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.