



Tips for the Senior Warden

You have been placed in the chair in the West for the next 12 months. Hopefully this is a step on the journey to the Master's chair in the East, or alternatively you may be 'filling a hole in the ladder'. Regardless here are some tips to make your year as SW a success:

- The SW is one of the three principal officers of the Lodge. In that regard you need to work closely with the Master and JW as a team to manage and plan the Lodge's activities.
- Every lodge should have a 3 year plan and the Master and his team an annual plan setting out outcomes for the current term. Familiarise yourself with the agreed goals and annual outcomes. Discuss with the Master, JW and others how you contribute to achieving these.
- If your Lodge has yet to establish a plan then become the promoter of getting this in place. If you are the next prospective Master then this task is definitely in your best interest.
- The 'final charge' in each degree is often the purview of the SW. This is the conclusion of the ceremony and like an opera it is the crescendo to the theatre that makes up our ceremonies. It needs to be done well to round off a good ceremony. You should endeavor to be well-rehearsed in each of these charges. They are not easy charges to learn and will take some time to do so.
- You have been handed the gavel to use in conjunction with the Master and JW. It is useful to anticipate when the Master is going to gavel, so you can deliver your knock with appropriate rhythm. A useful trick is to get the Master to also anticipate by picking up the gavel a few seconds before he knocks, and if you and the JW are observant you will pick up this cue.



THE FREEMASONS TOOLBOX



- For those heading to the East use this year to observe and understand:
 - the business session sequence;
 - the workings of each degree as they apply to the Master;
 - the knowledge and skills required of the Master to chair the Lodge, both in and out of the Lodge room.
- In addition to the above use the year to plan your year as Master including selecting the team. The first of these should be choosing who will be your Deputy Master. It should be an experienced Past Master and someone able to give you guidance on the full range of lodge activities. Also someone able to act as Master in the event of your unavailability.
- Each Lodge meeting before it is tyled take time to check the equipment at your pedestal is in place – particularly the correct column which should be the 'Doric'.
- Lastly take time to visit the Freemasons Toolbox and explore the Tools that are there to provide guidance to the Master – there is some good advice to be found.

