

Ask Hiram

Who are the "Stationed Officers" of the Lodge?

They are the Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens.

Our Lodge is doing a degree tonight. The Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens have to work. Who should sit in the East?

No one! The Lodge cannot be opened or stand open without the presence of at least one of its stationed officers.

So, you are saying that the Worshipful Master cannot stop by, open the Lodge, and then go to work while the rest of us finish the Degree?

That is correct. One of your stationed officers must be in the Lodge at all times when it is open. (*There is an exception for Masonic Memorial Services.*)

Can I list the name of a Fellowcraft on an invitation or program for a fellowship night?

No. The names of Petitioners, Candidates, Entered Apprentices, and Fellowcrafts should not be listed in print (i.e., in a Lodge Trestle Board or newsletter, event program or invitation). Only the names of your members, i.e. Master Masons should be listed.

The question came up, can I/we add the "Closing Charge" to the end of the "Public Installation of Lodge Officer?"

The answer would be no. You may not change any of our ritual, written or otherwise. The "Manual of Ceremonies" contains some written ritual so that we may practice that ritual and keep it standardized from Lodge to Lodge and from generation to generation.

Why is the "Mentoring a New Brother" program a good idea?

Simply put, it is for our survival. Remember, "Mentoring" is a life-long commitment to our fellow Brethren, its duties *NEVER* end. We need to mentor all of our Brethren, from the youngest Entered Apprentice to the oldest and wisest Master Mason. Mentoring should start before the petitioner places his signature on the Petition to receive the Degrees in Freemasonry and continue with the investigating committee and throughout the Brothers lifetime.

My question to each Brother: "How can we afford not to Mentor our fellow Brethren, Youth, Families, Widows and Orphans?"

Mentoring is a DUTY and an OBLIGATION assigned to EACH person and to EACH Lodge.

Charity and Love to me are synonymous terms, but I also believe that "Mentoring, Charity, and Love" are synonymous terms. That being the case, we were obligated to "Mentor" each other long before we knelt at the Altar. The Supreme Architect of the Universe instructed us all to "Mentor" one another in that "Great Book of Nature and of Revelation, which is our Spiritual, Moral, and Masonic Trestle Board." We have no other Trestle Board; it is the one that stands open upon the Altar.

I Heard that we should only say "So Mote It Be" when it is a part of a prescribed ritual prayer. Is that true?

Yes. Several issues ago, I wrote the same response and listed the only places where it was to be used. "So Mote It Be" is NOT to be used at any other time than that in which our ritual prescribes it. You have all

been doing a very good job of changing your habits. As of late, I very seldom hear someone slip and say "So Mote It Be" except where prescribed in the ritual (i.e., you would end a prayer at the open dinner for the reception of the Grand Master with "Amen" and NOT "So Mote It Be).

When do I wear the jewel of the office to which I occupy?

I have addressed this issue previously, but since there remains confusion, I will address it again.

You always wear the apron of the office to which you were elected or appointed. You always wear the jewel of the office which you are currently occupying.

For example; if you are the Senior Warden of your Lodge, and you occupy the East, you wear the apron of the Senior Warden and the Jewel of the Worshipful Master.

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