

Brethren:

Recently, I was asked two questions by a brother in our District. The questions were as follows:

a) When calling off, are the L.Ls. turned off or left on? The brother pointed out that the B. of the W. mentions nothing about adjusting the L.Ls. when calling the lodge from L. to R. and R. to L.

b) He also asked whether the W.'s lights should be turned off when calling off, as this is also not mentioned in the B. of the W.

Like many questions regarding our Ritual, at first view, the answer seems simple until you take a closer look.

In my research for the answers to the above, I referred to the "Questions & Answers" booklet and, in particular, to Question No. 20 on Page 16 which reads as follows:

Question: When the lodge is called from L. to R., are the L.L.'s extinguished and the W. T.'s covered?

Answer: The L.L.'s are only illuminated when the Lodge is at work and the Working Tools are only displayed when the Lodge is open. (See the Guide Lines for Officers, Page 4, No. 3, No. 4 and No.6).

I referred to Page 4 of the Guide Lines for Lodge Officers in The Mechanics of The Work.

No. 3 The L.L.'s which should be placed two on the N. at each corner of the A., and one midway on the S. of the A., are illuminated when the lodge is at work, except for the necessary part of the M.M.D. between the direction to the I.G. to attend to the alarm and "the human race".

No. 4 The L.L's are extinguished just before the P.M. actually closes T.V.O.T.S.L. If the lights are on single switches or candles are used, they are lighted in the sequence J.W., S.W., W.M. and extinguished in the reverse order.

No. 6 The W.T's of the degree are displayed when the Master declares the lodge open and are covered when the S.W. declares the lodge closed. Usually this duty is delegated by the Master to the S.S. or an officer who is seated close at hand.

In my mind, the two questions asked of me were not fully and clearly answered by what I have just read to you so I emailed M. W. Bro. C. Edwin Drew, Custodian of the Work for clarification of the proper way to call a lodge from L. to R. and R. to L.

M. W. Bro. Drew confirmed what I had already deduced from my research that as the lodge is not at work when at refreshment, the L.L's are not illuminated. Therefore the L.L's are turned off by the I.P.M. prior to him closing T.V.O.T.S.L.

Furthermore, as these Ls. are meant to represent the lights at the Ws. and W.M. so all are turned off whilst at refreshment. When the J.W. raises his column, he would turn the L. at his station off and when the S.W. lowers his column, he would also turn the L. at his station off.

When the lodge is not at work, i.e. "at refreshment", the W.T.'s are covered.

In summary, in calling the lodge from L. to R., the six lights are extinguished and the W.T.'s covered and when calling the lodge from R. to L. the reverse takes place.

Have I made any sense? I trust I have relayed this information in a clear and concise manner.

The Custodian of the Work indicated that in the next reprint of the B. of the W., provisions are already made to expand the directions on calling the lodge from L. to R. and R. to L.

Although there is still much for me to do before the end of my term as D.D.G.M., I will take a few moments to thank our District Chairmen for a fine job this year and also my humblest thanks to each of you Brethren, for receiving me with great warmth and friendship. You have made my job a most pleasant and memorable experience.

Brethren, thank you for your kind attention.