

Greetings Companions;

Remember six months ago when the weather was sunny and Hot? Today it is cold and one half of this term is finished. It is a time for you to review the programs encouraged by your Grand Council to improve your local body. Are you working on the Illustrious Award of Excellence? How about your status in the Grand Master's Leadership Award? Have you sold all your calendars?

As this is the beginning of our calendar year, it is a good time to think about budgets. Many councils charge very minimum dues. This may be OK for the present operations, but no thought has been given to the future. One major area of need is our equipment. Our robes, vault, and other things need to be looked at and probably, in many cases, replaced. Some have mentioned the cost per robe at over \$800.00.

Following are two sample budgets, one for a council with 50 companions and one with 100. They are not perfect but give you an idea of what expenses are and what income needs to be. Unfortunately, the really is no free lunch.

	50 members – 5 meetings		100 members – 10 meetings		
	year	quarter	year	quarter	
Rent, utilities	\$250.00	\$62.50	\$500.00	\$50.00	\$50.00 per meeting
Mailings (3)	\$75.00	\$18.75	\$150.00	\$37.50	
refreshments	\$100.00	\$20.00	\$200.00	\$20.00	
Paraphernalia (robes)	\$200.00	\$50.00	\$200.00	\$20.00	Replacement 20 years
Misc.	\$50.00	\$12.50	\$100.00	\$10.00	
Per capita	<u>\$250.00</u>	<u>\$62.50</u>	<u>\$500.00</u>	<u>\$50.00</u>	
Total	\$925.00	\$226.25	\$1,650.00	\$187.50	
Dues per member	\$18.50		\$16.50		

Our Grand Council does not specify a minimum dues amount, but have you counted the cost to run your council?

Each council IDM and PCW should be looking ahead to next term. Elections for constituent councils are in June, only five months away. Now is the time to sit down and plan your year. We should look for areas of improvement and reasons why a mason would want to join our activity. I would strongly suggest that degrees in your council be scheduled at least once a year.

The life membership checks should be sent to your council in early February.

Till next month,

Fraternally,

Dale Lynn Corrice  
Most Illustrious Grand Master