

Installation of officers



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It's probably common knowledge that travel is a big part of the workload for your national officers. Local branches, state associations and the regional offices regularly have events or trainings where the presence of our national president or a resident national officer is requested. Obviously, there are times of the year when the demand is even greater. Next year, being an off-convention year for National, we expect to see a lot of state conventions. Then there are the regional or state rap sessions, branch picnics, fundraisers and retiree celebrations. Also, this time of year as we get into the holidays and the new year, there are many instal-

lations of officers.

The installation of branch officers can be any time of the year, depending on their nominations and elections as indicated in their bylaws, but it appears that most branches have theirs toward the end of the year to coincide with the nomination and election of delegates. With that, there are a couple of provisions in the *Constitution* that I want to spotlight this month as they relate to the installation of state and branch officers. I have been to several state association conventions with their election and installation, and one of the most repeated errors I see is *when* the installation takes place. Some state associations have their convention with a dinner on the last day, or the following day of the convention.

The only potential problem is that the installation of officers should be the last official act of the convention. I pointed this out to a couple of state associations last year. Article 7 of the *Constitution for the Government of State Associations* (Elections and Nominations) states that "the installation of officers shall take place just prior to adjournment." Now, this doesn't mean that you can't have it at dinner; it just requires that it needs to be a part of the convention. Or rather that the convention shouldn't be adjourned until the installation of officers has taken place. As for the branches, they also have certain requirements.

The *Constitution for the Government of Subordinate and Federal Branches (CGSFB)* requires that the installation be done at the branch meeting. Article 5, Section 6 of the *CGSFB* states:

The installation of Branch officers shall take place at the first or second meeting of the Branch following their election and shall be by such ceremony as the National Association provides. Any National officer, a Past President of the National Association, a President or Past President of a State Association, shall act as the Installing Officer provided that in their absence any officer of a State Association or the Past President of a Branch may act as such.

That pecking order for the installing officer is also repeated in the chapter "Form of Installation Ceremony" that is found in the back of the *Constitution*; it also applies to the national association and state associations for the installation of officers.

The timeline for the installation of branch officers can often be overlooked. We see that with the submission of proposed bylaw changes, as well as the events scheduled as installations that are not a "meeting of the branch." Some branches choose to have their installation as a banquet-style dinner for the membership, which is not a problem; it just needs to be incorporated into the first or second meeting following the election of officers. So, remember, if you are planning an installation, whether a state association or branch, the *Constitution* has certain requirements.

"Good luck, Dan!" I recently had the opportunity to represent President Renfroe at a retirement and membership appreciation dinner for South Suburban Merged, IL Branch 4016 right outside Chicago. Branch President Dan Smith has decided that he is not seeking reelection as he paves the way for the next generation of leadership. He has served the members of Branch 4016 admirably for more than 30 years, and I wish him all the best. I am pictured here with Dan (in the back) and Chicago Branch 11 President Elise Foster, Branch 4016 Vice President Patrice O'Banner, Region 3 National Business Agent Michael Caref, and officers of both Branches 4016 and 11.



In closing, I wish all a very merry Christmas, a happy Hanukkah, joyous Kwanzaa and a prosperous new year, from my family to yours!