

How Much Do We Need To Worry About This?

USA Lodge Members by State - Gain/Loss 2014 to 2013

STATE	2014 MEMBERSHIP	2013 MEMBERSHIP	GAIN/(LOSS)
ALABAMA	25,148	25,885	(737)
ALASKA	1,753	1,796	(43)
ARIZONA	7,544	7,812	(268)
ARKANSAS	12,076	12,301	(225)
CALIFORNIA	54,612	59,240	(4,628)
COLORADO	8,627	9,311	(684)
CONNECTICUT	10,104	10,576	(472)
DELAWARE	4,704	4,843	(139)
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	4,280	4,420	(140)
FLORIDA	39,848	41,134	(1,286)
GEORGIA	41,442	42,938	(1,496)
HAWAII	1,721	1,784	(63)
IDAHO	3,422	3,586	(164)
ILLINOIS	60,996	62,951	(1,955)
INDIANA	56,373	58,363	(1,990)
IOWA	18,574	19,359	(785)
KANSAS	19,260	20,176	(916)
KENTUCKY	40,435	47,024	(1,589)
LOUISIANA	18,955	19,874	(919)
MAINE	18,990	19,454	(464)
MARYLAND	14,893	15,429	(536)
MASSACHUSETTS	30,115	30,861	(746)
MICHIGAN	31,801	32,997	(1,196)
MINNESOTA	12,662	13,057	(395)
MISSISSIPPI	16,845	17,565	(720)
MISSOURI	40,862	42,850	(1,988)
MONTANA	5,226	5,416	(190)
NEBRASKA	10,899	11,405	(506)
NEVADA	3,971	4,085	(111)
NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,831	6,094	(263)
NEW JERSEY	20,660	22,511	(1,851)
NEW MEXICO	4,479	4,669	(190)
NEW YORK	39,766	41,259	(1,493)
NORTH CAROLINA	41,333	42,291	(958)
NORTH DAKOTA	2,913	2,885	28
OHIO	91,040	94,878	(3,838)
OKLAHOMA	22,601	23,851	(1,250)
OREGON	8,341	8,648	(307)
PENNSYLVANIA	105,227	107,731	(2,504)
RHODE ISLAND	3,294	3,444	(150)
SOUTH CAROLINA	35,623	36,689	(1,066)
SOUTH DAKOTA	5,555	5,654	(99)
TENNESSEE	38,515	39,943	(1,428)
TEXAS	78,834	81,340	(2,506)
UTAH	1,860	1,935	(75)
VERMONT	5,488	5,694	(206)
VIRGINIA	35,451	36,335	(884)
WASHINGTON	14,174	14,774	(600)
WEST VIRGINIA	19,781	20,251	(467)
WISCONSIN	11,065	11,459	(394)
WYOMING	3,258	3,418	(160)
TOTALS	1,211,183	1,257,248	(46,065)

This chart shows the number of lodge members gained or lost by state for the year 2014 compared to 2013. Only one state, North Dakota, shows a gain (28 members).

The very least the Gain/Loss figure should be is zero (0), which would indicate a state has stayed even.

Where are all the lost members going? The answer is Deaths, Demits, and Suspensions. We don't have any statistics for these categories, and we don't know how many members either demitted or suspended have now passed away.

Whatever the case the numbers show the "State of the Craft" and we are far from staying even with our total membership.

Decreasing permanent or long-term demits and suspensions would help, but only marginally. If we want to keep our total membership at its current level, it is imperative

that for every death, we have a new member. When we attend lodge and the WM calls for a moment of silence for a member who has passed on to the GLA, that is the signal that the lodge must replace him. This has to be made a lodge priority. The next lodge bulletin has to inform the total membership that it needs to start "cultivating" a relative or friend. This is done by simply talking about our Order in the course of normal association. Questions will be asked, and it is then that you can expand your conversation.

How much do you need to worry about this? If our Order were a patient in a hospital, his health would be reported as "Serious" (Vital signs may be unstable and not within normal limits. Patient is seriously ill. Indicators are questionable).

This article is provided courtesy of The Masonic Stamp Club of New York.