

So you want to be a Junior Warden?

Here are a few things you should know

THE BASICS

According to Constitution and Code (C&C): Section U 211

- A. To succeed to and exercise all the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Master in the event of the absence, death, removal from jurisdiction of the Lodge, or inability from any other cause of the Master and Senior Warden.
- B. To represent the Lodge at the annual communications of the Grand Lodge.
- C. To take charge of the craft during hours of refreshment.
- D. To perform all duties as specified in Trial Code. (Note: These duties pertain to you preparing and presenting to the Lodge charges and specifications against the Mason complained of.)

WORK ON YOUR LINE!!!

Yes, it will be two years before you are in the East, but it is never too early to start keeping an eye out for potential Lodge officers. Remember, in order to be an officer, they must have completed their Master Mason proficiency, so that alone can limit your options. Since you do have two years, you should have plenty of time to get them proficient and able to serve.

The Senior Warden should, but is not required to, consult you concerning the creation of his line. You may need to reach out to him and broach the subject, because you will be inheriting whatever he leaves behind. While it is true that the appointed positions are at your discretion, to drop or jump a Brother who is in line and is performing his duty is generally considered to be in bad form, fairly insulting to the Brother, and not very Masonic behavior.

LEARN THE RITUAL

Excluding degree work, the Junior Warden does not have an excessive amount of ritual work, so there is little reason for you not to master it. Once you have, then you should learn your station in each degree.

COMMITTEES

There are standing committees of the Lodge which by C&C you are bound to serve upon; Board of Trustees, Finance Committee, and the Charity Committee. Our Lodge has elected to fill the Board of Trustees from the Lodge floor as allowed by C&C, however according to our by-laws

you will act as an advisor to the Board of Trustees. Our By-Laws also allow for the Worshipful Master to appoint the Charity and Finance committees, but you should be prepared to serve on these regardless.

YOU ARE EVERYWHERE

Just like the Master is responsible for everything, you too 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, district schools, as well as Grand Lodge Warden's training, and the Grand Lodge Communication. 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

This is truly your domain and your domain alone. While it is true that the Master is in charge of everything in the Lodge and his word can surpass yours in all matters, seldom should he ever have the need. In order to avoid this situation, it is prudent to consult the Master before invoking any policy concerning the Kitchen and Dining Hall usage. You will need to run rough shot over these areas as the other orders which utilize the Lodge also routinely use these areas. Things tend to mysteriously appear (especially in the fridge and freezer) and disappear (ice scoops, tongs, and do forth). The general policy concerning the kitchen is that if the other orders intend to leave food there (especially in the fridge or freezer) they should notify you. If they do not or they leave food, then it is fair game to be used or discarded as you see fit.

Symbolically, it is also his duty to make certain that the members do not convert their refreshment into intemperance or excess. This is a holdover from earlier days, which still remains as part of the Junior Warden's job description, even though in most U.S. jurisdictions, alcohol is barred from the lodge.

Are you the cook? NO. You are responsible to insure that refreshments are provided for our Fellowship meals (the meal before a Stated Meeting), Special Communications (Degrees), Fundraisers, and any other special function where appropriate. How do you do this? Well in many cases you will be stuck with the job, but you should not hesitate to tackle any slow moving Brother and twist his arm until he agrees to prepare a meal.

You do have help. The Senior and Junior Stewards are supposed to be your assistants. This is one reason that their chairs in Lodge are placed to the side of yours. You also have a second

line of help, the Deacons. Should the need arise; they should be willing to assist, as their duties so require. All Masons should come in the kitchen upon their arrival and inquire as to any need you have, however this will seldom ever happen. If they do come into the kitchen it will typically only be to get a cup of coffee or ask what's cooking. Do not hesitate to commandeer one or more of them. You may need to remind them that the Junior Warden is in charge of the craft while at refreshment, however this will likely only cause laughter, but is worth a shot.

HAVE FUN