

BLUE LIGHTNING RULES for 2011-2012

Before a lodge can request a Blue Lightning event, they must have met certain qualifications.

The candidate must have taken the 1st degree in the petitioned lodge.

He must have been assigned an Intender. (Not just a coach, but a member who is familiar with and will work from the Intender program booklets).

He must successfully have passed one of the first degree catechisms (*the traditional or the short version in the Intender booklet*) and have passed, to his Intender, the candidate questions in the booklet.

At this point, if the lodge desires to host a Blue Lightning event, they must vote to do so and to ask for dispensation.

They will then contact their DDGM and arrange for a date. The DDGM will contact the Area Coordinator, who will approve the date and issue the needed paper work to the lodge. The paper work must be returned to the Area Coordinator and the Grand Secretary's Office at least two weeks before the event. **If the paperwork is not received, the event will be cancelled.**

Candidates from other lodges may be added by working through the Area Coordinator, but no later than one week before the event. These candidates must have their paper work turned in to the Coordinator and have met all of the requirements listed above.

If candidates from other lodges attend, their home lodge **must** have voted to send them and to allow for the courtesy degrees.

All fees for the event will be sent to the Grand Secretary's office and not to the Area Coordinator.

The host WM will make out the slate of officers. The slate **must** be approved by the host DDGM at least one week before the event.

The Area Coordinator will assign himself or one of his assistants to be in charge of the event. (starting with the one who lives closest to the event.)

The host DDGM will ensure that the building is open and set up early, that a registration committee (assigned by the WM) is in place early and that a proper meal is to be served if needed.

No candidate will be admitted without a mentor. Each candidate will have a mentor. Each mentor will have a Bible to be used during the obligations. All candidates and mentors will register.

The secretary will read each candidates name after the lodge is opened and before any degree work starts.

Event size will be a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 12 candidates. The Coordinator has the authority increase the size to 15 only if the facility will accommodate that number.

All candidates must answer, "is this of your own free will and accord" during the degrees. All candidates will repeat the obligations.

The Secretary of the host lodge will be responsible for ensuring that the all candidate's information is sent to the Grand Secretary's office within one week after the event.

On the day of a Blue Lightning event, the lodge building will be opened one hour before start time. The Area Coordinator (or asst.) will be there early to see that all is in order. The candidates and mentors will arrive at least 45 minutes before the event. They will meet with the Area Coordinator 30 minutes before start time. He will use a prewritten speech to explain to them what is about to take place, what they are expected to do, "come on the step" and what is expected of them after completing the degrees. The

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mentors will also be instructed, and seated on the north. (seats will be reserved for them) The Area Coordinator (or asst.) is in charge of the event, including making changes to the slate if he feels it is necessary. The work will conform to the standard work as taught by the Board of Grand Examiners.

The host lodge will be opened on the 3rd degree and then dispense to the 2nd. After the exemplar is properly dressed for the degree, the other candidates will assemble under the direction of the Coordinator. Only the exemplar will be hoodwinked.

When entering the lodge room, the JD will conduct the exemplar, the Area Coordinator (or asst.) will direct the others to follow, and the Stewards will come in last. Before "receiving" the Area Coordinator (or asst.) will have the candidates in position to see and hear. After "receiving" the JD will step to the South as the SD takes charge of the exemplar and he will fall in line in front of the Stewards. The SD will conduct the exemplar according to standard work, and the AC will be in charge of getting the other candidates in place to see and hear.

When In the West all candidates will follow the directions of the SW to come on the step. The exemplar will kneel at the altar with the other candidates standing around the altar. (Before the obligation begins, mentors, at the direction of the Area Coordinator (or asst.), will stand in front of their candidates and hold the Bible for them to place their hands on and salute. The mentor will also place their candidates hand on the grip.

The SW (with the Mentors assistance if needed) will position all of the aprons during his ritual.

The working tools will be given to the exemplar.

Retiring the candidate will be in the normal manner except that the Stewards will wait, leaving the altar and retire behind all candidates.

The SD will conduct the exemplar for the 2nd degree lecture; all other candidates will follow at the direction of the Area Coordinator (or asst.)

Instead of seating the exemplar in the west, all candidates, under direction of the Area Coordinator (or asst), will formally retire.

A different candidate will be used for each section of each degree.

During the second section of the third degree, all candidates will be seated in the North and will be placed in front of KS and be caused to kneel and pray. Only the exemplar will be hoodwinked. After all have prayed, the other candidates, under the direction of the Area Coordinator (or asst.), will leave by way of the Tyler's door and go to a place away from the lodge room. The SD will then conduct the hoodwinked candidate in the normal manner through the Tyrians. When he is in the canvas, KS, with the assistance of HT, will raise him and give him the word. The SD will then seat him as a Fellowcraft beginning with #4. While this is going on the Area Coordinator (or asst.) will take the next candidate to the preparation room (with the door closed) and put the hood wink on him. After seating the 1st candidate the SD will get the next candidate from the preparation room and again start his perambulation and proceed through the Tyrians. This will continue until the last candidate, and he will proceed through the entire degree.

During the "raising" the mentors under the direction of the Area Coordinator (or asst.) will be in position to place their candidate on the grip, "in the proper position" and give them the Grand Masonic word.

All candidates will be in the east to receive the lecturer and charge.

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The only candidates conducted to the Sect. desk will be those who have their lodge by-laws present to be signed. The SD will seat one candidate; the Area Coordinator (or asst.) will conduct the others. They will all be seated together. **Do not ask candidates to speak.**

There will be no presentations made. All presentations including Bible and Apron presentations will be made at their home lodges and not as part of the event.

The Area Coordinator (or asst) will start the event with very short introductions and end with some comments to the new members.

The lodge will be closed.

Fees:

Lodges will be charged a \$15.00 fee for each candidate **registered**. This fee is not refundable and will be billed to each candidate's lodge after the event. This fee cannot be passed on to the candidates.