



# Maine Masonic Mentoring Newsletter

Vol. 2, No. 4 – April 2014

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## Medical and Masonic Morality

There are interesting similarities between medical ethics and Masonic morality. Both stress personal behavior, charity and relationship to the community. Both started as guilds in ages past, yet are present-day doctors and Masons performing up to the high standards of their forebears?

**Medical ethics** define professionalism. Respect the patient, be honest and true, keep the patient's best interests foremost, do no harm, and keep your financial and sexual needs out of the doctor-patient relationship.

I was taught to make decisions based on what's good for the patient, to put the patient's needs before those of the doctor or his family, and to plan to provide one-third of my service gratis to those in need who haven't the ability to pay. I had plenty of role models who followed that dictum in the late 1950s and early 60s.

Since Medicare and Medicaid laws were enacted in 1965, doctors expect to be paid for their service. Today most doctors in private practice discourage or outright refuse to see non-paying patients, referring them to government-sponsored or teaching medical centers. Reviews of medical records reveal that an estimated one third of all currently performed surgical procedures are unnecessary. In too many doctors' offices and hospitals there appears to be more interest in patients' insurance coverage than their medical complaints. Medicine, rather than being a profession has evolved into a business, the difference being that businesses put profit first, not the customer.

The tenets of our great medical ethicists, Hippocrates (470–410 BC) and Osler (1849–1919) among others, are being ignored. Minor health problems, successfully dealt with for years by simple, cost-effective methods, are now being diagnosed by expensive MRIs or invasive tests, and treated by surgery or other high-profit procedures when they don't need to be. It's unusual to be taken to a hospital emergency room with a chest pain and not be catheterized.

Most patients with displaced fractures are being operated upon without evidence that the functional result, except for certain fractures, is any better than non-operative manipulation and casting. Admittedly, there are factors besides greed that are driving health care decisions. Americans by and large seem to feel that everything medically likely to help, or not, should be done for everybody. Americans are generally impatient and prefer quick fixes. They have a predilection to sue if unhappy. Most pay little out-of-pocket for health care, and government insurance coverage for the poor and aged seems strongly to suggest that there is no further need for charity care.

The repeated filing of personal information and checking with insurance carriers endured by all who visit a doctor's office cannot help but make the public think they are somewhere trying to cash a check rather than in a doctor's office trying to get better. In addition, the uninsured, whose numbers are growing, get short shrift.

**In Freemasonry**, our tenets are brotherly love, charity and straight dealing. We are taught to value charity above all and let respect, truth and

fairness govern our relationship with others. We can be proud of Masonic support of hospitals, learning centers and other fraternity sponsored facilities. Children with orthopedic problems or burns receive free treatment in Masonic hospitals.

Financial support of charitable institutions by Masons seems to remain strong. But what about the giving of a Mason's time for a worthy cause? Have you ever tried to get Brethren to help run a CHIP event or any kind of fund raiser? One is underwhelmed by the number of Brothers who show up to help maintain the Lodge or do some menial but necessary work for the good of the Fraternity. It is always the same few guys who respond. Donations are appreciated; but so is a



Brother's time and effort. We are supposed to stretch out a hand. Masonic duty to one's community is sensibly limited by not doing harm to yourself or family. But it seems that for many of today's Masons, the threshold for harm to oneself or family is low and for most is defined as just inconvenience.

We all live in an increasingly "me-me-me" culture. In this time of rampant self-centeredness, it seems as difficult for physicians to remain professional as it is for Masons to stretch when it comes to putting in time. Perhaps one of the major reasons so many active Masons are old is that they were brought up before "me-me-me," in a previous help-thy-neighbor culture.

There is no question our culture has changed. Americans more and more seem to care only about themselves and their families. Our country has gone through periods of moral decline and civic inactivity before. It seems to me that prosperity is what drives one's beneficence inward, away from the community. When we are prosperous, we feel self-sufficient and feel we can get along without help from neighbors. Many of us don't even know our neighbors very well. Why worry about the community if we don't think we need it?

However, if the predicted comeuppance for profligate spending occurs and Americans once again have to depend on their neighbors for help, a return to traditional Masonic and Medical values should re-emerge.

In the meantime, we have not done a good enough job of initiating our younger Brethren in the joys of giving of oneself. Masonry would be stronger if its candidates had more than a casual bond with their sponsors so that stronger mentorship could flourish. As for medicine, maybe when medical practice no longer is an opportunity to get rich and once again is a profession, it will attract more altruistic personalities to its fold.

We are going through a phase. Both professions, Medicine and Masonry, need to keep preaching morality. Ethical and charitable behavior consistent with the underlying tenets of these professions will eventually return.

by Wor. Eric L. Radin, MD

*This article first appeared in the Fall 2005 issue of TROWEL, the official Masonic publication of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, where Bro. Radin served as a leader in the Masonic Leadership Institute. Wor. Bro. Radin served as Master of Pythagorean Lodge in Marion. His father and two uncles were Masons, yet he became a Mason only after retiring from a career in academic medicine. According to Radin, while working he was too involved in clinical work, teaching and research to pay attention to any but profes-*

*sional organizations. In retrospect, he says it's a shame he hasn't been a Mason longer; he's had a wonderful time.*

*Radin is still peripherally involved in medicine, teaching medical ethics part-time, playing a part in the process of recertifying orthopedic surgical training programs, and working on a book about health care reform. In addition, he likes to sail and study history, which he says helps him understand the present.*



### **Tips for Mentoring Protégés (Apprentices)**

#### **How to become less tactical and more strategic**

**Strategic thinking considers why a job is done. It involves thinking, planning, and actions.**

- Consider the big picture
- Recognize patterns and trends
- Honor priorities
- Anticipate issues
- Predict outcomes
- Have smart alternatives to fall back upon
- Deal with issues
  - Understand the overriding mission and purpose of Freemasonry
  - Know why a Lodge exists
  - Know what the Masonic fraternity does that other groups do not or cannot do
  - Visualize where the Maine Freemasonry and your Lodge will be in the future

#### **Tactical thinking concerns how to get the job done:**

- Knowing the hands-on skills necessary
- Making sure strategic goals are met
- Performing each task with quality and efficiency

#### **How to get your mentor to help you become more strategic:**

- Interview your mentor about strategic versus tactical approaches to improving your Lodge, building an officer corps, teaching Freemasonry
- Ask your mentor to help you develop strategic approaches to your Masonic duties and learning activities
- Ask your mentor to be frank about your strengths and weaknesses
- Do a self-analysis using past projects or learning activities
- Research literature on Freemasonry, becoming an effective leader, mentoring others, and report to your mentor
- Shadow someone with a reputation for being strategic and learn from them
- Network with your Lodge officers and your peers

*Adapted from "Mentoring Basics"  
College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, Illinois*

## Masonic Mentoring

At the start of the Initiation Ceremony the candidate is told that he can “follow your conductor and fear no danger” and so begins a symbolical journey from darkness to light, from ignorance to Masonic knowledge. The work of the mentor is to be the new Mason’s guide, leader and coach once the ceremony has finished – to explain not only the workings, traditions and organization of our Institution, but also to lift the veil of allegory and reveal the meaning behind the symbols so that the new Mason can enjoy and understand the organization that he has joined.



Mentoring Virtuous Cycle

Virtuous Cycle Mentoring schemes put personal Masonic development at the heart of Freemasonry, promoting the lifelong development of every Freemason by providing informed, accessible support materials whilst recommending the most effective personal mentoring arrangements.

Mentoring underpins the retention of Brethren as active members and helps reduce the overall decline in membership.

### Who should be the mentor?

It can be seen from the above that there has to be a special relationship between the new Mason and his mentor. This is a one-to-one relationship and except in the case of very small or special Lodges the concept of a single “Lodge Mentor” for all candidates is not the best way forward. The obvious choice of mentor may be the candidate’s sponsor or second line signer but, even so, the Brother must be carefully chosen and have particular qualities. It has been observed many times that the greatest difficulty in a mentoring scheme is to find suitable mentors.

The first and most important attribute for a mentor is that he relates to his charge and that they get along well together and enjoy each other’s company. The mentor will then introduce the new Mason to his friends in the Lodge and immediately increase his circle of friends.

It is likely, but not necessary, that the mentor will be of a similar age group to the candidate. It therefore follows that it is possible that the mentor may himself have only become a Mason quite recently, perhaps in the last five years or so, and may not have the in-depth knowledge to fulfil his task. If the view is taken that only knowledgeable Masons can be mentors then it is likely that they will be of a different generation to their charges and while they may relate, the new Mason could find himself in the company of men much older than, and of different interests, to himself.

If, as suggested, the mentor is relatively new to Masonry himself he will need considerable support from his Lodge and the Grand Lodge.

Adapted from Masonic Mentoring, United Grand Lodge of England  
[www.masonicmentoring.org.uk/index.php/home2.html](http://www.masonicmentoring.org.uk/index.php/home2.html)

There is much good material on this website for use by Lodge mentors.

## From the Protocol Manual

### 3.0 Masonic Titles:

1. Brother:  
Entitled after taking Entered Apprentice obligation
2. Worshipful:
  - a. Entitled after installation as Worshipful Master
  - b. Entitled to all appointed Grand Lodge Line Officers
3. Very Worshipful :  
Entitled – District Education Representative
4. Right Worshipful:
  - a. Entitled – Elected Grand Lodge Officers: DGM, SGW, JGW, GT, GS
  - b. Appointive: DDGM and Grand Lecturer
5. Most Worshipful  
Entitled – Grand Master

### Masonic Titles of Past Officers

Highest attained title is retained for life except for appointed Grand Lodge Line Officers.

(DDGM Manual on Protocol pg.19-20)

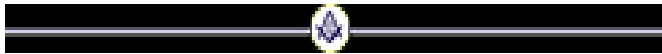
## Upcoming Dirigo Leadership Seminars

RW Jeff Sukeforth is pleased to announce an upcoming session of the Dirigo Leadership Seminar at York Lodge in Kennebunk on **May 10th (please note date change)**. All Masons may attend the seminar and

all Lodge Masters, Wardens and Deacons in particular are urged to attend, as the seminar is designed to ask the questions: "What is the value of membership in my Lodge? And How does my Lodge improve (or benefit) its members, their families and their communities?" It then suggests some perspectives and tools for officers and members to set about strengthening their Lodges.

A flier is attached that provides an opportunity for interested Masons to sign up to attend the seminar at one of the following dates and locations:

**May 10th** – York Lodge, Kennebunk  
September 6th – Lynde Lodge, Hermon



**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 855-843-1086 or by email at [GrandLodge@MaineMason.org](mailto:GrandLodge@MaineMason.org). The College 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**

**April 5 – Ethics, Sam McKeeman, Instructor**  
**Few subjects are more important  
in our present world than this.**

Lygonia Lodge, 140 Bucksport Rd, Ellsworth  
9:00 am – 2:00 pm. Lunch \$5.00.  
Open. Diploma credit.

This course will initially explore why ethical considerations may be a necessary part of any decision making process. The group will examine the importance of not only knowing what our core values are but which core value trumps others.

The group will learn a way of categorizing dilemmas that can contribute to understanding the multiple sides of what could appear to be a clear choice. Once categorized, the group will learn how to resolve dilemmas with either clearly wrong choices (but we choose to do it anyway) or where both choices are right (that is, both have moral ground to stand on). At this point, the group will learn what typically has to be within us to make the really difficult, even courageous decisions.

Participants will then experience cases, examples and scenarios where they have group decisions, make individual decisions, or defend thinking processes in plenary. Groups will defend positions if different from other groups' decisions. Participants will also practice

identifying the possible actors in the dilemma and how the discussion changes based on which actor is seen as the principal one. This session will be interactive as people participate in discussions and exercises of an ethical nature.

**Instructor:** Sam McKeeman is a regular and greatly valued faculty member for the Maine Masonic College. He is presently Program Manager for the Maine Bureau of Human Services. He previously was Director of Organization Development and Training at the Maine Department of Transportation. In his lifetime of teaching and as chief planner for the Justice System In Pennsylvania and in New South Wales, Sam has become an engaging expert in making courses in ethics, critical thinking and organization leadership vital and close-to-home experiences. You will find Sam McKeeman a wise, witty and widely informed instructor who listens as well as he teaches.

**April 12 – Seminar for Chaplains, RW Mark E. Rustin and Wor. Douglas Drawn, Leaders and Instructors**

**Especially designed for Chaplains, but open to all interested in serving their fellow human beings.**

Meridian Splendor Lodge, Newport.  
9:00 am to 2:00 pm. \$5.00 for lunch.  
Open. (New opportunity)

This seminar was originally designed for Lodge Chaplains but has proven to be of equal value to all who wish to improve their response to the needs of their fellow human beings especially in times of spiritual need.

By the very nature of our calling, we want to bring unity to our Lodges and comfort and support to those who are afflicted, but often we find such service difficult. In an atmosphere of understanding and support and through the opportunity for practice, this seminar will be concerned with skills and awareness involved in visiting the sick and bereaved, in providing charitable assistance and in healing of divisions within the ranks of one's Lodge. Consideration will also be given to leading in public prayer, while special attention will also focus on attributes which characterize capable chaplains and all caring men such an openness to differing spiritual expressions, toleration and the process of coming to a common purpose.

**Leaders:** The Right Worshipful and Reverend Mark Rustin and Worshipful and Reverend Douglas Drown. Both these unusually gifted men have spent their lives in the ministry and in pastoral service. They bring to this effort professional qualifications, extensive experience and an awareness of Freemasonry and its service to humankind both potential and actual.



## May 17 – Tenets and Cardinal Virtues

### RW Reginald W. Wing, Instructor

Deering Lodge, 102 Bishop St., Portland  
9:00 am – 2:00 pm.  
Lunch \$5.00. Open. Diploma credit.

This opportunity is designed to be an interactive study of the fundamental beliefs and responsibilities of Freemasonry as presented in the tenets and the cardinal virtues which are so beautifully embedded in our ritual but which are too often hurried over. Special emphasis is placed upon the moral and the deeply spiritual nature of these essentials and the crucial need for their presence and practice in our present world situation.

**Instructor:** Right Worshipful Reginald Wing will lead this exploration. Brother Wing is an old-time Mason, in the most honorable sense of this phrase. For years he has been part of the Grand Lodge educational endeavor and has served as a Junior Grand Warden. During those years, he has grown in Masonic understanding, spiritual conviction and dedication. With his signature responsibility, Brother Wing has constantly improved the means of involving participants in this re-meeting with the tenets and cardinal virtues. You will go away with inspiration and new insights.

## June 7 – Understanding World Religions – What a Well-Informed Mason Should Know

### RW Charles W. Plummer, Instructor

United Lodge, 65 Baribeau Drive, Brunswick  
9:00 am - 2:00 pm. Lunch \$5.00. Open.

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 understanding 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 conception 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.

## June 21 – The King's Speech, Grammar Made Fun

### RW David Richardson, Instructor

Benevolent Lodge, 19 Plymouth Rd., Carmel  
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm. Open.

A fun opportunity to become more proficient in this important subject often mistakenly considered grim and deadly. This class not only takes a useful look at the common errors and ungrammatical forms used in everyday communication, but also examines how words are used to influence, clarify and inspire our thoughts and expressions.

**Instructor:** Right Worshipful David Richardson has a Masters Degree in education. For twenty-eight years Bro. Richardson brought his training, excellent mind and interest in the welfare of others to teaching English and language arts. Dave is a past master and the present secretary of Benevolent Lodge in Carmel. His understanding of communication has been further enhanced by eight years of service as a State Representative.



## Best Advice: Enjoy the Journey

that Influenced Chester Elton,  
Author of *All In* a NY Times Best-Seller (from LinkedIn)

About three years ago now I sat in a New York deli across from a good friend Glen Nelson. I had formed my own company about eight months before, leaving the security of a good job in the corporate world, and I was more than little stressed.

I proceeded to tell Glen my worries. He listened patiently, then asked about the successes of the company so far. We actually had quite a bit to crow about. We'd signed up two Fortune 100 companies as clients and had just sold a new book to Simon & Schuster.

Said Glen, "Here's what I want you to do: Take a deep breath, think about how far you've come, and

start to enjoy the journey.”

Enjoy the Journey. I don't know why, but those three words instantly soothed my soul.

It's a phrase I use every day of my life now, especially when I get caught up in the everyday details of work. So often we forget to take a step back and enjoy the day we're having, the conversation we are engaged in, the moment we are enjoying with our family or friends. Are we always so busy checking our phones for texts and emails that we forget to appreciate the good things that are happening right in front of us?

I've found that by Enjoying the Journey, I hold myself accountable in a positive ways. For instance, it forces me to take stock of where I am, where I've come from, and the progress that has been made. Too often we live in the future, worrying about the next meeting, the next assignment, the next message we must get to. We are often so eager to get to the end that we forget to appreciate what's going on around us. In the words of Ernest Hemingway: "It is good to have an end to journey toward; but it is the journey that matters, in the end."

Since that day in the deli, here are **three things I've been doing to "Enjoy the Journey"**:

**1. Keep a journal.** Three of four times a week I'll sit down for just 15 minutes or so and record what's been happening in my life; and, more im-



portantly, I'll note what I've learned from it. I put tickets to sporting events and plays in the journey, notes from friends, and currency from countries I visit. I'll include photos to remember a holiday or a dinner with a friend. And every now and then I page through the journal as a reminder of where I've been and how I became who I am now.

**2. Ruminant with trusted advisors.** Despite being 2,000 miles apart, I call my business partners at least daily to discuss what we are working on, but we also make sure at least weekly to look back at the recent progress of our business and what we've learned, sometimes we even return to the beginning. And when I have ideas for our business—and I have a lot!—they help me decide if they are viable and on target with our core goals. All of this helps me keep things in perspective. If they are true friends, your best and most trusted advisors will always be honest with you. They are on the journey with you and want you to be successful and happy.

**3. Include your family.** My wife Heidi is my north

star, my rock of Gibraltar. Without her and my four kids there would be no reason to be on this journey. Too often we separate our home and work lives, but I've found we are happiest when we take our families along on our journeys. Taking time to reminisce and dream out loud with your loved ones can be the sweetest part of life.

I understand that "Enjoy the Journey" may sound pretty simple, and it probably is. But those three words had a profound impact on me. Again and again they remind me to keep things in perspective, to be fully present, and to make sure I am headed in the right direction for happiness. As I write in my journal, council with friends, and include my family, I know my odds of enjoying the journey and enjoying my life increase exponentially.



### **Corporate Mentoring Tips: Habits of Highly Successful Mentors & Mentees**

Two questions people often ask me:

- 1) Can anyone be a mentor?**
- 2) Can anyone be mentored?**

Let me start with the last question. I believe anyone can be mentored *if* the person is open to the concept and is willing to do the work.

Regarding the first question: if someone *wants* to be a mentor, it's possible. Mentoring skills can be learned, developed and nurtured.

That said, I'd be remiss if I didn't point out that the most effective mentoring relationships take place when the mentors and mentees bring certain skill sets to the table. And that's the subject of this month's newsletter.

Use these **7 Habits of Highly Successful Mentors and Mentees** to identify the perfect candidates in your District and Lodge for your existing mentoring program or to show Grand Lodge and local Masonic leaders that you have the right mix of people to launch a program.

**1. Active Listeners.** Active listening takes energy. People who listen actively don't simply sit back and allow words to hit their eardrums. They sit up straight. They take notes. They ask questions. They repeat or "mirror back" what they've heard to ensure they've understood it properly. Active listeners are the ones who provide non-verbal gestures (*e.g.* eye contact, nodding, *etc.*) that indicate they're following (or not following) what you're saying.

*Why is this habit important?* Mentors and mentees spend much of their relationship talking and listening to one another. Active listening is critical for both parties.

**2. Dedicated to Their Success.** I'm not suggesting that people should have a myopic view and are dedicated to *only* their own success. What I'm saying is that people who take pride in their work, who want to grow, and who truly care about their career trajectory are assets because of their high expectations.

*Why is this habit important?* It stands to reason that people who are dedicated to their own career success will want to make the most out of their involvement in the Masonic mentoring program. The most effective mentors and mentees are people who are dedicated to the idea of making their relationship work.

**3. Dedicated to Others' Success.** I put the "success" habits back to back so that it's clear they work in tandem. The most successful (and happiest) people in life are not in it just for themselves. They care about the fraternity and the people within their Lodge and have a genuine desire to see everyone and everything succeed: the Lodge, the Brethren, and the mentoring program as a whole.

*Why is this habit important?* People who realize that "it's not all about me" are much more willing to make a genuine investment in the mentoring relationship.

**4. Curious.** People who are naturally curious tend to follow the "if there's a will, there's a way" philosophy. If they don't know the answer or if they need help with something, they won't sit back and wait; they'll go looking for the answers.

*Why is this habit important?* I've found that the "curious types" are the ones who'll take the time to read articles on mentoring best practices, listen to tutorials, and seek out help from Program Managers, all of which help in making a successful mentoring relationship.

**5. Engaged with their surroundings.** These people view their work as more than just a job. They show interest in the fraternity, in the Craft around them, in the work that other Lodges are doing, and in the charitable events associated with their fraternity.

*Why is this habit important?* Having a "big picture" view of the world allows people to see how the success of their mentoring relationship affects more than just the two people in the relationship.

**6. Willing to step out of their comfort zones.** These people are willing to try new things, consider new thoughts, and think outside of the proverbial box for the sake of personal and professional growth.

*Why is this habit important?* Prospective mentors

and mentees who are willing to try something new and give it a "go" will have the best chance at reaping the most benefits from the mentoring relationship.

**7. The 3 R's: Responsible, Respectful, & Ready.** People who are responsible, respectful, and ready to get started with new projects help make the day-to-day work experience a better one not only for themselves, but also for everyone around them.

*Why is this habit important?* Being a mentor or mentee requires diligence – you need to commit to regular meetings (and actually meet), chart progress, and learn to navigate a new relationship (and all the ups and downs) with aplomb.

Adapted from: [www.management-mentors.com](http://www.management-mentors.com)



### Did you know....

#### Masonic Rookie Program

- New Masons may begin the Rookie Program immediately after the conferral of the Entered Apprentice Degree.
- **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.



#### Dirigo Leadership Seminars

- All Lodge officers should and any Brother may attend the Dirigo Leadership Seminar.
- The next seminar will be in Kennebunk on May 10th.
- Any Lodge or District that would like to host the Dirigo Leadership Seminar should contact RW Jeff Sukeforth at [jandc79@myfairpoint.net](mailto:jandc79@myfairpoint.net).

#### **The Maine Masonic Mentoring Program**

MW A. James Ross, Grand Master  
RW Thomas E. Pulkkinen,  
Program Chairman, Newsletter Editor  
[TEPulkkinen@aol.com](mailto:TEPulkkinen@aol.com)  
207-350-9525 (cell) - 207-633-7167 (home)  
PO Box 413, East Boothbay, ME 04544



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.





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



**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 in advance 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.*

# Dirigo Masonic Leadership Seminar

Kennebunk, May 10<sup>th</sup> ~ Hermon, September 6th

What core physical, educational and personal fulfillment needs of your brethren does your lodge satisfy? What is the image of your lodge, as viewed by your brethren and the community? What do you want your lodge to emphasize in terms of: being a close, warm fraternal body; having fun; involving families; helping members; widows and the community; and, instilling in our daily lives the values and teachings of our ritual? Does your lodge have the resources it needs to fulfill the expectations of your brethren?

These are but a few of the questions to be raised in the Dirigo Leadership Seminars for officers of our Masonic lodges and appendant bodies, or any brother interested in pursuing new perspectives on how to renew our lodges and other Masonic organizations.

The seminars are held at multiple locations statewide each year, with offerings in seven locations in the past year. 217 Masons from 90 lodges have attended the seminar so far or have registered for the upcoming seminars, and the reviews have been very encouraging for Maine Freemasonry. If your lodge would like to host a future offering of this seminar, please contact RW Jeff Sukeforth, the seminar chairman, at 207-691-2270 or jandc79@myfairpoint.net

What course will  
your lodge set?



The Dirigo Masonic Leadership Seminar modules cover a variety of topics, including:

- Envisioning Our Future
- Setting the Craft at Work
- Grand Lodge Support of Lodges
- Lodge Governance
- Program Budgeting
- Sharing the Gift of Freemasonry
- Mentoring

The seminar begins with registration, coffee and donuts at 8:00 a.m., with the seminar starting at 9:00 a.m. and ending by 3:00 p.m. A light lunch will be provided. There is no cost to attend the seminar that will definitely benefit your lodge and your role as a Masonic leader.

To ensure that we have sufficient food and program materials, all lodge officers and other Masons interested in attending one of the seminars are asked to return the following form to the program leader or send the requested information to him by email as specified below.

Dirigo Leadership Seminar Registration			
Name:		Office Held:	
Lodge Name & No.:		Located At:	
Preferred Tel.:		Email:	
<b>Please check which seminar location you will be attending:</b>			
	May 10th	York Lodge, W. Kennebunk	159 Alfred Road
	September 6th	Lynde Lodge, Hermon	2500 Route 2
	???	This could be in your Lodge or District – contact Jeff Sukeforth	
Please return this completed form to Jeff Sukeforth, 47 Rawson Ave., Camden, ME 04843, or email the information to jandc79@myfairpoint.net at least one week before the date of the seminar to be attended. <b>WALK-INS ARE WELCOME</b> , but it is emphasized that pre-registrations help ensure that we have sufficient food and handouts.			