



Path to the East

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CINCINNATI LODGE NO. 3

THE GRAND LODGE OF NEW JERSEY F. & A.M.

MASONIC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



Agenda

- “What IS a Worshipful Master”
- Needs for the East
- The Working Tools of a Worshipful Master
- Don’t get Stressed out!
- Succession Planning
- General Pointers
- Closing Comments





Worshipful Master – Who Me?

Preparations!!! Start Preparing Early

- Start as Junior Warden
- The Path does not end at Installation!

Network!

- District
- Jurisdiction

Don't Wait for the Position – Take Initiative!

- Do Something Now!

BREATHE & RELAX!

- Use your resources
- Past Masters!

**Who, Me?
Yes, You!**





Worshipful Master – Long Range Preparation

What are you preparing for?

What does it mean to be a “Worshipful Master”

What do you want to accomplish?

What kind of Legacy do you want to leave?

How will you do it?





Worshipful Master – Long Range Preparation

Mission Statement

- A single sentence to keep you focused
 - “What do you want to do, as Worshipful Master, during your year in the East”?
 - Financially stabilize the Lodge
 - Increase Membership by X%
 - Increase your Lodge Endowments





Worshipful Master – Leader vs. Manager

* The manager's Job is to Plan,
Organize & Coordinate Work

* The Leader's Job is to Inspire
and Motivate People and Look
to the Future

- Wisdom
- Strength
- Delegation

Management is
doing things right;
leadership is doing
the right things.

Peter Drucker

A Good Worshipful Master should be Both!





The Next Step: Accumulate Masonic Knowledge

It is YOUR Job to impart Light

- LEARN!
- Understand Freemasonry & Pass it along to the Brethren
- Masonic Authors
 - Claudy, Coil, Nagy, Tabbert,...
- Masonic Service Association
- Constitution & By-Laws
- Learned Brethren

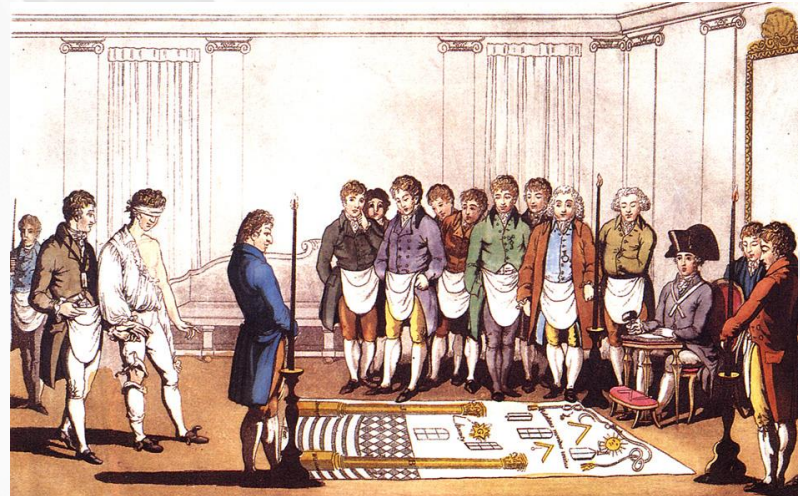




The Next Step: Know your Ritual

Know YOUR Parts

- Opening
- Closing
- Balloting
- MM Degree
- Funeral
- Qualification / Installation



Insist your Officers Know their Parts

Plan Your Potential Degree Work before your year.





The Next Step: Understand Lodge Governance

Constitution & Bylaws

Lodge By-Laws

Perfect Ashlar

Ask Questions

- DDGM / DRI
- PM
- Other Masters



Washington La Motte Mason.

Washington La Motte Mason, 1734-1800. He was the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey, and the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New York. He was also the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.





Worshipful Master's Responsibilities : Lodge

Understand Your Lodge

- Focus & Membership – Social? Ritual ? Enlightenment?
- Financial Position

Read all Lodge correspondence, petitions and bills presented for payment prior to the Communication.

Preserve peace and harmony. Rule with a fair hand.



Worshipful Master's Responsibilities : Membership



Open on time & present an interesting program

- Provide Masonic Light
- Refreshments and enjoyable company.

Conduct Degrees with dignity and proficiency. All ceremonies require rehearsal.

- Schedule and conduct those rehearsals.

Visit the ill, indisposed, aged and those upon whom misfortune has fallen.

Communication is KEY!

- A Master who works alone is doomed to Fail!
- Communicate your plans *to all the Brethren*





Worshipful Master's Responsibilities - District

- Attend all District functions
 - Masters & Wardens Associations
 - Visitations by the Grand Master
 - District Lodge of Instruction
 - Grand Lodge of Instruction
 - Official Visits to other Lodges.
 - ALL Summons of the Grand Master
- Divide and Conquer – Use your Officers as Resources to attend in your stead
- Support Worshipful Masters of other Lodges
 - Travel together!
- Support your Grand Master, the Grand Staff and the DDGM
- Attend the Annual and Emergent Communications of the Grand Lodge.
 - **It is a privilege and an obligation.** Participate in the deliberations. Exercise the right to vote.





The Working Tools ~ The Trestleboard

The 'Public Face' of the Lodge

- Express your Opinions
- Stimulate Discussion
- State Your Goals & Aims
- Bring the Brethren up to date with the On going status of the Lodge
 - LIGHT, Lodge Schedule, Candidates & Status, Activities, Dates
- COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR BRETHREN!



Write your Master's Messages EARLY (NOW)!

- Inspire Light and Knowledge

Include Messages from the incoming SW & JW





The Working Tools ~ Calendar

Set Your Calendar Early!

- Lodge Events
- District Event

“No Fly” Annual Grand Lodge Events are:

- Grand Lodge Annual Communication – April
- Grand Masters Reception – April
- Junior Grand Warden’s Reception – October
- Feast of St. John – December





The Working Tools ~ Diverse Programs

Make it Interesting and Short / Medium Length

- Allow for Questions & Discussion

Wide & Varied Topics

- Cultural, Intellectual & Social Stimuli
- Lodge Interests
- Lodge Growth
- Get People Involved.

Masonic Education

- **Masonic Light**
- Appendant & Coordinate Bodies
- Grand Lodge topics
- Ample Discussion during and afterwards



Don't Be Afraid to try something new!





The Working Tools ~ A Basic Budget

Develop a Budget prior to your year

- What do you want to Achieve? How much will it cost?
- Work with Secy, Treasurer & Immediate PM
- Voted on by the Brethren (January?)
- Keep Contingency!

What is the Lodge's Financial State at the start of your term?

Check at the Half way point – How are you doing?

- Any changes needed in your plan? New Budget Items?

Its all about Balance!

- - Earn a little...Spend a little...Save a little....

Leave the Lodge in a Better State When you Leave!





The Working Tools ~ Committees

You can't do everything yourself!

Identify focus areas in the Lodge

- Form Committees to tackle each area

Identify members for the Committees

- Match skill of the member for the Committee
- Choose the Right People
 - Include a mix of new brothers and seasoned veterans
 - Give the committees a chance to try new things

Let the Committees do their Job

- Committees should give regular reports back to the WM and the Lodge.





Not another year!

Plan for Line Succession

- Make sure lower officers know what they will be responsible for in the future!

Keep the Momentum Flowing

- Work with your Wardens for long term health of your Lodge

Acknowledge that Life Happens

- Have Backups





General Pointers

1. WM Must Evidence Enthusiasm for the Craft and the Lodge
 - If you are Early for meetings and activities, you are on-time!
2. Demonstrate support for Youth Programs that the Lodge supports
 - DeMolay and Rainbow will pay great dividends to the Craft with our support.
3. Ask for Advice – Make the Decisions Yourself!
 - Listen to everyone
4. You can't please everyone.
 - Do what you feel is right for yourself and the Lodge.
5. You will make mistakes. Learn from them and move on!





Closing Comments

Start Early

Proper Preparations = a Successful Year

Work with your Resources

Communicate!

Ask Questions

Don't be Afraid to try something new!

Have Fun!

