

Prison Entrepreneurship Program

January 2017

New Year/New Legacy Issue

“If you want to be important, *WONDERFUL!* If
you want to be recognized, *WONDERFUL!* If
you want to be great, *WONDERFUL!* But
recognize that he who is greatest among
you shall be a SERVANT!”

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Inside this Issue

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CHANGING THE FUTURE
BY RECONCILING
THE PAST

TANK ACTION

From the Editor



Change is often difficult and the new that comes with it can be terrifying. New jobs, new responsibilities, new relationships even new beginnings, starting anew isn't the easiest thing to do. Not even a new year, however if your reading this then most likely the good Lord has shown you favor to continue on this journey of life. So maybe it is a new start or a new spark coming from bringing in a new year which is motivating you to take a different approach at this moment or time of year.

Often individuals will take this time of year to start to set goals and put priorities back in line to what they are desiring to achieve in specific areas of life. How many times have you heard individuals state they were going to lose 20lbs this year or take this class or do this or that. It happens a lot and many times people have the best of intentions, however they lack the effort that comes with achieving their goal. Maximum results only come from maximum effort, 9 out of 10 times that is. Yet, even then you have to develop new habits and break old ones to obtain what you so desire. If its 20lbs, then a steady diet and exercise must take place, if its higher grades then more studying must occur, if it's a closer walk with God then one must spend more time reading The Word and in prayer. Whatever the new task is, more than likely it is going to have to entertain new habits.

I've read somewhere that it takes around 21 days to start or stop a habit. Og Mandino states in his book, *The Greatest Salesman in the World*, that *"In truth, the only difference between those who have failed and those who have succeeded lies in the difference of their habits."* So creating new goals, habits and starting afresh can benefit individuals that are sincere in their goal of achieving a better life. But it all comes from within and what you are really willing to endure and persevere through to obtain the goal set before yourself. So with the words best written by Mr. Mandino I will refer and agree to *"form good habits and become their slave"* and in doing so I will conquer the fear of the unknown, the "NEW" surrounding the days to come.

See, every day we wake we are faced with a new beginning. How an individual perceives it is up to them, but it's literally a new day with an opportunity to do things better, different, or the same. A choice is made indirectly or directly to either step into who you were, who you are, or who you want to become. This in itself can be a new way of thinking for must individuals. So as you start your new day, month, and New Year I ask you to ponder this thought; what is scarier, the change coming with higher achievement or the monotony of stagnation?

Thomas W.
(aka Popeye)



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January 2017



Chronicle

"Weak is he who permits his thoughts to control his actions; strong is he who forces his actions to control his thoughts." - Og Mindino

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Brian A.



Marcus A.



Javen P.



Donald M.



Duane H.



Brandon B.



Guillermo A.

Explosive
Contributions



Chronicle Team



Photo Bucket





Mock Interviews

January 6, 2017 was a highly anticipated day for Famous Fall 16, our Mock Interviews Event took place. It was a time to showcase our new talents in communication. This is all about real world training for

us. As we sat with great business men and women our nerves rocked us, but inside we had the confidence needed to answer the dreaded question, "So can you tell me about your felony conviction?" This

is the moment wherein we have to utilize our training and preparation. Our beloved Mimi, as well as a number of executives and staff has helped us to confront this question with sincerity and honesty without talking ourselves out of a job. After much preparation we now understand that what we use to perceive as a dreaded question is actually a great opportunity to shine light on our growth and maturation as men. No man would focus on the valleys of his life, so why should we? Rather we have learned to go into detail about how we have learned from our experiences, and how adversity continuously molds us into better men. This is a plus in any job or career. Without PEP we may have stumbled through our interviews, sweating and lacking conviction of our change, but now we are able to stand toe to toe with the professional elite with confidence and poise. We are now able to discuss with our potential employers how we are now governed by moral precepts and values that keep us in alignment with our divine mission and calling, which is to be Authentic Men. We cannot thank our executive volunteers and PEP staff enough for the life tools and transformation that they have inspired in all of us. From our souls, we thank you all!

By: Duane H. (aka Tin Man)

Character Assessment

We're into Phase Two and this means it's character assessment time.

Character Assessment brings with it a myriad of different emotions and perspectives. The process is very similar to a 360° peer review that is done in the real-world work environment, but done on a much larger scale. It allows active members living within the same environment an opportunity to evaluate their brothers.

A staple of every man, woman, society, and community that dares to be great and progressive is that it borrows the social norms that propelled other great men to such lofty ranks. At times it can be frustrating to look at your character defects and especially to have others to do the same! History is full of men and women who were internally structured to undertake strenuous introspection and allowed trusted companions to also hold them to such high standards. Eventually the feelings of shame and embarrassment will abate and most participants will have an awakening. We all need to do some introspection and look at our shortcomings if we want to become more effective contributors to our environment and those around us. Watching veteran servant-leaders do this with such diligence is astounding! It's evident that they understand the importance and the long term benefits of properly utilizing such a tool. For some of us this is the first time participating in such an integral part of our Fraternity, so it is common to feel some sense of discomfort, but I challenge you all to accept the challenge, seize the opportunity and allow it to benefit your growth.

The character assessment was developed approximately nine years ago. Pat McGee has been a strong advocate in the implementing and developing of the process. The long-term goal is obviously character development, but it seems that so much more happens to these men in the process. Addressing these attributes in a group setting allows these men to build stronger bonds, accountability and avoid passivity. After a while it becomes much easier to confront an issue on the spot and this becomes an adopted standard of living. The long-term implementations of such a process should and will develop people of greater solidity. As it allows us to grow into a brotherhood.

Benjamin Franklin was an extraordinary man in every aspect. He was a true polymath. Mr. Franklin developed a charter of 13 virtues that served as his moral foundation. Listed below are Benjamin Franklins' Thirteen Virtues.

1. **Temperance.** (Tread the middle path.)
2. **Silence.** (Speak with a meaning.)
3. **Order.** (Prioritize)
4. **Resolution.** (Execute completely)
5. **Frugality.** (Waste nothing)
6. **Industry.** (Avoid vanities and frivolities)
7. **Sincerity.** (Be genuine in all dealings)
8. **Justice.** (Treat all equally)
9. **Moderation.** (Avoid Extremes)
10. **Cleanliness.** (Clean mind, clean soul)
11. **Tranquility.** (Seek inner peace)
12. **Chastity.** (Protect your innocence)
13. **Humility.** (Be pious and meek)

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Dear Chronicle,

Look guys I have a question and it may be a little dumb, but why does everyone do all this talking and no walking? Seriously I see all these graduates say one thing then do another, or talk about what they are going to do when they get out, yet they don't do anything to work toward their goals. Another thing that frustrates me is when everyone talks about accountability, but they break the rules and do whatever they want. Listen this program is an awesome opportunity, I just don't understand?

Spring 17's Finest

Dear frustrated freshman,

Ok, well let me first clear up one thing, nothing that you have to say or any question that you have is stupid. You can always speak your mind, especially when you are in the right, which you are. So as I am trying to structure my response I notice that everything that you are concerned about really stem from one thing; a lack of integrity. I say that because if people are saying they are going to do one thing then not living it out, well you get the point. I know we all like to profess the big visions we have of our future, however I have to agree most don't and never will live up to it. Little brother what you are seeing is the fruition of gentlemen that are much more concerned with appearing successful than actually becoming successful. It is so easy to say yeah blah, blah, blah, don't be discouraged by that, let it motivate you. Now, when it comes to the accountability, that again is a lack of integrity because we have said we will hold ourselves to a higher standard and most of us are slacking. So this brings me to your question of "What can we do to make our brotherhood stronger?" In short the answer is this, just as you have voiced your displeasure to me, you have to speak up. We as a brotherhood have to hold each other to that higher standard. We have to speak up on things that are not in line with our 10 driving values. We have to encourage each other to be those men that we say we want to be.

Sincerely,

The Chronicle



Dear Chronicle,

Look, I really want to be in PEP, but all this "accountability stuff" is going a bit too far. What does cursing have to do with me being successful if I can control it? How does the entertainment that I choose to watch on television effect my success? I don't like feeling as if I am being prematurely judged based on trivial matters.

Concerned Investigator

Dear Dilligent Detective,

I understand your frustrations brother. Many times people act out of vindictiveness and judge us using false scales. But for a second let us be objective and brutally honest. What are you willing to give up for the sake of your success, rather it be in order to graduate PEP, or in life in general. Evolving one's vocabulary is a good that will benefit you, not harm you in any way. Too often we function on autopilot, never stopping to evaluate whether our actions and sayings are helping us to achieve our mission, or keeping us stagnant. Accountability is a process that allows us to transform our usual state of mindless inattention into mindfulness. Don't concentrate on the messenger, concentrate on the message that is being delivered. If the message serves a purpose and could possibly benefit you, then apply it. The ability to separate rhetoric from substance, assertions from ideologies, and truth from deception allows us to become wise. When we are in familiar situations, old habits (which are often times bad habits) continue to rule even though they have become obsolete or wrong. Venturing on a new journey, facing new situations, we must challenge ourselves to develop new habits.

The Chronicle

Perspectives

This Months Question:

Three words that will define
your legacy?



"Service, Love,
Sacrifice."

—Nancy



"Dependable, Lov-
ing, Caring."

—Jeremi R.



"Made a difference."

—Monte P.



"Honor, Growth, and
Responsibility."

—Corey S.

Perspectives

This Months Question:
Three words that will define your legacy?



"Made it Better."

—Jay W.



"Kindness, Respectful, Diligent."

—Don



"Amazing, tedious, rewarding." —Michael W.



"Always Created Opportunities."

—Davin F.

Coats of Arms

Kindergarten here we come. The class of Spring '17 got underway in a fashion that most of us thought impossible. The scene was surreal as grown men—in a penitentiary setting—sat down at large tables with crayons, glitter, glue, markers and comical pictures and were able to tap into our childlike behaviors. Our task was to create



slate is wiped clean by our new beginnings we can now embrace an earnest *Fresh Start Outlook*.

We displayed this today with glitter-glue, crayons, and the squeak of many markers at work. If we all shoot for the moon, we know if we miss we will still land on the stars. Our PEP brothers are always there



what was to be our "coat of arms" or our standard—what we wish to embody.

The occasion was full of laughter and memorable experiences as our classmates settled down with smiling faces to

been some time since any of us have created or did any sort of coloring. The smiling faces were abundant. Some guys even took the opportunity to embellish on some characteristics unknown to them for many years. Many thought it would be entertaining to don these different character traits. Oh, what a blessing it is to see that these many men have many dreams! Others adopted a protective stance to defend the values they so preciously have and desire. They did this by wielding gallant swords and decorative shields. Some even had exoskeletons as their defense by brandishing the protection of sturdy armor.



to support us and we appreciate the path laid. The time that we enjoyed with our class, their smiling faces and endless laughter hangs there on the walls in PEP. It reminds us of the importance of our



begin their as-

The humor and fun of the entire occasion seemed to rise a notch when the glitter glue was introduced to the experience. It added to the creativity factor. The various color schemes and creations mimicked the variety of personalities that make up the *Spring '17* class. We displayed motivational and inspirational quotes, adjectives and positive phrases that outlined the pictures, and all were optimistic about our experience and journey.

signments. The idea was for us to develop a vision of our internal and external characteristics. These creations encompass what we truly desire to become. It's important for us to understand who we are as individuals and our desired behavior in this next phase of our journey.

It's invigorating and fulfilling for us to have the opportunity to tap into those long-lost childlike mannerisms. It's

These displays should provide insight and be a daily reminder to us. As we pass those pictures on the wall that embody our morals and values it's impossible to diminish their importance. It's a true exhibition of our journey and as our



journey and also to have a blast doing it. Cheers to fun gentlemen!

