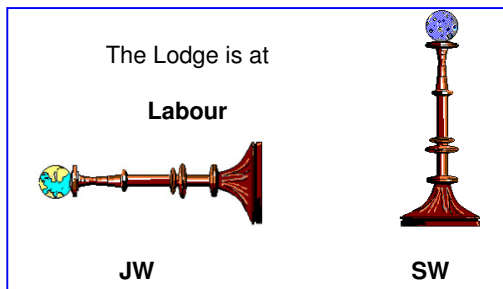
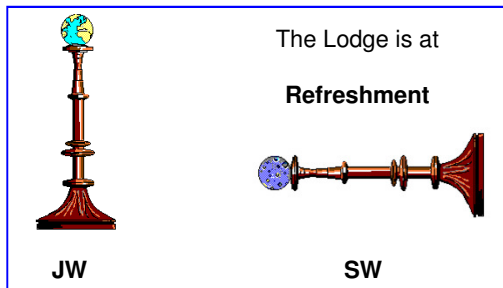


The Junior Warden then says: “Brethren, it is the Worshipful Master’s command that you cease refreshment and return to labour for the further dispatch of Masonic business.” The reverse procedure to Calling Off is then carried out so that the Lodge returns to its former state and is once more open for business.

A useful mnemonic. There are some occasions when you will find the columns are not positioned correctly at the start of a meeting - even the most experienced Director of Ceremonies or Tyler can have a senior moment. Fortunately there is an easy way to remember the positions of the columns. Remember that the Junior Warden, as the ostensible Steward of the Lodge, is responsible for ensuring the Brethren are at refreshment. Therefore, if you take the first letter of ‘refreshment’ - **R** - the Junior Warden’s column is **Raised** when the Lodge is at refreshment, and if you take the first letter of ‘labour’ - **L** - the Junior Warden’s column is **Lowered** when the Lodge is open for business. In either case the Senior Warden’s column is the opposite.



District of Cyprus Mentoring Programme

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FC 02
The Wardens Columns

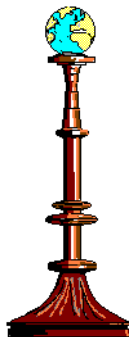
Making a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge

The Wardens Columns

On each of the Wardens pedestals there is a column; that of the Junior Warden is topped by a terrestrial globe and that of the Senior Warden is topped by a celestial globe. Before the Lodge is opened the column of the Junior Warden is in the vertical position and that of the Senior Warden is in the horizontal position. When the Lodge is opened the Junior Warden places his column in the horizontal position and the Senior Warden places his column in the vertical position. When the Lodge is closed the Wardens return their columns to their positions prior to the opening of the Lodge.

To understand the significance of this we have to go back to the early days of speculative Masonry, when Lodges usually met in a room of a local tavern. During a meeting drinking would take place, and if food was to be served the Lodge would be 'called off', and after food had been taken the Lodge would be 'called on' again. This could occur more than once and it was essential, therefore, for the Brethren to be able to see at a glance whether the Lodge was opened or closed. In this respect the columns of the Wardens played an important role.

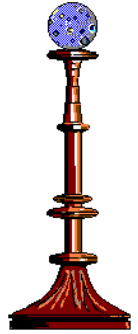
The Junior Warden's Column. You will recall that during the opening of the Lodge the Junior Warden states that his symbolic duty is *'to call the Brethren from labour to refreshment and refreshment to labour that profit and pleasure may be the result.'* So, before the Lodge is actually opened his column is shown vertical to indicate to the Brethren that the Lodge is at refreshment and is not open for business. When the WM indicates that the Lodge is open for business the Junior Warden places his column in the horizontal position.



The globe on his column is a terrestrial globe which indicates that he is most active during the hours of daylight, when our ancient operative masons would have taken refreshment.

The Senior Warden's Column. In contrast to the column of the Junior Warden, the column of the Senior Warden is placed horizontally before the Lodge is opened. Once the Lodge has been opened by the WM the column is placed vertically to show that the Lodge is now open for business.

The column is topped by a celestial globe symbolically to represent the night as it was the Senior Warden's responsibility to close the operative masons lodge at the end of the day.



Calling On and Calling Off. In most Lodges the Lodge will be closed after the ceremony for a short time and then re-opened for the lecture and further business of the Lodge. Rather than formally close and open the Lodge a procedure of Calling Off and Calling On is used. The WM calls on the Principal Officers to be upstanding (himself and his Wardens). He then asks the JW what time is it, and the JW states *"High time, WM"*. The WM then requests the JW to declare his duty, to which the JW replies: *"To call the Brethren from labour to refreshment"*, which the WM then instructs him to do so. The JW then says: *"Brethren, it is the Worshipful Master's command that you cease labour and go to refreshment. Keep within hail so as to come on in due time so that profit and pleasure may be the result."* He then knocks once and places his column in the vertical position, and extinguishes his light. The Senior Warden then knocks once, places his column horizontal and extinguishes his light. The WM also knocks once and extinguishes his light. The Tracing Board is covered, the Working Tools put away and the Volume of the Sacred Law is closed.

After the break the WM once again requests that the Principals Officers be upstanding and then asks the JW what time is it, and the JW states *"Past high time, WM"*. The WM then requests the JW to declare his duty, to which the Junior Warden replies: *"To call the Brethren from refreshment to labour."*, which the WM then instructs him to do so.