

Indiana

Manual of the Rods



Revised November 20, 2013
Grand Lodge Ritual Committee

INDIANA RITUAL
MANUAL OF THE ROD

ORDER: Rod is held vertically at the grip, the right elbow at a 90 degree angle, emblem flat to the front, bottom of rod resting on the outside of the right toe; heels together.



CARRY: Rod is held at an angle of 45 degrees with hand at grip and rod along the rib cage, inside and parallel to the forearm; emblem vertical.



STAND AT EASE: Rod being held at “Order”, to “Stand at Ease”, carry the left foot 12 inches straight to the left, keeping the legs straight without stiffness, so that the weight of the body rests equally on both feet. Rod is held vertically in the right hand with the emblem flat to the front, the bottom of the rod resting on the outside of the right toe, the right elbow at a 90 degree angle. Place the left hand behind the body, resting in the small of the back, palm to the rear, the body erect but not constrained.



SALUTE: Being at “Order”, carry the rod vertically in front of the body with the right hand at the grip; bottom out about 12 inches from the right foot; then bring rod into rest against right shoulder. Drop right hand to side and then give the due guard and sign. When through, grasp the rod at the grip with right hand, move rod out to vertical position and bring it back to the position of “Order”.



**GENERAL PROCEDURES FOR
THE DEACONS AND STEWARDS**

A-1 When rising at their “places” the Deacons and Stewards grasp rod at grip and step forward one pace and remain at “Order” facing front.

A-2 When addressing the Worshipful Master, the Deacons and Stewards will rise as prescribed in paragraph A-1; face the Worshipful Master with rod at “Order”; move rod to “Salute”; give the due guard and sign; change rod back to original position and then proceed to carry on.

A-3 The Deacons and Stewards always “halt” with rod at “Order”. They “face” with rod at “Carry”. This rule is general. However, when halting only to face and change the direction of their travel, they remain at “Carry” while halting and facing.

**PROCEDURES FOR THE DEACONS
AND STEWARDS IN OPENING**

B-1 In the opening the Junior Deacon will rise as prescribed and after receiving instructions from the Worshipful Master faces right, takes two steps South (rod in hand) halts, faces West and proceeds to the door; halts at “Order”; changes to left hand and opens door; he informs the Tyler in a voice loud enough to be heard in the Lodge room. He then closes the door; gives the battery; about faces; changes to right hand at “Order”; walks straight forward (rod at “Carry”) and halts due South of his place; faces North; proceeds to his place; halts; faces East (rod at “Order”) and reports. When through with the questions and answers, the Worshipful Master raps and he steps back, deposits rod and is seated.

B-2 When the Senior Deacon is ordered to display the “three Great Lights”, he faces South and moves with rod at “Carry” to the Secretary’s desk. He halts with rod at “Order” as he arrives at the desk, faces East. The Secretary or Chaplain places the “three Great Lights” on the Senior Deacon’s outstretched left arm. The Senior Deacon faces about, moves West with rod at “Carry” and halts one pace West of Altar. He faces North and moves toward the Altar. Arriving at its center he faces East, deposits rod in holder and steps to the Altar. (The Senior Steward will always see that the holder for the Senior Deacon’s rod is in proper place). Then with both hands he places the Holy Bible on the Altar. After removing the Square and Compass, he opens the Holy Bible at the proper place and arranges the Square and Compass correctly and then centers the Holy Bible on the Altar. The Secretary turns on the “spot” when the “three Great Lights” are displayed. (The opening and closing of the Holy Bible is to be done reverently and deliberately with no noise being made as the Square and Compass are placed together). The Senior Deacon then recovers rod at “Order”, steps back one pace, moves rod to “Salute” and gives the due guard and sign, moves North at “Carry” and halts due West of his place; faces East and proceeds to his place.

B-3 When the Worshipful Master instructs the Junior Deacon to “Inform the Tyler”, the Junior Deacon proceeds to the door as prescribed in paragraph B-1, but first gives the battery which is answered by the Tyler. He then opens the door and announces “that the Lodge is open”; shuts the door and returns to his place as prescribed in paragraph B-1; with his rod at “Order” he reports “that duty has been performed, Worshipful Master”. At the sound of the Worshipful Master’s gavel he then steps back, deposits rod and is seated simultaneously with the Senior Deacon.

B-4 When the Senior Deacon hears the report to the Tyler “that the Lodge is open” he retraces his steps, halts due West of the Lesser Lights; faces East and approaches the Lesser Lights. After turning them on, he faces about and proceeds to his place as prescribed in paragraph B-2; halts one pace in front of his chair; faces about (West) and waits for the sound of the worshipful Master’s gavel, after which he steps back, deposits rod and is seated simultaneously with the Junior Deacon.

PROCEDURES FOR THE DEACONS AND STEWARDS IN CLOSING

C-1 In closing, the Junior deacon will rise when addressed, answer the questions and following the Worshipful Master’s instruction, he approaches the Tyler’s door as prescribed in paragraph B-1; give the battery; his rod in left hand at “Order”; and after answer by the Tyler, he opens the door and informs the Tyler “that the Worshipful Master is about to close this Lodge, etc.”; shuts the door and returns to his place as prescribed in paragraph B-1 and reports. When through with questions and answers, the Worshipful Master raps and the Junior Deacon steps back, deposits rod and is seated.

C-2 When directed to “close the three Great Lights”, the Senior Deacon moves West with rod at “Carry” and halts one pace West of the Altar, faces South and moves to the center of the Altar, halts with rod at “Order”, faces East, deposits rod in holder (set in place for closing by the Senior Steward), steps to the Altar; removes the Square and Compass and with both hands closes the Holy Bible; inserts the Square and Compass under the front cover; picks up the Holy Bible with both hands and places it on his left arm; steps back; recovers rod at “Order”; faces South; moves South with rod at “Carry” and halts due West of Secretary’s desk; (if the Chaplain comes to receive the three Great Lights, he takes them from the Senior Deacon and the two move back to the East together). If the Chaplain does not come to receive them, the Senior Deacon faces East and proceeds to desk where he is met and the Holy Bible taken from him, rod at “Order”.

The Senior Deacon then faces West and returns to his place, being careful to halt and face as he makes each change of direction. Arriving one pace in front of his chair, he faces Southeast, comes to “Salute” with rod and gives the due guard and sign; faces West. When the Junior Deacon goes to the door to re-port to the Tyler, the Senior Deacon returns to extinguish the Lesser Lights in the same manner as pre-scribed in paragraph B-4. He then returns to his place, faces West and awaits the sound of the Worshipful Master’s gavel which disperses the brethren.

C-3 When the worshipful Master instructs the Junior Deacon to “inform the Tyler” he carries on as prescribed in paragraph B-3, returning to his place to report “that duty is performed, Worshipful Master”. The Worshipful Master then disperses the brethren with the sound of the gavel.

PROCEDURES FOR THE DEACONS

IN PURGING THE LODGE

When told to approach the West, the Deacons will rise in their places, take their rods and step one pace forward with their rods at "Order". When in the correct position, Senior Deacon and Junior Deacon move straight forward and halt one pace West of the Altar. They face inward in unison and move forward and halt one pace apart, the interval between them centering on the North side of the Altar. They move West in line and halt one pace East of bottom step at the Senior Warden's station, their rods at "Order". As the Senior warden concludes "communicate to me the pass of a "?" they shift rods to left hand. Then in turn, beginning with the Senior Deacon on the North, they step forward to the top step, clasp right hands and communicate the pass and step back. The Junior Deacon steps back East of the bottom step two paces, the Senior Deacon one pace. They have rods in left hand at "Order" as the Senior Warden concludes "to the Worshipful Master in the East", take rods in right hand at "Order". The Senior Deacon faces South, the Junior Deacon faces North.

The Senior Deacon takes the South side, moves East to the Secretary's desk, marches to within three paces of the steps in the East, halts, faces North with rod at "Order" and waits until the Junior Deacon is ready.

The Junior Deacon takes the North side to the Treasurer's desk, marches to within three paces of the steps in the East, halts, faces South with rod at "Order" and waits until the Senior Deacon is ready.

The Junior Deacon and Senior Deacon then move simultaneously to the center in front of the Worshipful Master. They halt one pace apart, their rods at "Order". They shift rods to left hand at "Order", step forward on right foot, clasp hands and the Junior Deacon gives the word to the Senior Deacon. They then step back and change rods to right hands at "Order". The Senior Deacon then faces East and steps up on the Dias to the Worshipful Master, halts with rod at "Order", shifts rod to left hand at "Order", steps forward on right foot, clasps Worshipful Master's hand and gives the word. He then steps back, changes rod to right had at "Order" and backs down steps and halts due South of his chair. He faces North with rod at "Carry", moves to his chair, halting one pace away; he then faces West with rod at "Order" and waits for the Worshipful Master's gavel.

As the Senior Deacon moves to the rostrum, the Junior Deacon moves South and halts due East of his chair. He faces West and approaches his chair halting one pace away with rod at "Order"; he then faces East and waits with rod at "Order". After the Senior Warden reports to the Worshipful Master "All present are "?" the Worshipful Master seats all with gavel. The Deacons step back, place rods in holders and are seated in unison with the Senior Warden.

(D) ROD IN LEFT HAND

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| 1. Junior Steward | When conducting candidate from the preparation room. |
| 2. Stewards | When giving grip (If Stewards give E.A. questions and answers). |
| 3. Senior Deacon | When receiving grip from Senior Steward at the preparation room door.
When receiving and giving grip during the purge.
When giving grip to the Junior Warden, Senior Warden and Worshipful Master following circumambulation. |
| 4. Junior Deacon | When receiving and giving grip during the purge. |
| 5. Senior Steward | When giving grip to Senior Deacon at the preparation room door. |

Entered Apprentice Due Guard



Entered Apprentice Penal Sign



Fellow Craft Due Guard and Sign



Master Mason Due Guard and Sign

