

Provincial Fraternal Visits Protocol

The Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro David Medlock, is continually looking for ways to improve communication between Brethren, Lodges in the Province and the Provincial Executive. He is also very keen that our fraternal link with the Holy Royal Arch should be strengthened. To this end Provincial Fraternal Visits may now include Senior Members of the Holy Royal Arch.

These visits will be attended by one of the Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, accompanied by a Provincial Steward who will act as Provincial DC for the evening, Members of the Provincial Team, Provincial Executive and may also include Members of The Provincial Holy Royal Arch Team. The object of the visit is to allow the Assistant PGM and Members of the Provincial Team to enjoy an ordinary meeting of the Lodge and join the Brethren afterwards at the Festive Board. This will give members of the Lodge the opportunity to discuss any Masonic questions or concerns that they may have with Senior Members of the Province. It will also enable the Assistant PGM and his Visiting Team the opportunity to communicate the latest News from the Province in a less formal setting than the Installation Meeting.

To mark the importance of these visits the following protocol should be observed;

- a) The summons for the meeting will state the name of the Ruler in attendance
- b) An item on the Agenda, immediately after the Lodge has been opened will indicate that the Lodge will receive the Assistant PGM, who will be formally introduced into the Lodge by his Acting DC. The Worshipful Master will proffer him the Gavel.
- c) After the adoption of Minutes (or matters arising) salutations will be accorded to the Assistant PGM by the acting Provincial DC.
- d) The Assistant PGM and Members of the Team will retire after the Closing of the Lodge with the Master under the direction of the Lodge DC. If it is not the custom of the Lodge to retire in procession the Lodge DC will ensure the Brethren remain standing while the visiting Team retires from the Lodge with the Worshipful Master.

At The Festive Board, the Assistant PGM will sit at the top table between the Master and the IPM. Other Members of the Team should (as near as possible, or to comply with present Covid Regulations) be sat with their opposite number in the Lodge (Treasurer, Secretary, Charity Steward etc)

Members of the Holy Royal Arch should be sat with the Lodge HRA Rep along with any Master Masons of the Lodge who may be interested in becoming Royal Arch Companions and completing their Craft Journey. Members of the Visiting Team should not be sat together. This will give Lodge members the chance to converse freely with members of the Visiting Team. Toasts should be short and to the point and the Toast to the Province should be given by one of the Junior Officers of the Lodge.

Visiting Brethren will pay their own Dining costs

Arrangements for the Fraternal Provincial Visit will be co-ordinated by the Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies in conjunction with individual Lodge Secretaries and Director of Ceremonies.

Details of the date of the visit and who is attending can be found by clicking the following link: [Provincial Fraternal visits](#)

Secretaries and DCs of Lodges are advised to bookmark the link in order that they can return to the page to check nearer the time just exactly who will be attending. The acting Provincial DC will contact the Lodge DC before the visit takes place to clarify any points of procedure.

A fraternal visit by its very name indicates that it is an occasion that should be enjoyed by all concerned, the Provincial Grand Master sincerely hopes that this will be the case and that these visits will prove valuable to both the Province and Individual Lodges.

Amended by W Bro Colin Martin PrDepGDC

March 2022