

Duties of the Officer

The position of W.M. is eminently important and honorable - In all public Ceremonials he takes the lead - The Lodge is called "his Lodge" - No One can preside over his Lodge without his permission - He is still responsible and can assume the chair at his discretion.

Before we get into the duties of the W.M. we should talk about the W. Master's Prerogatives which are coupled with his duties.

By prerogatives of the W.M. is meant the inherent right and authority he possesses by reason of the position he occupies & giving him extraordinary powers and privileges which belong to the presiding officer of no other organization. He presides at all meetings of the Lodge. In all cases his decision on points of order is final in the Lodge. - No appeal can be made from his decision ~~by~~ in the Lodge. The Grand Lodge - or the Grand Master (can only) overrule his declared opinion on any point of order.

Prerogatives are exercised by a W.M. and Duties are discharged of

The prerogatives are generally listed in fourteen sections and are interwoven with each other and sometimes ^{repetition}

- 1 - To Congregate his Lodge
- 2 - To preside in his Lodge

- 3 - To fill Temporary official vacancies in his Lodge
- 4 - To regulate the admission of visitors to his Lodge
- 5 - To control and determine discussions of Masonic questions in his Lodge.
- 6 - To determine all questions of order in his Lodge, and the order of business without appeal, except to the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge.
- 7 - To appoint all committees of his Lodge
- 8 - To be the Custodian of the charter or warrant of his Lodge
- 9 - To order the issuing of notifications requiring the attendance of members to his Lodge
- 10 - To give the Casting Vote in the case of a tie, in addition to his own vote.
- 11 - To sign all drafts upon the Treas. for the payment of Lodge disbursements.
- 12 - To represent the Lodge at all communications of the Grand Lodge, along with the Wardens.
- 13 - To appoint the S.O. and such other subordinate officers as come within his prerogative.
- 14 - To install his successor.

These are the 14. prerogatives as stated - There are others that you may come across in your Masonic Study. and these that I list now are ones that can be exercised

- To control the minutes of the Lodge meetings - to see that nothing improper to be written is recorded. - and that nothing essential is omitted.

- To refuse to initiate a candidate - not withstanding his acceptance by the Lodge, if in your judgment, such initiation would be improper.

- To order a second ballot on a candidate when the first is unfavorable - taking care that the rebaloting be done before any of the Brethren participating in the first ballot has left the Lodge Hall

The Duties of the W. M. are in Harmony with his prerogatives - and can be divided into nine divisions
The W. M. has the duty

- 1- To attend all communications of his Lodge
- 2- To open his Lodge at the time specified in the by-laws, and to close it at a suitable hour.
- 3 To preserve order in the Lodge

- 4- To obey, enforce, and defend the ancient landmarks, The Laws and edicts of the Grand Lodge, the orders of the Grand Master - and the by-Laws of his Lodge.
5. To preserve the Charter of the Lodge and to transmit it to your successor.
6. To perform the ritualistic work of the Lodge and to instruct the Brethren therein
- 7- To cause an investigation into all unmasonic conduct committed by masons in your Lodge, also of sojourners, non-affiliates, and members of other Lodges resident within your jurisdiction.
- 8- To visit the sick and preside at the funeral rites of deceased Masons.
- 9 - To preserve peace and harmony in the Lodge - and by your department both within and without the Lodge be a good example to the Brethren