

So you want to be a Junior Deacon?

Here are a few things you should know

THE BASICS

According to Constitution and Code (C&C): Section U 215

- A. To convey messages of the Senior Warden in the active duties of the Lodge.
- B. To have special care as to the security of the Lodge.

LEARN THE RITUAL

This position is critical in the performance of the ritual of the Lodge, both Stated and Special. You are the inner most guard. It is your responsibility, along with the Senior Deacon and the Tyler, to insure that no one enters the Lodge who cannot be vouched for and is properly attired. Your professional and respectful handling of the opening and closing of the Lodge have a major impact in how the Brethren perceive the significance of the ceremony. Do not cheapen or devalue the importance of this act. If you do, you disrespect your position and to a greater extent Masonry as a whole.

In addition to the ritual for your office (and the ritual for your subordinates), you should learn the ritual for the Senior Deacon and Junior Warden during the opening and closing of the Lodge on each Degree, and the ritual for the conduction of business during a Stated Meeting. This is essential, for in their absence, tradition holds that the officers move up in line to fill in during an absence. Learning this ritual in advance of your promotion to that station or place will be invaluable in the following years.

The Ninth Class

Between the first and second section of the Master Mason's degree, it will be your responsibility to prepare the Lodge. This is called the Ninth Class. It is called the Ninth Class in reference to the third lecture of the Master Mason degree. You will need to place the sprig of acacia on the south side of the Senior Warden's podium. Place the spade by stepping off six feet from the bottom step of the Senior Warden's platform, turn ninety degrees towards the south and stand the spade in front of the row of chairs. The canvas should be placed behind the Senior Steward's chair. The Setting Maul should be set in the 1st chair west of the Senior Deacon to hold that chair for the Junior Steward. You will also need to insure that the jewel of Grand Master Hiram along with a blindfold is placed on the right side of the altar.

Attendance

As an officer you will be expected to be at everything, every time. You should plan to be in Lodge every Monday and Tuesday night for practice or a Special or Stated Communication. You should plan to work at every fundraiser. You should plan to be in attendance at every special function like Fifty Year Pin ceremonies, Widows & Wives Appreciation, Past Master's Dinner, and so forth. You should plan to attend all officer meetings, district meetings and district schools. Yes, you should plan to be at Lodge, or wherever required, each and every time that the doors are open. Is this a realistic expectation? No, but you should do your best to make these things a priority in your scheduling. As an officer you took an additional obligation when you were installed into office, obligating yourself to higher action than a non-officer. Keep your Lodge and/or Masonic calendar handy at all times, so as to reduce the possibility of scheduling conflicts.

REFRESHMENTS

It is your responsibility to act as back-up to the Stewards should additional kitchen staff be needed. Report to the Junior Warden each time you arrive to see if you can be of assistance. Even though you may have served your time as Steward, your duty lies to the service of the Fraternity. Any officer, who feels that he is above serving his Brethren, has no place in the line of Officers. Being an Officer is not to lead, but to serve.

Senior Warden's Page

To carry messages from the Senior Warden is not just so much language but an actual responsibility. In former times, during the course of a meeting, if the Senior Warden wanted to pass along a message or convey an order from the Master, he would relay it via the Junior Deacon. Report to the Senior Warden before each meeting to see if there is any manner in which you may be of service. You will serve as his page, which is signified by your chair being placed to his right, in the West, which is his domain.

HAVE FUN