

Part #9

Briefing Guide Between Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft Degrees

Each lodge handles the time between degrees differently. This time between degrees should provide opportunities to engage the new Brother. If your lodge has a stated meeting between degrees, make special effort to hold it on the Entered Apprentice level, and plan on activity which involves the new Brother(s). This meeting might include holding a Table Lodge (open or tyled) or reviewing the degree and answering any questions the new Brother(s) might have.

If a new Brother is going to attend a tyled lodge, someone should brief him/them on the aspects of opening and closing a lodge which we take for granted, but are mysteries to the new Brother (see Part #11 - Briefing Guide About "Lodge").

If your lodge uses the Quest books and/or tests, group participation of several brothers often end up with interesting conversation and active learning, both for the new Brother and the oldest members.

Regardless of how much interaction there has been up to this point, the ritual coach and the assigned mentor now need to get more directly involved. The time between the first and the second degrees is often very stressful. The EA Degree (including lectures) presents a huge amount of Masonic "light" which the new Brother may not understand or have questions about, all while trying to learn his proficiency.

New Brothers may vary greatly on how accurately they can perform the proficiency work. The Master is the only one who must be satisfied with a Brother's work. While the goal of the lodge should be to have all Brothers prove up in open lodge, situations may warrant using other procedures.

In addition to answering any questions/concerns, several areas may be reviewed:

1. As an Entered Apprentice, you are a Brother, but do not have a card yet.
 - a. If you are going to visit another lodge (meeting on the EA level), you must go with a Brother who was present when you were initiated. It would be a terrific opportunity to go watch an EA Degree at another Lodge.
 - b. If a ballot comes up in your lodge, you are not entitled to vote till you become a Master Mason.
2. Many areas of the Enter Apprentice "Light" are covered in the proficiency, i.e. the Due Guard, Sign, and Token (or grip).
3. What are the secrets again? Masonic Manual of Minnesota (page 34).
 - a. Basically, the ballot, the business of the lodge, signs of recognitions and context about the degree or obligation.
4. The candidate may have questions about the degree, even though they were explained in the degree or lectures. Try to answer these questions or refer him to someone who can.
 - a. Why was I divested of metal?
 - b. Why did I wear that outfit provided by the lodge?
 - c. Why one shoe?
 - d. Why was I blindfolded and the cable toe around my neck?
 - e. What is the significance of the White Lambskin Apron?
 - f. What were the Ashlars described in the third section of the lecture?

5. What does it mean to dispose of the token or grip?
 - a. When the grip is used as a part of ensuring other Brother is really a mason, once you take him by the token or grip of a degree, you should hold the grip until it is “properly disposed of.”
 - b. The questions back and forth allow both Brothers to be confident about the other.
6. What are the titles of the officer of the Lodge and what are their stations within the Lodge?
 - a. Elected Officers:
 - i. Master (in the East) - President
 - ii. Senior Warden (in the West) – Vice-President
 - iii. Junior Warden (in the South) – Second Vice-President
 - iv. Secretary
 - v. Treasure
 - b. Appointed Officers:
 - i. Senior Deacon (to the right and in front of the Master) – Master’s gofer and escorts visitors and candidates.
 - ii. Junior Deacon (to the right of Senior Deacon) – SW’s gofer and works with Tyler to control the door into the Lodge.
 - iii. Senior and Junior Stewards (to the right and left of the Junior Warden) act to provide refreshments for the Lodge and assist with degree work.
 - iv. Tyler (outside the Lodge door) to ensure that only authorized people get in.
 - v. Other appointed officers include: Marshall, Chaplin, and Lodge Education Officer.
7. Don’t be afraid to discuss Masonry with your friends. Encourage membership of good men.

Before Second Degree, someone needs to:

8. Assure the new Brother is available for the proficiency and the second degree.
9. Answer any questions he or his family may have.
10. Review the proper way to wear his apron.
11. Review how to step off as an Entered Apprentice.
12. Ensure the prologue to the Fellowcraft should be read (available on the Grand Lodge website under Lodge Resources, Member Resource).