

A BAND OF BROTHERS AND FRIENDS “MAINE_ly” Masonic Mentoring

Brothers,

One of my roles as Deputy Grand Master is to oversee the Mentoring Program the Grand Lodge offers to the Lodges. It allows them to assist new Brothers and Officers progressing through the chairs in gaining insights and knowledge. It also allows them to increase their confidence and comfort with the Craft. With the concurrence of the Grand Master, I have appointed Brother Ronald Murphy, RW Past Junior Grand Warden, as State Mentoring Coordinator.

Brother Murphy is well versed as a Freemason and as a leader of men. He has served the Grand Lodge as Grand Pursuivant, District 6 Ritual Instructor, District 6 Educational Representative, District 6 District Deputy Grand Master, and Assistant Grand Lecturer as well as Junior Grand Warden and other positions.

Additionally, Brother Murphy has a compelling personal experience with mentoring which, by his definition, assisted him in becoming the man he is today. I look forward to serving with him and encourage you to reach out to him for guidance in your endeavors in this important part of Masonic growth, competency and retention. His contact information is:

Phone: 207-944-1518
E-mail: ronmasonic08@roadrunner.com
Address: PO Box 6093, Bangor, ME 04402

As we move into another year of Freemasonry's growth and activity, I encourage you and your Lodge to review, discuss, and adopt the Grand Lodge Mentoring Program. It is well described in the printed materials published by Grand Lodge. I offer you the following as a thumbnail overview of the mentoring effort.

The goal of the effort is to actualize the title of this newsletter – for the Lodges to become bands of Brothers and friends. To accomplish the goal, the effort is comprised of two major components.

First: Building fraternal relationships which lead to friendships as bonds are formed during the time spent with the “new” Brother offering him more light about this Craft of which he has become a part. The Rookie Program offers the Lodges a great opportunity to add definition to their efforts to build relationships with new Brothers. Working with the Brother in fulfilling the

requirements of the program automatically make time for friendships to be formed while enlightening the Brother about the insights and possibilities available through the Fraternity. The recognition banquet at the completion of the program reinforces the accomplishments of the new Brother with the assistance of his friends and Brothers.

Second: Guidance for those who are progressing through the Chairs provides a great benefit to them and the Lodge. The Officers are encouraged and allowed to recognize the responsibilities of the Office they hold as well as the next Office in the line. Through this progression of insight and understanding the Officers are allowed to become empowered to start a new Office ready on the first day. The Lodge is made stronger and more vital through more informed, competent leadership and Freemasonry is made more relevant to the Brothers and the broader world.

Both aspects of Mentoring are tools to accomplish the Lodge's goals. By adopting all or parts of the initiative and tailoring to the specifics of your Lodge, you can develop new Brothers who understand the nature, goals, and culture of Freemasonry in your Lodge and who will be more likely to retain an active role in the life of the Lodge. You will also be served by an Officer line who understand the nature and duties of their present Office and, drawing upon the experience of those ahead of them in the line and Past Officers, be ready to serve the Lodge on day one in their duty station.

Brother Murphy and I look forward to working with you as you strive to attain these important goals for your Lodge. Our Fraternity seeks to reveal our foundational values in our lives and in the world each day. Regardless of how much the world might change, our core values have a place pointing the world to the moral high ground. If you chose to adopt mentoring as one of the tools used in accomplishing that goal, you will serve your new Brothers and your Lodge well.

Fraternally,



RW Deputy Grand Master