

**M.:W.: Steven Adam Rubin
Grand Master**

**R.:W.: Harvey Reibel
District Deputy Grand Master**



Etiquette are the rules that prescribe how people should communicate with one another in a respectful manner. Being an organization where men gather, Freemasonry has its rules of etiquette. It is the responsibility of every Mason to familiarize himself with the rules governing Masonic etiquette. These rules include the following:

- 1. During communications, a Mason shall refrain from engaging in discussions with other Brethren. If any Mason has anything to say, he should direct his comments to the Worshipful Master.**
- 2. When addressing the Worshipful Master, a Mason must rise to his feet, give the sign, and address the Worshipful Master, retaining the sign until seated.**
- 3. A Mason shall refrain from passing between the Altar and the East while the Lodge is at Labor, except when required to do so by ritual.**
- 4. A Mason should always wear the Apron on the outside of a garment, except when wearing a formal cutaway (tails).**
- 5. A Mason shall refrain from engaging in any discussion of the ballot. Except for the Holy Bible, the ballot is the most sacred thing in the Lodge.**
- 6. A Mason should never allow personal spite to influence his behavior at the ballot box.**
- 7. A Mason shall always refer to a fellow Mason as "Brother."**
- 8. A Mason shall always address a Grand Lodge Officer at any Communication by his correct title.**
- 9. A Mason shall refrain from the use of the word "sir" in conjunction with any Masonic title.**
- 10. A Mason shall refrain from engaging in all sectarian discussion, all argument of statement pro or con, of a political, religious, theological, racial or private business nature.**

11. A Mason shall refrain from engaging in discussions of a petitioner, other than to read his petition and discuss the report of the Investigation Committee.

12. A Mason shall refrain from Informing how a Mason voted for a petitioner or influencing how other Masons should vote.

13. A Mason shall refrain from making any remarks that slur, impugn, or offend the Lodge or its Officers or the Fraternity itself.

14. When wishing to participate in a discussion in an open Lodge, a Mason shall rise, come to the Sign of Fidelity, wait to be recognized by the Worshipful Master to speak, thank the Worshipful Master for his recognition, and then speak on the subject at issue WITH THE FEWEST WORDS POSSIBLE.

15. A Mason shall refrain from using the privilege of the floor to deliver a speech merely for its own sake.

16. When an officer of the Lodge is required to wear formal attire, then all the officers should wear formal attire without exception.

17. A Mason should wear such attire as shows respect for the Brotherhood and expresses the dignity of Masonry.

18. Regarding the filling of vacant chairs, no Mason shall claim the "right" to be advanced to either an elected or appointed office. THERE IS NO ADVANCEMENT BY RIGHT. The filling of vacant chairs is the sole prerogative of the Worshipful Master.

19. A Mason shall refrain from imposing his private notions upon anything appertaining to the Ritual.

20. A Lodge shall not permit any member's name to be engraved upon the Ashlars, embroidered or printed on the dressings of the Altar, stamped or embossed upon the Holy Bible, or otherwise displayed in, or on, anything belonging to the Ritual and its exemplification.

21. At Lodge meetings, Grand Honors shall be ordered at the discretion of the Worshipful Master. In a Lodge communication, the Lodge shall give Grand Honors to the Grand Lodge officers if officially present as such and to Past Grand Lodge Officers at the Worshipful Master's discretion.

22. At Lodge meetings, Grand Honors shall (with certain exceptions) be led by the Master of the Lodge.

23. At Lodge meetings, Grand Honors shall not be followed by applause.

24. During a District Convention, the District Deputy Grand Master shall call the District Convention to order.

25. A Lodge Officer should attend his District Conventions.
26. A Mason shall refrain from recording degree work.
27. A Worshipful Master shall open his Lodge on time.
28. A Worshipful Master shall insist that his officers notify him in advance if they expect to be tardy or absent.
29. A Mason shall refrain from breaking into applause during the performance of ritual. Ritual work is NOT theatre, nor should it be treated as such.
30. A Mason shall not engage in levity during the performance of ritual.
31. A Mason shall refrain from discussing Ritual in public or advertise it or publish pictures of it.
32. A Mason shall give The Sign of Fidelity when addressing or being addressed by any officer of higher rank, either in the Ritual or during the transaction of any business in the Lodge.
33. If able to, a Mason shall be on his feet and at the Sign of Fidelity whenever the Lodge is at prayer; whenever the Senior Deacon attends at the Altar; and whenever the brethren form the Symbolic Lodge during an Obligation (except for the Worshipful Master, Master of Ceremonies, Stewards, Organists and candidates).
34. A Mason shall address the Grand Master as "Most Worshipful," Grand Officers as "Right Worshipful," and Masters and Past Masters as "Worshipful."
35. A Mason shall address wives and widows of Masons as "Sister."
36. A Mason shall treat visitors with courtesy.

Source: Wendell K. Walker, *Masonic Etiquette*. Grand Lodge of the State of New York, 1990

Arcana Lodge Number 246 shall follow these, and all other rules of etiquette as prescribed by the Grand Lodge of the State of New York.

So ordered,



W. Phillip W. Weiss, Master
Arcana Lodge Number 246
February 26, 2025

