

# MIZPAH BULLETIN

March 2019




Mizpah Lodge #302  
A.F. & A.M.  
Omaha, Nebraska


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## Online?

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 Mizpah Lodge #302

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Instituted November 12<sup>th</sup>, 1918  
Chartered June 4<sup>th</sup>, 1919

Stated communication on the first  
Wednesday of every month

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## Mizpah Benediction

“May the Lord watch between me and  
thee when we are absent one from an-  
other”

-Genesis 31:29-

May the Lord Watch  
**MIZPAH**  
302  
Between Me and Thee

## From the East

Brethren,

We have had a couple meetings with the new format and so far I have received favorable feedback. The new ideas are the result of the entire line coming together and thinking about what the lodge needs to take us into the future. When discussing the lodge and ideas they wanted to update the business meeting and retain our traditions. I believe we have meet this goal.

We need petitions to grow. We have not had a candidate in several months. If you know of a male that you think would be a good fit for our lodge invite them to the business meeting and let the officers know before hand.

Our education committee has been working to arrange some guest speakers for our education moments. I would like to thank the committee for their enthusiasm in providing fresh education topics. If you have any suggestions let TJ know.

We visited Bluff City lodge in Council Bluffs to watch a Master Masons degree. The couple brothers that made the journey had a good time seeing the Iowa work and getting to know members of the lodge. I also am communicating with Prince Hall so we can visit one of their lodges in Omaha.

We are working on our ritual and working on continuing our lodge proficiency tradition. Again if you have any comments, ideas or concerns let me know.

Sincerely and Fraternally,  
**Jeffrey Coleman**  
Worshipful Master



## Mentoring

*The following article was written by Mizpah's newest Master Mason, Bro. Ryan LeGrande. This article will appear in an upcoming issue of the Nebraska Mason.*

### **Tuesday, March 5**

Committee Meeting 6:30pm

### **Wednesday, March 6**

Potluck Dinner 6:30pm

Business Meeting 7:00pm

### **Wednesday, March 13**

Practice 6:30pm

Current officers required.

### **Wednesday, March 20**

Practice 6:30pm

Current officers required.

### **Wednesday, March 27**

Practice 6:30pm

Current officers required.

### **Tuesday, April 2**

Committee Meeting 6:30pm

### **Wednesday, April 3**

Potluck Dinner 6:30pm

Business Meeting 7:00pm

I would like to discuss a topic that is close to me professionally - mentoring.

I work in the Child Welfare field and train new case managers. As valuable as my classroom instruction may be, it is no substitute for time in the field, which is where our mentors come become involved. After their classroom training is complete, new case managers are given an opportunity to shadow seasoned workers for another four weeks. This provides the trainees an opportunity see how the classroom lessons I have taught them are applied in the field, and to ask their mentors questions that might never have occurred to them in the classroom.

Another professional example of mentoring that I am familiar with is the mentoring of new teachers. Most school districts have a standardized mentoring program that pairs a new teacher with an experienced teacher for their first year or two. The mentors are there to advise the new teachers how to deal with things not taught in college, such as how to deal with a classroom full of rowdy kids, or navigate the internal politics of school administrations. Having a more experienced teacher as an advisor and resource is vital for a new teacher's initial success and development.

Regardless of the field, a great mentoring experience – one that is enriching and truly informative - will result in higher retention and, eventually, might lead those mentored to become mentors themselves.

I believe we can apply some of the mentoring techniques used in these fields and others to our own wonderful organization. I firmly believe that the successful mentoring techniques used by one organization can be transferred to another, so long as the mentoring is meaningful and structured. Along these lines, I have researched the Masonic mentoring programs of the Grand Lodges of Minnesota and Florida, which have similar goals, structure, and resources.

The Minnesota Grand Lodge has had a mentoring program since at least 2009. It lists three reasons for the establishment of its mentoring program, which are, in short:

- Through mentoring, a new Master Mason will better understand and appreciate the history, culture, symbolism, and activities of his lodge;
- The Lodge will benefit because its mentored members will be more likely to remain and play an active role in the Lodge;
- Freemasonry as a whole benefits because healthy lodges have a greater impact on the community and are more likely to attract high quality candidates.

The Minnesota Grand Lodge mentoring program is broken down by degree but begins with candidates with approved petitions. An important aspect of the program is a survey of new Masons after three, six, and twelve months. After asking what initially interested these men in becoming Masons, the survey asks for the individuals' opinion of degree work and the mentoring they received. It also asks for suggestions on how the lodge could improve, allowing new Mason to give their "likes", "dislikes", and "suggestions for improvement".

# 2019 Officers

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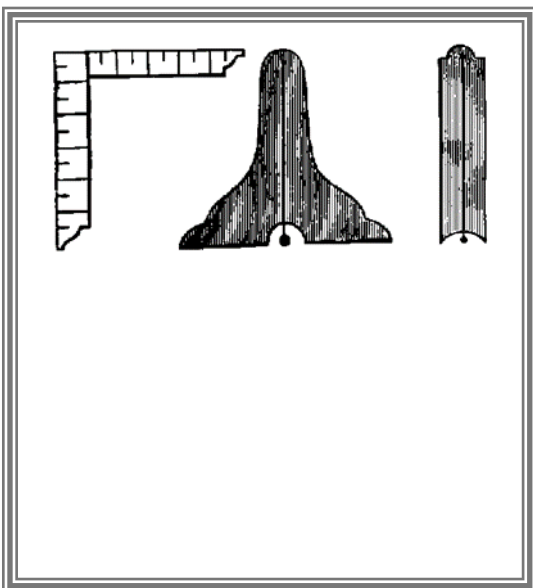
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The Florida Grand Lodge also has a long-standing mentoring program. In Florida the modern mentor as advised to “expand upon and intensify” the level of Masonic instruction imparted by rituals and lectures. Both of these Grand Lodges view mentoring as the job of not just one person, but many. Minnesota states that the first and second line signers, the assigned mentor, the proficiency coach, the Worshipful Master, and the Secretary should all become acquainted with the candidate/brother and be actively engaged in the mentoring process. Every Mason, they argue, has the potential to be a “good fit” based on the relationships built. In Florida, the role of the mentor falls on members of each blue lodge’s education committee.

Much like mentors in the professional settings I described previously, the role of a mentor in Freemasonry is to be the point person, or persons, who will introduce a new brother to the world of Freemasonry, answering questions about degrees (as best they can), and encouraging him to ask questions. The lectures and ritual (much like classroom training in the private sector) are wonderful and informative, but the real learning begins when the new Mason get an opportunity to apply what he’s learned “on the job,” which is where mentors are instrumental. Mentors can also explain the many rules, expectations, and formalities that experienced Masons take for granted, but which are complete mysteries for new Masons, such as voting procedures, dress codes, and how to address a lodge or its master, to name just a few.

As our requirements for proficiency change, the role of Masonic mentoring, in my opinion, will become more important. Experienced mentors will be needed to attract and retain new Masons. The availability of an enthusiastic brother who is willing to answer questions gives new Masons courage and confidence. A basic understanding of the workings of a lodge, the esoteric nature of the ritual, and the history of Masonry can significantly lessen a candidate’s or new Mason’s “fear of the unknown,” which, unattended, might cause the man to withdraw from Masonry.

Levels of Masonic knowledge within any lodge vary considerably. Some of you, like me, have little to no experience with Masonry. Some of you have fathers or grandfathers who were Masons. Some of you were involved in Masonic activities as youth due familial ties to the fraternity.

But we all started at the same place: in darkness. We all started our journeys by seeking light in Masonry. All of us were brought to Masonry by another Mason who thought we could benefit, and benefit from, the fraternity. But what keeps us coming back?

As an educator by schooling and trainer by trade, I would like to leave you with some questions to consider when thinking about mentorship within Masonry:

- What keeps you coming back to and participating in Lodge?
- Is a formal mentoring program needed in Masonry?
  - What benefits, if any, do you see in developing a mentoring program?
  - How can establishing a mentoring program help with retention?
- What were your experiences as a new Mason?
  - Did you have a mentor when being raised as a mason?
  - Did you have a family member who is a Mason, and served as a Mentor?
  - How would formalizing that process have helped?

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## From the Secretary's Table

Our 2019 dues were payable on 1 January. Please pay your 2019 dues as soon as possible.

Mizpah Lodge will be offering electronic payment of your 2019 dues via PayPal. To pay with a major credit card, go the Mizpah Lodge web site ([omahamasons.com](http://omahamasons.com)). Click on the "2019 Dues" tab for instructions and a link to PayPal. There is a fee for PayPal credit card payment which is added to the dues amount. The total amount, with fee, is \$108.44.

To pay via your personal PayPal account, log into your PayPal account. Send your payment of \$105.00 to the lodge email address "mizpah302sec@cox.net".

If a member has difficulty paying the full dues assessment at one time, arrangements can be made to make partial payments as along as

the full amount is paid before the end of April. Please contact one of the other Lodge Officers to make arrangements.

Fraternally,  
**Ben Zaayer**  
Secretary