

**Freemasons: Tolerant, Charitable and Sincere.**

### **Premier Lodge for 2010-2011**

**Premier Lodge for 2010-2011** recognition will be given to three Lodges based on the size of the Lodge membership as of the December 31, 2010. One for Lodges up to 49 members, one for Lodges with 50 to 99 members and another for Lodges with 100 or more members. All Lodges that participate in **Premier Lodge for 2010-2011** will receive some recognition. Participation will consist of a written story of your Lodge's activities with your specific results and successes that were achieved in each of the areas described below. Your written story will be due by May 15, 2011 at the Grand Lodge Office. Your story will be assessed based on content and successes and NOT on the quality of your English composition or the form of your story. Substance is important and style is not important. Supporting documentation of any activities is encouraged. Activities planned after the May 15, 2011 input deadline but scheduled for before the June 2011 Annual Communication should be included in the report. The awards and recognition will be presented at the June 2011 Annual Communication.

**Premier Lodge for 2010-2011** will cover these areas of interest:

- Membership Development
- Masonic Education
- Community Involvement
- Communication
- Attendance and Visitation
- Other Special Lodge Activities

Membership Development:

This area would address Lodge membership goals, Lodge membership committee and activities, cooperation with the District Membership Committeemen, number of new petitions, Brothers Initiated Passed and Raised, reinstatements, NPD efforts, efforts to avoid suspensions, rush parties/inquirers events, life membership additions, Master Mason obligation renewal, mentor program efforts with successes and whatever else that helps your Lodge with *Membership Development*.

Masonic Education:

This area would address the recommended appointment of an Education Officer. This could include what programs he has presented, what other educational opportunities have been made available, ongoing awareness of what is in the SD Masonic Code, a School of Instruction presented by your District Custodian, Lodge Ritual improvement activities, giving Brothers an opportunity to discuss Masonic principles, values, virtues and philosophies in open Lodge and whatever else helps your Lodge advance *Masonic Education*.

Community Involvement:

This area would address local Lodge scholarship awards, community cleanup efforts, community celebrations, hosting a SDCHIP event, encouraging local school involvement in MMSAT, MMSAT and SDCHIP fundraising activities and whatever else helps your Lodge being more visible through *Community Involvement*.

Communication:

This area would address your Lodge's newsletter, website, Trestle Board, any form of ongoing communication to your Lodge membership, your Public Relations Officer/Committee and his/their activities, newsworthy events published in local newspapers or broadcasts or whatever else helps your Lodge improve its internal and external *Communication*.

Attendance and Visitation:

This area would address the ongoing attendance of your membership (as a percentage of total membership) at Stated and Special meetings, your membership's attendance at District Meetings, your membership's attendance at the Annual Communication, your membership's visitation to other Lodges, your membership's visitation to hospitals and nursing homes of shut-in Brothers/Widows of Brothers, attendance at a DeMolay, Jobs Daughters or Rainbow Girls events and whatever else reflects positively on your Lodge's *Attendance and Visitation*.

Special Lodge Activities:

This area would address Past Masters events, Ladies and Masonic Widows events, special Mason's honors such as Masonic Anniversaries, non-Mason honors, picnics, banquets, Table Lodges, Open Air Lodges and whatever else would enhance the involvement of your members and your community with your Lodge through *Special Lodge Activities*.

That summarizes **Premier Lodge for 2010-2011** requirements, administration and recognition.

However, I have one more special request. You may perhaps be aware that my theme for the year is: **Freemasons: Tolerant, Charitable and Sincere**. I believe tolerance is the cornerstone of Freemasonry. It has been so adequately summarized in the statement; *Freemasonry is a fraternity which promotes appreciation of and respect for all people*. I will give special weight to the stories that include special activities that have best promoted this theme. Be creative!

Again, thanks for being a part of **Premier Lodge for 2010-2011**.

Fraternally,

Dean Behrens  
Grand Master  
Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of South Dakota