

GOLDEN GATE TO SUCCESS

(Installation of International President 1982-83, Renee Peterson)

The longest part of any journey is said to be the passing of the Gate. And the "Golden Gate to Success" is an appropriate theme for your new officers. They now approach the Gate for their journey through the next year and that journey will be a success as they cross the bridge. The bridge that spans our membership. A bridge must be strong enough to carry the tremendous weight, wide enough to allow freedom of movement, smooth enough for easy passage, and high enough to allow no interference with moves below.

Can you see the similarity? Strong officers to carry the tremendous weight of leadership. Wide enough to span the entire North American Continent. Smooth enough for free flow of information to and from each member. High enough not to interfere with the regular activities of each member, club and district.

Since early man first placed a tree trunk across a stream to get to the other side, mankind had endeavored to tackle the problems of the bridge. Problems such as your officers will also tackle. How wide is the water to be spanned? Can a firm foundation be built? Will the currents, winds, tides, and storms weaken the piers. Are the approaches to the bridge free from obstruction? One weak part in any bridge can wreck the entire structure. Heat can expand and cold can contract, wind can set it in motion. It is high enough to allow traffic to move freely below?

Your officers will provide the solution to these problems. For they will span this next year as the "Golden Gate Bridge" spans San Francisco Bay. The Golden Gate Bridge that your new President has an opportunity to see daily (or frequently). It will serve as a constant reminder to her/him from this day forward. As the champion of all bridges, this huge suspension bridge, completed in 1937 at a cost of \$35 million dollars, has a span of 42,000 feet between its main towers and clears high water by 220 feet.

The Golden Gate is a narrow break in a long chain of mountains down the coast of California. Only two miles at its widest and four miles long, it leads from the Pacific Ocean to the great land locked harbor of San Francisco Bay. The city lies on the hill studded peninsula from the south looking over the ocean or across the bay to Oakland, or the rocky forested hill of Marin Peninsula. The warm winds from the ocean are cooled by the ocean currents off San Francisco and often condense into the thin gray fogs. These same winds give the city its cool even climate.

The magic of the city is compounded by sea, fog, and mountains...mountains of memories. Memories of gold rush days, Telegraph Hill, The Embarcadero, Fishermans Wharf, Nob Hill, and the great earthquake. With a continent behind it and the Orient Trade ahead, it became a great seaport, drawing to it peoples of many nations. Stumbled upon in 1769 by Don Gasper DePortola, the city was named after St. Francis, the patron Saint of expedition. In 1776, the little Spanish settlement was called Yerba Buena meaning "Good Grass" before it was changed to San Francisco in 1847.

Just as the bridge spans the bay and opens the gate to International Trade, your officers will span the "Golden Gate to Success." And since success is a journey and not a destination our bridge will always be bustling with activity. These officers will bridge the gap in our education from the unknown to the knowledgeable. They will attempt to bridge the spaces on our membership by recruiting new members. They will bridge the gaps between our cities by organizing new clubs. You too, can be a part of that bridge by having a strong club, good programs, interesting speakers, well organized activities. What better way to keep your present members and obtain new ones than to provide something for which your members can show a gain. That net gain is immeasurable in education, friendship, opportunity, competence, conference, and memories.

On the other side of our balance sheet are the necessary requirements; the sincerity, personal integrity, humility, courtesy, wisdom and charity which are necessary to be good members. Each of your officers has demonstrated these

assets and we are confident you the members will assist them to span this next year. Your members will provide the tides and currents, the weather and storms, atmosphere and temperature, and will provide the foundation on which our bridge will stand.

The District Presidents are the primary supports of our bridge. (They assemble to provide a base.) These District Officers will be the base that supports your International Corp of Officers. They are the struts, the pillings, and piers of our bridge. They will bear the weight of most of the activity on our bridge and without them we would not be able to move freely among our members.

The Treasurer will be responsible for the funds of our organization. She/he is the toll collector on our bridge and is responsible for the economy of Credit Professionals International very much like the Golden Gate Bridge assists the economy of San Francisco by allowing people to move freely across the bay.

The Secretary is responsible for the history of our Golden Gate Group. The minutes of each meeting and executive board meetings become the route by which we have come and assist in giving some direction to where we are going. Just as no bridge would be complete without the access road leading to and from.

The Third Vice President serves as membership chairman and must be constantly on the watch for new members. The members are the foundation of our organization and therefore the foundation of our bridge. On the membership chairman, rests the duty of erecting a strong foothold. For if the ground below is not firm, our bridge could topple.

The Second Vice President must span the gap in our education. Take us from little or no knowledge to educated, learned, and talented members. Teach us and bring greater levels of understanding. Help us to come out of the fog that surrounds our bridge and bring the sun to shine on our Golden Gate.

The First Vice President must stand ready to keep our bridge strong in the event the President is unable to lead. As extension Chairman, you are the engineer who must seek new avenues in which to organize. Explore the areas that are untouched to see if new clubs can be organized, always endeavoring to strengthen the bridge of Credit Professionals International.

The President is by far the most important part of our structure. For a bridge without attention soon falls to ruin and disrepair. Yours is the task of leading! And leadership requires a rare combination of strength, humility, impartial judgement, inspiration, initiative, fortitude, and Faith, Vision, and Courage that our creed so aptly vows we must maintain. But no President can be any better than the group to be led. You the members must provide the challenge, the invitation to lead, the cooperation necessary to be effective.

Do you the members pledge yourselves to aid and assist these officers? If so please stand and recite with me the creed.

Officers, you have heard the pledge of these members. They have agreed to serve you and they have shown their confidence in you by electing you to your respective offices. Now you must pledge yourselves. Join Hands Please. Do you agree to lead us?

The golden gate, how proud it stands
These officers by connecting hands
Have pledged themselves to serve and lead
You the members must take heed
For this year begins with success in mind,
A year from now we hope to find;
Credit Professionals International on that date
With success surrounding our golden gate.

Congratulations to you, the new officers and with our applause, we extend our very best wishes.