

So you want to be a Steward?

Here are a few things you should know

THE BASICS

According to Constitution and Code (C&C): Section U 216

A. To have charge, subject to the direct order of the Master, of the furniture, jewels, and other paraphernalia of the Lodge.

B. To give special care to the cleanliness of the hall and anterooms.

LEARN THE RITUAL

This position is critical in the performance of the ritual of the Lodge. You are the escort for the candidate in each of the degrees. Your professional and respectful handling of the candidate and the precision by which both Stewards conduct themselves in performance of the ritual will 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 Deacon 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.

Lodge Paraphernalia

It is your task to set up, and tear down after, the Lodge room for the appropriate meeting type, be it Stated (Business), Special (Degree), or other. You are responsible for the care and maintenance of the various items used to conduct our meetings and rituals.

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 assist in the set-up of the dining hall prior to refreshment being served. Additionally, it will be your task to assist/lead in the preparation of refreshment, as well as its serving to the Brethren. Following the refreshment, you will be expected to assist in the cleaning of the kitchen and dining hall. Report to the Junior Warden each time you arrive to see if you can be of assistance. Although the Master is in charge of every aspect of the Lodge, you report directly to the Junior Warden, which is signified by the placement of your chair on either side of his station. 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.

HAVE FUN