U#19 Lodge Budget

And related larger issues

Recommendation for 2027 budget and dues:

1. No reason to change budget
    a. we operate at a loss of about $26,000 p.a.
    b. deficit funded by withdrawals from investments
    c. can continue on this trajectory for another six or seven years before investments are exhausted
    d. Cost of the building is essentially fixed – very little flexibility
    e. The cost of running the building is killing us
2. Keep dues the same at $300 before G.L. assessment
    a. need another $100 or $150 per member to break even
    b. Cannot raise dues to a level that will keep us funded at current membership levels
3. All lodges in the district, even the state, are in the same situation
    a. Only lodges with significant 3rd party rental income are immune.
4. The only way out is to have central locations for lodges to share rather than each with their own buildings.
    a. Expenses can be shared resulting in much lower financial burden on each lodge
        i. e.g. U#19 dues could be reduced by 50% or more
5. The Grand Lodge may need to be involved to find a solution
    a. Practicalities of geography mean that the viable solutions may not align with current district boundaries
    b. Existing lodge buildings may not be viable as central locations
6. Need to get the ball rolling with the G.L. State of the Craft committee for discussion