



Enhancing Ceremonial - Tips for Deacons

Being the Deacon guiding the candidate is one of the most important roles in any ceremony, especially in making the candidate feel comfortable and helping establish the quality of the ceremony.

Here are a few tips to assist the Deacons in enhancing the ceremony:

1. Make yourself known to the candidate prior to the ceremony;
2. It is recommended you should remove your gloves when guiding the candidate, though this is subject to Lodge custom;
3. Take the candidates hand with a firm grip and hold his arm and yours horizontally in front. This allows you to guide more easily around the lodge room;
4. When the candidate is advancing it is preferable to always hold his right hand – don't let it drop;
5. Be comfortable in talking to the candidate – no need to whisper;
6. Prompting a candidate is not easy – ensure you practice well with another brother;
7. Often the candidate will be instructed before the ceremony only to obey the commands of their guide being the deacon. However the candidate is asked some very obvious and direct questions by the Master and more often than not this leads to the candidate being prompted. This is a bad look, if not some-what strange in the candidates mind. It is much better that the candidate be advised that they will be asked some direct questions (especially while at the beginning of the 1st degree) and they should answer those questions with the obvious response i.e. I will, I do etc., until such time that they are advised to repeat after the deacon;
8. Be conscious of the candidates physical needs - if some item of his clothing needs adjusting, i.e. socks or glasses, then do so.

These are a few pointers. There will be others which your Director of Ceremonies or Preceptor can assist with.

