

## When Does the Worshipful Master present the Warrant to the Lodge?

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According to our Book of Constitutions the Master of the Lodge should (according to Rule 154) produce it at every meeting. This being the case, when should he present it and how? If you look at our ritual we teach the Entered Apprentice that he was made a Mason in a Lodge Just, Perfect and Regular and without the Lodge being in this state there can be no meeting or any person be made a Mason or Raised or Passed.

I suggest that after the Master says "Brethren assist me to open the Lodge" after banging the gavel he says "*Brethren, in accordance with Rule 154 of the Book of Constitutions I produce the Warrant of this Lodge from the United Grand Lodge of Victoria.*"

Or

After asking "has every brother signed the appearance book" he bangs the gavel and makes the above statement at this point.



I do not believe it can be said anywhere in the "opening". Where do we find the rules governing the legality of the Lodge being able to Make, Pass and Raise Masons?

### **In the Ceremony of Initiation:**

When an Entered Apprentice has been instructed on the working tools the Master informs him that "... our authority to admit you into Freemasonry is vested in this Warrant or Charter from the United Grand Lodge of Victoria which is open for your inspection on this or any future Lodge Meeting".

### **In the First Degree Tracing Board:**

We are informed that "... emblematically depicted by seven stars which have an allusion to as many regular Masons without which number no Lodge is Perfect, neither can any candidate be legally initiated into the order".

### **In the Entered Apprentice Questions:**

In the questions prior to his passing one of the questions are "Where were you made a Mason?" His reply "In the body of a Lodge, just, perfect and regular"

What makes the Lodge Just? The VOSL open with the Square and Compasses on the right hand page (north).

What makes it Perfect? Master, Two Wardens, two Fellow Craft and two Entered Apprentices

What makes it Regular? **The Warrant on display**

Let us now look at the Book of Constitutions of UGLV

Rule: 154. A Lodge's warrant shall be entrusted to the care of each successive Master, who will be responsible for its safekeeping and **its production at each Lodge meeting.**

Rule 155: A Lodge cannot meet unless its original warrant or a Warrant of Conformation is physically present.

Rule 161: Should the number of registered members in a Lodge fall below seven, those members shall no longer have the ability to meet as a Lodge and shall return the Lodge warrant to Grand Lodge for cancellation.

(Contribution & views expressed are from WBro Iain Taylor PGStdB – 218 SW & Certificate of Masonic Studies administrator & co-ordinator)