

# Masonic Protocol, Etiquette, & Decorum

Presented by:  
Cody Cockroft, PM  
District Deputy Grand Master for Masonic District #108  
MWSA 108 President



# Masonic Protocol: Understanding Etiquette & Decorum



## **Protocol:**

Code of Conduct or behavior prescribed for the Fraternity as a whole



## **Etiquette:**

Set of norms and conventions governing conduct or behavior among Lodge members



## **Decorum:**

Dignified propriety of social behavior, speech, dress, etc.

# Duty of Worshipful Master & His Resources



## The Worshipful Master is Responsible for Lodge Etiquette:

- Ensure that no person, behavior, or act jeopardizes the Charter
- Instill Order and Dignified Behavior
  - ❖ Reprove all disturbances quietly, promptly, without personal feelings

## The Worshipful Master's Resources:

- Monitor of the Lodge
- Grand Lodge Constitutions and Law Book
- Past Masters
- District Service Team (headed by DDGM)
- Committee on Work and Committee on Masonic Education
- Written Resource Material (plethora available)

# Guidelines

## Grand Master

- Every Mason should maintain a respectful attitude, not for the man in the high office, but for the maintenance of the supreme importance of the office
- Proper Address (man to man): "Most Worshipful"
- Proper Address (received in Lodge): "Most Worshipful [Full Name], Grand Master of Masons in Texas"
- No discussions after Grand Master's message

## District Deputy Grand Master

- Personal representative of the Grand Master
- Not required to communicate a visit in advance (but is good practice)
- Official Visits:
  - ❖ Received by two escorts, presented at altar, private Grand Honors rendered, conducted to the East, tendered the gavel (thus the Lodge is symbolically in his charge)
  - ❖ Question: Why is there no talking after the DDGM prepared remarks?

## Past Masters

- In many societies, an office holder reverts to the same status at the end of his term. Masonry is different! Past Masters have:
  - ❖ A standing in Masonic Law, Members of Grand Lodge, Same Rules of Etiquette and Respect From Members to Worshipful Master



# Titles



## Past Grand Master

"Right Worshipful"

Right Worshipful [Full Name], Grand Master of Masons in the year 20xx

- Do not fall into the trap of saying: Right Worshipful [Full Name], Past Grand Master in the year 20xx!



## Members of Committee on Work

"Right Worshipful"



## Previous/Former District Deputy Grand Master

"Former District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District No. \_\_\_\_"

•Do not fall into the trap of saying: "Right Worshipful" or "Past District Deputy Grand Master"



# Non-Masons at Masonic Functions



- Three Rules:
  - Non-masons should not be asked to participate in any ceremonies or rituals
  - Non-masons are guests; Masons are hosts; therefore
    - ❖ Guest – Host relationship should be observed
  - Esoteric etiquette should never be employed before non-masons
    - ❖ Did you know the Bible Presentation is not Esoteric?

# Additional Protocol and Etiquette



## Lodge Officer

Officer represents the properties of the office (not the person)

Is a reflection of the Lodge

## Addressing a Brother

When at Lodge he is a brother (not just a person).

Address as "Brother [Surname]"

## Addressing the Lodge

Rise and wait to be addressed

- ❖ "Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren"
- ❖ Worshipful Master, Most Worshipful Sir, Right Worshipful Sir(s), Wardens and Brethren

Always Speak to the East

If you desire to speak with a Brother, request permission from the Worshipful Master

# Additional Protocol and Etiquette Continued



## Prayers

- Never should they be of sectarian views or dogmatic creeds

## Altar and the East

- Courtesy offered to the Worshipful Master: DO NOT PASS BETWEEN THE ALTAR AND THE EAST. Traditionally, his light should never be interrupted

## Entering and Retiring During Meetings

- No one should ever enter or retire from/to the Preparation/Anteroom  
Upon entering, approach the altar (per protocol of Tiler and Junior Deacon), give the sign and allow the Worshipful Master to acknowledge the salute  
Upon leaving, approach the altar and give the sign. Worshipful Master may be engaged in other business and may not reciprocate the sign.



# Additional Protocol and Etiquette Continued



## Appearance

- Don't take advantage of the "internal not the external qualifications....."
- ❖ Dress in attire that is fitting for the occasion. This shows respect to the Craft, Lodge and brothers (and visitors). Attending Lodge and its' works is a SOLEMN occasion.

## Lambskin or White Leather Apron

- Should never be covered by any form of attire
- Should be put on prior to entering the Lodge room

# Balloting and Examinations



## The Ballot

- It is significant and consequential and solemn
- Official act by each member and by the legal body of the Lodge
- Complete silence
- Ends when the Worshipful Master declares the results, restoration of the Ballot Box and the return of the participating officers to their places

## Examinations

- Committee is appointed by the Worshipful Master (usually chaired by the Senior Deacon and accompanied by two qualified brethren)
  - Only purpose: satisfy themselves that the visitor is or is not a Mason of a Regular Lodge.
  - Tiler's Oath should be used
  - Examinee has the right to verify if your Lodge is a Regular Lodge (asks to see the Charter)
- Texas Masons, at the discretion of the Worshipful Master, may be admitted without examination if they produce a current dues card and photo i.d. as per Article 380.

# Additional Protocol and Etiquette Continued



## Preparation Room

Sanctuary for Candidate and Officers preparing him. Shall be private.

Preparing officers shall act with dignity

- No foolishness; no foreshadowing of the degree
- “that which is not permissible among gentlemen, should be impossible among Masons”
- Follow the Monitor



## Conferral of Degrees

Etiquette is STRICT: no talking, whispering or any disturbance (like movement)

Preparation for degree should be before the degree – not improvised during the degree



## Grand Officer Titles

### Most Worshipful Grand Master

- Right Worshipful
  - Deputy Grand Master
  - Grand Senior Warden
  - Grand Junior Warden
  - Grand Treasurer
  - Grand Secretary
  - Grand Chaplain
  - Grand Orator
  - Grand Marshal
- Worshipful
  - Grand Senior Deacon
  - Grand Junior Deacon
  - Grand Senior Steward
  - Grand Junior Steward
  - Grand Pursuivant
  - Grand Musician
  - Grand Photographer
  - Grand Tiler