

THE IDEAL LODGE MASTER



The Ideal Lodge Master performs all of the following tasks throughout his year:

- **KNOWLEDGE OF MASONIC LITERATURE:**

Knows something about Masonic literature and which books to recommend to his brethren.

- **PROMOTES PEACE AND HARMONY:**

Attempts to promote peace and harmony within his lodge. The Lodge Master soothes the unhappy and brings together friends who have quarreled. He avoids all jealousies.

He is a friend to every Past Master, every officer and every brother.

- **FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY:**

Leaves his lodge better off financially than he found it. He spends less of its income and receives full value for the money he spends. The craft's Lodge Master knows at any given time what the lodge's account balances are and keeps the Lodge's records, so as to draw commendation.

- **GRAND LODGE:**

As Lodge Master, he pays full attention to the duties with which he has been bestowed in his Grand Lodge. He faithfully attends, intelligently takes part in the deliberations, votes with the interests of his Jurisdiction at heart and is a constructive force within the governing body of Freemasonry.

- **INTERESTING MEETINGS:**

Holds interesting meetings. He is willing to work and work hard to arrange programs and plan events which are not only interesting, but instructive to the brethren. He knows that basic ritual degree work is necessary, but every other week, he provides something containing instruction and education to his brethren.

- **MASONIC EDUCATION AND INSTRUCTION:**

Provides continuous, good and wholesome instruction and education. No brother should ever leave one of the meetings without learning something or experiencing something said by its Master that does not leave a higher thought of Masonry in his heart.

- **MASONIC RITUAL, DEGREES & KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR MEANINGS:**

His degrees are dignified and well put on. His candidates have not only ritualistic instruction, but are told something of why and what the ritual means so they, too, may "become good and faithful brethren among us".

- **LEADERSHIP AND PREPARATION:**

Provides leadership in helping his officers learn Masonry, so that when their time comes to sit in the Lodge Master's chair, they, too are well prepared.

- **THE ILL:**

The Lodge Master considers the ill and the sorrowing as his personal care. No brother should take to his bed but that the Master sees to him to bring what cheer he may. No widow or fatherless child of one of the brethren should ever go uncomforted from the leader of the lodge.

- **COMFORT:**

Knows the facts about the needy brother, or family of a brother and makes it his business to bring a sympathetic report to his Lodge brethren.

- **DIGNITY:**

Brings dignity to his office.

- **TIRELESS:**

The Lodge Master of the symbolic lodge counts not his personal pleasure, his social engagements, his time of rest, recreation or even his sleep when his Lodge calls.

During his year as Master, he puts his Lodge and its needs before anything and everything of a personal nature (excepting God and family) in his life.

- **HONORABLE SERVICE:**

Takes pleasure in his service to his lodge, knowing that men view his position to be honorable.

- **PUNCTUALITY:**

Is punctual. He has no more right to waste the brethren's time than he has to waste the Lodge's money.

- **A BALANCE SCALE:**

Never takes sides but is a balance wheel.

- **FAIRNESS:**

Rules firmly and justly; but knows that "firmly" must be tempered with kindness and "justice" must be tempered with mercy.

- **ENTHUSIASM:**

The Lodge Master of his blue lodge is enthusiastic about his work.

- **LIMITATIONS:**

Conscious of his own limitations.

- **REQUESTS COUNSEL:**

Quick to seek counsel and advice and take his time to map the right course.

- **LISTENS TO SUGGESTIONS:**

Strong and confident enough that he is eager to listen to suggestions and intelligent enough to follow only those suggestions which he deems wise.

- **POLICIES, NOT DETAILS:**

The Master of the Lodge is primarily concerned with policies rather than details so he does not lose his way.

- **DELEGATES TASKS:**

The ideal Lodge Master delegates the details to carefully chosen committees and not only requests their reports at each meeting, but expects to hear each committee's issues, their findings, and their determinations so that both he and the brethren are continually kept up-to-date on their work.

- **LIVING FORCE AMONG THE LODGE'S BRETHREN:**

Is an ideal Lodge Master because he is an ideal Mason. He strives to live the Masonic life so that all his brethren may see him not as a mere figurehead, but a vital and living force for good in their lives.

- **THE MASTER'S HAT:**

The Lodge Master is humble, knowing that it is to the hat, his elected position, that the brethren honor and not to the man under the hat. While he has both power and place, he may never think of self, but only of an honorable duty to his brethren.

Like any good CEO, the Ideal Lodge Master delegates.

If he does this well, his job becomes very manageable, indeed and he may obtain the abilities of the Ideal Master.

If he does not delegate well, his year will be continually filled with fires to put out until he becomes over-burdened, tired, unhappy...and remembered as a drone.