



Maine Masonic Mentoring Newsletter

Vol. 1, No. 2 – October 2013

To Maine Masonic Mentors and Leaders:

Earlier this year, I met a Brother from another Masonic jurisdiction who has been actively involved in that Grand Lodge's mentoring initiatives. He said that Masonic leaders had put a lot of effort into the project; now if only Brethren would accept the Grand Lodge's efforts and implement mentoring in their Lodges.

Well it seems, at least anecdotally, that Maine Masons see the benefit of mentoring and have started the ball rolling towards making mentoring integral to the advancement of Maine Freemasonry and to each new Brother's initial steps in our beloved Craft.

This newsletter highlights the exciting mentoring initiatives underway in the Nineteenth Masonic District. It also presents the "characteristics of excellent mentors," announces another new Maine Masonic College course of particular interest to mentors, and reports on new Masonic Protocol initiatives.

Characteristics of Excellent Mentors

Think about these traits and the questions, so that you can assess your own mentoring skills.

- Good listener/sounding board
- Knowledgeable
- Nonjudgmental
- Able to give constructive feedback
- Honest and candid
- Able to network and find resources
- Successful in career
- Willing/able to devote time to developing others
- Eager to learn

Do a self-assessment and know what you are offering to your apprentice (mentee) and what you expect of yourself.

- What are my strengths as a mentor?
- What are my challenges as a mentor?

- In what ways can I compensate for my mentoring weaknesses (e.g., books, training, advice from a good role model)?

District Lodges Unite to Instruct New Brethren

All Brethren attending the Mentoring Workshops last June received a copy of the *Lodge Instructor's Manual* developed by the Masonic Education and Lodge Services Committee. (A Copy had previously been distributed to each Lodge and is likely with the Lodge secretary.) The manual will be complemented within the next few weeks with a new DVD to be used in the instruction of new Masons.

These comprehensive instructional tools may appear daunting to some, yet will benefit each candidate instructor earnestly trying to share more light in Masonry with degree applicants and new Masons.

Several of the Lodges comprising the Nineteenth Masonic District located in York County have devised an instructional approach that might just work for Lodges in your District and other nearby Lodges.

Wor. Brian Ingalls, Past Master of York Lodge No. 22, is organizing teams of two or three knowledgeable instructors from District Lodges to teach one of the four instructional modules contained in the Manual:

- Accepted Candidate
- Entered Apprentice
- Fellow Craft
- Master Mason

For example, after a man has been elected to receive his degrees in one of the participating Lodges, the prospective Mason and his assigned Mentor will join with their counterparts from other Lodges to enjoy breakfast together followed by a period of instruction on what accepted candidates should know before the conferral of their First Degree.

This approach allows for the pooling of the outstanding talent within the District, resulting in exciting educational programs for all four modules without over-burdening a few Brothers. It also allows prospective and new Masons to begin their Masonic journey with other candidates and Brethren from around the District with whom they will be sharing our fraternal brotherhood in months to come.

By centralizing the education part of the program, the District leaders are not relieving the individual Lodges of their duties. The individual Lodges will still be responsible for establishing what the respective Lodges want their candidates to do, such as visiting another Lodge to witness the degree they had just conferred on them and doing the Pollard Program at their home Lodge. What District Lodges are doing is standardizing the Educational/Informational part of the program by accessing the best talent in the District to present it.

The approach provides great bonding opportunities for the Mentor and his Apprentice, who will be meeting others with whom they will be sitting in Lodge as the new Mason progresses through the degrees and pursues the Masonic Rookie designation.

As Bro. Ingalls opines: As a fraternity, we need to improve on our creation of Brothers and also the retention of them once we have them raised. This and the Rookie Program are two wonderful tools. But tools are only good if you use them properly.

**New Course offered by the
Maine Masonic College**

**November 9, 2013 –
That Wondrous Fellow Craft
Degree**

Mt. Olivet Lodge
48 Liberty Rd, Washington
9:00 am to 2:00 pm -- Lunch \$5.00
Open to all; (New Course)

This course explores the Fellow Craft Degree as the central introduction to the quest which Freemasonry offers. It suggests that among all the good attributes of the Masonic environment, it is this opportunity of quest which makes the



Fraternity of special importance to men and society today.

Assisted by visual images and interactive discussion this exploration will begin with that ancient legend where two great pillars stand at the beginning of the journey that all must take if they are to find wisdom, strength and establishment. What will follow is a consideration of the ways in which the Fellow Craft Degree introduces the candidate to this most remarkable passage which leads to a world of expanding enlightenment, ability and contentment. Exploration will include the winding stairs, the liberal arts and sciences, the references to our human history and the role of geometry and architecture, the jewels of a Fellow Craft, the passage to the Middle Chamber and that gem of Masonic teaching, the "Letter G Lecture."

This course is designed to bring new focus to that all important second degree in Freemasonry and to afford an opportunity for new masons as well as their mentors to expand their horizons as they labor to be builders of knowledge and life giving vision and ideals.

Instructors will be Brothers Donald McDougal and Walter Macdougall

There are three additional upcoming courses, which were described in Newsletter Vol. 1, No. 1, that should be of interest to Masonic Mentors and other curious Masons:

October 5, 2013 – Critical Thinking

Monument Lodge
20 Market Square, Houlton
9:00 am to 2:00 pm -- Lunch \$5.00
Diploma credit and open to all

**October 12, 2013 – Curiosity: The Key Working
Tool for Speculative Masons**

Bethlehem Lodge
317 Water Street, Augusta
9:00 am to 2:00 pm -- Lunch \$5.00
Open to all; (New Course)

November 16, 2013 – Symbolism

Maine Lodge
70 Bryant Road, East Wilton
9:00 am to 2:00 pm -- Lunch \$5.00
Diploma credit and open to all

Masonic Protocol

Brethren attending the June mentoring workshops were asked to express their interest on a variety of possible educational topics that might be offered over the next year and beyond – such as on mentoring, leadership, Masonic history and philosophy. The topic that the most Brethren wanted addressed was “Masonic Protocol.”

The tally was surprising, to me at least. It tells me that many of our Brethren are interested in maintaining the traditions, practices and respect for our past that have made our Fraternity special and distinct from so many other organizations for hundreds of years.

With the strong expression of interest in learning how to “**do the right things right,**” our Grand Master, MW A. James Ross as charged the MEALS Committee with developing a Protocol Manual for Maine Lodges and Brethren. And RW Christian Ratliff, our Grand Senior Warden, has happily agreed to develop a course covering the history and importance of Masonic protocol – how it can promote harmony, respect, and an exceptional fraternal and educational experience.

Such a manual and course are not unique to Maine. Information associated with the precepts and principles of *Masonic Etiquette, Protocol and Decorum*, were outlined by the Grand Lodge of Virginia as a supplement to the Mentor's Manual. The document can be found at: http://www.grandlodgeofvirginia.org/education/publications/Masonic_Etiquette.pdf

The introduction of the *Masonic Etiquette, Protocol and Decorum* report provides in part:

“Masonic etiquette, protocol and decorum, by definition, is not something left to an individual to decide or to carry out according to his own taste. He conforms to it because it was formally adopted as a conventional requirement for acceptable behavior whether he sees a good reason for doing so or not.

“An act of Masonic etiquette is some movement, action, courteous gesture or speech performed at a given time and place, in a certain manner, and according to rules, fixed and im-

posed by the Fraternity itself. Since the rules are for the good of the Craft as a whole, it affects each member.

“An organization such as ours adopts these rules to better enable it to carry out its good work in an atmosphere of harmony. They are not empty and meaningless, and they are not arbitrarily enacted. The rules have been tested, and they work!”

Our Grand Master has asked that the Protocol Manual be fast-tracked, so hopefully it can be developed, reviewed and printed in time for our Annual Communication at Kora Shrine Temple in Lewiston on May 6, 2014.

In the meantime, the Grand Lodge of Virginia manual would be well worth your reading and sharing with other Brethren in your Lodge.



Let Your Brethren Know What's Happening in Your Masonic Lodge and District

Please submit your newsletter input to
MasonicMentoring@aol.com.



Please urge your new Brethren to become Master Mason Rookies! (applications on www.MaineMason.org)



The Maine Masonic Mentoring Program

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“It is something great and greatening to cherish an ideal; to act in the light of truth that is far-away and far above; to set aside the near advantage, the momentary pleasure; the snatching of seeming good to self; and to act for remoter ends, for higher good, and for interests other than our own.”

— Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain



THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE
OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF MAINE

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Membership Committee
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2013 – 2014 Master Mason Rookie Award Program

The Grand Lodge of Masons of Maine is pleased to announce our new "Master Mason Rookie Award" as part of a new, focused commitment to membership engagement and getting our new members involved in their respective blue lodges.



Criteria for Earning Maine's Masonic Rookie Award
Eleven items must be accomplished within the first year after being raised:

Required:

1. Attend the conferral of each blue lodge degree at least once, by your own or another lodge
2. Attend at least one stated or special communication of another lodge in the district
3. Attend at least seven stated or special communications of the lodge
4. Work on at least one lodge / building association social activity or fund raising event
5. Assist lodge officers at least once in setting up the lodge room and preparing / serving the lodge dinner or collation

Alternates (choose six of the following):

1. Sponsor at least one candidate into your own or another lodge
2. Participate in the conferral of a blue lodge degree or the delivery of the candidate charge
3. Work on a lodge open house or fellowship night
4. Organize or work on one lodge public service event, e.g. Bikes for Books, Angel Fund, MyCHIP Program, Blood Drive, Food Drive
5. Attend district schools of instruction
6. Attend a Masonic memorial service
7. Serve on at least one committee of inquiry
8. Assist or visit a non-related shut it / hospitalized lodge brother or widow
9. Attend a meeting of the Masonic building association
10. Submit a Masonic or lodge related article for publication in the Maine Mason
11. Attend an educational program sponsored by the Maine Masonic College
12. Join with other Masons in a Masonic activity approved in advance by the Grand Master

The future of our fraternity and our ability to continue to grow our membership is highly dependent on being able to engage and integrate our new members into the activities of the lodge. When new members become involved and active in their respective lodges they become the best prospects for new candidates for that lodge.

The Master Mason Rookie Award is an official means by which we can achieve these membership goals. Attached is a checklist for the Master Mason Rookie Award. Once it has been completed and signed off by the Master of the lodge and Ambassador, it is to be submitted by the Lodge Secretary to the Grand Master's Office for his review and approval. Once approved, the recipient can receive his award (Grand Lodge Certificate signed by the Grand Master and affixed with the Grand Lodge seal and Master Mason Rookie Award lapel pin) at the next visit of the District Deputy Grand Master.



THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE
OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF MAINE



2013 – 2014 MASTER MASON ROOKIE AWARD - CHECKOFF LIST

Applicant's Full Name: _____

Applicant's Mother Lodge: _____

Date of Raising: _____

Required (All five are required):

Dates Accomplished

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. Attend the conferral of each blue lodge degree at least once, by your own or another lodge | _____ |
| 2. Attend at least one stated or special communication of another lodge in the district | _____ |
| 3. Attend at least seven stated or special communications of the lodge | _____ |
| 4. Work on at least one lodge / building association social activity or fund raising event | _____ |
| 5. Assist lodge officers at least once in setting up the lodge room and preparing / serving the lodge dinner or collation | _____ |

Alternates (choose six of the following twelve):

Dates Accomplished

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. Sponsor at least one candidate into your own or another lodge | _____ |
| 2. Participate in the conferral of a blue lodge degree or the delivery of the candidate charge | _____ |
| 3. Work on a lodge open house or fellowship night | _____ |
| 4. Organize or work on one lodge public service event, e.g. Bikes for Books, Angel Fund, MyCHIP Program, Blood Drive, Food Drive | _____ |
| 5. Attend district schools of instruction | _____ |
| 6. Attend a Masonic memorial service | _____ |
| 7. Serve on at least one committee of inquiry | _____ |
| 8. Assist or visit a non-related shut it / hospitalized lodge brother or widow | _____ |
| 9. Attend a meeting of the Masonic building association | _____ |
| 10. Submit a Masonic or lodge related article for publication in the Maine Mason | _____ |
| 11. Attend an educational program sponsored by the Maine Masonic College | _____ |
| 12. Join with other Masons in a Masonic activity approved <u>in advance</u> by the Grand Master. | _____ |

We affirm that the above items have been accomplished on / by the dates specified.

Masonic Rookie Award Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Lodge Secretary / Master: _____ Date: _____

Send a completed form, along with a cover letter, stating why the proposed candidate for the Rookie Award is worthy of receiving this award, to: The Grand Secretary, Grand Lodge of Maine, PO Box 430, Holden, Maine, 04429-0430.

The Rookie Award was presented to the brother on the following date.

By DDGM or other Grand Lodge Officer: _____ Date: _____

The awarding officer shall give a copy of this completed form to the lodge secretary and return a signed copy to the Grand Secretary.