



*Oasis Lodge #52*  
*Free and Accepted Masons*

*"The place to be for Masonry"*

*450 North Pantano Road*  
*Tucson, Arizona 85710*  
*520-296-9381*  
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*[www.oasis52.org](http://www.oasis52.org)*

*Presentation for the 2012*  
*Mark Twain Award*

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Greetings from Oasis Lodge #52-The Place to be for Masonry.  
The lodge website can be found at [www.oasis52.org](http://www.oasis52.org).

Oasis Lodge #52 has evolved from a lodge that was considered to be a "failing" lodge by the Grand Lodge of Masons in Arizona in 2002, to a lodge that has been recognized for the past six years, as a dynamic and active lodge. This change was facilitated by the implementation, nine years ago, of the Grand Lodge of Arizona Commitment to Excellence Program.

To improve Masonic awareness within the fraternity and with the general public, the lodge holds several activities during the year, all of which are documented in the attached long-range plan and four page typed description.

While the activities of the lodge are very similar from year to year, the lodge has revised the long-range plan as it recognizes new needs and opportunities.

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### Planning

Oasis Lodge #52 has a long-range plan that conformed to the Grand Lodge of Arizona Commitment to Excellence Program. Because of a lack of participation in the program, the Grand Lodge of Arizona no longer officially supports this program, but Oasis Lodge instituted this plan nine years ago after recognizing the value and benefits of long-range planning. As a result, a lodge which in 2002 was regarded as a "failing" lodge by the Grand Lodge of Arizona, is now recognized as one of the most active and vital lodges in Arizona. Five of the Past Masters and the current sitting Master have been recognized at Grand Lodge for their efforts in revitalizing Oasis Lodge #52.

Every year in February, the lodge commences planning meetings and encourages all the members of the lodge to attend. These meetings are chaired by the Senior Warden and his committee consists of the progressive line, the treasurer, the secretary and the Junior Past Master. The goals and objectives of the lodge are reviewed and modified as necessary based on the input of the lodge brethren. In August, the Senior Warden creates the Detailed Activity Plan based on the results of the meetings, and develops his budget for his upcoming year as Master. The budget and the detailed activity plan are tied together and provide a checklist of goals which the Senior Warden hopes to accomplish during his year as Master of the lodge. When completed, the plan is presented to the lodge at a stated meeting. The budget is voted on at the October stated meeting and our 2011 budget was set at \$24,806.

The current plan is enclosed with the package and this document focuses on the activities which we consider to be most important to the lodge and Masonry in general.

By being part of the planning process, the progressive line receives the necessary leadership training to manage the lodge in the future, subsequently becoming effective Masters. The plan itself ensures that there is continuity

in the goals and objectives of the lodge from one Master to the next.

Review of the plan which is now eight years old has begun under the direction of the Senior Warden, Brother Dean Millard, who will be the Master of the Lodge in 2012.

### Execution / Implementation

Masonic energy and ideas are generated through involvement. Our planning sessions include opening the floor to all who attend for brainstorming. All input and ideas are evaluated for practicality and fit with the lodge's goals and budget. Some items require time and manpower rather than monetary support, so before they are included in the plan, we determine if there are brothers willing to take on these activities. All members are encouraged to attend the meetings as the process binds the brethren of the lodge together as a team. As a result of this process in 2010 the lodge identified a new charity that we are supporting, namely the Academy for Cancer Wellness.

**Prospect Night.** Prospect Night is primarily focused on current petitioners, prospects, and anyone who wants to attend. It affords the opportunity to show the lodge-room and entertain inquiries. Videos geared toward the prospect and / or verbal educational presentations are given by selected brothers. Prospect Night takes place whenever we have a fifth Tuesday in any given month.

In 2011 a prospect night was held at which we had representatives from Oasis Lodge #52, the York Rite, Scottish Rite, Shrine, Jobs Daughters and DeMolay speak. This served the dual purposes of informing prospects and our new Masons of the opportunities available within the Masonic Community, not only for Masons, but also for their families.

**Celebration of America's Freedoms in Honor of America's Veterans.** This event was started in 2007 and has met with great success. We have attracted brothers from various lodges and their families. This event was open to the public and donations were accepted for the meals. It was not intended to be a fund-raiser.

**Anna Henry Elementary School.** At the present time, we supply four to five bikes a year to the school which we buy, build, and present at the school's May award day. The school distributes the bikes as awards to students based on the number of books the students have read. The students get a raffle ticket for every book they read which is put in a barrel and at the May ceremony 5 tickets are drawn with each of the winners receiving a bike. By using this method every student who reads a book has a chance to win a bike with the odds being better for the students who read the most books but encouraging slower readers to participate as well.

#### **Arizona International Academy**

In 2011 Oasis Lodge expanded its Bikes For Books program and provided a bike to the Arizona International Academy east and in 2012 we will be providing two bikes.

**Masonic Model Student Assistance Program - MMSAP** (formerly the Children at Risk Program). Our Past Master, Jerry Badinger, is the Program Director for the MMSAP and our Treasurer, Robert Shrager is the registrar. In addition, Brother Robert is the Treasurer for the Arizona Masonic Foundation for Children (AMFC). They currently facilitate five to seven sessions per year hosting 65-80 professional educators. MMSAP targets youth in grades K-12 in Arizona schools and trains teams of four to five individuals within a school building/environment to: identify risk factors in youth (e.g. changes in behavior, appearance, performance, and other significant indicators); triage student candidates; then develop, implement, and manage individualized intervention plans that link youth to programs and services in their schools and community, eliminating barriers that prevent their success in school and society.

**Annual Veteran's Day Poker Run.** The Poker Run is a fundraiser that attracted approximately 35 riders in 2010. It is open to everyone who wants to participate. We serve a breakfast and lunch, have door prizes, have five to six vendors to sell their product, and a 50/50 raffle. This is an all day event and takes much strategic planning and a lodge-wide effort to execute. It is traditionally held on the first or second Sunday of November. The Poker Run of 2010 was the 10th consecutive Poker Run sponsored by the lodge. The number of riders participating in the poker run

was up this year by 10 riders due to the dedication of members of the poker run committee and brothers of the lodge and because of the favorable comments of the riders who attended we are expecting the participation to increase in the coming years. I am sad to report that in 2011 the event was rained out, but we have formed a new poker run committee and are already working on the 2012 event.

**Masonic Family and Friends Events.** The Masonic Family and Friends events serve as fund-raiser for the lodge and an opportunity to present a positive image of Masonry to the public by including them in these events. They are open to anyone who wishes to attend. We strive to include Masonic appendent bodies as well as the public. In April of 2012 the lodge held its fifth annual "Pig Roast" in conjunction with Horizon Chapter #69 of the Order of Eastern Star. The event was a huge success and over one hundred people attended. This year the event was again held at the Sabar Shrine in Tucson because of the problems we had with the city of Tucson regarding food service at the park. As with all the Masonic Family and Friends events, there was entertainment which, for this event, consisted of well known DJ who kept the audience dancing and singing along to songs.

To make major profits with the above fund-raisers is not our main objective. The main purpose is to bring Masonic lodges and appendent bodies together for fellowship, and to invite the public to see who we are and what we do out of the lodge. This is one of two events that we now hold in conjunction with the Shrine in Tucson.

For the past three years our fall Masonic Family and Friends event has been a "Trunk or Treat" at the Sabbar Shrine.

#### **Fund Raising and Oasis Lodge**

A committee was established to review the lodge dues and as a result, they were raised so that the normal operations of the lodge are funded by dues. Revenue generated from fund raising activities are now used exclusively to support our charities and Masonic Youth Groups.

## Evaluations / Reflections

Our fund-raisers and other activities benefit many outside the lodge. Internally, junior officers benefit by receiving planning and leadership training. Per our long-term plan, certain officers inherit certain activities. Everyone involved knows what is in store for them the next year. This allows for better planning and the necessary continuity to keep the activities in place. Proceeds from the fund-raisers go to the Children at Risk Program, Anna Henry Elementary School and support for Masonic youth groups. In 2010 we added the Arizona Cancer Wellness foundation to the list of charities that we support. 10% of the proceeds are designated for the Building Fund per the lodge bylaws.

To summarize, the long-term planning, the participation in the school program, MMSAP and Masonic Family and Friends events to name a few of the lodge activities, have taught the lodge to work together and communicate with each other more effectively and productively. All of these activities support our mission and goals statement. We strongly agree that our vision and mission statements lay a foundation for us to follow. In everything we do, we strive to tie the activity back to those statements. All the activities mentioned foster Masonic fellowship and public awareness.

Oasis Lodge #52 would like to thank the MIC for its consideration and any further information can be obtained by contacting myself, or Brother Randy Jager, whose contact information is attached with the participation confirmation letter.

Respectfully,

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### **Masonic Awareness**

In addition to the other Masonic events that the lodge holds every year, Oasis Lodge #52 has Masonic education for the wives, friends, and potential prospects at every stated meeting to promote a better understanding of Masonry. After a formal dinner in the dining hall, guests are invited into the lodge room prior to the stated meeting and treated to a five to fifteen minute presentation.

In months that have a 5th Tuesday, the lodge holds an open house and prospect night. The brethren are encouraged to bring anyone to these presentations who may have an interest in Masonry. Flyers are also distributed to apartments and retirement communities near the lodge and brethren who have not attended lodge in some time are encouraged to come and fraternize with their brethren. We hope that by doing this we may encourage some of these older brethren who may not feel comfortable in lodge to start attending again because they know that we will coach on the ritual and make them welcome. We hope in the coming year to hold a rusty trowel night for these brethren.

In the past year we also held three educational evenings for the brethren only. Each of the evenings was dedicated to one of the degrees beginning with the Entered Apprentice degree and ending with the degree of Master Mason. We had outstanding attendance and participation at each of the three presentations and hope to repeat this education in the coming year.