

El Paso Lodge of Perfection

***Officers' Duties* Venerable Master**

Bylaws Duties:

The Venerable Master shall preside at all meetings and shall see that the statutes, edicts, rules, and regulations of the Supreme Council and the bylaws of this Lodge of Perfection are enforced. It shall be his special duty to see that the dignity and standing of Scottish Rite Freemasonry is preserved and maintained. He shall not vote, except when electing officers, balloting on candidates, and when members are equally divided on other questions.

Monitor Duties:

Presiding officer of the Body. Responsible to hold meetings, instruct members, and maintain laws of the Order.

Installation Duties:

The Ancient Charges and Regulations, which define the duty of a Master of a Lodge of Perfection :

1° You admit that it is not in the power of any man, or body of men to make innovations in the essential and fundamental principles of Freemasonry.

2° You agree to hold in veneration the ancient landmarks and great principles of Masonry; to respect and obey the Authorities of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Supreme and Subordinate, according to their stations; to uphold the dignity and honor of the Rite, and strictly to conform to all Edicts of the Supreme Council, not subversive of the principles and groundwork of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry.

3° You agree that an avowed atheist cannot be lawfully made a Mason; and that any Power, calling itself Masonic, which permits its Lodges to initiate atheists, or its higher bodies to receive them, is necessarily not Masonic.

4° You agree to assert and defend the rights of the People, and to maintain their liberties, holding those only to be valid laws which have been enacted with their consent, constitutionally expressed.

5° You promise to be the advocate and supporter of good government, law and order, in harmony with individual freedom and the rights of man; to engage in no plots or conspiracies against such a government; to submit peacefully to the will of the majority, constitutionally and legally expressed; to pay proper respect to the constituted authorities of your country, and to endeavor to be of service to it, and to the Society in which you live.

6° You agree that every Mason should pursue some respectable occupation; should live decorously, and should act with honor, fidelity and generosity towards all men.

7° You are to permit none to visit your Lodge, except such as are Perfect Elus of the obedience of some Supreme Council recognized as legitimate by the Supreme Council of the Southern

Jurisdiction of the United States; and you will give no countenance to persons who belong to spurious organizations pretending to be Powers of the Scottish Rite.

8° You promise not to consent to admission into, or honor in the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, of men who traffic in Masonic Degrees, or who live upon Freemasonry without returning it a full equivalent.

9° You agree to endeavor to diffuse the principles of the Scottish Freemasonry; to attend regularly the meetings of your Lodge; to make yourself familiar with the Ritual, and to commit to memory so much of it as will enable you to do handsomely the work, especially of opening and closing; and to instruct the Brethren from time to time by lectures upon the history, symbolism, morality, philosophy, and religion of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, or cause this to be done.

10° You agree to be cautious to admit none but good men into your Lodge, to receive no one who does not do his duty as a Blue Mason, and who is not of good character, intelligent and respectable.

11° You are not to countenance idle and unprofitable display and parade, or wasteful and excessive expenditures of money by your Lodge, whereby its charities to the needy shall become meager and pitiful.

12° You promise courteously to receive and hospitably to entreat all genuine Brethren, of whatever land, who may seek to visit your Lodge; to be modest in your carriage and behavior, courteous to all men, and faithful to your Lodge and Brethren; and carefully to refrain from debauchery, intemperance and excess.

13° You promise to be impartial and upright, in your seat as Master, and to be strictly governed by the Constitutions and Statutes of the Order.

14° You promise to avoid disputes and quarrels; to try to be at peace with all men; to seek no revenge on any; to harbor no malice, and readily consent to a reconciliation.

Charge to the Master:

Whenever your Lodge is closed, and an evening has passed away without your having given the Brethren some new and useful information, you will have failed to do your duty.

You are to arouse the indolent, encourage the desponding, and invite the unreflecting Brethren to do something, the influences whereof shall be felt beyond the limits of the Lodge; something for society, something for the State, something for humanity.

Above all, see to it that their Masonry does not evaporate in words and professions; that they do not lay it aside when they retire from the Lodge; that their vows, lightly taken, be not vaguely remembered and little regarded. Charge them to practice out of the Lodge the duties taught in it; and by their forbearance, toleration, fairness, frankness, discretion, equity and profound regard for truth and honor, to convince all who know them of the excellence of our Institution, so that it may again come to be the case that one shall need no other voucher, with worthy and good men, than that he is a Mason of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite; so that, when any one is a Member of our Order, the world may know that he is not only one whose conduct is governed by justice, and his heart expanded by benevolence – not only one whom the sad soul will never in vain make known its sorrows and distress – never in vain prefer its suit – but one to whom the Oppressed may confidently appeal for aid against the Oppressor; the People against its Tyrants, the Conscience against those who hold it bound in chains, and repress as crimes even its quivering convulsions.

Fraternal Duties:

1. Preside at all stated meetings, Reunions and fraternal events throughout the year.
2. Notify the Senior Warden in the event that you will be unable to attend a meeting or event and charge him with assuming your station and responsibility.
3. Conduct the Feast of Tishri in October of each year.
 - a. Set the date.
 - b. Plan the program and secure a speaker or entertainment
 - c. Prepare an announcement for "The Scottish Rite News" announcing the event and encouraging attendance.
 - d. Contact the presiding officers of each of the other three Bodies to secure their support and the attendance of the officers of their Body at this event.
 - e. Preside over the Feast.
4. Degree Teams of the Lodge of Perfection:
 - a. See that each degree team from the 4° to the 14° is properly staffed and proficient by maintaining contact with the degree masters.
 - b. Obtain current degree team member information for the 4° to the 14° for publication in the Reunion program.
 - c. Encourage team rehearsals.
 - d. Personally attend each conferral of the 14°.
5. Work with the presiding officers of each of the other three Scottish Rite Bodies to coordinate efforts and to obtain the support of their officers for events of the Lodge of Perfection.

Administrative Duties:

1. Maintain weekly contact with the Secretary's office to monitor the status of projects relating to the fraternity.
2. Notify the Senior Warden in the event that you will be unable to maintain communication with the Secretary's office and charge him with assuming your responsibility.
3. Communicate with members via articles in "The Scottish Rite News".
4. Attend monthly Executive Committee meetings.