

H.L. Bonnie T. Meeks

Supreme Lecturer
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Honored Ladies and Sir Knights:

It was a surprise and delight to have been chosen by H.L. Mary Wyatt and S.K. George Kuhns as your Supreme Lecturer for 2021-2022.

The forms and ceremonies of our Order are awesome when performed respectfully, proficiently, and according to the Ritual. That is why we continue to strive for perfection.

When you agree to take an office, study your part, and try to learn it. Do not wait until the day of a meeting to see what you have to do. Please try to attend all rehearsals and Schools of Instruction, as well as visit other Courts. The Ritualistic work is beautiful and everything you need to know is in the instructions.

If you cannot commit your part to memory, take the page from the ritual and read it, replacing it later. Our Rituals are written in much larger print than in the past, so it will be easier for you to read the instructions. When attending meetings, I encourage you to be dressed formally and prepared to pro tem a station if needed.

Our Ritual is written with the expectation that there are enough officers to fill all the stations. Many of our Courts do not have enough members to do this, and some may have to fill several offices. Please try to do so with as little disruption as possible.

Please, DO NOT OMIT any ceremonies to make your meetings shorter. The beautiful ceremonies are what make our Order stand out above all others.

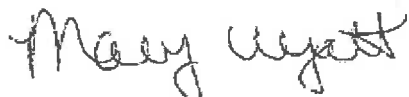
Since the Ritual has explicit instructions, I am enclosing a few guidelines that I have seen as common irregularities. If you still have questions, ask your Grand Lecturer or Assistant Grand Lecturer. If they do not have the answer, they can email me for assistance at: bonmeeks@ec.rr.com.

I look forward to the coming year as we visit and I will help you any way I can when asked.

Fraternally,



H.L. Bonnie T. Meeks, Supreme Lecturer



H.L. Mary Wyatt, Supreme Royal Matron



H.L. Barbara Ullrich, PSRM,
Chairman of the Ritual Committee

2021-2022 RITUAL GUIDELINES

Our Rituals are now in larger print and are easier to read; therefore, I am not copying all of them but just emphasizing the ones we seem to violate the most. Become familiar with the General instructions on pages 9-16 and remember, **DO NOT COPY THE RITUAL**, simply remove the pages you need and return them when you are finished.

OPENING

1. In the opening march, the Marshal in the West takes 2 steps south of the square to allow the line led by the Marshal in the East to stay next to the square. (Page 22)
2. The Conductress and Associate Conductress salute and respond to the Royal Patron when requested to escort the Royal Matron and Associate Matron to their seats. (Page 23)
3. The Royal Patron and Associate Patron descend the Throne or dais in the West and assist the Royal Matron and the Associate Matron to their stations. (Page 23)
4. When giving your charge, **STAND, SALUTE, SPEAK!**
5. In the Flag Ceremony, the Royal Matron leads in the salute after saying "Attention," (Page 27)
6. Procedure for attending the altar is fully explained on page 38-39. Conductresses should read carefully.
7. Prelate stops ONE step from the altar for the Prayer. Afterwards, he squares the altar to return to his station. (Page 39)
8. Signs of the Order: Public and Secret signs are given with a count of two and Grand and Supreme signs are given with a count of four.

ESCORT DUTIES

1. Marshals: Read the instructions in Ritual very carefully. Work together and keep your staffs at a 60 degree angle.
2. Royal Matrons: The proper time to call up the Court is when the Marshals turn to the center back of the stations of Truth and Charity, when escorting through the Square, and in front of these stations when escorting outside the Square.

INITIATION

1. The instructions for presenting the Sacred Emblems are described on page 84. The Conductresses should practice this to get the timing correctly.
 2. Ladies of the square: read page 87. When done as written, the red banners and your white dresses look beautiful.
 3. H. L. Truth: as the Standard Bearer leads the march to the Throne for the accolade, when she passes your station, stand. The other Ladies of the Square will rise at the same time. When the Associate Conductress passes, all will step one step outside the Square, two steps back, get your banners and proceed East for the tableau. This will take lots of practice.
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MEMORIAL

1. When returning to the Courtroom, the Ladies of the Square do not hesitate when the Marshals and Prelate turn to square the altar. The Marshals, H.L. Truth, and H.L. Charity should be a straight line. The Prelate, H.L. Faith, and H.L. Wisdom should be a straight line.
2. The Royal Patron and Conductresses should practice sufficiently in order to conclude at the same time.
3. After placing flowers at the altar, give the Secret Sign of Salutation, then respond, "Sweet in our memory." Do not square the altar, just walk straight out. (Page 259)

CLOSING

1. When depositing jewels, remember to carry the jewel in the hand away from the altar with the ribbon toward the body. (Page 113)
 2. After depositing the jewels the officer will wait for their marching partner one step west of the Square, and they will proceed to their stations together.
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