

If properly vouched for, the member may be immediately admitted without further raps and the door closed.

If anyone wishing to enter cannot be vouched for by the Warder or the Sentinel, the Warder should report to the Worthy Matron, giving the person's name and the name, number, and location of the Chapter of the visitor. If no one present can vouch for the visitor, the Worthy Matron should instruct an Examining Committee to retire as per instructions in proving the Chapter. The work of the Warder and Sentinel is found in the ritual: Balloting – pages 13 and 14, Raps – page 16, Opening – pages 25 and 43, Closing – pages 45 and 47, and Initiation – page 49.

The Sentinel ballots according to the Ritual, pages 13 and 14. Members can not be admitted with the Sentinel and ballot at the same time he does. It is permissible for the substitute Sentinel to go out and the Sentinel to come in to ballot with the same tiling of the door. The Sentinel does not relinquish his badge.

When the Associate Conductress retires for preparation of the candidates, members can no longer be admitted. The Sentinel must not interrupt with an alarm at any time during the remainder of the ceremony except in emergencies.

During the prayer circle the Warder remains at her/his station.

Corley Anne Byras, Worthy Grand Matron



The Warder and Sentinel

Each officer in a chapter is important. All officers are charged with specific duties at the time of installation. Each officer should strive to perform these duties in a manner becoming the solemnity of our Order. To make our Ritualistic work as impressive as possible, all officers should memorize their work.

The Warder and Sentinel are respectively our inner and outer guards. You have the great responsibility of protecting us from any intrusion and it is most important that you work together as a team.

The Warder occupies a position at the doorway and your office carries a great responsibility because it is the station where communication takes place between the Chapter meeting room and the anteroom, and the world outside. You remain alert at all times to all that is happening so that the Worthy Matron can turn to you for assistance.

Every Chapter office is represented by a meaningful badge and emblem

which embody the character of the office.

The Warder badge is the Dove within the Star, an emblem of peace, directing our thoughts towards peace and harmony among the members.

Your dove becomes a reminder that peace and harmony are the responsibility of each member present. Each must strive to have peace in her/his own heart and to be at peace with others.

The dove also reminds us of the need for open discussions and to be willing to listen to the point of view of others. Your pleasant manner can make members comfortable and at ease.

As Sentinels, you have a great challenge. We have long known that first impressions are very lasting. To you is given the opportunity to influence the image our visitors and members have of our Order and our Chapters as they enter our doors.

Your badge, the crossed swords within the Star are meant to symbolize justice and protection, and members seeing it are reminded that there is no room in the meeting for unworthy feelings or unkind thoughts.

Though we may not always fully appreciate its importance, the office of Sentinel is a very responsible one in the success of any chapter meeting.

Members are not admitted during the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, while a ballot is being taken (except as provided in

the Ritual for the balloting by the Sentinel), during an initiation lecture, or during any portion of the Secret Work.

The Warder should not respond to any raps given by the Sentinel until the Order of Business or Ceremony is complete.

The Warder never leaves the station, and the doors are opened and closed only by the Warder. (Except to attend other doors.)

The Worthy Matron, Warder and Sentinel should have a complete understanding of duties to preclude unnecessary interruptions.

The Sentinel will not allow anyone to enter the chapter room that she/he cannot vouch for, after the chapter room has been proven. If the person is allowed to enter, the presiding officer presumes that the person is known by the Sentinel and is in good standing.

It is suggested that a new member not be appointed Sentinel unless absolutely necessary. The new member needs to be inside the Chapter room so that she/he may learn the work of our Order. The Sentinel should be invited to sit in the doorway of the Chapter room during the business portion of the meeting if security can be provided, but never during the Ritualistic work.

Raps are given either by the Warder or the Sentinel. They are given for members who wish to leave the Chapter Room or to come into the Chapter

Room (Ritual, page 16).

Only the presiding officer may give permission to the Warder to open any door. The opening and closing of the doors when the Chapter is in session is exclusively the duty of the Warder. The Warder must always give the proper raps prior to opening the door when the Bible is open. The raps are never given by the Warder immediately after closing the door.

No alarm should be reported until the Chapter has been declared open and after the flag ceremony. Also important business should not be interrupted by alarms.

When an alarm is given by the Sentinel the Warder will rise and say, "Worthy Matron, there is an alarm at the door." The Worthy Matron will reply, "Sister (or Brother) Warder, you will ascertain the cause of the alarm."

After giving the proper raps, opening the door and ascertaining the cause, the Warder will report to the Worthy Matron. If the alarm was caused by a Sister, Brother or Visitor, properly vouched for, the Warder will make the following report, "Worthy Matron, the alarm was caused by a Sister (or Brother or Visitor), properly vouched for, who wishes to enter." The Worthy Matron will respond, " _____ Warder, you will admit her/him or them)."