

By Grand Lodge Law and by tradition, many protocols have been established pertaining to actions within the Lodge. You will learn many of these as you proceed in your journey in Masonry; however, there are some with which you must become familiar quite quickly. The purpose of this presentation is to bring your immediate attention to some of these which you will experience in every Lodge that you attend.

**THE GAVEL:** The Worshipful Master uses the gavel for many things. When preparing to open the Lodge, the WM will gavel once, indicating that all present should cease all conversation and pay strict attention to WM's announcement.

When the WM gavels three times, all present should stand.

A subsequent single gavel indicates that all present should be seated.

To address either the Senior or Junior Warden, the WM addresses that officer by title, then gavels twice, at which time the officer stands. To address both at the same time, WM gavels twice, at which time both Wardens will stand.

The Senior and Junior Deacons are addressed in the same manner as the Wardens, EXCEPT that a single gavel is used.

When an individual member is addressed by name, that person should stand and direct his attention to the speaker.

A member who wishes to speak should stand, but remain silent until the WM acknowledges him, after which the member should begin "Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren, ...." Unless a Grand Lodge officer is present, in which case he should begin "Worshipful Master, Right Worshipful Sir, Wardens and Brethren, ...."

If a member is speaking and the WM gavels once, the member must cease speaking immediately.

PRAYERS: When a prayer is given, after the "Amen" all present should respond "So mote it be."

Only the WM is to be covered (wear a hat) in Lodge. At any reference to Deity, WM removes the hat briefly.

OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE --- when crossing the Lodge when it is open, one should NEVER cross between the WM and the Altar.

You are encouraged to ask questions about any protocols that arise. Any member to which you direct a question should either know the answer, or should know to whom you should direct your question.