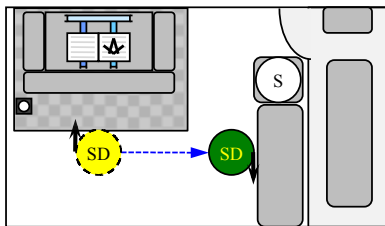


FLOORWORK

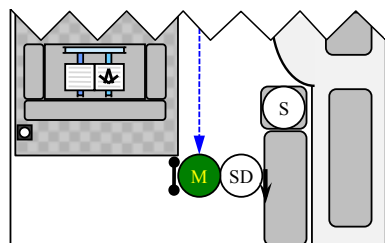
FLOORWORK TEAM DRILL

The “Drill Plan” below represents a suggested practice routine for the six members of the “Floorwork Team” (Senior Deacon, Marshal, Masters of Ceremony and Stewards). It takes no more than 5 minutes to perform one iteration of the Drill, and it’s easy for the Team to do the Drill over and over and again until it is perfect. In one 30 minute session, it should be possible for a completely inexperienced Team to go from terrible to perfect by executing the Drill multiple times. Most any Lodge can keep this material in tip-top shape by having the Floorwork Team run the Drill two or three times before or after every meeting of the Lodge. This is a great way to streamline the rehearsal process and greatly reduce the amount of time spent perfecting the Floorwork on dedicated rehearsal nights. These pages can be distributed to the Floorwork Team as a study guide to prepare for the first Drill session.

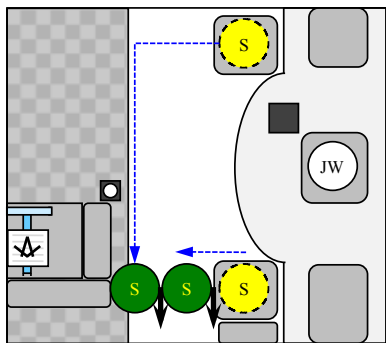
To begin: The Senior Deacon should be in front of the Altar, the Masters of Ceremony should be in the Preparation Room, and the Marshal and Stewards should be in their chairs. These are the proper positions for each Officer when the Master orders the Senior Deacon to bring in the Candidates (*EA: p. 34; FC: p. 96; MM: p.151*).



1. The Senior Deacon faces right and proceeds directly to the South sideline, where he faces West and awaits the arrival of the Marshal at his right.

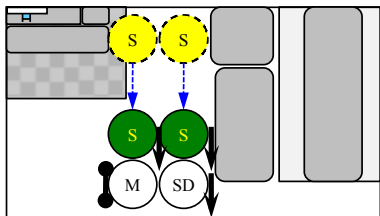


2. At the same time, the Marshal rises, carries his baton in his right hand, and proceeds West to join the Senior Deacon at the right. Upon passing the Stewards' places, the Marshal can remind them to rise with eye contact and a brief nod. The Marshal and Senior Deacon remain in place and await the arrival of the Stewards behind them.

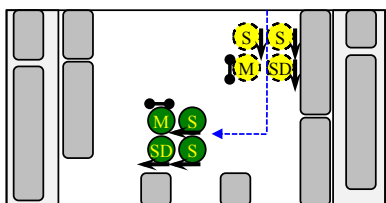


3. Once the Marshal has passed, the Stewards rise together and retrieve their staffs, holding them in the left hand.

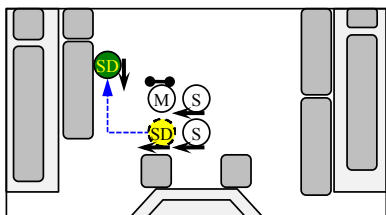
The Steward to the West steps in front of his chair, faces the West and awaits the arrival of the other Steward. The Steward to the East walks out a few steps, turns left and joins the other Steward at his side.



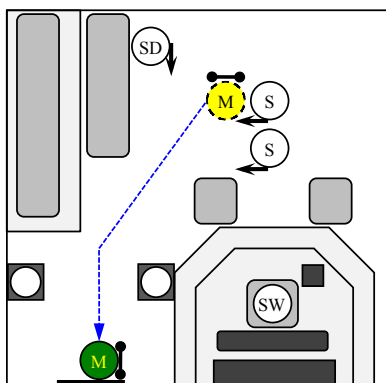
4. Once the Stewards are side by side, they proceed West together and fall in behind the Marshal and Senior Deacon.



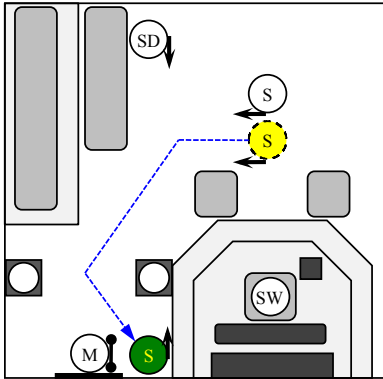
5. Together, the Marshal, Senior Deacon and Stewards proceed *in formation* toward the Inner Door, under the direction of the Marshal. The Marshal halts the procession at the approximate location of the Junior Master of Ceremony's chair.



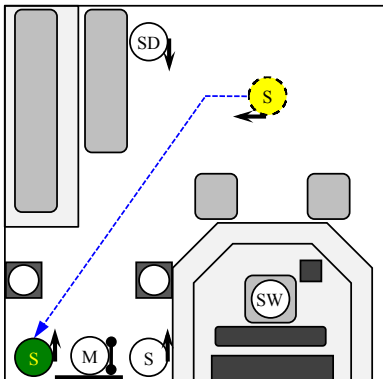
6. The Marshal then directs the Senior Deacon to withdraw to a position near the North sideline and out of the way. The Senior Deacon faces West, looking towards the Inner Door, and waits for the other officers to position themselves properly and form the arch.



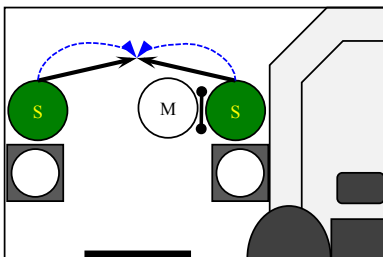
7. The Marshal then proceeds to the Inner Door and faces East.



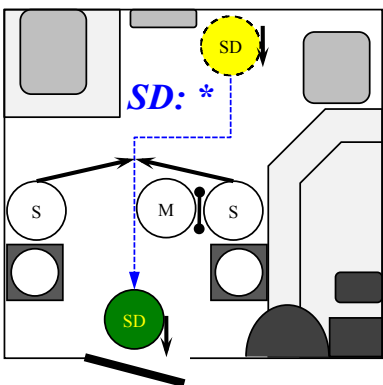
8. The Marshal uses his baton to place the first Steward at the Inner Door.



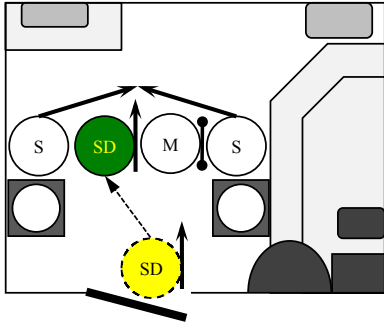
9. The Marshal uses his baton to place the second Steward at the Inner Door.



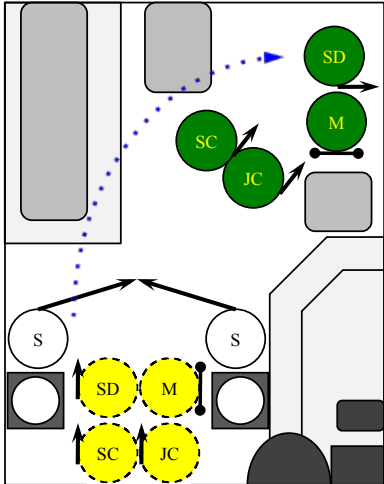
10. The Marshal directs the Stewards to form an arch, steps to the right and signals to the Senior Deacon to approach the Inner Door.



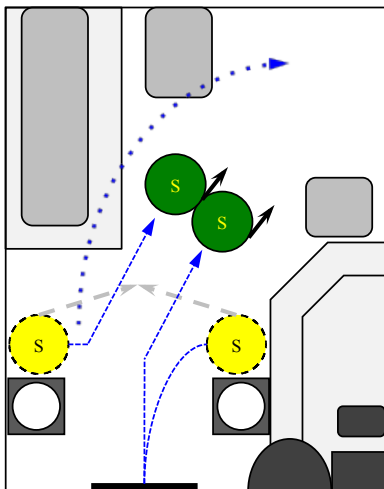
11. The Senior Deacon proceeds to the Inner Door, knocks *once* and opens the Inner Door to admit the Masters of Ceremony and imaginary Candidates.



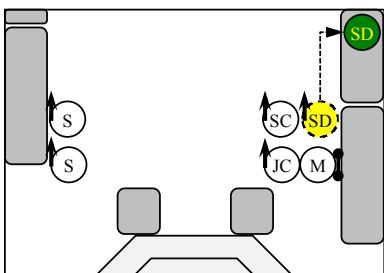
12. As soon as the Senior Deacon opens the Inner Door, he turns about-face and joins the Marshal at the left.



13. Masters of Ceremony enter and follow the Marshal and Senior Deacon in a sharp right turn into the “working area” of the Lodge Room. They are followed by imaginary Candidates.

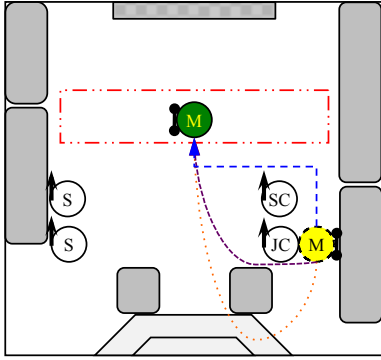


14. The Stewards strike the arch, close the Inner Door and follow the Column, leaving plenty of space for imaginary Candidates.

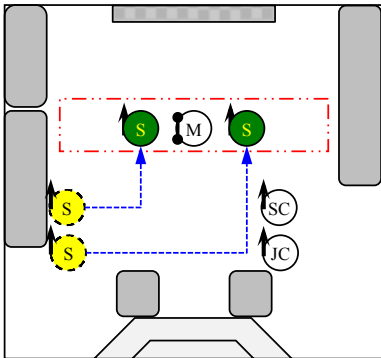


15. The “Virtual Column” is now arranged across the West, all facing East. This is the position of the Column immediately following the entrance of the Candidates, as well as the position of the Column prior to the erection of the Symbolic Temple.

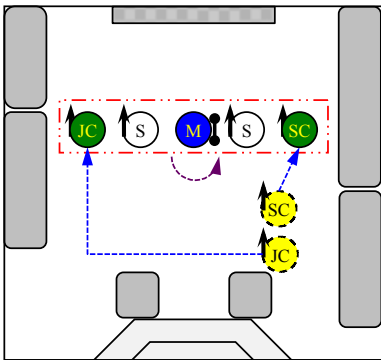
At this point the Drill skips ahead to the erection of the Symbolic Temple, the next difficult part of the Floorwork (*EA: p. 42; FC: p. 103; MM: p. 158*). Since the Senior Deacon is not part of the Symbolic Temple, he withdraws to the sidelines for the rest of the Drill.



16. The Marshal takes a position about half-way between the Altar and the West, centered with respect to the Altar. Upon reaching his place, the Marshal turns around to face West so that he can see the Masters of Ceremony and Stewards.

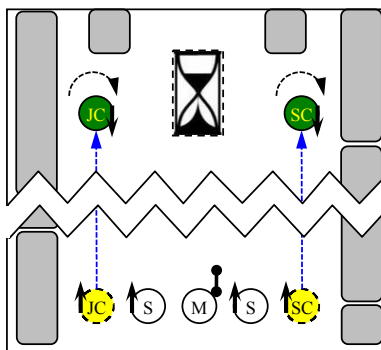


17. The Marshal then directs the Stewards one at a time to their places in the West Wall, where they face East.

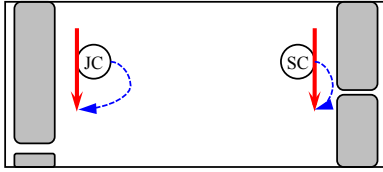


18. After the Stewards are positioned, the Marshal directs the Masters of Ceremony one at a time to their places in the West Wall, where they face East. The Marshal turns to face East.

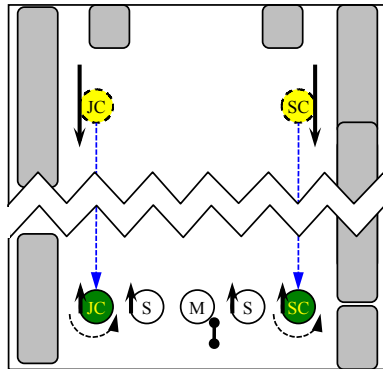
All pause to remember that all the Candidates must be positioned at the Altar before moving on.



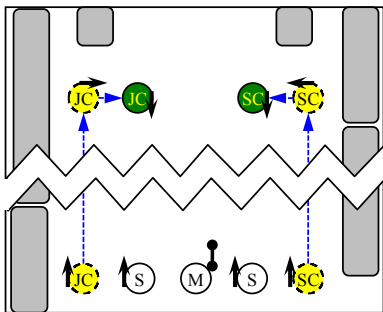
19. The Marshal then directs the Masters of Ceremony to the East, where they about-face to face West and await the Marshal's next signal.



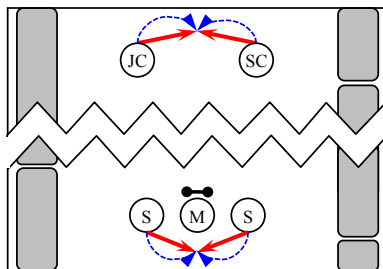
20. The Marshal signals the Masters of Ceremony to lower their staves.



21. The Marshal then signals the Masters of Ceremony to return West, dressing the lines. Upon arriving back at the West Wall they ship their staves, turn East and await the Marshal's next signal.

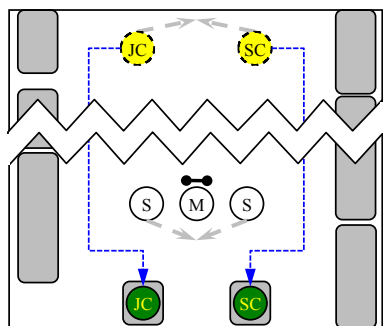


22. The Marshal directs the Masters of Ceremony to the East, each followed by an imaginary Warden. Upon arriving in the East, the Masters of Ceremony walk inward, if necessary, turn West and await the Marshal's signal to form the arch.



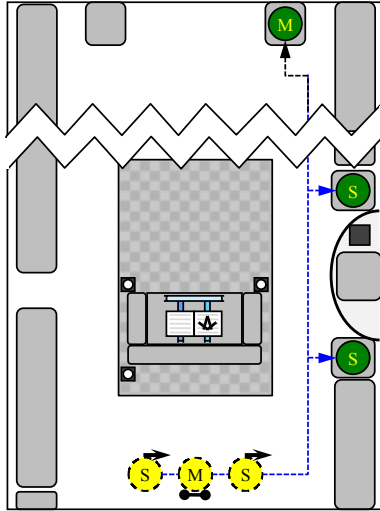
23. The Marshal signals the Masters of Ceremony and Stewards to form simultaneous arches.

The Drill now skips ahead to the breakdown of the Symbolic Temple (*EA: p. 49; FC: p. 108; MM: p. 164*).



24. The Marshal signals the Masters of Ceremony and Stewards to simultaneously break their arches.

Immediately following, the Masters of Ceremony proceed West to their chairs – reminding themselves that the Wardens will go before them down each side – and remain standing.



25. After the Masters of Ceremony have reached their chairs, the Marshal and Stewards face right and follow an imaginary Junior Warden back to their places where all remain standing.

This is the end of the Drill. After one slow run-through for the Officers to learn their movements, it should be possible to “fast walk” the drill at two or three minutes per iteration. Repeat until it is perfect, which shouldn’t take more than 20 or 30 minutes on the first try. After that, a brief refresher running through the Drill two or three times in a row prior to any rehearsals or Rituals should suffice to bring the Floowork Team back into a high level of proficiency on this material. It should be possible to incorporate the Wardens into this Drill for one time through before the rehearsal or Ritual.