

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (ROYAL ARCH)

The principal difference between the Craft and the Royal Arch in this regard is that the primary situation required by the Book of Regulations is that all officers of a Royal Arch Chapter be elected, unless the Chapter, each year, on the day of the election, resolves that the officers, except for the Principals and Treasurer, shall instead be appointed by the incoming Principals. (Regulation 48).

- a) If your Chapter invokes Regulation 48 in this way, then the following permissive procedures apply only to the election of the Principals and Treasurer.
 - b) If, however, your Chapter elects all the officers and your Chapter wishes to adopt the permissive method, then the following procedure applies to all the officers of the Chapter.
- A. A Chapter is absolutely free to continue to elect the three Principals and Treasurer [and the other officers] by ballot in the traditional manner specified in Regulation 48.
 - B. If a Chapter intends to employ, as an alternative method of election, the permissive regulations, it should proceed as follows:

The Chapter may dispense with a ballot for the offices of Principals and Treasurer [and other officers] if the incumbent Principals have formed the opinion, before the printing of the summons for the convocation where the election will take place, that in the case of an officer for the following year who falls to be elected by ballot, there is likely to be only one candidate.

The Principals will accordingly cause this opinion to be printed on the summons to the convocation of the election meeting, specifying in each case the name(s) of the Companion(s) alongside the corresponding office(s). [see below]

At the election meeting, before the election is proceeded with, the First Principal will ask the Companions present whether any member wishes a ballot to take place in respect of any office. If no such demand is made then the Principals will declare the nominated officers elected without ballot.

If a ballot for any office is demanded by any member present then it is conducted in the usual manner.

FORM OF WORDS: ELECTION OF OFFICERS BY DECLARATION (Regulation 48)

If your Chapter seeks to dispense with a ballot for the Election of some or all Officers and adopt the declaration option for the forthcoming year, the correct wording that must appear on your Chapter summons for the Election Meeting is:

'To declare (unless otherwise decided at the meeting) Companions [NAMES] as [OFFICES] Elect for the ensuing year'

(Note: If another qualified candidate declares his intention to be considered for an office, or a formal ballot is called for, a formal ballot is to be taken).