

# So you want to be a Tyler?

Here are a few things you should know

## **THE BASICS**

According to Constitution and Code (C&C): Section U 217

- A. To tyle the Lodge, subject to the direct order of the Master.
- B. To serve notices, summons, citations, etc. issued under the authority of the Master and the Lodge.

## **LEARN THE RITUAL**

This position is critical in the performance of the ritual of the Lodge. Your professional and respectful handling of the duty and the precision by which you perform 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, 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.

## **Outer Guard**

You are the outer guard of the Lodge room. It will be your duty to insure that no one enters the Lodge that you are unable to vouch for personally, or that you can confirm have been vouched for by a member of our Lodge that you know to be in good standing. Remember, that you must also insure that the entering Brother has obtained the right to sit in Lodge, based upon the degree level; Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, or Master Mason. Additionally, it will be your task to insure that the Brethren adhere to Myrtle Lodge policy concerning their manner of dress. If they do not, then you should request the Master's ruling. Make sure that each Brother, prior to entering the Lodge, has his apron in place, and in the proper manner for the level of his degree achievement.

## **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. 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**