BROTHERHOOD OF PURPOSE

PRACTICAL LODGE GUIDES

Setting Lodge Dues

Work out the cost and explain the proposal



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This is the plan.

If you do nothing else, work through this page with your Secretary and Treasurer.

1. **Decide what the lodge will provide.**
   Keeping the doors open, relief, education, meals, fellowship and the work you want to begin. Think about next year and twenty years from now.

2. **Find the full annual cost.**
   Include rent or building costs, Grand Lodge charges, programs and future saving. Include things brothers buy for the lodge without asking to be repaid.

3. **Decide which other money pays for what.**
   Subtract only dependable, allowed funding for costs already in your total. Money promised to another purpose stays out. Count each cost and each source once.

4. **Share the remainder among actual payers.**
   50 on the rolls - 6 life members with no annual bill - 3 full remissions = 41 full-paying brothers. Use your own records; count each exception once.

5. **Use the answer to start the conversation.**
   If it is much higher than current dues, that is information. Explain why. Plan affordable steps, cover each year's gap, follow your rules and revisit the figures annually.

(Annual cost - other assigned funding) ÷ full-paying brothers

Grand Lodge charges are already inside annual cost. Do not add them a second time.

A MADE-UP EXAMPLE

($20,500 - $4,100) ÷ 41 = $400 annual starting dues.
Without the $4,100: $20,500 ÷ 41 = $500. Neither amount is a recommendation.

The rest of this booklet explains the choices. Start your own figures at page 21.

FICTIONAL EXAMPLE / NOT A RECOMMENDED RATE

Maple's whole year.

Fifty members. Six life members. Three remissions. Forty-one full payments.

Full annual cost	Amount
Rent	$6,000
Insurance, office and administration	$1,400
Grand Lodge assessment	$2,500
Degrees and basic lodge work	$1,800
Costs brothers currently absorb	$1,200
Six lodge-paid meals	$1,800
Speakers and education materials	$1,400
Relief and charity in this plan	$2,000
New annual saving for future needs	$2,400
FULL ANNUAL COST	$20,500

Permitted annual support: $2,000 relief + $800 speakers + $600 materials + $700 meals = $4,100, matched to costs above.

($20,500 - $4,100) ÷ 41 = $400

Check: $400 × 41 + $4,100 = $20,500. Grand Lodge charges are already included.

WHAT THE ANSWER MEANS

The full plan needs $400 from each of 41 full payments under these assumptions. Without the $4,100 support it needs $500. The number starts the discussion; it does not approve a new bill.

If that is a large change, use page 14.

The explanation the lodge should see.

Annual planning example. A discussion proposal, not an approved bill.

The question	Maple's answer
What will membership support?	Basic lodge work, six meals, speakers and learning materials, relief, and annual saving for future needs.
What is the complete annual cost?	$20,500, including $2,500 Grand Lodge charges and $1,200 currently absorbed by brothers.
What other funding is assigned?	$4,100 of permitted annual support matched to included relief, speakers, materials and meals.
Who shares the remainder?	50 members less 6 life members and 3 full remissions = 41 full payments. No fixed-dollar bills.
What is the starting calculation?	($20,500 - $4,100) ÷ 41 = $400. Without the other support: $500.
What are we discussing?	$300, then $350, then $400 in three annual steps, subject to yearly repricing and required approvals.
What remains unresolved?	At the stated costs and support, Year 1 is $4,100 short and Year 2 is $2,050 short. A funded smaller plan or permitted bridge is still needed.

THE DECISION TODAY

Discuss the costs and funding choices. Ask officers to return with a funded transition, confirmed willing helpers, a private relief contact and the actual notice/approval steps. This example is not ready to become a bill.

Do not hide the gaps because the final-year arithmetic works. A useful explanation makes both the proposed destination and the unfinished decisions visible.

Prepare your lodge's one-page explanation on page 34.

Our proposal in one page.

Keep private member details out. State whether this is for discussion, a recommendation, or an approved decision.

Lodge / planning year / decision status

What the lodge will provide; what is charged separately

Full annual cost

Includes Grand Lodge charges.

Other assigned funding + fixed bills

Explain the sources.

Expected full payments

Why this is a realistic count.

Starting annual dues / proposed bill

Show both if they differ.

Money left or missing at proposed bill

Full rate x full payments + combined funding box above - full cost. Count each source once.

Transition steps: funding, fallback and willing helpers

Private relief contact / next decision / effective date if approved

Confirm required notice and approvals before billing.

Explain the plan in your own words. Revisit the figures before the next annual decision.