



# Bring a Brother Back

---

THE GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS

PLANNING COMMITTEE 2021

# Purpose

---

Too many of our members are Entered, Passed, and Raised, then never to be seen again. This program helps Lodges learn why Brothers quit coming to Lodge, teaches them to address these issues, and gives implementation ideas to keep Brothers active.

# Steps of Implementation

---

- Inventory Your Lodge
- Inventory your Building
- Inventory Inactive Members
- Survey
- Introspection
- Create Plan of Action
- Act
- Retrospection

# Inventory Your Lodge

---

Define what your lodge is. Figure out the personality and purpose of your lodge. Ask yourself a series of questions to better understand yourself:

- Does your Lodge have an updated and clear vision and mission statement?
- How do your members visualize your lodge?
- What does your lodge offer besides stated meetings and degrees?
- Are you active within the community?
- Are your members active outside of Blue Lodge?
- Are lodge responsibilities shared equally? Or do only a few members do most of the work?

# Inventory Your Building

---

Do you have a building people want to actually be in?

- Appoint a team to do a thorough walk around the lodge property and building, making detailed notes of all items that require attention
- Prioritize items needing to be corrected or fixed
- Determine if outside help is needed (i.e. contractors)

# Inventory Your Inactive Members

---

Determine who your inactive members are. The Lodge Secretary will be the first and best source for this. Use a roster and identify who is no longer active in your Lodge.

Consider if a brother has moved away, has health issues, or changed jobs. Sometimes life happens and things we can't control will keep brothers away.

# Survey

---

This is the most difficult step but is crucial to finding out why brothers stop coming to Lodge. Reach out to each brother you identified as inactive and solicit honest feedback on why they are not active. Find out not only why they quit coming, but what can the Lodge do better to entice their participation.

Remember to explain the purpose of your inquiry and to be respectful of their answers. They are essentially telling you what you did wrong and what you can do better. Remember that you are Brothers and should want what is best for your Lodge.

# Introspection

---

Review the answers given during the survey. Many answers will be similar and easy to pinpoint, while others may be more member specific. This review can include not only the findings but can also include new issues and items the team agrees are important.

Members discuss and document actions that could be taken and strategies that could be implemented to remedy issues raised by the surveys and inventories. Part of this introspection should be an honest assessment of lodge culture.

# Create Plan of Action

---

The lodge team should produce a detailed, written list of actions to be taken that are within the lodge's abilities. This list will identify the lodge member responsible for the completion of each action item as well as the estimated date of completion.

The lodge Plan of Action should be presented at a stated meeting and adopted by vote of the membership. Set realistic time constraints and be flexible.

# Act

---

Implement the Plan that was voted upon. In the end, while individual lodge members are responsible for specific portions of the action plan, it will be the Worshipful Master of each lodge who carries overall responsibility to ensure the written plan is implemented as approved by the lodge membership and within the timeframe allotted.

# Retrospection

---

No later than 12 months after the plan has been approved and implemented, the lodge team should step back and hold a follow-up meeting outside a stated meeting. The objective of this meeting is to discuss how the plan was carried out, its successes, its failures, and what to plan for the future.

Implement the re-envisioned plan and continue.

# Potential Actions

---

- Host a special Bring a Brother Back event at the lodge
- Plan social events away from lodge outside of stated meetings
- Partner with other lodges to conduct joint events
- Put bigger emphasis on Masonic Education, utilizing Grand Lodge resources
- Host more open events and invite family members to attend

# Summary

---

- No two Lodges are the same, so no one plan will fit all Lodges.
- It is critical that each Lodge develop a unique plan that works for them.
- The goal of this program is to get honest feedback and implement changes to make your Lodge more successful.

As one Texas brother noted, “We must evolve or dissolve.”

# Questions?

---

The Bring a Brother Back Program and  
this Power Point Presentation are available from your

District Deputy Grand Master

District Education Officer

Grand Lodge Website