

**MASONIC
PROTOCOL/ETIQUETTE
GUIDANCE**





Poor Masonic Protocol/Etiquette can ruin a Masonic Event or Meeting

The following provides guidance on Masonic
Protocol/Etiquette

In the Lodge

- * All Brethren should arrive punctually and be properly clothed BEFORE entering the Lodge.
- * All cell phones should be off and hidden. Should a Brother be “on call”, it is required that it be on vibrate mode. Should an “on call” Brother receive a message, it is required that he stand, salute the Worshipful Master and asked to be excused so that he can take the call OUTSIDE the Lodge.
- * The only Brethren that can have rituals open in Lodge are the Director of Ceremonies and the Worshipful Master. If a Brother requires a prompt, it should come from the Director of Ceremonies or his designate.
- * Roberts Rules of Order should be followed when conducting Lodge business. The Worshipful Master should be well skilled in them and, therefore, ensure they are followed

In the Lodge

- * Alberta Lodges are called “Craft Lodges”. The term “Blue Lodge” is colloquial and should not be used.
- * The presiding officer of a Lodge is called “Worshipful Master”. The title “sitting master” is improper and to be avoided.
- * Lodge members are to be called “Brethren” rather than “Brothers”.
- * Lodge officers who are also Past Masters are to be addressed as “Brother Secretary” and not as “W.Bro. Secretary” or “Brother Director of Ceremonies” and not as “RW. Bro. Director of Ceremonies”. It is the office being addressed, not the title of the officer holder. There are only two “Worshipful” officers in a Lodge, the W.M. and the I.P.M

In the Lodge

- * In Alberta and NWT jurisdiction, the apron should be worn outside the jacket. Exceptions are “tails” and “morning jackets” where it can be worn under the jacket. Exceptions should be allowed for visitors from another jurisdiction whose custom is to wear it under their jacket (ie Grand Lodge of Scotland)
- * Grand Lodge officers are always invited to seats in the East. This courtesy can also be extended to visiting Worshipful Masters.
- * Those visitors who are entitled to take over the Chair of Worshipful Master are the Grand Master, Past Grand Masters, Deputy Grand Master or District Deputy Grand Master of the District and should be invited to the East to assume the gavel.
- * The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master or District Deputy Grand Master should be invited to address the Lodge just before closing. No one speaks after him except the Worshipful Master with his expression of gratitude.

Balloting Protocol

- * When the ballot box is on the Altar, all Lodge members, when approaching the Altar, should make the sign before balloting.
- * All visitors in attendance at a Lodge during formal balloting, shall rise in turn, in their places, salute the Worshipful Master and, then, re-seat themselves upon being recognized by the Worshipful Master.
- * The results of the ballot are to be secret. No one is to know how many white or black votes were received.
- * The Wardens and the Master only report whether the ballot was favourable. Should the ballot be unfavourable (ie two black balls), the Worshipful Master shall, BEFORE ASKING THE WARDENS, declare the ballot destroyed and order a “re-ballot”.

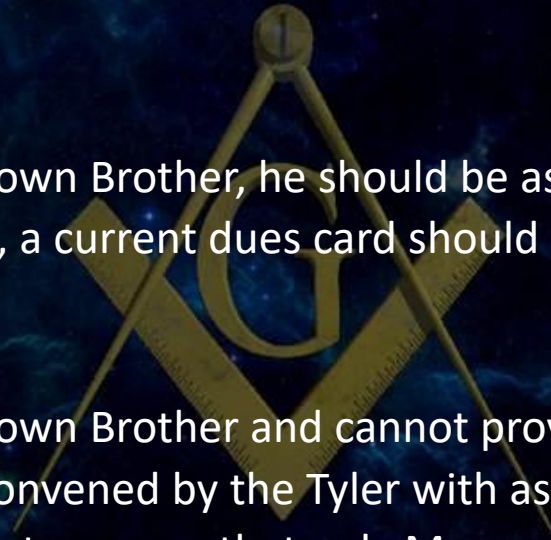
Etiquette Regarding Candidates

- * Candidate sponsors should be prepared to deliver the candidate to Lodge. While on the way, the sponsors should emphasize that nothing embarrassing or demeaning will occur.
- * The Tyler/Outer Guard should greet the candidate in the “anteroom” and re-assure him that nothing embarrassing or demeaning will happen to him.
- * The Tyler/Outer Guard should ensure that proper decorum is maintained in the anteroom



Admission of Visitors

- * If a visitor is a well-known Brother, he should be welcomed by the Tyler or another Officer of the Lodge
- * If a visitor is not a well-known Brother, he should be asked politely to provide proof of being a Mason. Usually, a current dues card should be sufficient
- * If a visitor is not a well-known Brother and cannot provide a current dues card, a Board of Trial should be convened by the Tyler with assistance from other Lodge Officers. A Board of Trial is to ensure that only Masons are allowed in the Lodge Room



Acknowledgements

The above “Protocol/Etiquettes” were extracted from “Masonic Etiquettes” authored by WBro. Harry J. Noble (Britannia Lodge #18 GRA, Ponoka, Alberta) published in March 1994 and republished in March 2008

A complete copy of “Masonic Etiquettes” is available through the Beacon Lodge #190 website

Contact Brian Shimmons (bws195@telus.net) for details on retrieving the booklet