



PROTOCOL & ETIQUETTE ESSENTIALS

Prepared by the Grand Lodge P. & E. Committee
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Greetings from Your P. & E. Committee

Welcome to the latest issue of “**P&E Essentials**”. It is anticipated that these informative and easy-to-read newsletters will be published several times a year.

“**P&E Essentials**” is intended to be an interactive instrument, designed to help you make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge. 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*); Steven Armstrong; William Elliott; Saliem Khoury; Michael Litvak; George McCowan; Bryan Middleton; Richard Morreau; James Pearson; George Pohle; David Purvis (*Secretary*); Brian Seabourn; David Stevens; and Terrance Van Horne.

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.

THE GRAND HONOURS

“The custom of applauding may be as old and as widespread as humanity, and the variety of its forms is limited only by the capacity for devising means of making a noise (e.g., stomping of feet or rapping of fists or hands on a table). Within each culture, however, it is usually subject to conventions.” (*Wikipedia*)

It is most definitely a learned behaviour.

Highest of the salutary honors in Freemasonry are the Grand honors. They can be an expression of our respect and veneration to the recipient, or to the office which he represents.

By these particular acts and gestures, we express our homage, our joy – and our grief – on memorable occasions. (*The Funeral Honours are a derivation and a special form of the Grand Honours.*)

The Grand Honours of Freemasonry have been preserved unchanged for centuries. Their use today is as carefully guarded and regulated by specific rules as was the case by our ancients. Just as the Romans before us had their own set of rules.

It is important, therefore, that the Grand Honours be carried out properly, in order to convey and maintain the special meaning which they hold.

The Grand Honours consist of a series of movements. These movements are repeated a set number of times, according to a “Code” which is outlined in Section 15 of our Constitution. (Section 15 also describes WHO is entitled to receive the Grand Honours and, in part, WHEN.)

FIRST SET OF MOVEMENTS

There are three components to the first set of movements.

You begin by standing with your hands at your sides. First, slap your thighs with the palms of your hands.



The second component is to cross your arms on your breast – with your left arm over your right. (*Hint: if you dropped your R.H. a little, you would be at the S. of F.*)

Now, strike your **SHOULDERS** with your palms, (with your elbows pointing down, touching your chest).

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



The third component in this series is to raise your hands over your head. Clap your palms together, then return your hands to your sides. **ONLY STRIKE YOUR THIGHS AGAIN IF THE ABOVE MOVEMENTS ARE TO BE REPEATED!**



Repeat this series of movements (according to the "Code"), until they have been given a total of 3, 5, 7, or 9 times.

SECOND SET OF MOVEMENTS

With your right palm over your left (*Hint: think of the H.S.*), give some smart claps for the same number of

times as in the first series of movements (i.e. for 3, 5, 7, or 9 times).



THIRD SET OF MOVEMENTS

Now, with your left palm over your right, give some smart claps for the same number of times as in the first series of movements (i.e. for 3, 5, 7, or 9 times).

FINAL SET OF MOVEMENTS

- Whether the Grand Honours have been given 3, 5, 7, or 9 times, the final set of movements is always exactly the same.
- Give one smart clap with the right palm on the left palm. (*Hint: think of the H.S. position.*)
- Then give one smart clap with the left palm on the right palm.
- End with one smart clap with the right palm on the left palm again. (*Hint: think of the H.S. position.*)

THE FUNERAL HONOURS

It should be noted that, **unlike the Grand Honours**, the Funeral Honours can be accorded to **ANY** departed Mason, whatever his rank may have been.

For an excellent article about the Grand Honours, see page 4 of "The Ashlar" (Vol 17, No. 1, Feb. 2010), published by The Masonic Association of Frontenac District. The article is entitled "*The Grandness of 'The Grand Honours'*", by Ian Troyer, Wayne Anderson, and Ed Peters, - all Fellows of the College of Freemasonry.

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