

GRAND LODGE OF IOWA REPORT

To the Midwest Conference on Masonic Education,

There are two committees that are involved with providing Masonic education to Iowa Masons, the Lodge Service committee and the Academy of Masonic Knowledge committee.

The Lodge Service committee is active though out the Grand Lodge year assisting the Grand Master to deliver his program and assisting lodges with programs and trainings in areas of officer training, educational programs, community involvement, membership recruitment and retention. The members of the committee travel the state to deliver information via the Grand Master area meetings and the LSC spring area meetings. Due to the pandemic many of the meetings were canceled and attendance overall was smaller than usual. Zoom video conferencing was used for the remaining Grand Master in person meetings and the last two meetings were held via Zoom. The meetings held via Zoom saw a big boost in attendance and we received very positive feedback from the participants. The spring area meetings will be all via Zoom and are scheduled on various evenings in late April and May. The topics and instruction for the spring meetings will be "Opening your lodge after the pandemic", "Planning events to get members to return to lodge" and "Making your lodge more visible in the community".

The Academy of Masonic Knowledge is refocusing its strategy and has set goals to restructure and convert the current online content, create new content and utilize the education module in the Grand Lodge of Iowa membership portal. The five schools of the academy will be Masonic philosophy, ritual, history, law and symbolism. The Lodge Service Committee will partner with the academy to add courses on officer training, membership development and lodge organizational health topics. The Grand Lodge awards program (Ashlar, Master Builder, Master Architect, Lodge of the Year) will be revamped to include the levels of usage of the academy courses by Iowa Masons and lodges. Courses will include randomized bank of questions and will have a correct answer percentage for passage. A phased roll out of the courses will begin in the fall of 2021 and will include the restructuring of the awards program by the Lodge Service committee.

Respectfully submitted

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