

The Maven's Journal

(April, 2017)

"Dedicated to promoting Masonic leadership and education"

Published by MasonicMaven.org

[Subscribe](#)



Leadership Series: **Keep on Learning**

(Richard H. Ryder, 2017)

Wendell Willkie, the 1940 Republican presidential nominee, is credited with saying, ***"Education is the mother of leadership"***. What



The Maven's Journal

promotes Masonic leadership and education. 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](#)

an appropriate quote, one that perfectly summarizes the Masonic Maven mission of *promoting Masonic education and leadership*. With each generation, time and events seem to pass at exponentially quicker speeds. It is incumbent on all who seek to lead or to improve themselves as leaders to constantly learn.

It is difficult to lead others without a basic body of knowledge in the field of expertise held by those being led. For example, if you have never been a soldier, how do you lead others into battle? If you have never learned computer programming how do you lead a team of software developers? Not only is knowledge power, it is a basic building block of successful leaders. As Masonic leaders we must realize that we need to continue our education in several different areas, particularly Masonry, if we want to remain current with changing trends.

How do we gain education during our quest for Masonic leadership?

Well, it's simple - learn whatever you can whenever you can. This not only includes expanding your Masonic knowledge, but expanding your skills in the following areas: team building, relationship building, conflict resolution, listening skills, public speaking, social media, time management, project management, meeting management, budgeting, and marketing. These are all **skills that are useful to Masonic leaders, but you don't need to** become an expert in all areas or take a twelve week college course. Any improvement, no matter how small, in any area will expand your leadership skills. Once again, the Japanese term *Kaizen* (small, incremental improvement) is the key. The important thing is to start, then keep on learning.

The Maven's Journal provides educational and leadership material in small doses and is the perfect place to start your expansion of knowledge. If you find an article interesting, continue your search for knowledge by going online or find some printed material that expands the topic. Maybe take a class. Also, consider discussing the topic with others to get different perspectives that may challenge your opinion. Lastly, it is important to apply newfound knowledge, so find opportunities within your lodge to learn from experience. **And don't be afraid to fail** – remember, experience

[on Facebook.](#)

This month the Leadership Series discusses the role of education in strengthening you as a leader. The education series reflects on the second degree lessons. Those seeking the oriental chair will appreciate The Trestle Board article on effectively scheduling the Master's term

Regards,
Wor. Richard Ryder



Masonic Spotlight: Dawes and Prescott - Footnotes to History
Richard H. Ryder, 2017

In February I presented an article entitled *M.W. Paul Revere – Maven and Connector*. With the **celebration of Patriot's Day** in Massachusetts earlier this month it is

tests first and teaches second.

Finally, it goes without saying that expanding your understanding of Masonry can only benefit you in your quest to become an effective Masonic leader. This is true regardless of your current or future role. There is no shortage of material; however, one must be selective regarding the source of information. You can begin by checking material available through Grand Lodge or other reputable Masonic entities. Be careful of what you read on the internet; some material is questionable and sensational, or downright false. When in doubt, check with Grand Lodge and its library for reputable sources of information. For a short list of books and resources that may interest you, click [HERE](#).

Richard H. Ryder
April, 2017



Education Series

Passage to Manhood: The Masonic Second Degree
(Richard H. Ryder, 2016)

Throughout history rites of passage have defined significant moments in our lives. Something as simple as a teenager getting **one's driver's license or as momentous as a young man celebrating his bar mitzvah** remains in our consciousness for a lifetime. This was also true when, after spending seven years as an entered apprentice, an operative mason, by virtue of producing his

appropriate to learn more **about two of Revere's** riding companions, Brother William Dawes and Samuel Prescott.

William Dawes was a Freemason, who, like Revere, deserves to be recognized by all Masons for spreading the alarm on April 18, 1775. It would, however, be an injustice to history if we only concentrated on these two Masonic Brothers, for the story is not complete without mentioning Prescott. As such, although the focus of this article will be on Brother Dawes, we must shine light on Prescott as well.

For William Dawes and Samuel Prescott, Henry **Wadsworth Longfellow's** poem "***The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere***" was like putting them into the witness protection program of history. If Revere ever sought a

“**master’s piece**”, became a “**Fellow of the Craft**”. In speculative Masonry we celebrate this Masonic rite of passage from youth to manhood during our Second Degree.

Two themes permeate this ceremony: charity and work. However, the most prominent lesson concerns the application of accumulated knowledge in the exercise of our daily labor **and the earning of life’s wages**: health, plenty, and peace. Where the apprentice moves rough objects, the fellow craft begins to build and construct. Experience now manifests itself in newfound wisdom and **the application of life’s lessons**.

The pillars **before Solomon’s temple teach us to demonstrate** strength and wisdom, and thus stability. The winding stairs denote our constant effort to expand our understanding of the many worlds around us and encourages achievement through that knowledge, ever remembering that our journey is fraught with unforeseen challenges of illusion and obstructed views.

Additionally, we are taught to perfect our work with clarity of understanding and accumulated knowledge. The liberal arts and sciences, representing the entire body of knowledge, serve as our guide and are received through our combined senses. Through a lifetime of education we are better equipped to apply our trade.

We are no longer received at the door simply by our desire to enter, but also as a result of our proficiency.

As an Entered Apprentice we swore to follow rules that guide our actions, but now we are instructed to look outwardly to aid and assist others.

The cable-tow is no longer a means to potentially reverse our direction, but now pulls us forward toward a life of constructive labor and unbounded charity.

The construction of the temple is no longer just about the perfection of Solomon, but now inspires us to perfect ourselves in each of our many roles.

marketing executive to push his brand and squash the competition, Longfellow was the right guy for the job. What started out as a motivational piece for Northerners as the nation slipped into civil war, became a miscarriage of history for these two American patriots.

Click [HERE](#) to continue reading.



The Word

Cowan

According to Merriam-Webster, a *cowan* is one who is not a Freemason or pretends to be one.

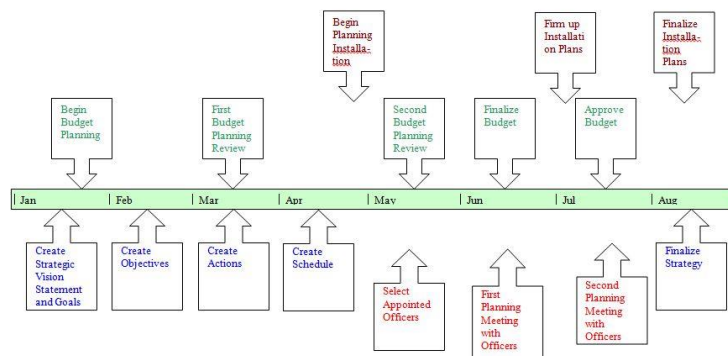
Albert G. Mackey, in *The Lexicon of Freemasonry*, indicates it is strictly a

In summary, life is a series of passages. We begin as untried youth seeking experience. Passing through middle age we acquire wisdom and are filled with responsibility to ourselves and others. Sooner than expected we arrive at our final chapter reflecting back on what we hope is a life well spent. As Fellowcraft we are like curing cement with the appearance of a solid foundation, but still requiring strengthening and hardening before we are able to fully support our internal structure.

When all is said and done, it is this degree that matures us into the true person we will become and assures our legacy as men and as Masons.

Richard Ryder
March, 2016

Master's "Pre-Term" Timeline



The Master's Trestle Board

"Effective Scheduling"

(Richard H. Ryder, 2017)

This article describes the importance of creating an effective schedule months in advance of the upcoming Masonic year, thus ensuring a successful term for the new Master.

Masonic term that is derived from the Greek word *kuon*, a dog. "In the early days of the church, when the mysteries of religion were communicated only to initiates, the infidels and unbaptized were called 'dogs', a term probably suggested by such passages of scripture as Matt, vii. 6, 'Give not that which is holy unto the dogs' ". It is thought that the Freemasons corrupted the term into *cowan*.

MacKay also states that "Another interpretation of this term as a result of later investigation proves it to be a Stone Mason capable of building only dry walls".

The Importance of Scheduling

The Masonic year should not be viewed as a series of unconnected events, but rather a well thought out sequence of events, actions, **and activities that support the Master's vision statement.**

Each Master is different, with different strengths and interests. Although there are rules around much of what a Master can or should do, the Master has some flexibility to place his personal stamp on his term. He is only limited by the extent of his creativity.

With that said, the Master should take a bird's eye view of the year, consider all the required events, consider his strategy, goals, and objectives, and then lay them out on a calendar for all to see, including himself. Doing so will not only help with planning and organization, but will also identify, early on, potential conflicts with other lodge and district activities.

Lastly, it cannot be overemphasized that scheduling should start **WELL BEFORE the new Master's installation.** Waiting until the summer months before a Masonic year will result in problems. The earlier you plan the more flexibility you will have regarding dates; this is especially true if more than one lodge shares a building. The more advanced notice people have the greater chance they will have an opening in the calendar, thus enabling them attend an event.

Questions

To help you get started on creating a workable schedule, ask yourself some questions. For example:

- What dates are fixed? (Ex. lodge meeting nights, LOI, etc.)
- What meeting nights have special, non-degree events? (ex. installation, holiday party)
- How will you schedule degrees so that they flow smoothly and are meaningful without jeopardizing other planned events?



What did he say?

“Education is the mother of leadership”

Wendell Willkie - Corporate executive and vice presidential candidate



Attract and Retain

“10 Tips for a Successful Open House”

With the Massachusetts open house in October, now is the time to begin planning. Since July and August are typically ‘dark’, **you really only have three and a half** productive months to rally the Brethren. With that said a

- Will you need more than one set of degree nights during your term?
- What other events or meetings should you consider?

Tools

There are many types of effective calendars that are available, both electronic and hard copy. Choose whatever works best for you.

Generally, a “year at a glance” calendar is useful during initial planning, since it gives you a bird’s eye view of the entire year, thus easily showing potential conflicts and extended busy periods. These are easily obtained at any office supply store.

In conjunction with a “year at a glance” calendar a personal, monthly calendar is useful for quick reference and to allow more details. **It’s your choice whether you use a paper or electronic format;** however, whatever you prefer be sure to use it and carry it with you to all Masonic events. Most if not all email providers include a basic schedule and there are plenty of scheduling apps; take advantage of them.

Scheduling Steps

Everyone approaches scheduling in a different way. No method is better than others. The important point is to develop steps that work for you. The following are sequential steps you might consider:

1. Create a draft strategy, as explained in previous articles; doing so will allow you to be creative, without prematurely ruling anything out due to a perceived scheduling conflict
2. Before the summer preceding your term as Master meet with the outgoing Master, incoming Wardens, and any other key lodge members to schedule the upcoming year. The current Master and other key members will provide insight as to scheduling ideas, approach, and challenges
3. During the meeting start by recording the monthly meetings, indicating which ones are traditionally fixed

good team of core planners can take full advantage of the summer months to get a lot of the behind the scenes activities accomplished. Here are just a few tips to keep in mind

1. Plan early – the most important step. A successful open house takes a lot of time and can have several moving parts. In particular, start your internal promotion before the Masonic term ends in June
2. Select a team of 2 – 3 other planners to assist and advise you. Be sure to select members you can trust to be energetic, creative, self-starters, and can work independently. Small teams are best, and remember, six people are not necessarily twice as good as three. A small team

events: next, record other fixed meetings throughout the year - lodge events, district events, grand lodge events, and regular meeting/rehearsal nights for other lodges that meet in your building.

4. Also at the meeting, as well as possible, predict when new candidates will be taking their degrees. As hard as this may be, it is critical to try. An educated estimate early on will allow you to make changes well in advance of those events when the chance of doing so is greater. This will allow you to reassess your goals and objectives and how best to achieve them with as little disruption to degree work as possible. Maybe you will need to request dispensation for an extra meeting. Although not recommended, maybe you will need to arrange for a courtesy degree from another lodge. Waiting until April of your term to figure out how to squeeze in three degrees for those new applicants may prove to be an effort in futility
5. Continually compare your schedule and budgets to ensure they support each. If not, make the necessary changes to ensure they do.
6. After the meeting take the time to take a second look at your strategy and schedule in anticipation of presenting a final version to lodge officers and key members
7. In late summer meet with lodge officers and key members to present your final schedule and accompanying strategy
8. Publish your schedule for all members to view. This way they will block off their calendars, which increases your chances for well attended events, meetings, etc. Also, a **published schedule will motivate you to 'make it happen'** to avoid disappointing others
9. Regularly maintain and publish the schedule so all members are aware of modifications. Consider delegating this responsibility to a non-officer or better yet, a new member, thus promoting a sense of commitment to the lodge
10. At the end of your Masonic year review your original schedule and what you actually accomplished. Share your

made up of the right people is more efficient, effective, and productive

3. Divide your strategy into 4 sequential phases: Planning, staging, implementation, and post-implementation. Planning - the longest phase which takes up 80% of your time. Staging - the next to last week before the event where everything starts to come together. Implementation - covers the week that includes the event date where final preparations are made and the event is actually held. Post-implementation - where post event activities occur, most **especially the 'lessons learned' meeting** you hold to understand successes and

results with the incoming Master so he can learn from your experience.

Richard Ryder
April, 2017

improvements for next year

Click [HERE](#) to view the remaining open house tips.

Richard H. Ryder
April, 2017



Coming Attractions

Stay tuned for the May edition and the first installment of **The Manager's Toolkit** series, which will concentrate on meeting management. **The Manager's Toolkit** will run periodically and replace the **Leadership Series** for that edition. Future articles will include topics on time management, project management, and more.



Want to subscribe?

Click [HERE](#) to subscribe to the email version of **The Maven's Journal**. We will confirm your request and email your first edition.



<https://www.facebook.com/MasonicMaven/>



Website

Copyright © **|CURRENT_YEAR|** **|LIST:COMPANY|**, All rights reserved.

|IFNOT:ARCHIVE_PAGE|* *|LIST:DESCRIPTION|

Our mailing address is:

|HTML:LIST_ADDRESS_HTML|* *|END:IF|

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

|IF:REWARDS|* *|HTML:REWARDS|* *|END:IF|