



Tips for the Junior Warden

You are now one of the three principal officers of the Lodge. 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 JW a success:

- Being one of the three principal officers of the Lodge you need to work closely with the Master and SW 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, SW 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 'Working Tools' in each degree is often the purview of the JW though in some lodges it is the custom that the JW does the charge in each degree at least once and then the work is shared. The tools are great charges to do as they have an object as a strong reference point. You should endeavor to be well-rehearsed in each of these charges which can take some time to learn.
- You have been handed the gavel to use in conjunction with the Master and SW. 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 SW are observant you will pick up this cue.



THE FREEMASONS TOOLBOX



- In regard to the examination of visitors, if any visitor is joining the Lodge for the opening, take time before the meeting to introduce yourself to such visitors and satisfy yourself as to their credentials so you can vouch for them at the beginning of the ceremony. If you are uncertain then arrange with the DC for the visitor to be proved.
- Fellowship is a fundamental feature of Freemasonry and the aspect that many freemasons value the most. As the ostensible steward of the Lodge you have the primary role in the Lodge for the social aspects contributing to fellowship – take a look at the various tools in the Freemasons Toolbox, some of which have been published as a booklet '*Enhancing Fellowship in the Lodge*'.
- Also as the ostensible steward of the Lodge you have the responsibility to work with the Stewards ensuring they understand their role and have the necessary support. It should also be your role to chair the Lodge Social task group / committee (if the Lodge has one) which plans the series of social functions – ideally these should be signed off by the Master and Lodge committee, and ensuring such functions are well organized and run to the Lodge's satisfaction.
- 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 'Corinthian'.
- Lastly take time to visit the Freemasons Toolbox and explore the Tool that is there to provide tips to the SW – there is some good advice to be found.

