

CEREMONY OF THE DEDICATION OF A LODGE BANNER : FULL VERSION

1.

Stewards and Brethren of the Lodge may be seated in the West.

The Lodge is opened.

I.P.M., Chap., Treas., D's., Ch.Stwd., Alm., A.D.C., and Asst.Sec. of the Lodge are conducted to seats in the West under the direction of the Lodge D.C.

[i.e.:- only the Master, Wardens, D.C., Sec., Org., and I.G. remain in their positions.]

Seating in order of Seniority:- S.W's. Pedestal.

| | |
|---------------|-----------|
| 2 S.W. | 1 W.M. |
| 4 I.F.M. | 3 J.W. |
| 6 Chap. | 5 Donor. |
| 8 Sec. | 7 Treas. |
| 10 S.D. | 9 D.C. |
| 12 Ch. Stwd. | 11 J.D. |
| 14 A.D.C. | 13 Alm. |
| 16 Asst. Sec. | 15 I.G. |
| 18 Stwds. | 17 Stwds. |
| 20 Brn. | 19 Brn. |

Prov.G.M. demands admission.

Prov.G.Officers retire under direction of Lodge D.C. [Column formed as in Installation Ceremony except that Dedicating Officers take precedence over Grand Officers.]

Column:-

Prov. G.D.C.
 Prov. G. M.
 Tyler
 Dep. Prov. G.M.
 Asst. Prov. G.M's
 Prov. W's
 Prov. D.P.C.D.C. / Prov. G. Chap/
 Prov. D's
 Prov. Org. / Prov. G. Purs.
 Grand Offrs
 Prov. G. Offrs

Prov. G.M., Dep.P.G.M., & Asst.P.G.M's salute on entry [ONLY]

Prov. G. M. passes through column and takes Chair; followed by Deputy and Asst. who take their places; Dedicating Offrs. then pass through and line up in front of Pedestal thus:-

Purs., Org., J.D., S.D., Dep.D.C., Chap., J.W., S.W., D.C., Tyler.

Grand Officers pass through column and take their places. Remaining Prov. G. Officers stay in column.

Prov.G.M. appoints his officers [reading from list prepared]

Chap. and S.D., pass straight to their places.
 Tyler leads off, Dep.D.C. and J.W. take places.
 Lodge J.W. joins end of file: Org., J.D., and S.W. take places. Lodge S.W. passes in front of file and takes seat in the south-west. Purs. takes his place;
 Lodge I.G. joins end of file. Tyler exits. Prov. D.C. escorts Lodge J.W. and I.G. to places in north-west and returns to column. [i.e.:- only W.M., Sec. & D.C. of Lodge are in their customary places.]

Remainder of column turn inward and take places.

Prov. G. Master is saluted.
 Summons is read.
 Minutes are read and signed.
 Salutes to Dep.P.G.M.; Asst.P.G.M.'s.; Grand Offrs.; Prov.G.O's.

Prov G M "The next item of labour is to Receive and Dedicate the Lodge Banner."

Lodge W.M. (seated on Prov.G.M's left-hand side) is immediately escorted by Prov.D.C. to his seat in the north-west; at the same time two Prov.Dep.D.C's. escort Lodge D.C. and Sec. to their seats in the south-west and north-west respectively.
 Prov.G.D.C. and Dep.D.C's return to places [Depts. leading]

Pr.D.C. "Brethren of _____ Lodge No. _____ taking part in the Banner Dedication Ceremony, please be upstanding. You will now assemble in the centre of the Lodge room facing East."

Chord from Org. and columns turn West; music 4 beats more time than step-off on 5th; forward to West of squared carpet, turn inward Rt and Lt respectively and perambulate to East until heads of columns are about half-way between M's and J.W.'s pedestals [depending on size of room] W.M. steps sideways so that columns are thus:-

EAST.

| | | |
|--------|------|------------|
| J.W. | W.M. | S.W. |
| Donor | | (P.M. |
| Treas. | | Chap. |
| D.C. | | Sec. |
| J.D. | | S.D. |
| Alm. | | Ch. Stnd. |
| I.G. | | A.D.C. |
| Stwds. | | Asst. Sec. |
| Brn. | | Stwds. |

WEST.

Prov.D.C. forms escort for the Banner. Prov.S.D., Prov.J.D., Prov.Dep.D.C's. [and Dep.D.C. does not take Wand] Escort retires. [W.M. steps to side to allow escort to pass: columns must be widely spaced.]
 Tyler knocks and following usual ritual dialogue with Purs.; J.W., and again Purs:-

PURS. "R.W.P.G.M., the Prov.G.D.C. and Escort seek re-admission."

DEP.D.C. (enters and announces) "Brethren, please be upstanding."

Escort enters:- Prov. Dep. G. D. C.
 Prov. J.G. () Prov. S.G. ()
 Prov. G. D. C. (bearing the Banner)
 Prov. Dep. G. D. C. (carrying D.C.'s wand)
 and passes through column to the East.

Pr.D.C. (salutes and says) "R.W.P.G.M., I present the Banner of _____ Lodge No. _____ for Acceptance and Dedication."

Places the Banner in its stand. Prov.D's. retire to their places under direction of Prov.Dep.D.C. 2nd Prov.Dep.D.C. hands wand to Prov.D.C. and resumes his place. The Donor (or Senior P.M. of Lodge) is escorted by Prov.D.C. to the right-hand side of the P.G.M.

DONOR/
 SEN.P.M. "R.W.P.G.M., I request that you will Accept the Banner of _____ Lodge No. _____, and cause it to be Dedicated to the Glory and Service of the G.A.O.T.U., and for the use and guidance of the _____ Lodge."

Prov.G.M. acknowledges. Donor escorted back to column.
 Prov.G.M. assisted by Prov.G.D.C. unveils the Banner.

Prov.G.M. "W. Master, I request you to accept this Banner on behalf of the _____ Lodge."

W.M. (*Comes forward, salutes, takes corner of the Banner in his hand and says:-*)

"R.W.P.G.M., I thank you most sincerely for thus honouring me, and I undertake to keep its reputation untarnished until it passes to my successor." (*or something similarly worded*)

Salutes, and returns to his place in column.)

Prov.G.M. "I now call upon the Prov. G. Chaplain."

Prov.D.C. "To order, Brethren, for the Dedication Prayer." (*Sign of R.*)

CHAP. "O Lord our Heavenly Father, Architect and Ruler of the Universe, who dost from Thy Throne behold all the dwellers upon Earth, we beseech Thee to bless and hallow this Banner, which we dedicate as a symbol of our Masonic Fellowship, and to the honour and glory of Thy Most Holy Name. Grant to all who gather beneath its shadow, wisdom to teach, humility to learn, and grace to fulfil their obligations. Pour down upon them and upon all the members of our Fraternity, the continual dew of Thy Blessing, that we may daily increase in Love of Thee and of one another. And when earth's fateful day is past, grant unto us a happy passing and a glorious entry into Thy Heavenly Temple, where amid the company of Thy faithful people, we may shine as the stars for ever and ever.

S.M.I.B." *Drop sign.*

Prov.G.D.C. escorts Prov. Cha. back to his place; then returns to his place and says:-)

Prov.D.C. "Brethren of _____ Lodge No. _____ taking part in the ceremony, please resume your places in the West."
Choir from Org., music as before and perambulation in reverse direction until all in place at their seats and REMAIN STANDING.)

Prov.D.C. "To Order, Brethren." (*Sign of R.*)

Prov.G.M. "May the use of this Banner be to the service of the G.A.O.T.U., and may all who serve under it be always of one mind."

S.M.I.B. (*Drop sign*)

Prov.D.C. "Thank you, Brethren, please be seated." (*ALL sit.*)

Prov.G.M. "I now call upon the Provincial Chaplain."

CHAP. *Delivers an oration on the meaning of the Banner and the lessons to be derived from it.*

Prov.D.C. "To Order, Brethren." (*Sign of R.*)

Prov.G.M. "Brethren, for all the Blessings and Mercies vouchsafed to us by the G.A.O.T.U., let us praise and glorify His Holy Name."

ALL "Glory be to God on High." (*Drop sign.*)

Prov.D.C. "Brethren, we shall sing the Hymn 'Now Thank We All Our God.'"

ALL _____ HYMN S.M.I.B.

Prov.D.C. "To Order, Brethren, for the Patriarchal Benediction." (*Sign of R.*)

