

To Communicate Or Not To Communicate  
By Thomas E. Reynolds, Sr. Grand Deacon

In a day when technology has the ability to bring us closer together, many of us choose to remain separate.

AT&T has a TV commercial which states: if we would contact everyone we know, and they would contact everyone they know, then we are only 5 people away from having contact with everyone on earth. We have the machine and technology to do this today. It is called the telephone, discovered by Alexander Graham Bell in 1876. In our lodges today, we are only 5 or 6 calls from contacting each and every brother. It is called a telephone committee.

It works like this in a lodge of 150 members. The Master calls the Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Secretary, Treasurer and Tyler. This is level 1. They in turn are to call 5 brothers each, this is Level 2. You have now contacted 30 members who are in close proximity to the lodge. Level 2 then calls 3 members, usually two locally and one long distance. We have now come in contact with 105 members in Level 3. Level 3 will responsible for calling only 1 Brother, usually long distance, and we have contacted a total of 180 members. It is possible through this phone committee to contact every member at least once a year. For meetings, specials, funerals, inspections and special events, you need only use Level 1, 2 and perhaps 3.

*Advantages*

1. We have found that all brothers living away from the lodge really enjoy a phone call.
2. When it comes to being a possible NPD, they very seldom occur. Most NPDs occur when a brother has not been contacted for years.
3. Increased attendance at meetings -- especially the specials.
4. Much more participation at Masonic funerals.
5. Greater visitation at inspections.

To work in any lodge, someone must take the initiative to assemble a phone list and keep it up to date. You must start somewhere, but you must start. Perhaps with only Level 1 and 2.

*You Do Count!*

On no! It won't do to say, "I don't count."

Today, our lodges are looking for anyone who will lift instead of lean, help instead of hinder, and love instead of hate.

*You Do Count*

If your lodge is to be a better, more loving place, it will be up to you. Whether you love it, ignore it, or even know it, your lodge is waiting for you to call today. The survival of our fraternity may depend on a phone committee. If you don't have one, start to form one today!