**Masonic Experience**

**Euclid Lodge No. 158**

Several factors contribute the high score for this category:

* Euclid is blessed in that its membership includes Brethren from different jurisdictions with extensive leadership and planning experience in their work environment. As a result, new ideas are regularly discussed and often acted upon. Examples are:
  + Repasts prior to Lodge;
  + Outdoor degree in June/July;
  + The use of technology in education presentations;
  + The formation of an Outreach Committee that phones every Brother monthly, regardless of where they live;
  + A detailed annual Budget,
  + Inclusion of all Brethren, regardless of rank, in monthly BGPs;
  + Ritual;
  + Commitment to LEAP;
  + Visitation; and
  + Movie Night with our significant others.
* Repasts prior to Lodge-these have proven to be very popular with Lodge members and visitors.
* Each month two Brethren commit to preparing a hot meal for the Brethren;
* Every effort is made by all Lodge members to greet everyone and ensure that, where possible, a member is sitting with visitors during the repast;
* as a general rule, this results in an earlier night for the Brethren.
* Outdoor Degree-this is a recent commitment enthusiastically supported by the Brethren of the Lodge and is conducted after GL communication. It was well attended by visitors at its inauguration.
* Technology-monthly notices and minutes are distributed electronically.
* Video technology has been used for education at repasts and in the Lodge with good effect.
* The Lodge maintains a website and has a Facebook page.
* Outreach-this committee has proven very successful. Brethren who live in other geographic areas, or are indisposed due to health, have indicated that the monthly contact is greatly appreciated.
* Budget-a detailed budget is presented every September so that dues can be established in October.
* The Treasurer ensures that the Lodge sticks to the Budget as closely as possible.
* Inclusion- all Brethren are invited to attend monthly BGPs and contribute to discussions, regardless of rank. This serves two purposes;
* Newer/younger Brethren learn first hand how the Lodge functions and plans upcoming meetings,
* Enables all Brethren to ask questions and be heard in a more informal atmosphere.
* Ritual-the Brethren of Euclid endeavour to achieve a high standard of ritual for Degrees and for Opening and Closing. This gives the Brethren a sense of achievement and satisfaction in a job well done.
* LEAP-by following LEAP the Lodge fulfills the majority of the criteria listed on the DDGM’s report and challenges the Brethren to be involved.
* Visitation-there is a fairly strong core of Brethren who visit within the District and also visit neighbouring Districts. This has resulted in reciprocation by Brethren from other Lodges.
* Courtesy degrees between Nanaimo Lodge and Euclid Lodge also increase visiting.
* Euclid has a Travelling Gavel, with strict rules for its possession, that circulates within the

District.

* Euclid is also sister Lodge with Haida where a Travelling Totem is exchanged at each Lodge’s Installation.
* Movie Night-this is an example of a fun social night proposed by a Brother for an evening out with our ladies.

**Community Engagement**

Euclid members are actively trying to be more involved in their community. Several Brethren are very active with the Cancer Car program. Euclid has a Charity Budget that presents funds to elementary school Read and Feed programs in Port Alberni and Errington. Euclid was an active contributor to the 2018-2019 District Charity initiative. Twice yearly, Brethren collect toiletries for the Backpack Program which packages the items for women and children in distressed circumstances. Euclid presents wreaths at the Remembrance Day ceremonies in Port Alberni and Parksville.

Approximately 20% of the Euclid Brethren donate their time for the Van Isle Show and Shine car show annually.

Efforts are slowly being made with Concord Lodge and Qualicum Lodge to co-ordinate some of our community activities, even though they are in a different District. This is a slow process due to scheduling of life’s commitments by the Brethren of the three Lodges.