



Tips for the DC in Refectory

The Lodge Director of Ceremonies is the man who makes the Lodge ceremonies and refection proceedings efficient and well run. Here are some tips to assist in achieving this for refection:

The D.C. controls the Refectory Proceedings. The Junior Warden & the Stewards prepare the room and arrange the entertainment at the Master's request. The D.C. organises the order of events on the programme. Though note that on official visits by Grand Lodge Officers, it is usual for the Dist G.D.C to control the Refectory proceedings until the District Grand Master has replied to his toast then the Lodge D.C. takes over. If the Grand Master is present the Grand Director of Ceremonies controls the Refectory Proceedings until the Grand Master retires.

Toasts. Get them started as early as you can. When 90% have finished eating get the toasts rolling. It is good to tip off the Master that you are about to start just in case he's not quite prepared. The D.C. or the Master should have informed the Visiting Master, who is to reply to the Visitors' Toast, before the Visiting Master enters the Refectory to give him time to prepare his reply.

First Toast – The Queen and the Craft. (Note that *Toasts are given "to people"*). The D.C. says "**Brethren, you will pay attention to the Master who will propose the First Toast**" or words to that effect. ***Do not name the Toast.***

The Master should say "**To the Queen and the Craft**" or
"**The toast is – The Queen and the Craft**" or
"**The Queen and the Craft.**"

Second Toast – The Grand Master – (not the Most Worshipful Grand Master)
D.C. says, "**Brethren, you will pay attention to the Master for the second toast.**"
The Master should say "**To the Grand Master**" or "The Grand Master" or
"**The Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother ____.**"

See Book of Constitution.



THE FREEMASONS TOOLBOX



Third Toast – *The District Grand Master* (Official Visits only. If Grand Master is present this toast is not given.)

The Candidate* or *The guest of the evening.

Here the Master, or the Brother who has been given the responsibility to give one of these toasts, should say a few words of praise or thanks before saying

***“To the District Grand Master and Officers of Grand Lodge,
Present and Past”***

or

“To our Candidate, Brother Newboy.”

or

“To Our guest speaker of the evening, John Smith” or

“To John Smith”

Candidate’s replies to Toasts. Should a Candidate reply to toasts when he does not know the form? It is suggested that his first reply to a toast should be after he has taken his Third Degree when he has had time to observe the formalities (protocols & etiquette) and has been informed what he should prepare. This is worth discussing with your Lodge members.

Seating in the East. Except for Grand Lodge Official Visits, Visiting Masters in most Districts take precedence over any Grand Lodge Officer, Present or Past, who wishes to sit on the Master's right. If necessary the Grand Lodge Officer should move to the left of the Master.

Visiting Masters are the Lodge’s guests. They are the important people of the evening except for the candidate and should be recognised as such.

Seating at the “Top Table.” Generally speaking the Dist.G.D.C. tends to the seating on the Master’s right and the Lodge D.C. to that on the Master’s left.

In some Lodges, where the numbers are few, there is no top table. All sit or stand round a common table. It is friendlier and creates a happier atmosphere. This is the Master’s prerogative.

