



## LEVEL 3: UNIT RESOURCES

Engage > Continued Support > Fostering fun, enjoyment, and satisfaction

When Freemasons are asked what they enjoy most about their meetings, they rarely list poor preparation, lengthy administration, casual behaviour, bad ritual, or sloppy Festive Boards.

As they experience more demands on their time and that resource becomes more precious, most working Freemasons have high expectations of anything they join – including that the organisation be run well and that meetings represent good value in both time and money.

Units can improve both efficiency and enjoyment without detracting from the dignity or meaning of Freemasonry by selecting approaches from the list below:

- Sing the opening and closing odes during the procession into and recession out of the Unit.
- Refer to details as being printed on a summons rather than reading them aloud in full.
- Circulate minutes in advance of the meeting, rather than reading them.
- Circulate UGLE/SGC and Provincial communications electronically rather than reading them.
- Collect alms at the door on retiring, or by standing order when gift-aid can be used.
- Adjust start and finish times to be convenient for current members and applicants.
- Conduct all the administrative business of the Unit, including the Risings, in the first half hour of the meeting before opening the door to admit any late-comers and commencing the ceremony.
- When enacting rather than performing a ceremony, include a parallel commentary such as those written by the late VW Bro. The Revd. Neville Barker Cryer.
- Provide a daily advancement and education by including a 5-10 minute talk or address on a Freemasonry-related subject, possibly using a “nugget” from Solomon.
- Each year, (for Lodges) invite the Lodge’s Royal Arch Representative to deliver a short presentation.
- Invite a Lodge of Instruction or Chapter of Improvement Preceptor to explain the work of the Lodge or Chapter of Instruction/Improvement.
- If an officer such as a Deacon is absent unexpectedly at the last minute, canvass all present to see if they can do it, rather than the ADC with a ritual book in hand. *You might find it is a visitor’s party piece.*
- Arrange for drinks to be pre-ordered at the bar.
- Consider whether meals with many courses are always wanted or whether two would suffice.
- Abandon formal seating plans at Festive Boards, except for Installations and ceremonial visits. Alternatively, have seating plans but deliberately mix up those attending.



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- Hold Festive Boards at round tables and encourage everyone to move between courses.
- Manage Festive Boards so that tables are cleared promptly and proceedings can continue without dragging.
- Maintain the pace of toasts, and limit the number of 'taking wines' (if practiced) to one burst of three.
- If a raffle is to be held, consider doing this between courses rather than adding time after the toasts.
- Encourage all speakers to be brief but not perfunctory.
- Aim to conclude formal proceedings within an agreed time of opening the Lodge or Chapter.
- Arrange for the bar to be open after formal proceedings are concluded, for those who wish to remain informally.