

## RECOMMENDED DUTIES OF SPONSORS

The following should be considered as a guide for any Brother who has taken on the responsibility of a Sponsor to a Candidate for admission to the Lodge. Many Brethren do not fully grasp the tremendous impact that they can have on the impressions the new Candidate can form, both of St Mark's Lodge and the Fraternity as a whole.

What is this recommendation about?

It is to help sponsors in setting a path for both themselves and their Candidates, so that the Candidates introduction into the Lodge is not only meaningful and encouraging, but above all it is a pleasant experience for the new mason.

It is assumed that the Sponsor knows the person he has signed responsibility for, if this is not the case, get to know him before you sign or have another brother who does know him stand as his sponsor.

Before balloting a short introduction of the candidate by one of the sponsors will be given in lodge outlining his personal station in life and any noteworthy accomplishments that would be of interest to the brethren who are about to ballot on him.

The candidate will have an interest on the workings of Freemasonry, and you should be ready to answer his basic questions and encourage him to talk freely about his reasons for joining our fraternity.

Once the candidate is accepted and a date set for his Initiation, the sponsors should ensure that he is accompanied to the Lodge, this ensures that in the candidates new environment he does not feel alone. He should be introduced to as many members and visitors as he possibly can be, he will not remember all the names but **he** will be remembered at a later date when he visits.

It is expected that the newly initiated brother will be once again introduced to the Lodge at the Festive Board by one of his sponsors; he should be reminded at this time that he will be called upon to respond after his third degree.

It would be a great advantage to the new mason to visit other Lodges as many times as are practical to him and his sponsors, this will allow him to grow into the fraternity, understand it better and feel a greater sense of belonging.

With regards to the memory work, the responsibility to the Lodge rests with the Snr. Deacon. However help and encouragement supplied by a sponsor can often overcome the difficulties encountered in learning ritual after what is often a long time away from the academic world.

To sponsor a candidate is not only a responsibility but is also a privilege that cannot be repeated by anyone else. A mason will always remember his sponsors. We should try and make them happy memories.