

Season Greetings

To my Brothers, families and friends of Freemasonry ...

Holiday Greetings to you and those you love! As the holiday season is upon us, I find myself reflecting on the past year which became a challenging year for all of us!

We came across stormy winds and windy roads but found us moving further along step by step. For 2019 I wish the world would realize that Freemasonry is needed more than ever. There is no hiding from the current events that are taking place around the world, it seems that now, the population would benefit from the tenants of the craft. Faith, Hope, and Charity should be exemplified by every Mason in his daily life. I encourage you to recall the lessons taught in each degree and remember how to put your working tools to better use in your daily life.

I like to thank the Great Architect of the Universe for many blessings and personal good fortune he granted for all of us.

I'm grateful for the privilege of free assembly and the right to practice our craft. I'm grateful for the privilege not only to know my Brethren, I'm grateful to have Brothers and their families to enrich my life.

I wish you and yours many good times in the days, weeks and years coming. May God continue to lift up his countenance upon you and be gracious to you and yours.

May all of you according to your faith and traditions enjoy the upcoming holidays.

May your holidays and the New Year be filled with joy.

With warmest fraternal greetings,

Juergen W. Kreissl

Worshipful Master

Mt. Moriah Two Bridges Nahe Lodge No. 823

The Master's Trestleboard 2018

Valued Right Worshipfuls, Very Worshipfuls, Worshipfuls, Wardens and Brethren,
It is my order as the Worshipful Master of Mt. Moriah Two Bridges Nahe Lodge No. 823
that this Trestleboard will be executed and followed on by the Brethren of this Lodge to the
best of their ability during my time presiding the Lodge.

1. Follow the rules

- a. Be in accordance with the STANDARD WORKS & LECTURES of the ACGL in Germany
- b. Obey the BYLAWS
- c. Execute MASONIC ETIQUETTE

*Your leading behavior will reflect great credit upon visiting Brethren, new members of the
fraternity and your fellow companions within and as well for the Lodge you're representing.*

2. Participate

*As soon as any man says of the affairs of the State "What does it matter to me?" the State may
be given up for lost."*

— Quote by Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract*

a. Plan, organize and help with the Lodge's social and any other scheduled events.
Remember, we are only as strong as the weakest part of the chain

- b. Be the light and share the Spirit of Freemasonry

*If you want to do something that really changes someone's life, the best thing you can do is
make the person you're trying to help a participant in the process."*

— Quote by John Stahl-Wert, *Book : The Serving Leader*

3. Remember your Obligations

*Our superintendence in instruction and discipline is the office of the Word, from whom we learn
frugality and humility, and all that pertains to love of truth, love of humanity, and love of
excellence. And so, in a word, being assimilated to God by participation in moral excellence, we
must not retrograde into carelessness and sloth. But labor, and faint not."*

— Quote by Clement of Alexandria, *The Instructor*

Juergen W. Kreissl
Worshipful Master
Mt. Moriah Two Bridges Nahe Lodge No. 823

Signed A.L. 6018

From the East

My Brethren,

now I'm in the East, presiding this Worshipful Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. I should rule and govern this lodge, and I often heard the phrase "now it's 'your Lodge". I have to disagree to that. "We" are the Lodge and you, my Brethren have articulated your faith and confidence when you elected me. I'm your humbly servant trying to execute all to the best of our fraternity.

The following is a little article originated in 1929 about " The powers of the Worshipful Master" and I like to share with you.

The incumbent of the Oriental Chair has powers peculiar to his station; powers far greater than those of the President of a society or the Chairman of a meeting of any kind. President and Chairman are elected by the body over which they preside, and may be removed by that body. A Master is elected by his lodge, but he cannot be removed by it; only by the grand Master or Grand Lodge. The presiding officer is bound by rules of order adopted by the body and by its by-laws. A lodge cannot pass by-laws to alter, amend or curtail the powers of a Master. Its by-laws are subject to approval by the proper Grand Lodge Committee or by the Grand Master; seldom are any approved which infringe upon his ancient prerogatives and powers; in those few instances in which improper by-laws have been approved, subsequent rulings have often declared the Master right in disregarding them.

Grand Lodges differ in their interpretation of some of the "ancient usages and customs" of the Fraternity; what applies in one Jurisdiction does not necessarily apply in another. But certain powers of a Master are so well recognized that they may be considered universal. The occasional exceptions, if any, but prove the rule. The Master may congregate his lodge when he pleases, and for what purpose he wishes, "provided" it does not interfere with the laws of the Grand Lodge. For instance, he may assemble his lodge as a Special Communication to confer degrees, at his pleasure; but he must not, in so doing, contravene that requirement of the grand Lodge which calls for proper notice to the brethren, nor may a Master confer a degree in less than the statutory time following a preceding degree without a dispensation from the Grand Master.

The Master has the right of presiding over and controlling his lodge, and only the Grand Master, or his Deputy, may suspend him. He may put any brother in the East to preside or to confer a degree; he may then resume the gavel at his pleasure - even in the middle of a sentence if he wants to! But

even when he has delegated authority temporarily, the Master is not relieved from responsibility for what occurs in his lodge.

It is the Master's right to control lodge business and work. It is in a very real sense "his" lodge. He decides all points of order and no appeal from his decision may be taken to the lodge. He can initiate and terminate debate at his pleasure, he can second any motion, propose any motion, vote twice in the case of a tie (not universal), open and close at his pleasure, with the usual exception that he may not open a Special Communication at an hour earlier than that given in the notice, or a Stated Communication earlier than the hour stated in the by-laws, without dispensation from the Grand Master. He is responsible only to the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge, the obligations he assumed when he was installed, his conscience and his God.

The Master has the undoubted right to say who shall enter, and who must leave the lodge room. He may deny any visitor entrance; indeed, he may deny a member the right to enter his own lodge, but he must have a good and sufficient reason therefore, otherwise his Grand Lodge will unquestionably rule such a drastic step arbitrary and punish accordingly. "Per contra," if he permits entry of a visitor to whom some member has objected, he may also subject himself to Grand Lodge discipline. In other words, his "power" to admit or exclude is absolute; his "right" to admit or exclude is hedged about by pledges he takes at his installation and the rules of the Grand Lodge.

A very important power of the Master is that of appointing committees. No lodge may appoint a committee. The lodge may pass a resolution that a committee be appointed, but the selection of that committee is an inherent right of the Master. He is, "ex officio," a member of all committees he appoints. The reason is obvious; he is responsible for the conduct of his lodge to the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge. If the lodge could appoint committees and act upon their recommendations, the Master would be in the anomalous position of having great responsibilities, and no power to carry out their performance.

The Master, and only the Master, may order a committee to examine a visiting brother. It is his responsibility to see that no cowan or eavesdropper comes within the tiled door. Therefore, it is for him to pick a committee in which he has confidence. So, also, with the committees which report upon petitioners. He is responsible for the accuracy, fair-mindedness, the speed and intelligence of such investigations. It is, therefore, for him to say to whom shall be delegated this necessary and important duty.

It is generally, not exclusively, held that only the Master can issue a summons. The dispute, where it exists, is over the right of members present at a Stated Communication to summons the whole membership.

It may now be interesting to look for a moment at some matters in which the Worshipful Master is not supreme, and catalog a few things he may "not" do.

The Master, and only the Master appoints the appointive officers in his lodge. In most Jurisdictions he may remove such appointed officers at his pleasure. But, he cannot suspend, or deprive of his station or place, any officer elected by the lodge. The Grand Master or his Deputy, may do this; the Worshipful Master may not.

A Master may not spend lodge money without the consent of the lodge. As a matter of convenience, a Master frequently does pay out money in sudden emergencies, looking to the lodge for reimbursement. But he cannot spend any lodge funds without the permission of the lodge. Some Jurisdictions do allow the lodge by-laws to permit the Master to spend emergency funds up to a specified amount without prior consent of the lodge.

A Master cannot accept a petition, or confer a degree without the consent of the lodge. It is for the lodge, not the Master, to say from what men it will receive an application, or a petition; and upon what candidates degrees shall be conferred. The Master has the same power to "reject" through the "black cube" as any member has, but no power whatever to "accept" any candidate against the will of the lodge.

The lodge, not the Master, must approve or disapprove the minutes of the preceding meeting. The Master cannot approve them; had he that power he might, with the connivance of the secretary, "run wild" in his lodge, and still his minutes would show no trace of his improper conduct. But the Master may refuse to put a motion to confirm or approve minutes which he believes to be inaccurate or incomplete; in this way he can prevent a careless, headstrong Secretary from doing what he wants with his minutes! Should a Master refuse to permit minutes to be confirmed, the matter would naturally be brought before the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master for settlement.

A Master cannot suspend the by-laws. He must not permit the lodge to suspend the by-laws. If the lodge wishes to change them, the means are available, not in suspension; but, in amendment. An odd exception may be noted, which has occurred in at least one Grand Jurisdiction, and doubtless may occur in others. A very old lodge adopted by-laws shortly after it was

constituted, which by-laws were approved by a young Grand Lodge before that body had, apparently, devoted much attention to these important rules.

For many years this lodge carried in its by-laws and "order of business" which specified, among other things, that following the reading of the minutes, the next business was balloting. As the time of meeting of this lodge was early (seven o'clock) this by-law worked a hardship for years, compelling brethren who wished to vote to hurry to lodge, often at great inconvenience.

At last a Master was elected who saw that the by-law interfered with his right to conduct the business of the lodge as he thought proper. He balloted at what he thought was the proper time, the last order of business, not the first. An indignant committee of Past Masters, who preferred the old order, applied to the Grand Master for relief. The Grand Master promptly ruled that "order of business" in the by-laws could be no more than suggestive, not mandatory; and that the Worshipful Master had the power to order a ballot on a petition at the hour which seemed to him wise, provided - and this was stressed - that he ruled wisely, and did not postpone a ballot until after a degree, or until so late in the evening that brethren wishing to vote upon it had left the lodge room.

A Worshipful Master has no more right to invade the privacy which shrouds the use of the "Black Cube" (or Ball), or which conceals the reason for an objection to an elected candidate receiving the degrees, than the humblest member of the lodge. He cannot demand disclosure of action or motive from any brother, and should he do so, he would be subject to the severest discipline from the Grand Lodge.

Grand Lodges usually argue that a dereliction of duty by a brother who possesses the ability and character to attain the East, is worse than that of some less informed brother. The Worshipful Master receives great honor, has great privileges, enjoys great prerogatives and powers. Therefore, he must measure up to great responsibilities. A Worshipful Master cannot resign. Vacancies occur in the East through death, suspension by a Grand Master, expulsion from the Fraternity. No power can make a Master attend to his duties if he desires to neglect them. If he will not, or does not attend to them, the Senior Warden presides. He is, however, still Senior Warden; he does not become Master until elected and installed.

In broad outline, these are the important and principal powers and responsibilities of a Worshipful Master, considered entirely from the standpoint of the "ancient usages and customs of the Craft." Nothing is said here of the moral and spiritual duties which devolve upon a Master.

Volumes might be and some have been written upon how a Worshipful Master should preside, in what ways he can "give the brethren good and wholesome instruction," and upon his undoubted moral responsibility to do his best to leave his lodge better than he found it. Here we are concerned only with the legal aspect of his powers and duties.

Briefly then, if he keeps within the laws, resolutions and edicts of his Grand Lodge on the one hand, and the Landmarks, Old Charges, Constitutions and "ancient usages and customs" on the other, the power of the Worshipful Master is that of an absolute monarch. His responsibilities and his duties are those of an apostle of Light!

He is a gifted brother who can fully measure up to the use of his power and the power of his leadership.

Source: by: Unknown - SHORT TALK BULLETIN - Vol.VII August, 1929 No.8

<http://www.masonicworld.com/>

Fraternally Yours

Juergen W. Kreissl

Worshipful Master

Mt. Moriah Two Bridges Nahe Lodge No. 823

From the WEST

« As the sun is in the West at the close of day, so stands the Senior Warden in the West, to assist the WM in paying the Craft their wages, if any be due, that none may go away dissatisfied, harmony being the strength and support of all institutions, and especially this of ours ».

It is a true pleasure to have been appointed Senior Warden of our Lodge last September. In my opinion, and in accordance with our ritual, being Senior Warden means ensuring harmony. It is harmony that provides our Lodge with it's warm and welcoming atmosphere, as well as with the unity and good-will that are at the heart of the Masonic Fraternity. Harmony is at the foundation of all art and all science. Music, architecture as well as mathematics embody the perfect outcome of harmony. Harmony aspires to balance in all things. Ensuring harmony within our Lodge not only means ensuring its present and future, but also the memory of its past. I believe that being Senior Warden means being the temporary guardian of harmony in our Lodge in order to transmit next years' Level in such serenity and balance so as to allow the WM to essentially concentrate on his rituals. We are lucky to have a young and motivated group, full of people that are ready to invest themselves as much as possible within our Lodge 823. Each month we come from countries such as the United-States, Germany or France so as to work together. This international aspect makes Mount Moriah the very symbol of universal fraternity. It is with joy and pride that I intend to fulfill my duties this year.

**Maxime GIRAUD
Senior Warden**