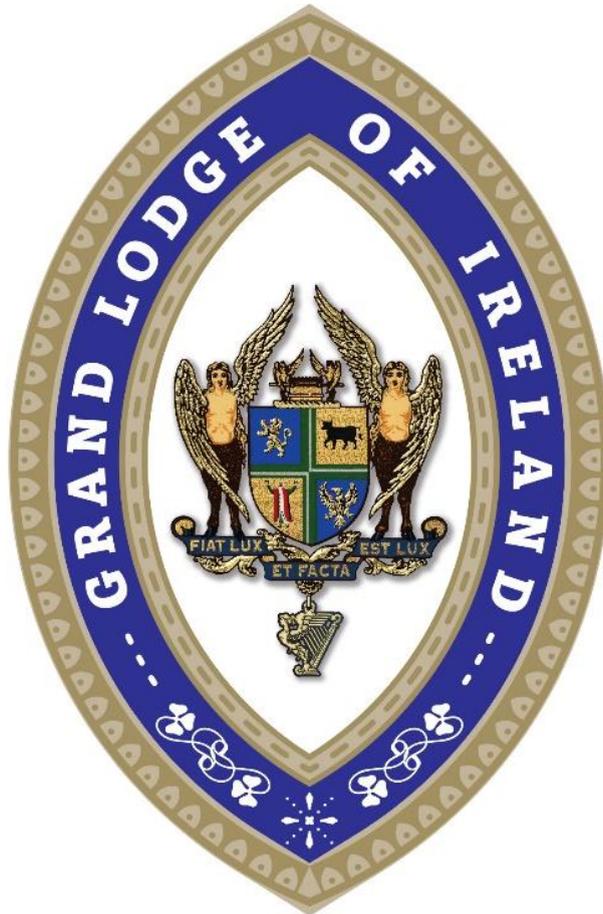


Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. Masons of Ireland



Grand Lodge of Instruction

Clarifying the position on the following:

A Brother elected to serve in two Offices
Lodge Deacons
Foreign Representatives
Immediate Past Masters

Dual Office

When a Lodge elects a Brother to two Offices the following will apply.

No Officer should wear two Collars at the same time. Under the heading "Dual Office" the following wording should be used when investing a Brother in a second Office: -

“Brother, or W. Brother, A.B. we extend our gratitude to you for accepting these additional duties and I Proclaim you to be XX. (name the post).

Should a Brother be elected into two Offices, one of which requires working on the floor of the Lodge, then he will be installed or invested in that office. He should be thanked for accepting the additional duties of the second office but not invested or saluted in that office.

(The collar of the second Office is NOT worn).

Deacons Grand Lodge Ruling 1985

This ruling states specifically, that if an Officer is in the Lodge Room he must take up his office and cannot be replaced by another Brother and still remain in the room. This does not apply for the Worshipful Master who will surrender the Chair to a senior Brother entitled to preside in his presence, or to an Installing Officer. There are no exceptions to this ruling.

We would remind the Director of Ceremonies of subordinate Lodges that the Lodge Deacons must not be replaced by Past Masters for the Installation Ceremony and they should continue to carry out their duties until they move to their next office.

Foreign Representatives

Over a period of time, there has been much discussion regarding the standing of Foreign Representatives in subordinate Lodges. It has been decided that Foreign Representatives do not wear their regalia at meetings of Lodges of which they are subscribing members, except on the occasion of the Installation Ceremony each year, or on the occasion of a formal visit from a senior Grand Lodge Officer or Provincial Grand Lodge Officer. The foregoing also applies to Grand Lodge Officers (present and past) and Provincial Grand Lodge Officers (present and past).

Foreign Representatives often acknowledge the salute to Grand Lodge Officers even when they are not included by the Worshipful Master and occasionally bring Fraternal Greetings from the constitution which they represent. This is not correct, as Foreign Representatives they should only wear their Regalia, at a Lodge of which they are a subscribing member, as stated above. As they are not members of the Grand Lodge of Ireland they should only bring greetings in Grand Lodge and should not respond to the Salute to Grand Lodge at any meeting or function. It is the considered opinion of the Grand Lodge of Instruction, that salutes in a subordinate Lodge should be reserved for visiting Brethren. Hence, Brethren of the host Lodge, irrespective of the regalia they are wearing, should rise and salute the visiting Brethren.

We would suggest that salutes in a subordinate Lodge should be given as follows:

After the circular is read and Obituaries, if any, are observed, the Worshipful Master would call the salutes in the following sequence:

- Present and Past Grand Lodge Officers reply by the Senior Officer present.
- Present and Past Provincial Grand Lodge Officers reply by Senior Provincial Officer present.
- Representatives of Foreign Constitutions. These Brethren will not bring greetings from the Grand Lodge they represent, but may acknowledge the Worshipful Master and thank him for the salute.

The Worshipful Master will then acknowledge the presence of Lodge members who have received honours. They will not be saluted.

Immediate Past Master Grand Lodge Ruling 1948

There are several points to note:

The seating arrangements for a subordinate Lodge are set out in the ritual book as recommended by the Very Worshipful the Grand Lodge of Instruction and approved by Grand Lodge.

The Laws and Constitutions of the Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge of Ireland, sets out the regalia to be worn in a subordinate Lodge and does not specify any regalia for an Immediate Past Master.

During visits to Lodges and Classes, it has been observed Worshipful Masters directing the Director of Ceremonies to present the Immediate Past Master to the dais. When the Worshipful Brother is presented, he is given his certificate of past rank, he may be invested with a collar and occasionally with an immediate Past Masters jewel pendant to the point of the collar. He is then invited to take the seat on the dais which is recommended for the Director of Ceremonies.

It is our contention that if you invest a Brother with a collar and jewel pendant to the point of that collar, an office has been created that does not exist in the Irish Constitution. This anomaly may have been introduced to our working from the English and Scottish constitutions. As there is no such office in the Irish Constitution this practice is completely irregular and should be discontinued.