

TO: District Education Officers

FROM: Grand Lodge Education Committee

RE: Minimum Lodge Education Standards

Brother District Education Officer,

To ensure that we provide Education and Information to our members on a regular annual schedule the Grand Lodge Education and Information committee has established this Minimum Lodge Education Standards which is to be completed between the Annual Installation of Officers and the subsequent (November) Annual meeting (The Masonic Year.) The criteria of these standards will be the basis of the District Education Officer's inspection report and will reflect the effectiveness of the Lodge's educational programs.

It is imperative that this information be covered with the Worshipful Master-Elect as it becomes effective when he and his officers are installed.

Having met these requirement will not merit any award but rather the reward of a successful Lodge.

To reiterate All minimum standards should be fulfilled during the course of the local Lodge's Masonic year, i.e. from installation through the next annual meeting.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact the Chairman of the Grand Lodge Education & Information Committee at 330-618-9553 or rlrunion@gmail.com .

MINIMUM LODGE EDUCATION STANDARDS

(A Guide for District Education Officers)

PREFACE

The role of the District Education Officer provides the necessary link between the Grand Lodge of Ohio, Committee on Education and Information, and the Lodge Education Officer (LEO). Historically, the LEO was required to present a certain number of programs to the Brethren of his lodge. These programs were crafted by the Grand Lodge Committee on Education and Information. Over nearly the past decade, the role of the DEO has moved from being a teacher/instructor for the LEO to that of being a partner/associate. In the meantime the programs have moved from a prescribed set to an unstructured environment, which engages the creativity of the LEO to build programs that fall into one of three, intentionally broad categories that more closely match the education opportunities of his lodge. The themes of these categories are: (1) Becoming a Better Man, (2) Serving our Community, and (3) Sharing our Mystic Ties.

Minimum Lodge Education Standards (All minimum standards should be fulfilled during the course of the local Lodge's Masonic year, i.e. from installation of officers through the next annual meeting.)

- I. Lodges are encouraged to provide as many educational opportunities for the Brethren as possible. Each Lodge will be expected to have a minimum of at least ten education programs during its 2016 Masonic year. Those ten programs are to fall within three intentionally broad themes.
 1. **Becoming a Better Man** – This theme is most closely aligned with the Masonic value of *Brotherly Love*. Programs presented within this theme:
 - a. may seek to assist the Brethren with a better understanding of how they can apply the lessons and symbols of Freemasonry in their everyday lives;
 - b. provide either Masonic or non-Masonic information relevant to becoming better fathers, husbands, and men;
 - c. improve the moral and spiritual health of the Brethren,
 - d. Increase an individual's understanding of what have been loosely termed the "manly arts." The website www.artofmanliness.com provides a number of useful examples.
 2. **Serving Our Community** – This theme is most closely aligned with the Masonic value of *Relief*. Programs presented under this theme:
 - a. May seek to showcase various areas of need (financial or volunteer) in a Lodge's local community or region, providing ideas for how the Brethren could assist in those areas – either individually or collectively.

- b. Additionally, programs may highlight the actions of Brethren who have served or are serving their community on a national, state, or local level as a positive example.
 3. **Sharing Our Mystic Ties** – This theme is most closely aligned with the Masonic value of *Truth*. Programs presented under this very broad theme would include aspects of Freemasonry such as:
 - a. history
 - b. philosophy
 - c. esoteric symbology
- II. Each Lodge is to hold training for its Master Craftsmen or alternatively, the LEO and Master Craftsmen shall attend a training session held at another Lodge or by the DEOs.
- III. All candidates are to participate in the Apprenticeship program with the assistance of Master Craftsmen.
- IV. The LEO is to attend the annual program provided by the DEOs. Generally, these are held on or near the time of the annual Past Masters Convocations.
- V. Deacons and Wardens are to attend the annual school for these officers.
- VI. Each Lodge is to encourage potential leaders to attend the Masons Lead Better program
- VII. Each Lodge is to promote www.freemasonuniversity.com to its members in its emails, newsletters, Facebook page, through Twitter, etc.
- VIII. The LEO is to encourage all officers to successfully complete the online courses for the Officers Manual, Masonic Code, and Charges of a Free Mason.