

THE FESTIVE BOARD

The festive board is considered as an extension of the Lodge meeting and although less formal the following is considered good practice.

ALWAYS –

- Obey the gavel at all times, when you hear the gavel stop talking immediately and pay attention.
- Ensure you have sufficient refreshments for the toasts. If you do require anything ask a Steward, DO NOT get up to get it yourself.

NEVER -

- Talk during a Toast or whenever someone is speaking.
- Talk or text on your mobile phone, it should be switched off or on silent. before entering the Festive Board.

See Fact Sheet EA08 for further information about the Festive Board.

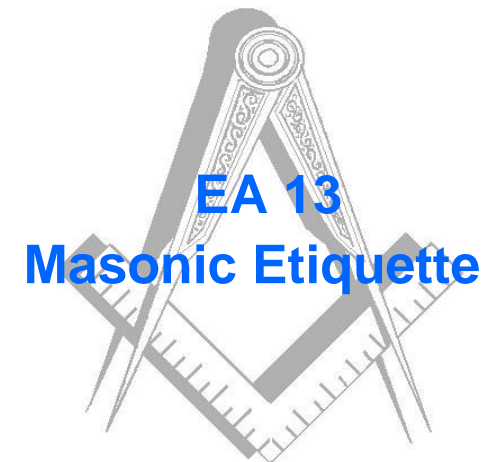
As a new member, you may find many of our rules of etiquette strange when you first encounter them and indeed, on occasion, feel that you have failed to comply with them. This is quite understandable in the early days of membership and you will find the brethren very understanding in such matters. If you have questions please speak to your Personal or Lodge Mentor. Please do not worry unduly about such things, but rather enjoy your new experiences.

There are further more comprehensive materials on Masonic Etiquette on the Mentoring Pages on the District website. Ask your mentor to print them out for you.



District of Cyprus Mentoring Programme

A series of Fact Sheets for an
Entered Apprentice



Making a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge

Masonic Etiquette.

Masonic Etiquette for the most part is merely good manners and respect for your Lodge, it's Worshipful Master and Freemasonry in general

- If you are unable to attend a meeting for business or other personal reasons, you should advise the Secretary as soon as possible. If you are an officer of the Lodge, you should also advise the Director of Ceremonies, so that someone can be asked to undertake the work you were to perform. Naturally, whoever is going to stand in for you will appreciate as much notice as is possible.
- Remember to print your name in the Attendance Register on arrival
- The dress code that we should adopt in the District of Cyprus must be the same as those worn in most Provincial, London and District Lodges: a **dark** lounge suit or Morning Dress, an appropriate tie, white shirt, white gloves, plain black socks and shoes. An appropriate tie is either, plain black, the Grand Lodge Craft Tie or the Royal Arch tie, the latter obviously being worn only by Companions of the Royal Arch, providing the indissoluble link that exists in English Freemasonry between the Craft and the Royal Arch.
 - Breast Jewels should be limited to the Jewel of the Order of the Royal Arch, Past Masters Jewels and Charity Jewels.
- Lapel Pins – in the District of Cyprus one can see a number of pins adorning the lapels of certain Brethren. The Book of Constitutions Rule 241 states that no Masonic jewel, medal, device or emblem shall be worn in the Grand Lodge, unless it appertains to, or is consistent with, those degrees which are recognised and acknowledged by the Grand Lodge in the preliminary declaration to these Rules, as part of pure Antient Masonry, and has been approved or allowed by the Grand Master. In the District of Cyprus the lapel pin advertising the Teddy Loving Care project is acceptable. But the Mark Master Masons lapel pin, the Rose Croix lapel pin and the Knight Templars and Knights of Malta lapel pin are not acceptable in Craft or Royal Arch Chapter.
- Mobile phones and similar devices should be switched off or even better left in your case in the Anti room.
 - When making a proposition, answering or speaking to the Worshipful Master or addressing the Lodge, it must be made to or through the Worshipful Master, face the front and turn your head only towards the Worshipful Master giving the salute in the degree in which the Lodge is working.
 - Your apron and regalia should be clean and smart.
 - Masonic acknowledgement in the Lodge is by means of a court bow, i.e. an inclination of the head, and not from the waist.
- When addressing Officers or Brethren in the Lodge, remember that we are all Brothers, even those who are Worshipful Brothers. Rank applies to the individual not to the office he holds, therefore the correct terminology is Brother Secretary or Worshipful Brother Smith, not Worshipful Brother Secretary. Forenames should not be used except to differentiate between two of the Brethren with the same surname. That said, in many Lodges this tradition is relaxed at the Festive Board when first names are used, but still always with Brother or Worshipful Brother. The Worshipful Master is always referred to as such.
- If invited by the Worshipful Master to assist him with the next part of the Ceremony, always salute first (with step) in the current degree, followed by the words “It would be my pleasure Worshipful Master”. Then cut the sign..
 - It is bad form to talk to your neighbour in Lodge during the ceremony, or when anyone is speaking. If you do need to talk during a break in proceedings, ensure you do so discreetly.
 - Do not discuss religion or politics in your Lodge at any time.
- You should always feel your way on matters of etiquette as customs may vary from Lodge to Lodge. As a general rule, it is sensible (and polite) to follow the custom and practice adopted by any Lodge you may be visiting.