

Charter Night Program



When was your Lodge Chartered?

One of the proudest moments in a community's existence was when the local Masonic Lodge received its charter. In most communities this event predates even the creation of the town! It was considered a stabilizing influence in the community to have a Masonic Lodge in the town and the festivities of that Chartering Event were

celebrated far and wide. The history of your Lodge is no doubt just as extensive and exciting as any other event in the history of your community, and we think it's about time that every Lodge that is able takes the opportunity to host a Lodge Charter Night celebration (at the very least).

For significant milestones a more elaborate celebration may be in order, but this program is more in line with recognizing the existence of your lodge for the period of time that it has been in your community, however long that may be. An evening set aside for remembrance and thanksgiving for those who came before us and laid the foundation of an institution that has made such a tremendous impact on the community, and the men in it.

This is simply a nice easy event to inform the members of your lodge as to the history and impact that your lodge has had, and the possibilities that your Lodge has in its future.

How does it work?

You are going to have to do some homework. First find out when your lodge was chartered, and who were the charter members and officers. From there you can go in any direction you want. Were there famous or infamous members of your lodge? What was your community like when the lodge was chartered? Were the charter members also the leading members of the community? If so, you can give a vignette (short story) regarding some of the more appropriate men. Don't ignore the less famous members of your lodge, they were after all charter members and that alone gives them a certain amount of notoriety. Appoint a team of three or as many as are needed to do the leg work, perhaps they could have an evening where all attendees dress in period costume, or all could bring their favorite lodge souvenir and give a little talk about it. The format is up to you and you should know best what your members like to take part in.

Where can we find information about our Lodge?

Well first of all the best place to find information about a Masonic Lodge is in your Masonic Lodge! Lodge minutes, membership records, announcements and programs all can provide invaluable information about the history of your lodge. You can also find a tremendous amount of information regarding the founding of your lodge from your Grand Lodge. This information would be located in the proceedings of the Grand Lodge and each lodge should have copies of these "proceedings".



If your Grand Lodge has a Library and Museum, this can be of tremendous assistance in this program.

Another excellent source of information is your local library and museum. The library or museum will have

Be sure your Charter is in good condition and properly cared for. If you need help contact your local library for preservation information.

all past newspapers and periodicals in a format that makes searching them easy and fun. A local historical society can also provide invaluable assistance. Not only with information but also with content preparation and source information that may not be readily available.

Once you have your historical information in a format that suits your requirements, plan an event. It might be something as simple as light refreshments or dinner if that is more suitable to your lodge. Invite the local government, newspapers, television, and radio stations to your event. You won't believe how excited they will be to hear about your organization's history and the impact that the craft has had on your past, current and future members.

Look to the future with pride!



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