

Memorial Lodge #18

LET'S PLANT THE SEED

Today Masonic Lodges are faced with what seems to be an universal problems in all fraternal organizations... membership.

We are very much aware how our pattern of living has changed in the last 30, 40 and 50 years. We've heard it all for declining membership: both spouses working, finances, TV and on and on. What can we do as masons to get good young men to join our wonderful fraternity?

We have to do a better job of salesmanship. We now, at least in Florida, can ask worthy men to join our fraternity, but what else can we do to sell our fraternity to the public? Let's admit we have few opportunities to reveal ourselves to the public.

One of these opportunities t present ourselves to the public is a Masonic funeral service. Some of the others are public installation of officers, Masonic floats in parades, Shrine football games, child ID programs, etc. As you can see we have a limited amount of opportunities.

Several times I've had a brother tell that were considering joining the Masons but for one reason or another they had just been putting it off. The happen to attend a funeral where the Masons participated in the service and after hearing the service and seeing the members present they said to themselves:

"That is an organization I want to be associated with." The rest is history. We know that every Master Mason in good standing is entitled to a Masonic

Funeral Service, what a way to get our message out.

Rather that just reading the obituary in the newspaper, attend the service and participate.

Attendance will become not only the fulfillment of a fraternal obligation but also an opportunity to impress those non-Masons attending regarding the dignity and significance of the Masonic order. Your presence at a Masonic Funeral will accomplish many deeds.

Your presence will show compassion for a departed Brothers family it will show others that as Masons we support our Brothers in life and death. This will give the public and opportunity to hear our words of a beautiful ceremony and learn the strength of our fraternal bond.

Here in the 18th district we have Memorial Lodge #18 whose sole purpose is assisting Lodges within the district with funeral services for a brother of their lodge and conducting funeral ceremonies for sojourners. We meet at 7:30 PM the 2nd wednesday of each month at Tavares Lodge. Come out, join us, get involved and help plant the seed.