

On Sunday, January 11, 2026, Las Palmas-Ponderosa Lodge will have its annual Installation of officers. The Installation of Officers is mandated by the California Masonic Code to start a Lodge's Masonic year and there is a ritual that must be followed as closely as possible.

The written ritual specifies what the Master of Ceremonies and Installing Officer must say as well as where they must be positioned in the Lodge room and what they must do. It is specified how the officers being installed must march into the Lodge room, which chairs they are to be seated in and when they must stand up and come forward for their installation.

As part of the installation, all of the officers will be presented, in a specified order, with the jewel of their office as well as the implement of their office by the Installing Officer.

For the Deacons and Stewards, the implements of their stations are their rods. For the Tiler, it is a sword. For the Marshall it is the baton. After the presentation of the implements of their station, these Jr. Officers are escorted to their respective stations by the Installing Officer.

At the Las Palmas Lodge 1988 Installation of officers, there was a conspiracy among some of the officers being installed. The newest officer in the line was Lawrence "Tip" Banks who owned an automobile repair shop and as part of his installation as the new Marshall, to his surprise, he was presented with a large chrome wrench instead of the usual baton.

I have been told that everyone in the room enjoyed this joke on Brother Tip. I do not know if during his year as Marshall, he used the baton or chrome wrench to perform his duties as Marshall.