



Guide to a successful Widows Committee

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Starting a Widows Committee

- Include seasoned Masons, new Masons, and lodge ladies on the committee.
- Assign each committee member a set number of widows to call and visit, and ask him to establish a monthly or quarterly call schedule.
- Have committee members keep a log of their phone calls and visits, including notes about follow-up tasks and any concerns.
- Instruct committee members to update the secretary and master monthly on their outreach efforts, and to share appropriate announcements at the stated meeting or in the Trestleboard.
- Refer the committee to Member Resources on freemason.org for resources such as an FAQ about Masonic Senior Outreach and Sweetheart Survey.

Outreach ideas and tips

The Widows Committee should consider these simple gestures to engage lodge widows.

- Send flowers or candy at holidays.
- Send birthday cards.
- Call as a reminder of important events, such as Daylight Savings time and voting days.
- Extend a special invitation to stated meeting dinners.
- Provide rides to lodge events.
- Introduce widows to other lodge ladies.
- Encourage widows to form their own sweethearts social group with the support of the lodge.
- Host sweetheart events: Invite interesting speakers; offer favorite activities such as bingo, games, and crafts; or simply provide breakfast or another meal.
- Offer handyman services, such as yard clean-ups and household repairs. Encourage Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts to help, and invite youth orders when appropriate.
- Educate widows about the support services of the Masonic Homes and Masonic Outreach Services.
- Make sure widows have the lodge's contact information handy, and remind them that they can call with any needs.

Call (888)466-3642 for information on all of the support services of Masonic Assistance.

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