



Provincial Grand Chapter of Cumberland & Westmorland

Masonic Hall, Station Road, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 6BT

Double Exaltations

The 'Staffordshire Ritual' amongst others has a format for doubles... ..

Basically, each candidate is dealt with separately up to being obligated - The first one is proved, brought into the Chapter and obligated then seated in the Chapter. (He then has the opportunity to see the second candidate go through the 1st part of the ceremony). The second candidate is then proved, brought into the Chapter and obligated. Both Candidates then retire with the Sojourner who is to deliver the second part. The rest of the ceremony then carries on exactly as 'per book' except the Sojourner delivers his dialog between both Candidates (one with the pick and the other with the shovel). When the Sojourner goes to share the word with the Scribes, one of the other Sojourners rises and stands with the candidates. Both are given instructions how to advance to the east by Scribe N and both advance together.

The only thing to remember is that you have enough experienced Comps in the East to share the words and signs with both Candidates after they have been invested.....

Number of Candidates:

(Convocations and Emergency Convocations)

Supreme Grand Chapter has ruled that not more than two candidates may be exalted at a time at one ceremony without dispensation (RA Reg. 65).

The recommended ceremonial procedure is briefly outlined below. The Principals are reminded, however, that not more than one convocation may be held on the same day: but subject only to this, an emergency convocation may be called at any time on the authority of the Principals-but on no pretence without such authority (S.G.C. Reg. 59). Further. It is permissible to ballot for candidates for exaltation and for joining (not jointly) at emergency convocations; and candidates thus elected may be forthwith exalted into the Order.

Suggested procedure for Exalting of two candidates at one time:

M.E.Z. will announce: "The next item of business is to exalt Bro... and Bro ..." followed by: "Comp Sojourner, you will retire and entrust the 1st Candidate" - The ceremony then proceeds according to your Ritual to the point where the Candidate would normally retire but, on this occasion, he is placed in a seat in the NW of the Chapter. The Chapter is then restored to order (Arch is re-built). The M.E.Z. then instructs: "Comp Sojourner, you will retire and entrust the 2nd Candidate" The ceremony is repeated as before except after the 2nd Candidate has been restored to light and retires from the Chapter with the Sojourner who is to conduct the 2nd part, the 1st Candidate retires with them.



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The Janitor gives his report (naming BOTH Candidates) both of whom are then admitted, with the 2nd Candidate leading followed by the Sojourner and the 1st Candidate, the ceremony proceeds according to the Ritual. When the Sojourner goes to share the word with the Scribes in the NW corner, one of the other Sojourners steps forward and stands between the Candidates until Sojourner sharing the word with the Scribes returns. During the advance to the East, both Candidates (1st Candidate leading) follow and copy Scribe N; followed by the P.S. and 1st Asst S. The P.S. halts and positions the 1st Candidate in front of M.E.Z. and stands on his right. At the same time, the 1st Asst S halts and positions the 2nd Candidate in front of H. and stands on his left. The two Candidates are decorated by Z and H according to the Ritual.

Z decorates the 1st Candidate and H copies (in unison with Z) and invests the 2nd Candidate. The Sojourners and Candidates step back and stand in line facing the Principals as before. After the P.S. has addressed M.E.Z., he conducts 1st Candidate and 1st Asst S conducts 2nd Candidate to the W. They all stand facing East, P.S. in middle with 1st and 2nd Candidates on his left and right respectively. When instructed by M.E.Z. they sit, in the same order, in Sojourners seats. 1st Asst S takes a side seat alongside the 2nd Asst S.

During the Mystical Lecture when M.E.Z. leaves the N to go to the E side of pedestal, the P.S. conducts both Candidates in single file (2nd Candidate, P.S., 1st Candidate) to S side. At the time when the Name is communicated, the M.E.Z. and the two Candidates stand in triangular form, and are prompted by the P. Soj and D.C. respectively.

The procedure requires some rehearsal so that all concerned (especially the Sojourners) know what they are doing to ensure that the dignity of the occasion is not compromised.

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