



Ensuring the Timeless Vitality of Freemasonry in Ontario

PROTOCOL & ETIQUETTE ESSENTIALS

Prepared by the Grand Lodge P. & E. Committee

Issue No. 38 – May 2016

Greetings from Your P. & E. Committee

Welcome to the May issue of “*P&E Essentials*”. These informative and easy-to-read educational newsletters are typically published three or four times a year, normally between January and late spring. Our thanks are extended to those brethren who have let us know they found past issues helpful and who have encouraged us to continue publishing them.

“*P&E Essentials*” is intended to be an interactive instrument, designed to help you make an advancement in Masonic knowledge. It will hopefully also assist you to achieve high quality in the delivery, comprehension and insight of the lessons communicated on the floor of the lodge. The Committee welcomes questions and/or suggestions for topics that could be addressed in future issues. Questions or suggestions not related to Protocol and Etiquette will be forwarded to the appropriate Grand Lodge Committee for response.

Committee Members

The current Protocol & Etiquette Committee members are:

Gordon Crutcher (*Chairman*); Howard Adams; Art DiCecco (*Team Leader*); Saliem Khoury; Michael Litvak; George McCowan; Bryan Middleton; James Pearson; George Pohle; Kennard Pratt; David Purvis (*Secretary*); and David Stevens.

With appropriate advance notice – and subject to travel constraints – any member of the Committee would be happy to make a presentation about P&E in your Lodge, or at a District Meeting.

PROPER ETIQUETTE WHILE “O CANADA” IS BEING SUNG

In this Grand Jurisdiction, Masonic events typically conclude with the singing of our National Anthem, “O Canada.” Brethren are reminded that the proper

etiquette to follow while this is taking place is to **stand motionless** on the floor of the lodge, **facing the Canadian flag**. If you choose not to participate in the singing, **do not talk or interact** with others.

As good citizens of the world, Freemasons should remember all National flags – and National Anthems – are important symbols deserving of our respect.

Just as importantly, whatever your personal feelings about such a gesture may be, if you do not stand quietly while a National Anthem is being sung, you are disrespecting those who do believe in showing proper etiquette.

The Canadian flag is the ultimate symbol of the values of peace, democracy, freedom and justice that define and unite us as Canadians.

Our flag symbolizes everything about the proud history and traditions of this nation and, in particular, the men and women who fought and died for this country to preserve the freedom we all enjoy. Show your pride to be a Canadian and thereby set an example for others to emulate.

CONGRATULATING THE CANDIDATE

Q: Is it proper for a brother to congratulate the candidate after he has completed his assigned floor work?

A: No, this opportunity is typically afforded to all the brethren once the entire degree has been completed, (e.g. by everyone applauding, at the direction of the WM).

Consider this – what if the W.M. conducted the entire

Please share this newsletter with other members of your Lodge – and your Masonic friends

degree by himself. Would he shake the candidate's hand after completing each section of the floor work? Of course not.

Also, why should only a handful of brethren, (i.e. those who have been assigned some work), have the opportunity of congratulating the candidate during the degree while the remainder of the brethren do not?

Interestingly, the Grand Lodge of Idaho specifically prohibits anyone shaking the hand of a candidate either prior to delivering a lecture to him, or immediately after.

STEP UP NIGHT

Many of our lodges hold a "step up" night every year, at which officers demonstrate their readiness to assume a higher office in the following year, should they be so elected or appointed. There are some general instructions to follow, pertaining to a "step up" night, on pages 10-11 of the *Questions and Answers* booklet, (2013 edition), namely:

21. Q. On a "step up" night, who returns the salutes?

A. Only the Worshipful Master, or an Installed Master who has taken the gavel, returns salutes.

22. Q. On a "step up" night, does the Senior Warden take possession of, and make use of, the gavel?

A. No. The gavel is presented to the Worshipful Master during the Installation Ceremony, and can only be given (in the proper form) to an Installed Master. During "step up" night, the gavel remains in the hands of the Worshipful Master, who continues to rule the lodge. The Worshipful Master will provide all the knocks at the appropriate time.

23. Q. Where does the Master Elect sit on a "step up" night?

A. When proving his proficiency on a "step up" night, the Master Elect sits in a chair positioned on the level, in front of the Worshipful Master, in the E.

He does not sit in any chair on the dias.

24. Q. On "step up" night, can the Master Elect remain seated and stand with the Worshipful Master during the Openings and Closings?

A. The answer is NO. The only brethren who have

been conferred with the power to sit and rise with the Worshipful Master are those Grand Lodge Officers who – by their rank – are automatically entitled to assume the gavel in lodge, namely:

- The Grand Master;
- A Past Grand Master;
- The Deputy Grand Master;
- The District Deputy Grand Master (but only in his own District).

In addition to the information in the Q&A booklet, you should also be aware of a decision by the Ritual Committee that was made subsequent to that booklet being published.

It is their decision that when the lodge is being closed in the Third Degree on a "step up" night, the Worshipful Master must step down to the floor and the wands must be crossed over him, (not the Master Elect). It is the W.M. who must accept the C.S.s, T.s and W.s from the S.W. under the wands. The W.M. is also the one to make the declaration found on page 30 of the *Book of the Work* (2013).

This response is in line with our other practises, such as restricting the use of a gavel in the East and sitting in the WM's chair to an Installed Master, and permitting only an Installed Master to administer an obligation, (as per Section 242 of the Constitution). It also conforms to the actual words spoken on page 30, namely that ". . . I, as the W.M. of this [], and thereby the humble representative of . . ."

ADJUSTING THE WORKING TOOLS

The brethren are reminded that the W.Ts. are displayed when the WM declares the lodge Open and are covered when the SW declares the lodge Closed. (Note how this differs from when the IPM leaves the E. to adjust the G.Ls.)

Neither of the Wardens, nor the IPM, nor the IG, should pause in their ritual to wait for the SS to finish adjusting the W.Ts. The ritual brings forth a nice cadence with all these respective pronouncements. The natural flow and beauty of the ritual should not be interrupted by a pause.

IMPORTANT: Follow the instructions in paragraph #7 on page 5 of the 2014 edition of the *Guidelines for Lodge Officers in The Mechanics of The Work*".

Changed your e-mail address in the past few months? Please send your new one to: Gordon@Crutcher.ca