



Confirming Lodge Practises and Customs

Confirming your Lodges Practices and Customs in a booklet or series of booklets is a good way to provide certainty in regard to Lodge customs and practices, in particular the responsibilities and expectations of the officers and brethren.

Other outcomes from this process will include: the education of the brethren on Lodge ceremonial; a better understanding of what is required, correct procedures and timelines; a greater involvement of the members; and hopefully a reduction in Lodge disharmony.

How To:

1. The Director of Ceremonies and/or Preceptor should organise a small group of brethren with the right skills to lead this project and ensure they involve all members
2. Conduct research among older members and any old ritual notes
3. Write the research results into a booklet or series of booklets – do not rush
4. If conflict/uncertainty arises, resolve the matter by discussion - if need be by vote
5. Ensure the final version of the document is formally received and adopted
6. Issue a copy to each member of the Lodge for their guidance.

Tips:

- Lodge specific customs not included in the Grand Lodge Ritual Book need to be clearly stated. Include the movements of officers, where the candidate and or brethren are to stand during parts of the ceremony and any Lodge specific wording used particularly as indicated in the Ritual rubrics etc.
- Include other topics such as the role of each officer in your Lodge, planning and preparation guidelines, how to conduct a ballot, or interesting items of the Lodge/s history and origins. Stipulate a process how future changes must be promulgated.
- Keep members aware of the progress.
- Once complete do not allow debate or argument about the Lodge practices or customs, as these will now be defined in the booklet.
- Ensure adherence to the document and make regular references to it so that it is maintained.

