

First is an essay on the Compass Points

Sisters, Brothers and friends, I would like to welcome you to Pike Chapter's Compass night. Sister Cheryl and I have decided that we would like to use special nights such as this, as part of our membership plan for the year. One of the challenges we sometimes encounter is that prospective members are unfamiliar with the Order of the Eastern Star or even more generally unfamiliar with fraternal organizations. Unfamiliarity with our officer's titles, unfamiliarity with our ritualistic nature, unfamiliarity with things Masonic, all these can sometimes lead to reluctance to join. Therefore, this year, we will have several of our special nights as open meetings where everyone, including prospective members, is welcome to attend and perhaps become more familiar with our organization.

Our special night tonight is compass night, which perhaps can use some explanation. The compass is a tool, which when properly used, can aid the traveler, keeping him on the path towards his destination. Our compass is composed of the 6 principle officers of a Chapter and when properly applied, they work to keep a Chapter on the path laid out for them. Therefore on compass night we give due respect and honor to these officers.

The WM and WP sit in the symbolic East. The east is the source of light and knowledge, represented by the rising sun. The WM and WP sit here as it is presumed they have the knowledge and understanding to properly lead the chapter.

The AM and AP sit in the symbolic West. The west is represented by the setting sun or the close of the day. For it is at the close of the day that we should be laying out our plans for the new day to come tomorrow. The AM and AP therefore sit here so they may learn and make plans for their approaching term in the east.

The Conductress and Associate Conductress sit in the symbolic South and North respectively. The South and North have many different symbolic allusions; however I prefer to be reminded of the Southern Cross and The North Star. Historically, these two constellations were used by travelers at night to find their way. They were considered to be true and steadfast guides. Our Conductresses, when assisting with the initiation of new members, act as true and steadfast guides, leading new members to the light and beauty of our Order.