



# LODGES OF INSTRUCTION

January 7, 2023

# AGENDA

- History of Lodges of Instruction
- DDGM Survey Results
- Lodges of Instruction Trestle board
- Support/Resources



# HISTORY OF LODGES OF INSTRUCTION

**OBJECTIVES:** Provide Wardens instruction for preparation to East and Candidate instruction on the preceding degree.

## **HISTORICAL (Edicts/Grand Constitutions):**

- **1842:** Grand Constitutions: A Lodge of Instruction may be holden in any town or City in the Commonwealth.
- **1928:** A preparation of a Manual of Instruction and the establishment of district-based Lodges of Instruction
- **1945:** Every candidate is presented by Grand Lodge with suitable printed material and is required to attend a Lodge of Instruction after each degree . At the conclusion of each degree, present the candidate with the appropriate volume of Claudy's *Introduction to Freemasonry*
- **1968:** Instruction in the constitutions and regulations of Grand Lodge, the Grand Lodge relief and service programs, Masonic Home, Protocol and the Grand Master's rulings. (Mention of low attendance from lates 1960 until current.)
- **2002:** Electing officers of Lodge of Instruction. Master and Wardens will be expected to attend, and candidates will be expected to receive instruction on meaning of degrees. Incentives will be developed to encourage attendance. The District Deputies will be responsible for the oversight of the Lodge of Instruction in their districts.



# DDGM SURVEY RESULTS

- **Factors for the highest attendance rates:**
  - Incentive Program
  - Progressive Officer's Line
  - District Sponsored Social Events
  - Dinner/Collation
  - Excellent candidate and officers' training/program.
- **Every District stated Fellowship was a top reason to attend.**
- **Looking For Grand Lodge Support (Website, Content, LOI Committee, Q & A, etc.).**
- **Time Constraint was #1 Objection. However, the most successful districts didn't list this as a top objection.**
- **Division of Candidates and Officers. Candidates are separated from the officers during instruction**



# LODGES OF INSTRUCTION TRESTLEBOARD

## Lessons learned over 180 years

- **Officers line:**

- Comprised of officers listed in Grand Lodge opening/closing
- DDGM has the latitude to implement a progressive vs. non-progressive line and using additional officers.

- **Instruction (Suggested):**

- Four meetings to be Officer, Candidate and Member instruction.
- Candidate instruction – review the preceding degrees with handouts. Instruction can be 30 minutes early.
- Officers, Candidates and Members are together during instruction. Allows candidates opportunity to be in lodge at the same time with their sponsor and other officers.
- Suite of speakers, officers training, video option.

- **Protocol:**

- Attire – LOI Line officers in tux no gloves.
- Candidates, Members and other officers in business attire (suit). Top three officers of each lodge will wear their traveling apron, name tag and pocket jewel.
- Open with prescribed open and closing ritual.
- Aprons are required. Can wear the apron of your highest office.

- **Incentive program per ruling:**

- Attendance (Refer to Appendix C in the LOI manual)

- **Foster Fellowship:**

- Promote/create at minimum one district social event.
- A dinner and or collation is necessary..



# SUPPORT/RESOURCES

- Lodges of Instruction handbook
- Candidate program and handouts
- Officers training (choose from X # for the four annually)
- Speaker's bureau - What do the brethren want to hear!
- Examples on District social events. (Handbook appendix B)
- Grand Lodge Support – access to LOI Committee:
  - R.W. John Toto (john.toto@live.com, 508-380-5932)
  - R.W. Kenneth Brown (kenneth@kirschre.com)
  - R.W. G. Edward Brown (ed.brown13@gmail.com)
- Website for Resources: MassLOI.org  
( MassMasons.org/LOI )



Massachusetts Lodges of Instruction Resource Center

Resources

Welcome to the Massachusetts  
Lodges of Instruction Resource Center







**THANK YOU**