



Grand Lodge A.F. & A. M. of South Dakota

PROCLAMATION "CHANCE-TO-ADVANCE" DEGREE DAYS

As Dispensations for one-day conferrals of all three Degrees will not, in general, be granted, I may grant Dispensations for "chance-to-advance" Degree days, in which the Fellowcraft and Master Mason Degrees are conferred on the same day, with the following requirements

Section 4.137 of the South Dakota Masonic Code must be complied with, with the following exceptions:

The conferring of the FC and MM Degrees within less than a seven-day period requires a Special Dispensation from the Grand Master (see Section 4.113.) When the FC and MM Degrees are conferred in one day the following minimum standards must be met.

1. Each Candidate who is receiving courtesy work (not a candidate of the Host Lodge) must be accompanied by a member of his Lodge and a letter from his Lodge, over the signature of the Worshipful Master and the Seal of the Lodge, clearly stating that the Brother has received the Entered Apprentice Degree in his home Lodge, or by courtesy work of another Lodge if the home Lodge is unable to confer the Degree on its own, *not less than* seven (7) days prior to the "chance-to-advance" Degree day and has been *declared* proficient in the EA Degree. The letter must also request courtesy work of the Host Lodge.

Subsection two (2), dealing with Entered Apprentice Proficiency is deleted, as the Candidate has already received his Entered Apprentice Degree.

Subsections 3-7, inclusive, remain unchanged.

Additionally, the following conditions must be met:

1. Each Candidate for the FC and MM Degree **MUST** be accompanied by a separate MM from his home Lodge who will act as his Mentor and Conductor for the day (example: If Lodge XYZ brings three Candidates, then three Master Masons from Lodge XYZ must attend the Degree Day. One MM from Lodge XYZ cannot act as Mentor for all three Candidates that day.)
2. Each Candidate for the FC Degree, First Section must be divested of his outward apparel and properly clothed, hoodwinked, complete the Rite of Circumambulation, be taught to approach the Altar, kneel and repeat the Obligation and be instructed on the Pass, Token, Grip and Word, and any other particulars of the First Section, and returned to the place whence he came, in accordance with the Ritual and Monitor of the Grand Lodge of SD. The Middle Chamber Lecture, G Lecture and Charge may then be given to the "class" as a whole.
3. Each Candidate for the First Section of the MM Degree must be divested of his outward apparel and properly clothed, hoodwinked, complete the Rite of Circumambulation, be taught to approach the Altar, kneel and repeat the Obligation and be instructed on the Pass, Token and any

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other particulars of the First Section, and returned to the place whence he came, in accordance with the Ritual and Monitor of the Grand Lodge of SD.

4. Each Candidate for the Second Section of the MM Degree must be brought to the Jr. Warden, rap the gavel, approach the Altar, be hoodwinked, kneel and pray and be conducted through the three Ruffians. After meeting with the third Ruffian, the Candidate may then be Raised and given the substitute. It would be permissible to take Candidates to the Jr. Warden and through the Ruffians two or more at a time, provided the number of Ruffians at each gate is equal to the number of Candidates being conducted. The Final Candidate for the Second Section will then go through the entire Second Section, and upon his being Raised, he and the other Candidates will be instructed on the Substitute, Five Points of Fellowship, etc., as per the Ritual and Monitor of South Dakota. The Lectures, Charge, etc. may then be given to the "class" as a whole. Any Bible Presentation, etc. is at the discretion of the Host Lodge.
5. Dispensation must be granted by the Grand Master no less than 30 days prior to the Degree day.

The process of Passing to the Degree of Fellowcraft, and being Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason is a very moving and personal experience. For a Brother to sit on the sidelines and simply watch as an exemplar is taken through the Degree in his place robs the Brother of the chance to experience this profound and important Ceremony.

Fraternally,



Harold D. Ireland,
Grand Master of Masons

