



Brother B's Widows Revival

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Motive: The idea of this publication is to NOT replace the current system in place by the Grand Lodge. But to coexist with it and aid each individual reader in coming up with a comfortable part in it's process. I'd like to clarify it if I could: down through history through every time period you have several individuals who have a moment of clarity of unity and they realize that it's all about evolving thoughts They read More ideas. Choosing compassion over fear, all these ideas, they go and share them with everybody.

We must remind ourselves often.. That everything feminine, intuitive & emotional in Western Freemasonry is there because of our Masonic wives. We cannot be often reminded of there vicarious power on us. Without them allot of our "strong" and "active" members would just not be.

Use this as an educational feature.. Use it as a base for your widows project.. Most most importantly USE IT IN GENERAL. Doing something is better then nothing.

- Regards

Sean R Bailey



We are taught as a core value in Freemasonry to look after our masonic Brethren and there families. We are told they come before anything. That even includes internal discord..

Now when it comes to masonic windows there are cases when they will lose all contact with the lodge after the brother dies. It may be her own doing.. She might look at her time in the masonic light as something she only had with her husband.

Adopting an active windows program can ensure that the lodge does in-fact do it's best to keep in touch with the Masonic widow. And offer assistance to said widow if the need should rise. *It should be known that there is no 12 step program or how-to manual on dealing with the emotional stress of the widow.*

The idea is to keep the individual from shutting themselves away. Keeping busy does help with the process of moving on. Feeling involved makes the individual feel wanted.. Hopefully you will begin forming your own ideas for more tangible support of our masonic widows.

The size of your lodge, location and age of your widows will come into play. Furthermore It should be again made known that success will vary based on the individual. You as well as your brethren should never feel like they have failed based on a few negative results .

Establishing contact with a new widow:

The Lodge should establish contact with the widow the moment it learns about the Brother's death. The Worshipful Master should call the widow to see if a Masonic service is desired, and if the Lodge can be of any assistance to her. It is customary for the Secretary to draft some form of Resolution of Respect that the Lodge will send to the widow.

At this time, the Secretary should also provide the widow with a Lodge point of contact, in case she needs further assistance. The Secretary should also notify the Grand Secretary so that the Grand Lodge pin and Widows Certificate can be sent to the Lodge for presentation to the widow.

Needs will vary. Some widows will have a large family to turn to for help with the funeral and with other issues in the days immediately following the loss of her husband; but others may not, and would greatly appreciate guidance and assistance from the Lodge.

Once the funeral is over and the relatives have left, there is a tremendous void and a difficult adjustment period. During this period, calls, visits, and moral support from the Lodge can make a big difference.

But What Of The "Old Widows?"

The obvious first and neglected step. Is to get a group of brothers and compile a complete list of all the living widows whose deceased husbands were members of your Lodge. Find out if they are still in the area. If not try and get some form of mailing address. Build your list based on these two facts... In The Area... Not In The Area

***Widows locally:* If you are beginning a Widows Program and need to reestablish contact with widows whose husbands died some time ago. You may want to present to the lodge a "mass hailing". Gather up some brothers and pop in for a visit. If you feel uncomfortable just dropping in on someone... give them a phone call. If no phone contact is made have your secretary drop a friendly note in the mail along with any current newsletters the lodge might have.**

Vicarious Widows: In this case the Lodge Secretary should do two things. First, He should establish contact with the Lodge nearest where the widow resides (if this is in another Grand Jurisdiction, the contact should be through the Grand Secretary) to notify that Lodge of the presence of the Masonic widow and to request them to keep in contact with her

The widow should know that she can still call upon the Lodge if needed. And be aware of the availability of the Lodge near where she lives.

The Lodge should enlist a number of the Brethren to call one or two of the widows just to check that they are all right. How often will depend on the widow. You have to remember people are people. They may not always want to be checked up on.

This is a great task for some of the older members who may not get out as much. They can play an important role in helping the Lodge stay in contact with the widows. All they need to do is make a short call and report to the Worshipful Master if there is a problem. Mind you, reports do not necessarily need to be bad reports. Family status reports of a positive nature are always a wonderful detour in a lodge full of politics.

Furthermore the brother assigned to the task of check-up benefits from having an important task to perform. He now has regular and meaningful duty as well as contact with the Lodge, and he benefits by becoming friends with the ladies he calls. The Lodge benefits by fueling the fire in a Mason who would otherwise be uninvolved.

Depending on the age of the widow certain assistance may be needed in maintaining peace in that individuals life. Small tasks can become troublesome minus a life partner. As men we naturally supply aid and relief within our power. However when we know a mans wife sometimes it becomes hard to figure out in our minds what we can and cannot do

Here are some examples of the kind of assistance

you may want to consider for an older widow:

- **Doing a survey of minor repairs that the widow needs done around the house, and having the Brethren make those repairs, or arrange for them to be done;**
- **Typing up a list of the medications the widow takes, the address and phone number of the each doctor she sees, as well as other emergency contacts, so these lists are readily available in case of emergency;**
- **Shoveling her sidewalk and driveway after a snow storm;**
- **Helping her with shopping;**
- **Driving her to medical appointments or to worship services; and,**
- **Helping provide liaison with social services to address special needs that she may have.**

In the case of a young widow you may run into some different needs all together. She may not require all the help an aged member's spouse may need. Instead the help may come as mental support and simply just “thinking of you” phone call on behalf of the lodge. Some other examples of things you can do for a widow of any age is...

- **Send each widow cards on her birthday and holidays. This is an inexpensive gesture that is always appreciated.**
- **Take a widow to dinner or coffee on occasion, perhaps on her birthday, or during the holidays. A widow who does not have a large family, or who has outlived her family particularly welcomes this. The holidays can be lonely, and a scheduled outing with one or two of the Brethren is something to which she can look forward.**
- **Schedule a social visit at her home several**

times a year. This is an opportunity for several of the Brethren to spend quality time with a widow. And the visit serves as a reminder to the widow that she is still a valued member of our Masonic family. During the visit, the Brethren can also discreetly observe her circumstances and determine how the Lodge might be of assistance. This observation should be done without any outward comment that could wound her pride and reject the lodge.

- Plan social events to which the Lodge invites the widows. These events can include an invitation to a dinner at the Lodge with some entertainment provided after.**

Whatever the case maybe it should be made aware to the Masonic widow that she will spare no expense to attend a lodge dinner. it is appropriate to tell her she can bring a friend. The individual will feel more comfortable and enjoy the evening a great deal more if she has a friend along. Finally, make sure the ladies have transportation to and from the event, and offer to have one of the Brethren provide transportation if that is needed.

If all else fails... Use the Internet.

If the individual is uncomfortable or in avoidance of direct contact.. You can always opt for email contact. The Internet in general is a good way to passively keep in touch with individuals. If the widow is computer savvy enough to use Facebook you can encourage contact this way.

Email and websites such as Facebook are very well rounded methods of keeping in contact without overtly brothing anyone. If your Lodge has any form of digital newsletters, news groups or lodge community sites. You may encourage the widow to try them out. That way any contact is by her choice and her choice only

When you consider the ritual, educational, and communications programs,

the Lodge must do to survive. It adds up to allot of responsibilities. If you lack man power.. You may want to also consider calling on widows for small easy involving tasks. For example an open house. Your widows can be used to keep track of visitors, hand out information or even talk of life as a masonic wife to potential new members wives

It will capitalize on her strengths and interests. And It is essential for anyone have a job and a role to play in the Lodge. Remember this is necessary for member retention. And even more so for the masonic widow

Conclusion

If your Lodge will implement program, the widows of your departed Brethren will feel connected to the Lodge, and you will be able to say with pride that you are meeting your obligation to care for the needs of the widows. It is my hope however that this concept paper will grow to reflect your lodges methods of handling this type of situation.

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- **Leadership:** Select one person to be responsible for the event.
- **Date:** Select a date for the event, leaving plenty of time to work out the details and send out the invitations.
- **Location:** Decide whether the event will be at the Lodge or elsewhere.
- **Menu:** Decide on the menu, keeping in mind any dietary issues.
- **Entertainment:** Unless you are going to a restaurant or a dinner theater, you will want to consider some entertainment – which can include music during the meal and a program afterwards. you should consider the age and preferences of your guests.
- **Avoid speeches and long introductions:** It is sufficient to simply introduce the widows and thank them for attending.
- **Invitations:** Send a personal invitation to each widow. Be sure the invitation is clear about the date, the time, the location and driving directions, the dress code, the menu, the planned entertainment, and any other pertinent details.
- **If typed, be sure the font is large enough to be easily read. If you have good penmanship, it is even more special to send a hand written invitation, but again be sure it is written clearly and is easy to read.**

- **Mail invitations at least one or two months prior to the event. You want to give the widows plenty of time to plan ahead and avoid scheduling conflicts.**
- **Invitation Follow-up: Call each widow to check that she has received the invitation and to encourage her to attend. Answer any questions she may have.**
- **Transportation: If the widow or her friend do not travel at night or do not have available transportation, arrange for one of the Brethren to drive her and her friend to the event and back home at the end of the evening.**
- **Greeters: Select greeters to meet your honored guests at the door, pin corsages or provide nametags, and offer them a copy of the evening's printed program. Introduce them to others who have arrived. Make them feel at home and help them to socialize.**
- **Seating arrangements: Arrange for the widows to be seated with their friends or with Brethren they know. If the event is at the Lodge, do not crowd seats together and try not to use paper plates or plastic utensils.**
- **Event Follow-up: A day or two after the event, call the widow to ask how she enjoyed the event. See what could have been improved and ask her for suggestions for other events. You may also wish to call those widows who were not able to attend. Tell them about the event and the other widows who attended. Ask them for suggestions for other events.**

