

The Maven's Journal

(January, 2017)

"Dedicated to promoting Masonic leadership and education"

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Leadership Series

Title: Series Introduction

This is the first in a series of occasional articles, presented by *Masonic Maven*, focusing on the application of leadership skills to Freemasonry. Whether you are new to the Craft, a seasoned



Welcome Message

Welcome to *The Maven's Journal*, an email periodical dedicated to promoting Masonic leadership and education. A maven is "one who accumulates knowledge"; a noble calling for all of

Mason, a line officer, event organizer, or lodge Master you will receive useful information to help you demonstrate leadership. Contrary to popular opinion, effective leaders are not born; they grow, with experience, into the role.

I've always liked Dwight Eisenhower's definition of leadership: *"Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it."* What I love about it is the simplicity of both the sentence and the image. Remember, Eisenhower is the general who inspired 156,000 troops from multiple armed forces to lay their lives on the line during D-Day. Our tasks are less consequential, but still important.

In a volunteer organization like Freemasonry, leadership is more about persuasion than coercion. It is true that you get more bees with honey than you do with vinegar, especially when leading men who voluntarily give of their time and talents to continue the traditions of our Fraternity.

At its core, leadership is about respect and forming relationships, where equality exists between individuals regardless of the organizational hierarchy. Once a strong relationship of respect and equality exists, the leader has a firm foundation on which to promote his ideas and lead others toward a common goal. People are more apt to follow someone whom they respect and reciprocate respect, someone who has built bridges of relationships, someone who talks "with" them and not "at" them, someone who praises in public and criticizes in private.

Leadership is not the same as management. I've seen plenty of managers who can't lead and leaders who can't manage. Having both traits is true talent. As Admiral Grace Hopper was fond of saying, "managers manage things; leaders lead people"; which gets us back to relationships, by far the most important skill in a leader's tool box. Without the soft skills of relationship building, a manager will never attain the position of an inspiring leader.

This series of articles is meant to get you thinking about the leader you are and want to be. None of the articles are complete essays on a given leadership topic. Instead, each article is meant to get

us. The articles in this and future editions appear on MasonicMaven.org, where you will also find information of interest to all Freemasons and the general public. [Follow us on Facebook as well.](#) Enjoy this first edition and share the information with others.

Regards,
Wor. Richard Ryder



The Word

This section of *The Maven's Journal* will expand on a word typically heard within Masonic settings. However, sometimes there will be exceptions when a word may be of general interest to readers as it relates to the promotion of Masonic leadership and education.

Today's word, "*maven*", fits the latter and is relevant to the mission of this journal. Maven is derived from the Hebrew word "*mevin*", meaning "one who understands based on an

you thinking about how you can improve yourself and hopefully will motivate you to self-study. Maybe these articles will illicit discussion among those of you who want to improve the quality of leadership within your lodges. My ultimate hope is that these articles will form a leadership body of knowledge within and among individuals that will strengthen and enrich our Fraternity.

Richard Ryder
January, 2017



Education Series

Title: Series Introduction

Like the Masonic Maven's *Leadership Series*, this is the first of series of articles designed to expand the reader's knowledge and understanding of Freemasonry. With all the material available in print and on the web, one might ask why we need another publication devoted to "The Craft". The reason: in this hectic period, where there is so much to distract us, a person may not have time to consume a book or full length article on Freemasonry. However, presented in a concise fashion and 'pushed' to the reader, one may be more apt to take a few minutes to expand their understanding of the oldest and largest fraternity in the world.

We say that Freemasonry started in the east and traveled to the west, which brings us to the first chartered lodge in the western hemisphere. It was in the Massachusetts Bay Colony that the Grand Lodge of Masons in England granted a charter to Henry Price in

accumulation of knowledge".

When you think about your Masonic journey through the three degrees it is a progression of learning experiences that represents the accumulation and application of acquired knowledge. In our daily lives, professionally and personally, we should all strive to be mavens in areas of interest and professional development. This is particularly true for us as Masons. The more knowledge we accumulate the better we can apply the tenets of brotherly love, relief, and truth.

Hopefully, *The Maven's Journal* will help you navigate your continued journey through Masonry.



**Masonic Spotlight - RW
Paul Revere**

It is common knowledge that Paul Revere was a

1733. A bronze plaque situated on State Street in Boston marks the location where those first American colonists met as a formal, sanctioned Masonic entity. To this day, the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts, currently located at the corner of Tremont and Boylston streets, is recognized as the third oldest Grand Lodge in the world, preceded only by The Grand Lodge of England and Grand Lodge of Ireland.

Throughout history the tenets of Freemasonry - brotherly love, relief and truth - have inspired like-minded men toward greatness. Holding the same desire for truth and understanding, guided by the spiritual influence of a supreme architect, men have been moved to improve themselves and society. No wonder that at a unique point in history the seeds were sown for fraternity in America and a nation promoting freedom.

Freemasonry teaches equality and rectitude of life, where men are judged not by their outward appearance or worldly wealth, but by their internal characteristics. America, like its citizens, is not perfect. As a nation and as men we have many imperfections. And so, in each lodge room, there exists both a rough and a perfect ashlar - granite stones – that represent the journey we take as Masons, from our rough and imperfect state to that state of perfection where we all hope to arrive.

Today, this same journey and rich tradition is shared with all masons, including colonial icons such as George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and Paul Revere. The guiding principles they followed, interwoven with the Masonic lessons of temperance, fortitude, prudence, and justice are manifested in the words they penned on the documents that define our nation. These parchments of history serve as windows into the very character of the men who formed America, several of whom became leaders in the newly formed fraternity of American Freemasonry. It is no coincidence that men who sought and attained greatness in our nation also gravitated toward Freemasonry. Presidents, justices, generals, adventurers, artists of all kind, sports figures, and many others have benefited from Freemasonry. History is peppered with tales of inspiration between men of opposite backgrounds, combatants on the battlefield, and between father and son.

prominent Mason and an even more prominent figure in American history. But there may be one part of his story that is unknown to most people - the reason he was the ideal person to spread the alarm "through every Middlesex village and farm".

According to Malcolm Gladwell in *"The Tipping Point"* Revere was both a maven and a connector, which explains why the alarm he spread on that April, 1775 morning reached more people than William Dawes.

Revere had a wide circle of associations, which made him well known; but he also had a wealth of accumulated knowledge that made him, in RW Joseph Warren's eyes, the perfect messenger that "The Regulars were coming".

The Maven's Journal will expand on this story in a future "Education Series" article.

Each generation is defined by characteristics unique to them and yet they share much with previous generations. Where one generation rebels against authority and is egocentric, the next seeks an opposite and outward path. Where one seeks individuality, the other seeks the companionship of others. Today's generation is marked by young men who are recognized for being joiners, interested in global issues, and the well-being of the community. Today, we enjoy a burst of interest in the Craft and welcome men from all generations and walks of life. May this continue for generations to come, that all men have an opportunity to grow in each of their roles as fathers, husbands, brothers, and sons.

Richard Ryder
January, 2017

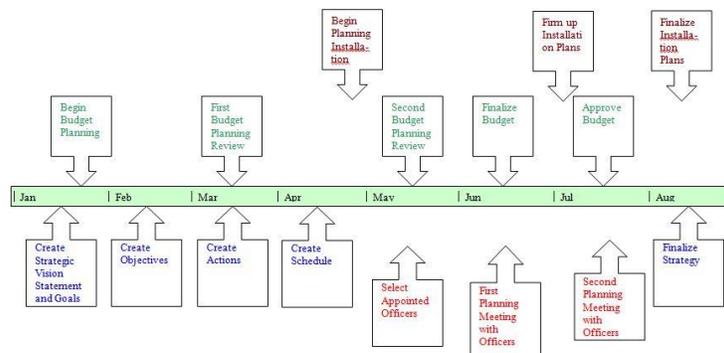


Tips for Receiving the District Deputy Grand Master

At least twice per year your lodge will receive the District Deputy Grand Master. Here are 10 things to keep in mind;

1. Practice prior to the District Deputy's Grand Master's visit, especially floor work
2. Always receive the DDGM at 8:00 pm SHARP
3. At 7:55 pm, Masters should send their Marshal to the tiled door to greet the District Deputy Grand Marshal
4. Master's should select a committee chairman that will best represent the lodge and it could even be the newest

Master's "Pre-Term" Timeline



The Master's Trestle Board

"Beginning your strategy and budget"

(Richard H. Ryder, 2017)

This is the first in a series of article to help the Senior Warden, in anticipation of being selected "Master-Elect", to plan his term as Master. So as not to overwhelm him with too much information at

once, this series of articles will take a sequential approach that follows the Master's "Preterm" Time Line. In this series segment we will look at timeline items for January.

Measure Twice, Cut Once

It is imperative that the Senior Warden begins early to plan his year as Master. Before he knows it September arrives and all eyes focus on him to lead and direct the lodge. Taking the time to prepare a concise and focused vision statement, simple goals and objectives, corresponding and time-based action items, a basic budget, and practical ways to engage the officers will result in a productive and successful year. As the carpenter is wise to measure twice, cut once, so too the Senior Warden is wise to proactively plan his year before putting his designs into execution.

Creating a Strategy

So, what are the components of a sound strategy. Let's review them:

- **Vision Statement** to focus your strategy
- **Goals** to meet the vision
- **Objectives** to meet the goals
- **Action Plan** to meet the objectives

In the next few articles we will look at each of these, but initially we will focus on the first two.

The Vision Statement

The vision statement is nothing more than a very brief description of what you would like to accomplish during your term. It doesn't have to be profound; it doesn't have to be complicated. A vision statement should be concise, specific enough to provide a sense of direction, but not so specific that it is restrictive and unattainable.

For example, the following simple statement provides a direction for all, but leaves open the many possibilities for attaining it.

"Create a lodge environment that makes members want to attend and be active."

Goals

- Master Mason
5. Remember the DDGM always speaks last
 6. Masters do not wear their top hat during the visit
 7. Prior to the visit ask the DDGM if he would like to close the lodge or retire with his suite
 8. If the DDGM is paying your lodge and official visit, be sure to have the lodge charter, by-laws, records, and Grand Lodge payment ready to present to him
 9. If your lodge is serving dinner, be sure to formally invite the DDGM and his Marshal
 10. Strive to do the best work possible to make a positive impression

A goal is simply a statement that, when fulfilled, helps to meet part of your vision statement. For example, the following simply stated goal helps to focus everyone on creating a lodge environment that makes members want to attend and be active. There can be scores of ways to accomplish the vision, but this is just one. *"Make each member feel a valued part of the lodge."* This is considered to be a SMART goal, which stands for the following **S**imple, **M**easurable, **A**ttainable, **R**ealistic, **T**imely. As with the vision statement the simply stated goal provides a specific direction for all, but leaves open the many possibilities for attaining it.

Begin Budget Planning

We've all heard about the importance of household budget; the same should hold true for the Master and his lodge. January is the time to start thinking about the budget and how it is so closely tied to lodge operations and programming. Sound financial management and operating to a budget is one of the best things a Master and lodge can do to succeed on many different fronts. For now, the soon to be Master should become familiar with the components of a budget and start thinking about costs as they relate to his strategy and goals. A budget template is available on the *Masonic Maven* web site.

Click [HERE](#) to connect to the *Masonic Maven* web site and view specific details about creating mission statements and goals, and a look at a budget template.

Richard Ryder
January, 2017



What did he say?

"If there is one thing I've learned in my years on this planet, it's that the happiest and most fulfilled people I've known are those who devoted themselves to something bigger and more profound than merely their own self-interest."

Bro. John Glenn - pilot, astronaut, senator (1921 - 2016)



Attract and Retain Part 1 - Where to Begin

If attracting and retaining members was easy every lodge would be doing it well, but that's not always the case. Each lodge has varying degrees of success and that

success may fluctuate between Masters. Unfortunately, there is no magic bullet; every lodge is different, comprised of a mix of men with different backgrounds and opinions. However, with that said, lodges should strive to create a repeatable process for attracting, on-boarding, and retaining members. A well-defined process, created by a representative mix of members, is transferrable between the terms of several Masters.

So what's the key to success? Click [HERE](#) to read more.



Coming Attractions

Stay tuned in future journal editions for *The Manager's Toolkit* series, which will run periodically. In it you will find articles on time management,

meeting management, project management, and more.



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