

## Chapter Protocol

The presiding officer of a Chapter is the First Principal and is addressed as the Excellent First Principal. In a Lodge of Mark Master Masons or Excellent Master Masons the presiding officer is addressed as Worshipful Master.

Unlike in a Craft Lodge, in a Royal Arch Chapter there will be no reply to salutes by the First Principal, however, in a Lodge of Mark Master Masons or Most Excellent Master Masons the Worshipful Master will return all salutes even when seated. **When a companion is holding a sceptre he does not salute.** A salute is not required when receiving instructions from the First Principal or the Worshipful Master unless otherwise provided for within the approved work.

Those who are entitled to assume the Sceptre, will always be PRESENTED. Those not entitled to receive the Sceptre will always be INTRODUCED.

At no time shall there be more than one person received under the Wands.

When a Grand Chapter Officer is visiting the Chapter, the Outer Guard reports: "Companion Director of Ceremonies returning Present the e.g. Grand First Principal Ex. Comp. accompanied by Present and Past Grand Chapter Officers."

The Senior Sojourner repeats the same words to the words to the First Principal who will direct the Senior and Junior Sojourners to receive him and the Principal Sojourner to receive the word. The Junior Sojourner attends to the door only for opening and closing the Chapter. The Senior Sojourner answers all alarms while the Chapter is opened.

A visiting Grand Chapter Officer not entitled to receive the Sceptre would not be received under the wands, but will receive Grand Honours.

If a banquet is to be held with no formal head table close the festive board by acknowledging the Queen and Royal Arch Masonry followed by the singing of O Canada.

Rt. Ex. Comp. George Fairbairn  
Grand Third Principal  
July 2019

Ref:  
Protocol and Etiquette Handbook and the Book of the work authorized by the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada in the Province of Ontario