

Title: Telling Your Masonic Story

Summary: This is a guided discussion to be used within a Lodge that helps members explore, articulate, and refresh their connections to the Fraternity and their Lodge by developing their Masonic Story. This Masonic Story is a powerful tool in looking at the values and identity of a Lodge as well as being a strong foundation for selectively inviting a potential Mason to seek more information.

Objectives: At the end of this discussion, the Brethren will:

- Develop their ‘Masonic Story’ by answering questions about why they joined, why they stay, and what they get out of Masonry.
- Appreciate the importance of their Masonic Story in their Masonic lives.

Preparation:

- This is a guided discussion, so presenters should play to their strengths when presenting this material. The goal is to get the Brethren talking, thinking, and reflecting about their connections. There are many methods to facilitate discussion and you are encouraged to use the one that you are most comfortable with.
- You are encouraged to prepare your audience by privately informing 2-3 Brethren before the Lodge meeting that you will be coming to them for answers to questions that form your Masonic Story. This allows them to prepare and gives you guaranteed people who can respond during the discussion.
- You are also encouraged to have your own answers ready to share.

Procedure:

- Inform the Secretary that the title of this presentation is ‘Telling Your Masonic Story.’
- Ask the Brethren and facilitate discussion on the following four questions (some possible follow-up questions are also listed):
 - Why did you join Freemasonry?
 - What were you looking for?
 - Did you have a Masonic history?
 - Tell me about the moment you asked: Who did you ask, where were you, etc?
 - Why did you join this Lodge?
 - Was there a personal connection?
 - Why do you stay in this Lodge?
 - The people. What do you mean by that?
 - What are the traditions that you think are important?
 - What does this Lodge give you that another Lodge couldn't?
 - What do you get out of being a Mason?
 - Fellowship. Is Masonic fellowship different than what you would get elsewhere?
 - Given a choice between going home and watching a game and coming to Lodge, why do you come to Lodge?
- Ask a Brother to “put it all together” by putting the answers to the questions together into his Masonic Story.
- Explain the importance of the Masonic Story
 - Reflecting on the answers to the questions helps the individual Mason identify what is important to them and what their purpose is in being a Mason.
 - Reflecting and sharing their answers helps a Lodge identify what they value, can increase fraternal bonds, and is a great way for a Lodge to explore their history and culture.
 - The answers to those questions are useful when speaking with people who may have questions or concerns about Freemasonry: family members, co-workers, candidates, etc.
 - Your Masonic Story is an effective tool when speaking with potential members; by speaking about why Masonry is important to you, you may inspire its importance to someone else.
- Summation: Remember your Story and live your Masonic Values every day.
 - Remember why you joined, why you stay, and what is important to you as a Mason.
 - Live your Masonic values every day.
 - Remember the words in the EA degree with regards to your white apron: “equal pleasure to yourself and honor to the Fraternity
 - Remember the stories you have heard tonight in Lodge. Protect, preserve, and share those stories.