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June 8, 2022

Name and address of each Brother  
In our Roster

Dear Brother,

What happened? When we don't see the logical conclusion or logical progress that we expect, we ask, "What happened?" People innately stare at a car crash to see what happened in order to prevent themselves from befalling the same tragedy.

I have struggled in writing this letter over the past couple weeks, trying to discover what would be a call to action for the members of Metropolitan Lodge No. 11. This has only led me to many unanswered questions.

Why do some join and continue to be a member of an organization in which they don't participate? Why do some pay dues and never show up?

Does a person disregard their doctor's advice and joyfully go to death?

Would a man joyfully surrender his right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness?

Why are we choosing to stand by and watch Metropolitan Lodge No. 11 die?

I was raised in 2008 and our average monthly attendance was 72. Today our average attendance is down to 31. The Grand Lodge published a document describing a healthy lodge and unfortunately, we would be considered terminally ill. It does not have to be this way! Some point to Covid as the cause, but our attendance (participation) decline has been over a decade in the making. People in America are still going to work, kids are still attending school and more children are still being born. So, if all those activities are still taking place, why are we not attending our Stated Meeting each month?

One Brother once said, "Isn't it enough that I pay my dues?" The answer is simply, "No, it is not enough." 90% of life is just showing up. Being a Mason means showing up. If you don't show up, then it causes us to have a skewed idea of who we are as an organization and perhaps you have a skewed idea of who you are. It's really easy to say, "I'm a Mason." It's not easy to live as a Mason!

Brother, my message is not intended for all, for there are many who have diligently worked hard over the years through their service and unfailing attendance. To a few there is a legitimate reason that you can't attend lodge, e.g. you live out of state, your health will not permit it or your work takes you out of town the third Thursday each month. To you I ask forgiveness, for my message is not intended for you. If my message applies to you, I sincerely hope to see you at our June 16th Stated or at least at our July 21st Stated.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Cook, PM  
Worshipful Master