

Modern Lodge Officer & Member Qualities

Brethren:

It's not only the lodge officer that needs to adapt and evolve with the changing modern times, it's a combination of all lodge members, especially in how we interact with those young men who have grown up in the past few years and want to join a lodge but are sometimes turned off by lodge officer or member attitudes. Changes in the way we live, work, and interact with each other are being fueled by new behaviours and new technologies. In fact, there are many trends that continue to change our lives from generation to generation. Thus, many of those changes produce unnecessary conflicts between the generations. Each generation has produced similar conflicts but many from our current older generations have forgotten what they went through as young men with their older generations of lodge members or officers, and their experiences. Therefore, we need to keep pace with what is happening in the modern world of thinking and recognise that change is a normal and necessary process of life, and it always has been.

Embrace Change

Older officers and members have grown accustomed to doing things a certain way. They have used the same technologies and the same processes for many years but that doesn't mean that those previous technologies and ways of doing things are the best for our current lodges, members or for themselves. Consider that in a few years, millennials are going to become the majority in all organisations within the United States and elsewhere around the world. These are people who grew up using social and collaborative tools to communicate, collaborate, and find people and information. This newer generation means new behaviours and new technologies; members should be stepping forward together and embracing the change that is going to make their jobs, their lodges, and lives easier, and more productive. As one of the world's foremost thinkers, Bro. Winston Churchill said, "To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often."

Have A Voice In Your Lodge

For the first time in lodge history, a leader and manager are being recognised as not really mutually exclusive in our lodges. Leaders have to be managers, they have to be people who are passionate, knowledgeable, and comfortable with sharing which is another key quality. New collaborative technologies are empowering every officer and member alike, within a lodge, to share their passions, interests, ideas, and feedback. If one cares about something, then one has to have the opportunity to become a leader and a known voice on that topic within his lodge. However, this can't happen if our officers and members don't speak up. No one can become a leader if he is scared of sharing his voice and

his opinions. This means using the new collaborative technologies that are available within our lodges. Why not be an active lodge member and become a leader? This choice is a personal one.

Be Autonomous

Now that members have the ability to work and communicate from anywhere at anytime to anybody, being self-directed is crucial. There is no longer a lodge officer watching every move and reminding everybody that he needs to only follow what was done in the past and not look at making modern changes. This modern way of doing things is a privilege but it's also a responsibility. A great deal of trust is being placed in every lodge officer to accomplish his tasks in a modern and timely manner. As a modern lodge officer or member, we must be capable of executing on our own deliverables no matter where we are at.

Share And Help Others

This is one of the key qualities for the modern lodge officer manager but it's also a key quality for the modern member. Traditionally, some lodge officers wanted to keep ideas to themselves to get credit for their own contributions. This lodge business model is no longer effective. With the emergence of collaborative tools, ideas and feedback can easily be traced back to individuals within a lodge organisation. Sharing not only benefits the lodge team, but it also benefits each member. Peers and other lodge officers will recognise a can do attitude and ability to lend a helping hand. Sharing can take many forms; share ideas, feedback, what events are being worked on or anything else. To be a modern lodge officer one must become comfortable with sharing and helping others.

Filter And Focus

In today's lodge environment, we are all pulled in many directions all the time. We are at meetings while we check emails and simultaneously tweeting. With the proliferation of modern content and tools that ping us on, it's very easy to lose focus. With emerging technology, lodge officers and members must remember to focus on what needs to get done and where they are at. This means being able to put people and messages on hold for awhile. Information bombards everyone from every direction which means both lodge officers and other members need to become adept at filtering out and focusing on what's crucial.

Brethren, what other qualities do you think are crucial for the modern lodge officer and lodge members in general? Hold a discussion and work on them as a team effort and advance your lodge with the younger generation of Masons and their tools of communications.

Fraternally,

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