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Greenleaf Gardens  
Lodge No. 670  
Whittier, California

[Greenleafgardens@verizon.net](mailto:Greenleafgardens@verizon.net)  
(Web Site) [www.calodges.org/no670](http://www.calodges.org/no670)  
(562) 695-2755

Articles

## Masonic Mentoring

Masonic mentoring has been with us for many years in various guises and yet Grand Lodge records show that we are still losing one in four of our initiates within the first five years of membership. Somewhere something has failed.

A brother who was questioned why he had put in his resignation within just two years of joining gave this reply:

*'I didn't really know what I was joining, but I knew that my Proposer was a decent and honorable man and he always spoke so highly of Freemasonry. My first night was overwhelming and I'm still not sure what it was all about. I remember everybody was very friendly, so much so that I was struggling to remember everybody's name. My Proposer was an active officer in the lodge, but he made sure he had plenty of time to look after me that night.'*

*'Everybody was asking what I thought of it all and a few said that it would make more sense if I quickly visited another lodge in the area, so that I could watch the ceremony from the sidelines. My Proposer said that this was a great idea and he would give me a ring to arrange it. Well, everyone was busy and I never managed to visit before the next meeting. The next meeting was a little confusing, as I was asked to leave quite soon in the ceremony and I had to sit in the dining room. I had a good chat with the Stewards (and a pint!), but before I knew it everyone was leaving the Lodge room and it was time for the meal.'*

*'As I said, my Proposer was an active officer and he was really busy that night so I had to spend the rest of the evening with people I didn't know. They were very nice but I felt as if I couldn't really ask them the questions I wanted to, maybe I didn't even know which questions to ask. My wife and grown up children showed interest at first, but when I*

*couldn't answer their questions their interest soon waned.'*

*'I'm afraid the rest of my short Masonic career was a bit like that, as I never got to do much visiting and I went through all my degrees without really understanding any of them. As soon as I had reached my Third Degree, someone asked if I wanted to join something called the Chapter. It was at this point I stopped and asked myself what I was doing. I was in something that I didn't really understand, nobody had the time to tell me what was going on and I was being asked to get involved further.'*

*'That was when I decided to leave. I'm in business and when my company takes people on, we make sure that they are looked after until they know their way.'*

*You may think this statement a little contrived, but it is a true story. Fortunately, the Brother concerned was persuaded to hold his decision and, with a little support and encouragement, he is currently an active officer himself. Furthermore, he has now proposed his son as a candidate.*

*Something to think about, Isn't it?*



*"But we as Free and Accepted Masons are taught to make use of it for the more noble and glorious purpose of spreading the cement of Brotherly Love and Affection..."*