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**GREETINGS FROM THE EAST**

Greetings from the East

I am happy to announce that progress is being made in regards to developing a team for a planned radio broadcast addressing "How do I become a Mason?"

Currently we are developing a script to use at the show so we ensure as many possible questions are covered. This script will be given to the host so that this will stay on topic and not deviate from facts and ensure we answer correctly. Using the little booklet developed by Grand Lodge last year, we will base our Q&A from it's content.

It is my hope that this program will spur some interest in our fraternity and bring in some inquires. Not doing anything is not addressing the need to increase our numbers of good men.

Currently we are loosing Brothers faster than we can replace them. Maybe this will make a dent in that decline.

The other issue I am looking at is the cost of monthly dinners vs. the receipts Generated. So far as we can tell were not even breaking even. If this was a infrequent occurrence I wouldn't be concerned, however it appears that it's more the norm than not and something has to change. I am open to any ideas you may have that can help improve this issue. One consideration is to hold dinners every other month. There is a lot of time and hard work for those who plan and prepare, then clean up these dinners and there is a cost of clean up as well. So please give this some thought and my philosophy is "There are no bad ideas" So lets share them and see what develops.

Fraternally  
Norm Rossignol WM

**GREETINGS FROM THE WEST**

It's been clear to me for some time that one of the key elements to the well being os a Masonic Lodge, at least in this neck of the woods, is... wait for it...COFFEE! Yup, that's right, coffee; and every one of our active members knows exactly what I'm talking about. Sure there's the drink itself which has become the life blood in functioning on a daily basis for many of us (maybe I exaggerate.. a little) but it's the getting together for regular coffee meetings at our Lodge that has evolved into a life blood of our local Lodge's vitality. It's during those regular schedule mornings meeting that brothers get to know each other an a deeper, more personal basis and become true brotherly bonding happens. It's where brother become friends. This may border on blasphemy, but I think that friends are more likely to come to Stated Meetings over the long run to see other friends rather than out of a sense of obligation alone.

It's also where a lot of Lodge business seems to get taken care of. Along with all of the other myriad subjects that regularly come up during the

**FROM THE WEST cont.**

typical coffee's bull session, Lodge issues will often creep on up to the menu They're brought up, knocked around, dropped, picked back and generally dealt with in the unhurried manner that is both natural and effective. Given the time that a relaxed atmosphere affords, the nuances of a particular subject can be addressed and maybe even it's overall importance determined. Over coffee (and a pastry when were lucky) lodge matters, both big and small, get their time in the light. By the time our Stated Meetings come around, most brothers are generally aware of these issues and ready for the next step of acting on them officially, if need be. That's just effective business.

Those of us that are fairly regular coffee attendees have seen these events swell in size to over 20 people at times. We've realized long ago that they're the perfect venues to introduce prospective new brothers to our group, giving them the opportunity to ask questions and get to know us in a non-threatening environment. My experience has been that new brothers that come into our Lodge via coffee hours trend to complete their degrees and come to Lodge regularly.

Other than all that stuff I just mentioned, the coffee's not half bad. If you haven't been to Lodge in awhile and are a little tentative about "jumping back in", please at least consider coming to coffee. A brother near you will be happy to give you a ride. We've all had our shots and won't bite, I promise.

Fraternally  
WB Mitch Klaich SW

**GREETINGS FROM THE SOUTH**

Our upcoming dinner on February 14th is our Sweetheart's Dinner. Ladies will eat for free and members will be responsible for the \$10 dinner charge. Skip will be serving his delicious meatloaf as our entree. As always, please let us know if you are going to be attending so we can get a head count and prepare accordingly. So I will ask that you respond by February 13th, so we can adequately prepare.

Tom and Linda Towler will be regaling us with a fun game of "What is it?" They will be bringing items that have unusual uses or names. We will have to guess what they are. We have played this in the past and it is a lot of fun.

I would also like to take this opportunity to invite anyone with ideas for activities or guest speakers for the evening of our dinners, to contact me so I can schedule it. It is nice to have an engaged group so the evening is fun and/or entertaining.

Look forward to seeing you for dinner.

Fraternally  
WB Bob Smith JW