

AWARENESS TIPS: Conducting Ritual Effectively

The Pledging Ceremony

- ▲ The ceremony must be conducted in a room that is sufficiently lit to clearly see the chapter officers' faces and walk safely to seats and doorways, up and down stairs, etc.
- ▲ The ceremony is the pledges' first glimpse into our Fraternity and should be professional, respectful, and a reasonable length.
- ▲ Memorization is strongly suggested for an impressive delivery. Remember that we ask the pledges to memorize a lot of information during their pledge season.

Initiation

- ▲ The initiation ceremony must be well lit. The pledges must be able to see the faces of those seated at the altar, and be able to walk safely in and out of the room.
- ▲ Ensure that every member of the ritual team has read ALL pertinent information in the Ritual Book, not just the bold text for the speaking parts. This includes the Guide to Ritual, Guide to Pledging and Initiation Ceremonies, and the entire Initiation Ceremony. **Nothing outside of the written Ritual and directions should take place.**
- ▲ The Ritual Book does not indicate that a gavel should be used, except as it is used in parliamentary procedure and to signal when to sit, stand, and adjourn. It should never be used to disrespect an individual.
- ▲ Initiation must be memorized. The ceremony is far more meaningful if it is memorized and delivered with meaning.

Chapter Business Meetings

- ▲ Have brothers challenge (by whispering) at the door to save time during the meeting. Ask all guests and pledges to wait in the hallway or a nearby room during the opening Ritual.
- ▲ No one may be admitted into the room while Ritual is taking place.
- ▲ Ensure that the secret code word given in the challenge is the same one spoken aloud during opening Ritual. Both should never be spoken aloud together unless disguised in ordinary conversation.
- ▲ Remember that three raps of the gavel indicate that the brothers should stand; one indicates that the brothers should sit; two should be used to quiet talking.
- ▲ After a few weeks of repeating the oath line by line, once the newest brothers are comfortable, it should be recited together.