

# LEADERSHIP

The Constitution and Regulations grant the Presiding Master unusual authority and great deference. The smart and wise Master does not let that go to his head. He knows that he cannot use his gavel arbitrarily but must constantly work to inspire and encourage his team, to unite them in a common goal, and to help them achieve that goal.

Leadership exists in every Lodge. In most cases, leadership is exercised by the Master. In other cases, leadership is not exercised, and the Master stands back allowing others, such as Past Masters or a Secretary, wield an unseen gavel. In successful Lodges the Master takes charge. In unsuccessful Lodges the vacuum is filled by others. How will it be during your year? Will you be in charge or sit as a weak figurehead in the East and wield a hollow gavel?

The emblem of power is in your hands. Wield it with discretion, courtesy and above all, brotherly love. Seek harmony and common goals and when needed take decisive action. Seeking consensus is good but you ultimately have the last word.

How well you take advantage of this opportunity will determine the success or failure of your year(s) in the East. There is no excuse for allowing a leadership vacuum to occur.

## **THE BUCK STOPS WITH YOU**

Harry S Truman, Past Grand Master of Missouri, displayed a sign on his desk in the Oval Office which succinctly described the term Responsibility. It read "THE BUCK STOPS HERE". That world-famous sign, in symbolic form, is displayed to the brethren, silently resting upon the Master's podium. You cannot escape it; it cannot be destroyed or placed into another Brother's hands. "THE BUCK STOPS HERE" means you!

Everyone will take credit for increased membership, excellent ritual, a beautiful Lodge and good participation by the membership at all functions. Few will share responsibility for failure. You, as Master, will not be able to escape the responsibility for what occurs during your year. The Brethren know this.

Plan accordingly and surround yourself with wise counsel. If that takes sub-committees and an event/social planner, then get it done. Just because something was done for all those years before you does not mean you do not try something new or different. Once an event concludes, find out what went right and what could be improved. Remember to solicit ideas from the brethren and even their spouses on what they want to do.

**Idea: Plan a speaker on Leadership**