

Left Worshipful What??

Greetings, it is that time of year when we are again provided the opportunity to attend installations of Lodge Officers and hosting Official Visits all while we continue the wonderful work of raising new Master Masons. With all this activity and opportunity for introductions of brethren with formal titles it seems like a good time to review the protocols for who has what title and how it should be used.

BROTHER – the most important title in Freemasonry. The title we all share based on our obligations and bonds to each other. The only way to lose this title is to disgrace yourself and be removed from the fraternity, or to set it aside and walk away from it and your obligations to your brothers.

WORSHIPFUL BROTHER – and no you do not have to genuflect when you address him. This title is the Olde English term referring to someone who is admired or respected; it has nothing whatsoever to do with worshipping him or being subjugated to him. The title of Worshipful Brother is given to a brother who has been installed Master of his Lodge and he will carry that title ever after.

So far, so good, but now is when things start to get tricky. The next set of titles all refer to men who have been chosen to assist the Grand Lodge in carrying out the duties, teachings and administration of the Grand Lodge in one form or another.

RIGHT WORSHIPFUL BROTHER – This title is shared by those who have been appointed or elected to serve the Grand Lodge. The people who have earned this title by their work for our fraternity are also entitled to carry this title of honor for life. The positions sort out as follows:

District Deputy Grand Lecturer – these men have a solid grasp of our ritual and both the desire and ability to teach it. They are responsible for helping us to keep our beautiful ritual consistent across the state. This is an appointed position serving under a Regional Grand Lecturer and the Grand Lecturer.

Regional Grand Lecturer – is a man who has been appointed to assist the Grand Lecturer in ensuring that our District Deputy Grand Lecturers are properly fulfilling their obligation to be the resource for the ritual in their respective districts and that they are consistent in their teaching with the information provided by the Ritual Committee. These are dedicated men who expend a lot of personal time in travel over large portions of the state.

District Deputy Grand Master – is a brother who has been appointed by the Grand Master to be the personal representative of the Grand Master during his term. He is the district representative of the Grand Lodge. The DDGM is usually introduced by himself and if he is representing the Grand Master he should be the last person introduced.

The Grand Lodge Officers – The group of officers elected or appointed to serve the Grand Lodge from the Deputy Grand Master down to the Grand Tiler. There are far too many men here to list all of them, but their service is invaluable and they should be recognized for the time they dedicate to the Craft. They are usually introduced just before the Grand Master unless the DDGM is present and is serving as the Grand Master's Representative.

And finally the last title a brother can be given by the Craft for his service as Grand Master is:

MOST WORSHIPFUL BROTHER – this is a lifetime honor bestowed upon those who serve or have served as Grand Master. Remember, the Grand Master is always presented by himself and after all other guests have been received; he typically receives the Grand Honors; and he should always be the last one to speak before the closing of the Lodge.

Hopefully, this has provided you with a small guide to some of the titles present in our craft. If you need further information please feel free to ask your DDGL, DDGM or contact the Grand Lodge Office.