

DISCOURSE

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“The few, the many”

Dear Brothers,

Have you ever laid back and thought about the future of your Lodge, and why this wonderful Fraternity of ours is being carried by the few, the very few in our Lodges.

There may be many reasons why only a “few” are so dedicated to the Lodge; however one thing is true this bad habit must change, even if we have to change this culture or behavior in our Lodges. We must develop a system of inclusion, of appreciation and acceptance to have the many working together.

The Lodges who practice inclusion to a fault have a healthier membership and although this is not a simple system to maintain, simply because anything of worth requires work, dedication and sacrifice, it will certainly help the Lodge succeed in any of its endeavors.

When the task is divided by the many, we achieve more camaraderie, greater results and more importantly greater participation which will spill over into other functions of the Lodge, whether it's building maintenance, degree work, fund raising events or other committees.

The key to getting members involved is to have a plan for the Lodge, this is very important. First you must have a Plan and how it will be implemented, next you must have the core of officers understand the plan, support the plan and be able to assist the Master in communicating the plan to the rest of the membership.

The success of the plan will depend on the skill of those making the presentation of the plan and how they communicate the details to those directly involved with the necessary tasks to complete any phase of the project, to bring the plan to completion. The explanation of the plan and the instructions to achieve the goals must be concise and precise for everyone to be on the same level and when possible they should be written to avoid misunderstandings.

Further, after the instructions are given and written, communicate with those charged to complete the project to make certain that your instructions were clear and understood by all involved, this will eliminate any confusion.

Once this is achieved let them go, provide them with all the support necessary for them to complete the project, don't micromanage, just check in from time to time to let them know you are there to support them. If the plan is not progressing reassess the situation and discuss it with your team leader to make the necessary adjustments to complete the project.

Make sure that everyone that works gets praise and is thanked properly and publicly for their dedication to the Lodge and the Craft. Keep them engaged by assigning other tasks according to their skills and ability; this will require proper planning on behalf of the officers, year after year to maintain this level of participation.

These same principles can be used for other needs of the Lodge such as fund raisers, fun events, committee assignments, and even proper instructions for the core of officers and committeemen to carry out their duties.

Personally I have discovered time and time again that the membership at large of this Fraternity is willing, ready and able to serve the Craft even if they are not a permanent fixture in the Lodge. They want to give back to the Craft they love. However, we must ask them for their participation, whether personally or by correspondence with clear instructions on what we are looking for and you will be surprised the Brothers that come forth to assist you with your need.

One thing is certain, you must not waste their time, you must have a plan and you must give proper instructions for their labors. If you can do this you will succeed and the few will become the many.

Respectfully and Fraternally Submitted, I remain your most humble servant

Jorge L. Aladro

Deputy Grand Master

If you would like to receive, these newsletters make request at email below if you would like to forward to your list of friends you have my permission and thank you in advance.

“My Brothers, the newsletters are intended to be thought provoking, to get you to think creatively, to get you thinking what if?, to dare you to improve yourself and your Lodge.”