

Masonic Leadership

Leadership can be defined in many ways. Some view it in the military sense — issuing orders in a way that the troops are willing to follow the leader without hesitation while at the same time keeping morale high. Others look at leadership from a business perspective — keeping employees happy while maintaining productivity.

A lodge is neither a military unit nor a business enterprise. It has a touch of the military in that the Master of a lodge is the absolute authority, but the Master can't or shouldn't treat his brethren as if he were a drill sergeant. Likewise, a lodge has an element of a business — it must run efficiently and productively or the brethren are confused and unhappy.

The first element of leadership in a Masonic lodge is recognition that the members are volunteers. Even though they come of their own freewill and accord, they can also leave of their freewill and accord.

The second element is motivation. Leaders, in the military or in business, succeed because they are able to motivate people. They spend a considerable portion of their efforts trying to reach out to people to build *esprit de corps* and enthusiasm. This is not so different from the lodge room. Our initiatory degrees probably build a better foundation to motivate men than any yet invented.

The third element is the “Masonic” leader. I submit that the Masonic leader is every member of the lodge. Without him there is no lodge. Remember, the brother is a volunteer. If this volunteer brother is not motivated, he can have no enthusiasm for the Fraternity. It is the individual Master Mason that makes a lodge successful. It is the individual that practices Masonry. It is individual enthusiasm that reflect the teachings and principles of the Fraternity.

Two examples: (Among many)

- 1) What if the highly motivated, enthusiastic brother says to the Master of the lodge, “Worshipful, I know we have some brothers that haven't paid their dues, would it be improper for me and a couple others to see if we can't turn them around?” (Some would say that we can't do this because it usurps the Master's job).
- 2) What if the highly motivated, enthusiastic brother says to the Junior Warden, “Brother Junior, I'm getting a little tired of pie and ice cream. Would it be alright to bring something else for refreshment next week?” (Some would say "But who's going to pay for it").

Think about what motivates people. Think about what motivates Master Masons. If you think hard enough, you just might make a difference in your lodge.

Norm Leeper, PM
Editor
Southern California Lodge of Research
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