

Worshipful Masters Workshop

*Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons
of North Carolina and Jurisdiction, Inc.*



North Raleigh Hilton Hotel and Convention Center

Raleigh, North Carolina

September 28, 2006

Facilitators: Most Worshipful Grand Master Milton F. 'Toby' Fitch, Jr.

And

Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master Robert M. L. Walker

Grand Master's and Deputy Grand Master's Workshop for Worshipful Masters

Introduction

It is not by chance that an organization experiences success over a long period of time. Its longevity depends on providing a NEED, a SERVICE, or a WANT. In either of these categories, there must be the existence within that organization of individuals, who incorporate Leadership, Vision, Determination, Talent and the ability to implement the things that are necessary to make a positive difference to the community and society.

As Worshipful Masters in this great jurisdiction, you are the base on which this organization has entrusted its future. History has provided us with an important lesson, which many of us are lulled into not recognizing the fact that as a practice, we have under utilized our talents and resources. Ironically the Grand Lodge of England granted a warrant to form a regular lodge in Boston on this day, September 29, over 220 years ago. Subsequently in 1866 (one year out of slavery), under the authority of the Grand Lodge of New York, Lodges were organized in North Carolina and the great strides that we have made since then are evident. However for us to honor those visions of the past leadership, we must have the same ability to visualize and dream of growth and building our organization to contribute to our future. After 137 years of existence in this state, it is time for us to look past the immediate future and decide what are WE going to do to ensure a strong positive presence for our children and people.

You have the advantage of technology and information that Prince Hall never imagined; however, he did have the vision and the willingness to take on the responsibility to lay the groundwork that makes his name known and understood throughout the world in the new millennium. I don't think he was just looking at the revolutionary war, but possibly in the next century where Prince Hall Masonry would be organizing in North Carolina and throughout the world. He had to have had certain talents, leadership skills and determination to have this impact. Let us exchange some of these ideas on leadership to determine what should be expected from us, which will allow us to move to new heights in this great organization.

Examples of Prince Hall Masons with Vision

Prince Hall Himself – James E. Shepherd – Thurgood Marshall
J. W. Hood, Prominent Methodist Minister and First Grand Master of NC
Stewart Ellison, One of the founders of Kittrell College
George Henry White, served in the House of Representatives
MWGM of Tennessee Benjamin Hooks and other active Brothers
Our Brothers and Sisters of this North Carolina Jurisdiction

Communication

The single most important tool for leadership is communication. Why do you feel I said that?

1) Message Sent must be Message Received

Clear Understanding of Goals

Reduce Chance of conflict through misunderstanding

Allow time to resolve issues

If you don't understand, how can you explain to anyone else?

Military time 0600 (6:00 A.M.) hrs or 1800 (6:00 P.M.) hrs

2) Clear Understanding of Goal

Understand the Benefit

Enthusiastic about the Possible Result

Can Relay the message the way you received it

Poor Communication can result in many factors

- 1) You have poor knowledge and you are inadequately prepared to be an advocate
- 2) You do not believe the message or support the policy behind it
- 3) The receiver is not interested because of your lack of enthusiasm
- 4) You and the receiver come to different conclusions about the value
- 5) You can't get your message across

As Worshipful Masters your tasks of Leadership are as follows

- 1) Leaders establish vision and set direction
 - “They think outside the box”
 - They can see farther than a year or two ahead
 - They aren't afraid to move away from the security of maintaining the Status Quo
- 2) Leaders affirm and articulate values
- 3) Leaders have high standards and high expectations
- 4) Leaders are accountable
- 5) Leaders Motivate
- 6) Leaders achieve unity
- 7) Leaders involves others in decision-making
- 8) Leaders serve as role models – they enhance the organization (don't drain)
- 9) Leaders listen and explain
- 10) Leaders represent the Organization

Traits and Skills Needed

- 1) Honesty
- 2) Confidence
- 3) Preparation
- 4) Persistent
- 5) Communicate
Listening as well as Talking

EGO – Helpful or Hindrance

Ability to recognize when you need help and sense enough to ask for it

Don't get discourage

Age does not necessary denote Wisdom (you might be younger than your members)

Be ready for the negative responses (Preparation)

Skills to Enhance

- 1) Planning
- 2) Organizing
- 3) Developing
- 4) Staffing
- 5) Follow-up

Leaders should use their Resources

Membership

Other Officers

Committees

Past Masters

Tools to Improve Advocacy

Explain Impact of our Current Actions

- 1) Masonic Hotel Bills more than \$300,000 for year
- 2) No self sustaining entity after 130+ years of existence and strong resources
- 3) Use will be year round for the community and us
- 4) More precise planning with respect to location and time
- 5) WE PAY OURSELVES
- 6) Set a positive example and image for our youth
- 7) Provide an avenue for our youth to choose a positive alternative and role model

Leaders Vision

DO YOU SEE WHAT WE SEE?

Where are you looking? One week ahead. One-Year Ahead. The Grand Lodge Future!!

Who do you look for support?

Wise person(s) in the lodge

Past Masters

District Deputies

Other Masters that you have met-At this communication as well as in your

District

Our Sisters

AS LEADERS WHAT CAN WE DO NOW THAT WILL HAVE AN EFFECT 50 YEARS FROM NOW

How do we meet our Goals?

How do we support each other?

What are our limitations?

Can we be more innovative?

Leaders see more than tomorrow

Leaders look for solutions and alternatives

Leaders see the WHOLE Picture – Not what is necessary for their personal satisfaction

They are focused on Goals for the Organization; Not for Themselves

Leaders have a strong potential to relay their enthusiasm to others

Leaders bring suggestions from their observations not negative criticism

What Kind of World are we in? *

1. Every two or three years, the knowledge base doubles
2. Every day, 7,000 scientific and technical articles are published
3. High school graduates have been exposed to more information than their grandparents were in a lifetime
4. Only 15 percent of jobs will require a college education, but nearly all jobs will require the equivalent knowledge of a college education
5. There will be as much change in the next three decades as there was in the **last three centuries**

* Source: (from *Leadership and Technology*, published by the National School Boards)

The Last THREE Centuries (Since **Prince Hall's Existence**)

The Common Denominator then and now is the *BROTHERHOOD*

Can it also be the vision, determination, and love for the organization?

Our Challenge to you leaders is to Organize our Plan-Implement our Plan-Meet our Goal
WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

NOTES – SUGGESTIONS AND OTHER IDEAS

Workshop Date: September 28, 2006