**Education**

**Mt St Paul Lodge No. 109 Kamloops**

Our lodge has always viewed education as an important component of our communications, but it seems that in the past few years it has assumed an even greater importance.  Part of that can be put down to the inspiring encouragement of brothers like MW Bro. Jack Harper and RW Bro. Jon Broadberry, but they don’t shoulder the load alone.  The bigger motivator, I believe, is that brethren now realize that doing something different from the ‘old way’ of holding meetings is necessary to maintain the interest of not only the newer members but also the brother who is more senior in years.

That paradigm shift has led more brothers to step up and offer educational sessions, not always on things masonic but also on topics as diverse as after-life planning, first aid, the importance of libraries and what Tarot cards really mean.  We have also, to good success, used the concept of putting the lodge to refreshment, gathering chairs in a circle in the lodge, and inviting the brethren to talk about things like what attracted them to freemasonry, what a supreme being means to them, and interesting things they have done in their lives.  It’s surprising sometimes how little we know about others outside of the lodge setting; we know who does good ritual but not always who got to raft down the Nile…

In all, if I could offer something to others it would be to recognize that education covers a multitude of topics and delivery methods, not only traditional masonic areas and the didactic format, and that by involving as many as possible interest will be piqued and a quality experience delivered.  It’s not all roses of course, but we seem to have far more positive comments and involvement than not.  A phrase that had a lot of currency in the past is to ‘think outside of the box’.  I prefer instead that we need to ‘think smarter inside the box’.

Hope this helps

Fraternally

Laurie Harder