

## The Challenge of Upholding the Promise of Our Lodge Charter by Ron Rogers

Many years ago, several members of our fraternity were desirous of chartering a new symbolic lodge in their town and petitioned the Grand Lodge of Ohio. They were granted a dispensation to work a long with certain criteria they had to meet.

During that following year those brethren held the prescribed number of stated meetings, proved they were capable of governing themselves, were fiscally responsible in the handling of the funds of their lodge and increased their number by attracting new members. They held their enthusiasm by presenting good ritualistic degrees, which not only impressed their candidates but the sideline members as well.

Most importantly, these brethren were willing to improve themselves in Masonry and carry into their daily lives the teachings and tenants of our craft.

Due to their actions, the Grand Lodge granted to them a charter with the confidence that these attributes would be continued by their future members.

Well, brothers, we are those future members and have we arisen to the challenge of upholding the promise of our lodge charter that the forefathers of our lodge made?

In many cases, the answer can be, yes! But in more cases than we want to admit, the answer is, no!

Are we, brethren, less dedicated, less enthusiastic, less knowledgeable to properly and fiscally manage our lodges?

Have we allowed our meetings to become routine and unattractive to our members and our ritual to become of such poor quality that our candidates are unimpressed and cause our sideline members to become bored?

What reasons, or rather excuses can we make to our charter members why we are not upholding their promises and following the examples they set for us?

Apathy? Ignorance? Negativism? Do we just don't care or just don't give a damn?

Are we so lazy that we don't want to further our education and improve ourselves in Masonry? The more we know about our craft, the more interesting it will become and the more we know, the more interesting we will become!

Because of some problems our fraternity faces, does that give us the excuse to become so negative that we will defeat ourselves?

Our fraternity is not dead and it is not dying! Yes, we are in a period of declining membership, a winter of our time. But spring will come and our fraternity will flourish. Don't listen to the doomsday sayers. They have never accomplished a thing.

As long as the tenants of Freemasonry live within you and me, God will bless our cause and with his blessings we will not only survive but we will prosper.

Now is the time that each of us must arise to "the challenge of upholding the promise of our lodge charter".