



Masonic Education In-a-Box Concept

For Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Kansas

Monday, April 6, 2015

Rick Reichert, Master

PURPOSE

Intent

To get feedback, approval, and resources to proceed with the **Masonic Education In-a-Box** Concept.

- Feedback requested so that a comprehensive Trestle Board may be laid out for support and use by the Craft.
- Approval requested so that resources can be expended in pursuit in Excellence in Masonic Education.
- Resources requested include key players and capital dollars to seed the production of superior quality lodge-directed Masonic Education modules for their use.

Impetus

Grand Lodge officers, in execution of the Strategic Plan, have rapidly achieved the objectives for a superior quality, lodge-usable, statewide exemplar in the first run, bootstrap Masonic Education course that refreshed the Masonic University holdings and set a new standard in minimum-level, 3rd degree follow-on, common core education.

Next steps, not yet defined, were objectives to extend Masonic Education beyond the core course, give lodges a ready-to-present series of compelling Masonic Education, and help satisfy the growing thirst for Masonic knowledge, especially in those newer Masons who have been through the “initiation¹” stage and are in the “indoctrination²” stage of their relationship development with their fraternity.

Pursuant an executive update of initiatives and plans presented by the Master of Kansas Lodge of research to the Grand Lodge Council of Administration on April 4, 2015, the Council issued a directive to the research lodge to develop and initiate the production of a so called “Masonic Education In-a-Box” for distribution. This paper is a rough draft of a concept that may satisfy the directive.

Mission

“The **Kansas Lodge of Research** is hereby established (1982) with the authority to conduct research, hold discussions, gather and preserve Masonic information, assist in the maintenance of the Grand Lodge library, supply papers or speakers at the request of Lodges when convenient, and conduct a program of general service to the Craft in the field of Masonic Education and Information subject to the provision of the law.” Constitution, Article IX, Section 15.

¹ **Initiation.** A No doubt there is always room for improvement in our ritual, but for most Masons, they are impressed with good degree work and can include two poignant events in their catalog of “Masonic moments”; Coming to light in the Entered Apprentice degree and at the East Gate in the Master Mason’s degree. Ritual work is how the lessons of our Craft are handed down and gives us a common experience that helps bind us as a close-knit society of brothers.

² **Indoctrination.** Often it has been heard that we leave our new Masons at the altar. Most of what we know about our Craft we learned after being raised as a Master Mason. Each Mason becomes a student of the Craft. The 3rd degree may be the highest degree a lodge can confer, but it doesn’t have to be the end of impressive, well presented lessons that further a Mason’s education and continues to keep him engaged in building toward a feeling of ownership. From “Masonic Experiences Lifecycle”, The Kansas Mason magazine, Volume #49, Issue #2, May 2011.

CONCEPT

**Hypothetical
Scenario –
Masonic Education
Night at the Local
Lodge**

Lodge night is approaching. Brother Able, raised two years previous, recently received his professionally produced, in-color lodge newsletter in the mail with a one page announcement about the Masonic Education offering for the month, which excited his curiosity. It promises to include an interview with a prominent Masonic archeologist who has definitive proof as to the correct placement of Boaz and Jachin which may contradict everything we have come to know about King Solomon’s Temple. According to the announcement, Grand Lecturers are giving this discovery a 4-Harumpf rating.

On lodge night, many brothers arrive early to ensure they get a good seat. Although the presentation could have been read from notes, or prepared and delivered by a brother who is an excellent orator, the lodge has a good internet connection and a new LCD projector and screen. They will see the actual interview and video documentation downloaded from the KSLOR.org web site.

The meeting starts and the business is quickly dispatched. At the appropriate time, a member of the Masonic Education committee³ passes out the accompanying handout, reads the introductory remarks, and plays the video.

At the conclusion of the 20 minute video, the member of the lodge’s Masonic Education committee leads the lodge through the several discussion questions on the handout. At the conclusion, he flips the handout over and leads the lodge through the feedback survey questions.

After the meeting, the Masonic Education member who has the survey results, goes to the KSLOR.org web site and uploads the survey data that will help guide the lodge of research on future topics, improvements on delivery, which media is working best, and where future investment should be spent.

³ “3-317. **Standing Committees** – Every Lodge shall have six standing committees. One on Masonic Education, consisting of three members to be appointed by the Master, whose duty it shall be to help effectuate the programs of Grand Lodge relating to Masonic Education; ...” from the Bylaws of the M.: W.: Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Kansas.

MECHANICS

<p>Topics</p>	<p>Ideally, the topics we should pursue and the order in which to pursue them should be driven by the Craft. We'll do this via survey once the program gets under way. In the meantime, we'll need 10 topics we can start on. Multiple Masonic Education packages will need to be in development progress simultaneously although the expected delivery will be in a serial order.</p> <p>Ten topics is considered a yearly amount. That's one topic per month except for July and August when most lodges are dark. This is a <i>minimum</i> amount of Masonic Education per month. This should not limit lodges from offering Masonic Education at every meeting and every gathering. Grand Lodge with Kansas Lodge of Research will only produce 10 <i>mandatory</i> Masonic Education packages per year.</p> <p>Once the package of the month has run its course, it will be added to KSLOR.org as a ready-to-go archived package that can be used by lodges at any time or dusted off and reproduced by Grand Lodge for a series replay in 5-7 years.</p>
<p>Research</p>	<p>Once a set of starter topics is chosen, Kansas Lodge of Research will make a call for papers. This will not be limited to Kansas Masons. Masons will be encouraged to do their own research and develop the narratives that will form the basis for the master scripts.</p>
<p>Publish</p>	<p>When the deadline for papers elapses, the editors of the Publication Committee will select the best materials to assemble a 20-minute narrative that will form the storyboard for pictures, video clips, interviews with the authors of original thoughts or materials who will tell us their findings in their own words, and other supporting audio/visual materials.</p> <p>The final written narrative will be published as a work for publication by the Kansas Lodge of Research in their electronic library or possibly as a magazine or newsletter article.</p>
<p>Speak</p>	<p>The best orators and interviewees who can exhibit expertise on the topic being presented will be used as the "actors" in the first few productions. After that, we will seek the aid of actual subject matter experts and let them tell the stories in their own words.</p>

PRE PRODUCTION

These are the minimum items that need to be well planned for a high quality audio/video production. These need to be developed for each production in the series.

Script	
Storyboard	
Props	
Video	
Lighting and Sound	
Grips	
Talent	
Blocking	

PRODUCTION

Once all the paperwork is done and arrangements are made, it's time to do the recordings. This is usually the most expensive (per minute) part of the entire assembly. The more off site prep work is done, the faster, more organized the shooting will go and the better the materials you will have for editing. If you don't get everything you need, you will not be able to come back to this step later. Pre-production is therefore the most important step. Production is the most expensive stage.

On Location	
Set-Up	
Rehearsal	
Shooting	
Rushes	Checking to see that everything intended to be captured to video was obtained.
Wrap-Up	Strike the set, clean-up.

POST PRODUCTION

This is the part where all the hard work preceding comes together. There should be much more material gathered than required so the editor can take the best and produce the highest quality product. Ideally, this package should be the pride of Kansas and in demand by other jurisdictions willing to pay for copies and rights to show it.

Editing	
Packaging	
Promotion	
Distribution	
Cataloging	
Post First Run Retail	

RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

Financial Estimate	
Funding Source(s)	

CONTRIBUTORS

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