

THE ABC's OF GOOD MEETINGS

Attend to Ritualistic Work in a sincere manner

Our beautiful lessons merit our best performance and attention.

Begin meetings on time

Members lose interest if there are long delays in opening meetings.

Close meetings at a reasonable hour

Long meetings cause members to stay away. Plenty of time after Chapter closes for sociability and neighborly visiting brings members out again.

Do something of interest each meeting

Members enjoy the unexpected events, and routine is tiresome unless there is something additional.

Enter into all Chapter activities

There is a task for each one and members need to feel wanted.

Form the habit of regular attendance at all meetings

Your Chapter needs you. Empty chairs are a disappointment.

Give time, thought and money to the "Good Works" of the Chapter

All have a duty if our Order is to prosper

Have well-planned meetings

If business or routine matters are carefully planned and carried out in a competent manner, it is enjoyable to attend.

Interest new members in our work

A busy member is a happy, interested member and an asset to the Chapter.

Justify the value of our lessons with our actions

Members should know and practice the principles for which the Order stands. Living these teachings daily in our associations with others gives our Order standing before the world. Let's practice what we preach.

- 1959 Grand Chapter of Idaho Proceedings in Circular Letter #1
from Mabel Cash, Worthy Grand Matron

Making meetings interesting, fun and worthwhile

How many meeting have you attended and it's been all over in an hour? Did you remember anything that was discussed? Was there anyone there with their eyes closed?

Or have you attended meetings that went on and on with lots of discussion, but no conclusion?

1. Make the evening worthwhile to the members.
2. Keep the business meeting short
3. Have a special program.
4. Provide educational, enlightening, or entertaining moments.

Have a theme at your meetings:

Cruise Night:

Give everyone a ticket

Decorate as the inside of a cruise ship (portholes, ship's wheel)

Use seafood, exotic fruits, hors d'oeuvres

During the meeting have a quiz about ports of call

Award prizes

Travel night:

Pictures of special places.

Decorations relate to the trip

Serve food from that country or region.

Safari night:

Invite a speaker who has been on a safari

Decorate with wildlife pictures

Refreshments could be animal crackers or trail mix

Come-as-you-are-night

Western night:

Decorate with ropes, cowboy hats, tumble weeds

Entertainment could be square dancers or just music

Food could be beans and chips, or chili and cornbread, hot dogs

Carnival night

Picnic in the park night

Sports Night

Beach party

Garden party night:

Dress for working in the garden, Encourage costumes, (within our guidelines) decorate with flowers, tools, etc.

Have a speaker from a local garden society. Have members tell stories about gardening.

Use fresh fruit and vegetables or salads for refreshments

Have a special program. It doesn't have to be long to be worthwhile.

Game night—bingo, 20 questions,

Scavenger hunt

Show a special video—International Temple

Ask member who may be able to present a program

Bring in entertainment

Invite a guest speaker

Have a special ceremony—baby dedication, honor veterans,

Prizes, surprises and door prizes always add fun and interest. Skits can be fun to do and will help involve members and visitors.

Poll your members to find out what topics they might like to have instruction on.

1. Basic computer use
2. Masonic history
3. Lessons on Lewis & Clark
4. National holidays.
5. A special trip abroad
6. Ceremonies Involving DeMolay, Rainbow and Job's Daughters.

Special chapter project

Select an on-going project. Involve as many people as possible. Put effort into establishing and promoting it.

Adopt a local family to support during the year, not just during the holidays.

Support a local food bank.

Collect donations regularly. Volunteer at the food bank.

Visit and volunteer at a nursing home or a youth group.

Donate time to community activities, such as Habitat for Humanity, a school, library or museum, clean up highways.

Ways to get out of the rut

1. Rotate officers
2. Remember people who have been sitting on the sidelines.
3. Involve new initiates and affiliates.
4. During refreshments, set tables so members can sit together.
5. Schedule some fun nights, but not on a meeting night.

6. Birthday party lunch
7. Mystery trips
8. Family game nights

Suggested speakers & topics:

Travel agent

Daughter's of the American Revolution

Audobon Society

Volunteer Fireman

Local Police

Meteorologist

Look at new ways to doing things. We don't need to hear "We've never done it that way". How about "This is the new way to do it".