

Traveling Rules

“TRAVELING GAVEL”

Master Mason Association of Hillsborough County, Florida Districts 19 & 20

GENERAL: Adopted by the Membership at it’s regular meeting. The purpose of the “Traveling Gavel” is to promote visitation and increase fellowship between the particular Lodges in the 19th and 20th Masonic Districts (Hillsborough County, Florida). It is incumbent upon each Lodge in possession of the “Traveling Gavel: to present it to any Lodge which comes to a Stated Communication with the requisite number of members.

PROCEDURE:

1. The Lodge in possession of the “Traveling Gavel” will ensure that it is prominently displayed at each Stated Communication; and may display it at any Called Communication.
2. Any other Lodge in Districts 19 or 20 may obtain the “Traveling Gavel” by visiting the Lodge in possession of it with a delegation of at least eight (08) members, of which one (01) must be the Worshipful Master or a Warden.
3. In case two or more Lodges visit to obtain the “Traveling Gavel” at the same meeting, the Lodge with the largest number in the visiting delegation will receive the “Traveling Gavel.” In case of a tie, the following tie-breaking procedures will be used.
 - a. First tie-breaker: the Lodge with the largest number of elected and appointed officers in the visiting delegation will take the “Traveling Gavel.”
 - b. Second tie-breaker: the Worshipful Master, or presiding officer in the Worshipful Master’s absence, will draw the Lodge name from his hat and that Lodge will take the “Traveling Gavel.”
4. Upon receiving the “Traveling Gavel,” entry will be made in the accompanying register giving the date of receipt, Lodge name and number, and the number of Officers and Members present in the visiting delegation.
5. The Master Mason Association of Hillsborough County recommends that those visiting to obtain the “Traveling Gavel” be received formally into the Lodge Room, west of the Altar immediately after the Lodge is opened. The visiting Brothers should be introduced by name and title, after which the Worshipful Master should present the “Traveling Gavel” to the senior member of the visiting delegation.

MAY BROTHERLY LOVE PREVAIL

As adopted July 25th, 2008 at a meeting of the then Hillsborough County Masters & Wardens Association. Re-typed from original on September 18th, 2020. New district numbers and organization name adjusted, no other changes.