NOT KNOW IS THAT ALL SHRINERS ARE MASONS. AS MEMBERS OF A BLUE LODGE OR LOCAL LODGE, YOU MAY CHANNEL YOUR INTEREST TO DIFFERENT AREAS. THIS CAN BE DONE THROUGH THE ACTIVITIES AND EFFORTS PUT FORTH BY SHRINE MASONS, SCOTTISH RITE AND YORK RITE MASONS. WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT? WELL, MASONS ARE MEN FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE. ONE OF OUR BASIC TEACHINGS IS – CHARITY TO ALL MANKIND. WE PRACTICE THIS DAILY AND ACCOMPLISH OUR GOALS IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS.

MASONRY IS A FIVE YEAR OLD CHILD WITH EXTENSIVE BURNS BEING FLOWN TO THE SHRINERS BURNS INSTITUTE IN CINCINNATI, OHIO, FROM CALCUTTA, INDIA, AND THROUGH THE ASSISTANCE OF SHRINE MASONS, BEING TREATED - AT NO CHARGE,

MASONRY IS A THREE YEAR OLD CHILD FROM MICHIGAN, BORN WITH DEFORMED FEET, HAVING THEM CORRECTED AT THE SHRINER'S CRIPPLED CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL IN CHICAGO.

MASONRY IS THE THIRTEEN YEAR OLD GIRL WHO CAN NOW SEE CLEARLY FOR THE FIRST TIME, BECAUSE OF THE WORK OF THE KNIGHT'S TEMPLAR EYE FOUNDATION.

MASONRY IS THE NURSING STUDENT WHOSE EXPENSES ARE BEING PAID THROUGH A SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

MASONRY SUPPORTS:

19 ORTHOPEDIC HOSPITALS AND 3 BURNS INSTITUTES GIVING FREE CARE TO CHILDREN FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

SCHIZOPHRENIA AND ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH.

THE KNIGHT TEMPLAR EYE FOUNDATION.

THE VETERAN'S HOSPITAL VISITATION PROGRAM.

THE JUVENILE DIABETES PROGRAM IN OUR OWN STATE.

A MULTITUDE OF SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE NATION, INCLUDING OUR OWN STATE OF MICHIGAN SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS.

THESE ARE JUST A FEW WAYS MASONRY TOUCHES THE LIVES OF SO MANY PEOPLE. IN ALL, TWO MILLION FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS EACH AND EVERY DAY IS DONATED BY MASONS FOR THE BENEFIT OF MANKIND.

HOW DO YOU BECOME A MASON? THE VIDEO MENTIONED THAT TO BECOME A MASON YOU MUST ASK. ONE OF OUR STRENGTHS, I FEEL, IS THAT WE DO NOT SOLICIT MEMBERSHIP. THIS REMAINS A LONG HELD TRADITION. WE DO CERTAINLY SUGGEST YOUR CONSIDERATION.

‘THE MASONIC AWARENESS NIGHT’

- f. Master of Ceremonies then gives the following wind-up talk and questions and answers follow. (5 minutes)

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I WOULD LIKE TO TELL YOU A LITTLE BIT ABOUT (name) LODGE. THE LODGE WAS FOUNDED IN (year) AND HAS FLOURISHED FOR OVER (number) YEARS. YOU HEARD SOME MENTION MADE OF THE CHARITIES WHICH MASONS SUPPORT. LOCALLY, WE ARE INVOLVED IN:

(List Charities here - could include scholarships, adopt-a-highway program, the Masonic Home and your Lodge's assistance to any other local or state-wide charities.)

OUR LODGE MEETS ON (which day of week) OF EACH MONTH (except in the summer) TO CARRY OUT THE ROUTINE BUSINESS. WE NORMALLY INITIATE CANDIDATES ON ANOTHER (day of week) OF THE MONTH.

TO BECOME A MASON REQUIRES COMPLETION OF THREE DEGREES. AS DISCUSSED IN THE VIDEO TAPE, HOWEVER, A FEW YEARS AGO, IN 1991, ESSENTIALLY ALL OF THE MEMORY WORK REQUIRED IN FORMER DAYS WAS ELIMINATED IN MICHIGAN. AFTER EACH DEGREE, CANDIDATES ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND A LODGE OF INSTRUCTION WHERE THEY MEET OTHER CANDIDATES AND DISCUSS THE DEGREE JUST COMPLETED. UNDER THE MICHIGAN PROGRAM, WE ARE ALSO VERY PLEASED TO INVITE THEIR LADIES TO ATTEND THESE MEETINGS.

THE TIME COMMITTED IN BECOMING A MASTER MASON IS THE THREE LODGE MEETINGS AND THE THREE LODGES OF INSTRUCTION, WHICH USUALLY TAKES PLACE OVER A THREE MONTH PERIOD.

IT IS REQUESTED THAT CANDIDATES WEAR COATS AND TIES FOR MEETINGS. THE FEE FOR INITIATION IS \$(amount), \$(amount) OF WHICH IS PAYABLE WITH THE APPLICATION. THE ANNUAL DUES ARE \$(amount) PER YEAR, PLUS ANY GRAND LODGE OF MICHIGAN PER-CAPITA FEES.

WHILE ON THE SUBJECT OF THE GRAND LODGE OF MICHIGAN, WE SHOULD INFORM YOU THAT OUR GRAND LODGE DOES SPONSOR SEVERAL CHARITABLE PROGRAMS IN OUR STATE, INCLUDING, AMONG OTHERS, THE MICHIGAN MASONIC HOME AT ALMA, A JUVENILE DIABETES PROGRAM AND THE MICHIGAN MASONIC FOUNDATION (which sponsors scholarships and other charities through the local Lodges.) AGAIN, WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING THIS EVENING AND IF THERE ARE ANY QUESTIONS THAT WE CAN ANSWER, WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO DO SO.

Letter to Lodge Members in Local Area Concerning Awareness Night.

(Include return card and self-addressed envelope)

(Use Lodge Stationary)

Date

John A. Doe
123 Fourth Street
Your City, Michigan (Zip)

Dear Brother Doe:

As stated in our letter of (date of 1st letter), (name) Lodge has planned a "Masonic Awareness Night" for (day, month and year) to be held at (place of meeting and address)

The evening will begin with a short Social Hour at (time), followed by Dinner at (time) and a brief informational program on "What It Means To Be A Mason."

We are planning that (number) prospective members and their ladies will be attending the evening as our guests.

However, we need YOUR SUPPORT to make this a successful evening for (name) Lodge and for Masonry in our area.

Therefore, we hope that you will attend!!! The price for the Social Hour and Dinner is a nominal \$ _____ per plate, or \$ per couple.

PLEASE fill in the enclosed card and then return it, along with your check, in the enclosed envelope immediately. Please return the card no later than (date) WHETHER OR NOT you can attend.

Many thanks in advance and we sincerely hope to see you on (date).

Worshipful Master.

P.S. If you have any friends who you believe would be interested in the Fraternity, there is still time to invite them as our guests for the meeting on (date)~, however, we will need their names and addresses by (date).

**SUGGESTED CARD FOR MEMBERS OF THE LODGE IN LOCAL AREA
TO MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR MASONIC AWARENESS NIGHT**

(Also enclose pre-addressed return envelope)

I will _____ (or will not _____) be able to attend the MASONIC AWARENESS NIGHT
at _____(location).

My lady will _____ (or will not _____) be able to attend.

Hername: _____

My check, in the amount of \$, made payable to (name) Lodge, is enclosed.

Comments:

Signed _____

**Letter to Lodge Candidates that had
previously received some degrees, but did not finish.**

(Use Lodge Stationary)

Date

John A. Doe
123 Fourth Street
Your City, Michigan (Zip)

Dear Brother Doe:

An exciting event has taken place in Freemasonry during the past couple of years. The Grand Lodge has ordered a change in the conferral of the three Symbolic Lodge Degrees. Most of the memory work for candidates has been eliminated, although they must attend another meeting following the degree conferrals, in which a more detailed explanation of Masonry will be presented to them, and their ladies.

We feel that this change has moved Masonry in Michigan into the 21st Century, and will make it much easier for good men to join the Fraternity, as well as giving them a much better idea of the principles of the Craft.

With that in mind, (name)____ Lodge is hosting a “Masonic Awareness Night” on _____(day, month and year) in the (location), at (address where meeting will be held).

The evening will begin with a short Social Hour at (time)___ followed by Dinner at _____(time)____ and a brief informational program on “What It Means To Be A Mason.”

As a candidate who has received one or more degrees of Masonry in (name) Lodge, we would cordially invite you and your lady to attend that evening as our guests in the hope that you may now wish to continue your progress through the degrees under the new program and become a full member of the Lodge and of our Fraternity.

If you would like to attend, would you please fill out and return the enclosed postage-paid card, so that we will know whether or not we can plan on your attendance. Please return the card whether or not you can attend.

Many thanks in advance and we sincerely hope to see you on (date).

Worshipful Master.

enc.

Declaration of Principles - Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of Michigan

(For use on back of letters)

Freemasonry is a charitable, educational and religious society, adhering to its own customs and landmarks. Its principles are proclaimed as widely as men will hear. Its only secrets are in its methods of recognition and of symbolic instruction.

It is charitable in that it is not organized for profit and none of its income inures to the benefit of any individual, but all is devoted to the promotion of the welfare and happiness of mankind.

It is benevolent in that it teaches and exemplifies altruism as a duty.

It is educational in that it teaches by prescribed ceremonials a system of morality and brotherhood based upon the Sacred Law.

It is religious in that it teaches monotheism; the Volume of the Sacred Law is open upon its altars whenever a Lodge is in session, reverence for God is ever present in its ceremonials, and lessons of morality are constantly addressed to its brethren; yet it is not sectarian or theological.

It is a social organization only so far as it furnishes additional inducement that men may foregather in numbers, thereby providing more material for its primary work of education, of worship, and of charity. Through the improvement and strengthening of the character of the individual man, Freemasonry seeks to improve the community. Thus it impresses upon its members the principles of personal righteousness and personal responsibility, enlightens them as to those things which make for human welfare, and inspires them with that feeling of charity or good will toward all mankind, which will move them to translate principle and conviction into action.

To that end, it teaches and stands for the worship of God; for truth and justice; for fraternity and philanthropy; for enlightenment and orderly civil, religious and intellectual liberty. It charges each of its members to be true and loyal to the lawful government of the country to which he owes allegiance and to be obedient to the law of any state in which he may be.

It believes that the attainment of these objectives is best accomplished by laying a broad basis of principle upon which men of every race, country, sect and opinion may unite, rather than setting up a restricted platform upon which only those of certain races, creeds and opinions can assemble.

Believing these things, this Grand Lodge affirms its continued adherence to that ancient and approved rule of Freemasonry which forbids the discussion in Masonic meetings of creeds, politics or other topics likely to excite personal animosities.

It further affirms its conviction that it is not only contrary to the fundamental principles of Freemasonry, but exceedingly dangerous to its unity, strength, usefulness and welfare for Masonic Bodies to take formal action or attempt to exercise pressure or influence for or against any particular legislative project or proposal, or in any way to attempt to procure the election or appointment of government officials, or to influence them whether or not members of the Fraternity, in performance of their official duties. The true Freemason will act in civil life according to his individual judgment and the dictates of his conscience.

Adopted by the Grand Lodge of Michigan May 23, 1939.

**SUGGESTED CARD FOR FORMER (Incomplete) CANDIDATES
TO RETURN TO THE LODGE**

I will _____ (or will not _____) attend the MASONIC AWARENESS NIGHT on _____(day, month and year)_____

My lady will _____ (or Will not _____) attend. Her name: _____

I can not make the (date) dinner meeting, but am_____ (or am not _____) interested in continuing my progress through the degrees under the new program.

Comments:

Signed _____
(Please Print name)

**Letter to men whose names have been recommended to attend the
"Masonic Awareness Night"**

(Grand Lodge Declaration of Principles on back of letterhead, enclose postage-paid return card and two booklets)
(Use Lodge Stationary)

Date

John A. Doe
123 Fourth Street
Your City, Michigan (Zip)

Dear Mr. Doe:

(Name) Lodge No. _____, Free Night" on (day and date in caps.)

and Accepted Masons, is hosting a "Masonic Awareness in the (place of meeting and address).
The evening will begin with a short Social Hour at (time)___ followed by Dinner at _(time) and a brief
informational program on "What It Means To Be A Mason."

Through a member of __(name) Lodge, your name was submitted to our Lodge as a person who
may be interested in learning something about Freemasonry, which is the oldest and largest fraternal
organization in the world.

We therefore would cordially invite you and your lady to attend that evening as our guests.

If you would like to learn more about the Masonic Fraternity, would you please fill out and return the
enclosed postage-paid card, so that we will know whether or not we can plan on your attendance.
Please return the card whether or not you can attend.

Many thanks in advance and we sincerely hope to see you on (date).

Worshipful Master.

enc.

**SUGGESTED CARD FOR MEN WHO HAVE BEEN
RECOMMENDED TO ATTEND THE “MASONIC AWARENESS NIGHT”**

I will _____ (or will not _____) attend the MASONIC AWARENESS NIGHT on _____(day and date)_____

My lady will _____ (or will not _____) attend. Her name: _____

I can not make the (date) dinner meeting, but I am ____ (or am not ____ interested in learning more about the Masonic Fraternity.

Comments:

Signed _____

(Please print name)

SEE

PROGRAM FOR

“MASONIC AWARENESS NIGHT”

EARLIER IN BROCHURE

**“Thank You” Letter to those prospects that ATTENDED the
“Masonic Awareness Night”**

(Use Lodge Stationary)

Date

John A. Doe
123 Fourth Street
Your City, Michigan (Zip)

Dear Mr. Doe:

We would like to take this opportunity to once again thank you for being a very important part of (name) Lodge’s Masonic Awareness Program.

The insights you have gained, we hope will give you a better understanding of Masonic Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, and what Masonry really stands for.

We hope that the program sparked an interest in you. If it did, please contact the member of our Lodge who invited you to attend the program, or any of the officers of (name) Lodge.

Once again, thank you for the pleasure of your company on (date).

Very truly yours,

Worshipful Master.

enc.

(Enclose same two booklets)

**Your Letter to members of the Lodge who sent in names of men to attend
the “Masonic Awareness Night”**

(Use Lodge Stationary)

Date

John A. Doe
123 Fourth Street
Your City, Michigan (Zip)

Dear Brother Doe:

Thank you very much for the efforts you put forth on (name) Lodge’s “Masonic Awareness Program.” Without your help, it would not have been the success that it was.

We are now asking you to please follow up and get petitions to any of the men you recommended for the program that may be interested in joining the Lodge.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Lodge!

Sincerely and fraternally,

Worshipful Master.

enc.

(Enclose same two booklets)

**Letter to those who were interested in learning more about Freemasonry, but
were not able to attend the “Masonic Awareness Night”**

(If another “Masonic Awareness Night” is held in the near future or next year)

(Use Lodge Stationary)

Date

John A. Doe
123 Fourth Street
Your City, Michigan (Zip)

Dear Mr. Doe:

Since you had expressed an interest in learning more about Freemasonry, but were unable to attend the “Masonic Awareness Night” held at the (place) on (date), (name) Lodge is hosting a similar event on (day and date).

The program will be held at (place and address).

(THEN CHOICE OF TWO PARAGRAPHS - depending on what is planned)

Although we are not planning a Social hour and Dinner as we did in (month), the ____ (date) meeting will begin with coffee and dessert at (time), followed by another brief informational program on “What It Means To Be A Mason.”

-or-

We will also have a short Social Hour that evening at (time)___ followed by dinner at ____ (time) and a brief informational program on “What It Means To Be A Mason.”

We therefore would cordially invite you and your lady to attend that evening as our guests.

If you are still interested in learning more about the Masonic Fraternity, would you please fill out and return the enclosed postage-paid card, so that we will know whether or not we can plan on your attendance. Please return the card whether or not you can attend.

Many thanks in advance and we sincerely hope to see you on (date).

Worshipful Master
enc.

(Enclose same two booklets as well as a return card similar to last time.)

(Grand Lodge Declaration of Principles is printed on reverse side of letter-head.)