

## Masonic Minutes—November Two

### Brother Senior Warden

Brother Senior Warden; who is he? Is he the oldest Brother in the Lodge? What does he do? Questions like these are often heard from newer members, and to some extent, even older members are not aware of the many hidden duties that fall upon the Senior Warden. The Senior Warden serves as the Worshipful Master's right hand man. His duties are to *"assist the Worshipful Master in opening and closing the Lodge, pay the Craft their wages if ought be due them, and see that none go away dissatisfied..."* If you look at the Lodge as a business model the Worshipful Master is the President and the Senior Warden is his First Vice President.

The specific duties of the Senior Warden may vary from Lodge to Lodge but the main aspects remain the same. These duties include freeing the Master from being overly concerned about the details of the meeting. The Senior Warden prepares the labor of the Lodge by reviewing the meeting agenda with the Master, conferring with the Secretary and Treasurer regarding their reports, and ensuring that no surprise business comes to the floor because as often stated, "Surprise business does not usually make for good business". Our August Meeting One Masonic Minutes stated it this way, "The tasks of the Senior Warden in preparing the meeting will allow the Worshipful Master the ability to more fully focus on the needs of the Brethren and tasks at hand that only his role can fulfill."

Beyond the meeting night the Senior Warden works with the Master before his year starts on items like the budget, selection of members to committees and preparing for the next year when he, if elected, will be charged with leading the brethren of the Lodge. This mentoring and inclusion process begins as soon as a brother takes a seat in the line of officers. Programs work better when the core Lodge leadership has a vision that is shared, planned and duties laid out in advance, not dropped on them a week before an event is to occur. The Senior Warden plays a vital roll in helping to make and enforce these administrative decisions as it helps prepare him in developing a clear vision for his year as Master while it provides the Brethren an important example of working together in harmony.

The Senior Warden is also charged with *"paying the Craft their wages if ought be due them."* This can be as simple as a pat on the back for efforts put forth by a brother or by reminding the Master that a brother needs to be recognized in Lodge for his dedication and service. Though he may not be the oldest brother in the Lodge, the importance of the station of the Senior Warden is vital as he prepares to be the Patriarch of the Lodge.

This Masonic Minute presentation has only scratched the surface of the varied duties of the Senior Warden, and hopefully this will encourage you to further explore the ways in which the specific duties as defined by charges in the Installation Ceremony can identify other avenues of service line officers can provide within your Lodge.

Our email is [moed4u@momason.org](mailto:moed4u@momason.org); we look forward to receiving your feedback.