

Maine Masonic Mentoring Newsletter

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Focus and Follow Through is the Pinnacle of your Mentoring Efforts

Having been a competitive archer for many years has given me the insight to write this month's mentoring column.

Years ago as a younger less experienced competitive archer, I found myself caught up in the frustration of not being able to shoot a "perfect game." I wanted success and I wanted it NOW! In my attempt to succeed, or at least in the way I perceived success, I tried a multitude of approaches to achieve that illusive "perfect game." The different techniques, different pieces of equipment and who knows how many bits of advice from the professionals, who all had more experience than I did, were never going to make my game any better. I even went as far as studying Zen archery. I couldn't reach my goal because something was missing.

It turned out that it wasn't my technique, my equipment or my knowledge. It was "follow-through." I didn't have any. As soon as I released the string I'd take my eye of the target and begin to lower my bow even before the arrow had made impact. The same problem exists in many of our mentoring relationships.

No one has ever achieved success in any great and important undertaking in their life by jumping from project to project at their will "in search of the magic bullet." These short 'fads' come and go, leaving behind a trail of useless bits and pieces. The lumber you

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bought to build the deck you never finished. The new running shoes for the marathon you never ran. The new dark suit you bought for Lodge that you rarely attend. Don't fool yourself; we all have things like this in our life. The problem comes down to focus and follow through.

When we accept the task to mentor a new candidate we are excited and so are they about the possibilities of their new venture. Yet after the initial rush of excitement has worn off, we may encounter some challenges and we quickly drop off and forget why and what we are doing all together.

There is a way to remedy this and force yourself to follow through. Start by focusing on the target / goal. What do you want for your mentee? What does your mentee want from you? Once this has been established, come up with a plan of attack and FOLLOW THROUGH! Your goal or target need not be a distant end point but rather a series of smaller milestones. Use each of these milestones as a platform from which to move on to your next goal.

Why is "follow-through" important?

In everything you do, especially as a mentor, followthrough greatly determines the outcome of your efforts and ultimately the success of your mentee.

We all seem to think that once our new Brother has completed his Third Degree he is knowledgeable enough to "go it alone." Nothing could be further from the truth. Your mentoring begins at the time he becomes an accepted candidate and should continue from that point forward.

How long you ask? Mentoring and being mentored is a lifelong process. There is no expiration date on his mentorship. If you stop your forward momentum with your mentee after he is raised, he will instinctively slow down and perhaps even stop. Instead, what you should do is accelerate your efforts after that Third Degree. It will create the drive to carry him through to a thorough understanding of what being a good Mason is all about. By the time he develops a clear understanding of his role in Masonry, he will have established good Masonic habits and the fear of losing him through the cracks will have been diminished or even eliminated.

Basically, you should never slow your mentoring efforts, and if you're mentoring properly, with the

success of your mentee in mind, then you will naturally "follow through." The lack of a follow through implies that you're not putting as much effort into your mentee as you could be. If you are not going to apply yourself to mentoring your candidate or new brother, then it is only a foolish waste of your and the mentee's time.

As a mentor, it is not enough to just do your best – sometimes you just have to do what is required. As a mentor you need to be what you want your mentees to be. You want them to be more committed...yes, to be more committed. You want them to be more excited...undoubtedly, to be more excited.

Being a mentor should not feel like, nor is it, another job to do. Your mentee is your friend and Brother and therefore mentoring him should be relaxed and easy. You have plenty of help available in your mentoring role.

Remember that, as a mentor, you are not expected to reinvent the wheel. You should take advantage of the giants of our institution and extract and learn from what they have to offer. We have many Brethren who are masterful in the art of Masonry and if you have the opportunity of mentorship from them you should take advantage of that relationship. As a mentor you cannot be completely effective until you can **"Focus and Follow Through."**

When you do so, you also will reap the benefits of your efforts, by gaining even more light in Masonry and more knowledge about yourself.

Ambition is the path to success. Persistence is the vehicle you arrive in. – Bill Bradley

Fraternally, *Richard M. Nadeau* DER 23rd Masonic District Mentoring Coordinator, Grand Lodge of Maine

"Quote of the Month" Condoleezza Rice

"Search for role models you can look up to and people who take an interest in your career. But here's an important warning: you don't have to have mentors who look like you. Had I been waiting for a black, female Soviet specialist mentor, I would still be waiting. Most of my mentors have been old white men, because they were the ones who dominated my field."

Freemasonry has lots of "old white men" you can look up to and who undoubtedly would take interest in your Masonic career and personal growth. Just ask them if they would lend you an attentive ear and an instructive tongue! – Editor

The Winning Edge

By George O. Braatz, PGM

The season for the National Football League is winding down with contenders vying for this year's Super Bowl.

There are many lessons in sports, some of which can be applied to Freemasonry, and one of the most dramatic occurred more than 40 years ago. In 1972, the Miami Dolphins under Coach Don Shula went undefeated during the regular season, moved easily through the playoffs, and won the Super Bowl.

On the back of the Super Bowl ring that each player received for their victory were inscribed four words: "Perfect Season - Winning Edge."

"Perfect Season" referred to their spotless 17-0 season record. "Winning Edge" referred to the philosophy of Coach Shula. According to Shula's book, *The Winning Edge* (1973), he set a goal and got the entire team to work for that objective.

Like the Dolphins, Freemasonry across North America has a strong team, good leadership, outstanding coaching, and a proud tradition of success. But do we have the "winning edge?" Do we have the continuing desire to move onward, upward and outward? Do we have the incentive to continually strive for higher thoughts, nobler deeds and greater achievements?

Freemasonry today, like the 1972 Miami professional football team, would benefit by acquiring a winning edge. Our goal is to take good men and make them better, and, by doing so, improve our communities and our way of life.

Coach Shula had a poster on the locker room wall throughout the 1972 season that said in bold letters, "Winning Edge." Below each of the four letters in the word, "Edge," was written another word vertically, which referred to four qualities that make a good football



team and were part of his philosophy for winning. These same four attributes refer to qualities that make a good Mason and a good Lodge. They are:

• Under "E" was written the word, Enlightenment. Football players must know the plays, their blocking and defense assignments, and the specific game strategy. Knowledge is important. Education is vital for Masons as well. Candidate counseling and lifelong Lodge education efforts are intended to prepare men for the challenges they face as Masons.

• Under "D" was the word Dedication. A football team will not become a winning team without its players having an intense desire and dedication to succeed. The same is true for a Lodge. There must be

an inner resolve to work and succeed, or the whole effort will not meet our lofty expectations.

Dedication is shown by regular attendance at meetings and activities, fulfilling officer responsibilities, and displaying Masonic principles in daily living.

• As in Masonic teachings, Coach Shula used **the letter "G" as the first letter of God**. Whether on the football field, in Lodge, or every day in a Mason's life, we must rely on our belief and faith in God. Coach Shula realized this as one of the four most important qualities for winning on a football field, and, as Masons, our belief in and reliance on God is singularly our most important message for each other.

• Finally, the **letter "E"** is the first initial of **Enthusiasm**. Skill, training, beliefs and preparations are all fine qualities. But to achieve that "winning edge," that extra lift to put you ahead of the competition, the extra quality of enthusiasm is required. In many cases in our Lodges, it is the difference between a robust, active Lodge and an apathetic, declining Lodge. The Miami Dolphins in 1972 knew that enthusiasm could make the difference, and it is a timely lesson for Masonry today.

Coach Shula's decades-old philosophy continues to be a formula for winning on the football field, even today. Attaining the "winning edge" in Freemasonry would be a very powerful attribute as we confront the challenges of our day.

In this New Year, may we pursue our responsibilities and desires in Masonry and use Enlightenment to enhance our Dedication, and allow God's blessing to feed our Enthusiasm as we seek the benefits of the "Winning E-D-G-E."

[The author is a Past Grand Master and Grand Secretary Emeritus of the Grand Lodge of Ohio and is currently Executive Secretary of the Masonic Service Association of North America. The Short Talk Bulletin is among many fine publications of the Association – an outstanding resource for Masonic education – at www.msana.com.]

This article and many other interesting pieces appear monthly in the *Fraternal Review* published by Southern California Research Lodge. An application for membership is included in this Mentoring Newsletter.

Best Advice

By Ed Hecht VP/Publisher TWICE Magazine at NewBay Media (from LinkedIn)

This "Best Advice" column talks of paths in life but applies equally to travels in Masonry. – Editor





The best advice I ever received came from my Dad during Junior year of college. I was struggling mightily that year and there was a chance I would not see graduation.

As I explained the situation to my Dad, he said, "you have two choices; get your act together, commit to your studies and graduate college or come home now and you'll see, Buddy Boy, what life is like with no college education."

Admittedly, not the most eloquent way to state my options, but I got his point. I changed my major to something aligned with my interests and innate abilities and not only graduated on-time, but made the Dean's List along the way (the "good" list this time). Looking back on the experience of this challenge, the changes I made and ultimately succeeding taught me a few things:

1. Do what you love – In life there are many instances where we have to tackle something we are not crazy about. But we do our best and get through it. I have found life to be way more enjoyable when you choose an education, a career or any task that you love. When I switched majors I excelled at my studies. I truly looked forward to the education part of my experience in college. Doing what you love brings some terrific benefits – joy, peace and contentment. And the money will come.

2. Perseverance – This was the first time in my life where I was faced with tough choices and I was looking at a difficult road ahead if I did not complete my education. Buckling down, making an informed decision about what I wanted to do at school and committing myself to a course of action in the face of adversity, had a tremendous impact on me. When confronted with even tougher challenges in my career (downsizing, business contraction, etc.) I have been able to tap into the experiences of college and bravely forged ahead. I have not been distracted during times of unemployment and each time found myself in a better situation than the last. Moments like these build character and reveal to yourself and the world who you are. **3.** Pride in a job well done – Having found success in my new direction during college, I learned about pride; pride in your work but more importantly pride in yourself. It is a wonderful boost to your confidence to know you not only persevered, but you excelled after putting in the hard work to excel. Along with pride in the accomplishment, I learned it is never too late to make a change. Whether it is being a better student, better employee, better spouse or better golfer (yes, I have worked hard on my golf game and lowered my handicap by 5 strokes in one season), you can improve as long as you put forth the effort and hard work. Take pride in that – you did it!!

4. There are no short cuts – Abraham Lincoln said, "If I had 6 hours to cut down a tree, I would spend 4 hours sharpening the axe." To do what you love, to persevere, to achieve positive results, to make a change anywhere in your life, you must commit the time to do so. Embrace the task ahead, feel confident; you can make a change and do the work...you will amaze yourself and the world.

From one simple talk with my Dad, I learned much about myself and what I can accomplish.

And in Freemasonry...

- Do what you love There are so many opportunities in Freemasonry; officer ritual is not for everyone! There are numerous charitable opportunities; caring and sharing for Brothers and widows; mentoring others; caring for our facilities; leading on our social activities; or being engaged in our numerous appendant bodies – the Shrine and Scottish / York Rites. Find your niche and become involved.
- 2. Perseverance Yes, a Masonic virtue! Success does not always come on the first try. Most of us never experienced learning ritual before the Entered Apprentice assignment. As hard as that EA lesson was, most found the FC and MM lessons increasing easier. So it is as a Lodge officer or in other roles. Keep working on it. Persevere!
- 3. Pride in a job well done How sweet it is when a candidate beautifully recites his lesson in Lodge and all the officers and sideliners rise in unison to award a well-justified standing ovation. The same is true for officers delivering a new lecture, or Brethren successfully tackling a project, like running the Bikes for Books program. They have good reason to take pride in their accomplishments and we, as their Brothers, should always "go out of our way" to give them their just due.
- There are no short cuts to building a strong Lodge. It takes a great deal of envisioning what we want our Lodge to be, to bring everyone together

to share that vision, and to agree upon the steps needed to realize the dreams of what everyone wants their Lodge to become and how it should be perceived within their communities. It takes a great deal of work to become ritualistically proficient, Masonically educated, financially secure and fraternally bound with one-another.

There are no short cuts to becoming a strong Lodge of men and Brothers learning and practicing the principles of Freemasonry. But the rewards of doing so are just and sweet, and worthy of the effort made.

– The Editor

7 Principles to Inspire Success from Simple Secrets, by Kathy Davis (from Simple Truths)

The role of all leaders, including those in Freemasonry, is to **Inspire Success**...within the Lodge, the District and the Grand Jurisdiction. By what we say and do, in how we conduct ourselves and in how we mentor our Brethren in the active affairs of Lodge and life.

1. Believe in yourself. Always stay true to what makes you unique and trust your gut. See your differences as strengths rather than handicaps. And, instead of comparing yourself to others...be inspired by them!

2. Work hard. Pure and simple. Ideas aren't worth anything unless you put them to work. You have to be responsible, dependable, disciplined and never stop learning or growing.

3. Take risks. It's O.K. to be afraid but you just have to plunge in anyway. This isn't easy, especially when it feels like the tide is against you, but it's just necessary to take risks in order to stay fresh and relevant. You will make mistakes but your efforts will also make a difference. Just take a deep breath and step out of that comfort zone!

4. Keep an open mind. Be willing to adapt and change when you need to. Adjust your sails to catch that wind. Be strong...yet flexible and resilient...like bamboo...and bend rather than break.

5. Accept your limitation. Be willing to ask for help...and be able to say "no." There's no way you can be everything to everybody all the time! Surround yourself with good people and enlist their help when you need it most.

6. Treat others with respect and kindness. That golden rule never, ever goes out of style.

7. Never stop dreaming. Your visions can guide you to great things...but you need to be patient and don't give up on yourself or on an idea that might seem slow in coming. It just might need a little more time to germinate and become strong.

All of us need to reinvent ourselves at various times in our lives. Simple Secrets is a book that you will turn to again and again for encouragement. It is a resource that will energize you to pursue your own path with passion! – Editor

Dirigo Leadership Seminars

The Dirigo Leadership Seminar program is offered by the Grand Lodge of Maine to encourage lodges and their leaders to set a course that will lead them to be-



come all that the lodge brethren want to be known for: fraternal, sociable, charitable, spiritual, educational, community centered and family oriented.

Please contact the Dirigo Program chairman, RW Jeff Sukeforth at jandc79@myfairpoint.net to possibly bring the program to your District and Lodge.

A Dirigo session is now being planned for this Spring in Wilton. Watch for more information.

Grow in Masonry through courses offered by the Maine Masonic College



Please email your intentions to attend any of the courses to the College registrar, Theresa Hatch at Grand Lodge, at GrandLodge@MaineMason.org or 855-843-1086. The College generally does not require that one register for classes and events. However, to be assured a place at lunch or to be notified of changes in schedules participants do need to register.

Upcoming Maine Masonic College Courses

Updated listings of upcoming courses for the 2014 – 2015 Maine Masonic College year will be available in upcoming Mentoring Newsletters and on the MMC website: www.MaineMasonicCollege.com. Please contact Theresa Hatch to be considered as a possible host lodge for a College seminar. The upcoming schedule includes the following courses:

Fifth Annual Celebration of the Arts and Sciences, April 11, 2015 Instructor, Dr. Jeffrey Hecker, Provost and EVP of Academic Affairs, University of Maine Bangor Masonic Center 294 Union St 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. \$5.00 for lunch

Open to non-Masons

This is our annual celebration of the arts and sciences which are the magnificent achievements and courageous outreach of the human mind and spirit.

Opening: 9:00-9:15 General Steve Nichols, Chair Board of Regents and Dr. Eric Kuntz, Dean of the Maine Masonic College Presentation: 9:15-10:15 Prof. Jeffrey Hecker, Executive Vice President and Provost of the University of Maine.

Break: 10:15-10:45

Presentation: 10:45-11:30 Prof. Liam Riordan, Director of the Humanities Institute, University of Maine

Panel: 11:30-12:15 Prof. Francois Amar, Dean of the Honors College, University of Maine and Honor Students

Question & Answer Time: 12:00-12:45 Dinner: 1:00

• Bonds of Fellowship and Spirit, May 16, 2015 Presenter, RW Mark E. Rustin

Dunlap Lodge, 264 Pool Rd., Biddeford 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. \$5.00 for lunch Open to non-Masons

The purpose of this workshop is to express the basic and central nature of the spiritual life of the local lodges as the foundation upon which Freemasonry is properly built. The workshop will accomplish its task in a half-day format. It will present information to the Masters, Chaplains, other Brethren and non-Masonic attendees.

The opportunity for discussion and explanation, and utilize the true nature of the fraternity as an ongoing resource for continued education and goal realization.

• Understanding World Religions, May 16, 2015 Instructor, RW Charles W. Plummer

Meridian Splendor Lodge, Newport 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. \$5.00 for lunch Open to non-Masons

A recent poll of Americans revealed an alarming lack of basic knowledge about the world's religions. Surprisingly, a Gallup poll revealed that only half of American adults could name even one of the four Gospels of the New Testament.

This course has been designed to teach participants the basics of world religions including their origins, historical figures, rituals, scriptures, holidays and key teachings – all that Masons should know and understand in order to consider themselves religiously literate. By studying the religious traditions of the world, we will better understand our world and our neighbors, and because religions deal with the fundamental questions of human existence, understanding religion will help us to better understand ourselves as Freemasons who profess to be linked together by an indissoluble chain of sincere affection and who regard the whole human species as one family.

We will begin by exploring what a religious tradition is and by examining a number of ways of defining religion, along with the strengths and weaknesses of each. Then we will examine important themes that nearly all religions address: the concept of divinity or ultimate reality, scripture and ritual; the understandding of good and evil; and the idea of salvation or liberation. We conclude our studies by examining important trends in religion and the relationships of religion, violence and peace in today's world.

The instructor, RW and Doctor Charles Plummer, of Acacia Lodge, Durham, is a scholar and teacher, served as Regent of the Maine Masonic College at its concepttion and then as a faculty member. His career has been that of a teacher and educator in public schools and at the college level. He continually brings his well-known and admired insights to every class he teaches. Brother Plummer has a doctorate degree in religious studies, and we all look forward with great anticipation to the understanding he will bring to us.

• The Wondrous Fellow Craft Degree: A Journey for Our Times, May 30, 2015 Instructors: MW Walter Macdougall and RW Donald McDougal

Maine Lodge, Wilton 70 Bryant Rd 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. \$5.00 for lunch

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.

This course is designed to bring new focus to that all important middle 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 worthy, life giving vision and ideals.

Begin your new Masonic Brother on a path to become a Maine Masonic Rookie!



A proven approach to bonding new Masons to their Lodge and Fraternity!

- New Masons may begin the Rookie Program immediately after the conferral of the Entered Apprentice Degree.
- Every new Mason can earn the Masonic Rookie Award, it's not a competition among Brethren, it's recognition for becoming involved in the work of your Lodge.
- All new Masons who complete the Rookie Program criteria will receive the Rookie pin and certificate, and be invited (with a guest) to the Rookie Banquet

 Lodges have as many as six new Masons currently pursuing Masonic Rookie status.
- In the first two years of the Masonic Rookie Program, more than 80% of new Masonic Rookies are already serving as Lodge officers.

"Building the Bonds of Brotherhood"

The Masonic Rookie Form is attached

The Maine Masonic Mentoring Program

MW David A. Walker Grand Master

VW Richard M. Nadeau

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

R.W. Richard N. Bergeron Jr., Chairman Membership Committee 207-240-5752 • rickbergeron@fairpoint.net

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.





MASTER MASON ROOKIE AWARD - CHECKOFF LIST

Applicant's Full Name:	
Applicant's Mother Lodge:	
Date of Raising:	
Required (All five are required):	Dates Accomplished
 Attend the conferral of each blue lodge degree at least once, by own or another lodge Attend at least one stated or special communication of another the district Attend at least seven stated or special communications of the least Work on at least one lodge / building association social activity raising event Assist lodge officers at least once in setting up the lodge room preparing / serving the lodge dinner or collation 	lodge in odge y or fund
Alternates (choose six of the following twelve):	Dates Accomplished
 Sponsor at least one candidate into your own or another lodge Participate in the conferral of a blue lodge degree or the delive candidate charge Work on a lodge open house or fellowship night Organize or work on one lodge public service event, e.g. Bikes Books, Angel Fund, MyCHIP Program, Blood Drive, Food Dr Attend district schools of instruction Attend a Masonic memorial service Serve on at least one committee of inquiry Assist or visit a non-related shut it / hospitalized lodge brother widow Attend a meeting of the Masonic building association Submit a Masonic or lodge related article for publication in the Mason Attend an educational program sponsored by the Maine Mason College Join with other Masons in a Masonic activity approved in adva the Grand Master. 	s for ive or e Maine nic
We affirm that the above items have been accomplished on / by the da	ates 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.