

THE RETIRING OF THE ASSISTANT PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER OR THE REPRESENTATIVE FROM AN INSTALLATION BANQUET

Lodges have enquired whether there might be an alternative to the current practice of the Assistant Provincial Grand Master or Representing Officer retiring from the Installation Banquet immediately following the reply of the Worshipful Master to the Toast to his health.

It is sometimes felt that this provokes an unduly large exodus from the proceedings, particularly of senior Brethren. However, the Provincial Grand Master feels he must be mindful of the burden of time which the duty of representing him places upon those who do so and he feels he must continue to ensure that after-proceedings are conducted on such occasions in a timely and dignified manner.

He has therefore approved the following **alternative procedure** which, while he expects it to be meticulously observed, will enable the Assistant or Representing Officer to remain until proceedings are concluded.

1. If it is usual to give the Toast to absent Brethren (the 'Nine o'Clock Toast') it should be given formally (without an Almoner's report) at some point between Toast No. 2 (to the Grand Master) and the Toast to the health of the Worshipful Master.
2. The Toast to the Master is proposed (followed by the Master's Song if required).
3. The Master responds to the Toast to his health.

Between now and the end of the proceedings the Master does not sit.

4. Still standing, the Worshipful Master proposes the health of the Immediate Past Master, to which there is no response.
5. After the Brethren have honoured the Toast and sat down the Worshipful Master remains standing and proposes the Toast to the Guests, to which there is no response.
6. After the Brethren have honoured that Toast the Master sits and the Tyler is summoned to propose his Toast.
7. After the Tyler's Toast has been honoured, the Brethren remain standing to their places while the Worshipful Master, accompanying the Assistant or Representing Officer, retires.

If a Lodge wishes to retain the present procedure it is entirely at liberty to do so, but if the alternative procedure is to be employed, it may not vary from the sequence of events prescribed above.