

Norwood Chapter Principles



Norwood Chapter #18 (Royal Arch Masonry) in Edmonton is a unique alternative for Master Masons who are looking for something special to join. We are the **1st European Concept Royal Arch Chapter in North America.**

Candidates for these ancient and profound degrees and Chapter Members must embrace the ten basic principles of the Chapter. You must have a love of Excellent Ritual, Education, and Fellowship. We are unique and are working very hard to build a high level of commitment within our membership. Part of the Leadership we teach and learn within Chapter is to give back both to the Chapter and to the Craft Lodge which we were raised and that we are duty bound to support. Norwood Chapter operates under the following Chapter Principles:

1. **RITUAL EXCELLENCE:** The single most fundamental element of traditional Freemasonry and therefore Royal Arch Masonry is that every man knows the obligations, trial questions and answers of each degree by memory. The ritual must be completely and artistically rendered from memory. Only the Director of Ceremonies will have a book open in Chapter.
2. **EDUCATION:** A regular program of education is conducted by the Chapter. The membership must appreciate the history, literature, culture, and traditions of Royal Arch Masonry. Candidates must read various assigned materials. Each Candidate will present one short (5 to 10 minute) researched presentation at the regular Education meeting following a degree. An officer will also conduct an education presentation and a short discussion on the topic will follow.
3. **ELEGANCE OF DRESS:** A Royal Arch Mason's dress at Chapter meetings should exhibit the same respect shown at a wedding or any other significant event. Therefore White Gloves and Black Tie is the normal dress worn at all meetings and festive boards of the Chapter. White Gloves and a Dark Business Suit can be worn if you presently have no Formal Dress.
4. **CHAPTER AMBIANCE:** The Chapter will continue to enhance regalia, accoutrements, and the surroundings as best as our resources allow. The Chapter uses Candles and the dimming of the hall lights whenever possible to add to the ambiance of the setting of all meetings and degrees.
5. **TWO YEAR TERMS OF OFFICE:** The Chapter plans and conducts a 24 month cycle. Candidates join us once every two years and by the time of installation they are ready to become junior officers for the next cycle.
6. **FEWER MEETINGS:** We are all busy men, most of us need to plan long in advance to attend events; so we meet less often and are actually expected to attend those four (4) specials meetings and two (2) BJP/practices each year.
7. **TIMINGS:** 18:30hrs Business Meeting, 19:30 Degree or Education Evening, 21:00, Festive Board at a Local Whyte Avenue Restaurant (with a Separate Room to allow open discussions if available). BGP's/Practices are casual affairs (jeans etc.) where we start with a BBQ at approximately 18:30 and then conduct a short BGP, and finally a Degree Practice. Everyone in Chapter should attend the BGP.
8. **FESTIVE BOARD:** This tradition is indispensable as nothing can replace the experience of Royal Arch Masons sitting down together for a meal, presided over by the Principle Officers, where conviviality and the traditions of the Chapter can be observed and preserved. The Festive Board will be conducted at a local restaurant after the meeting. Attendance at the Festive Board is part of normal Chapter routine and we expect all members to attend. It include a number of toasts and a formal eloquence normally preserved today only at an installation. The Chapter will provide Port for the Toasts.
9. **SELECTIVITY AND EXCLUSIVITY:** A proper screening of all candidates will be conducted by the Chapter. We are not an elite or costly organization, but we do demand a commitment. Compatibility with the membership is an important characteristic that will be considered along with an individual's want to join our Chapter, their commitment to our principles, and ability to attending our meetings.
10. **COMMITMENT:** A well run Chapter demands a real sacrifice of time, talent, and means from those who seek to exercise leadership. A commensurate commitment from those members who only wish to sit on the sidelines is also important. Dues costs will be controlled, Festive board costs (less port) will be on an individual pays basis. Our Chapter does cost money to operate and if we want to operate into the future we do need to allow the officers some financial leeway in the running of the Chapter. Regular Dues should be increased in 2009. Dues should be reduced for out of town members and senior members to ½ of Regular dues, i.e. Regular Members \$80, Out-of-Town and Senior Members \$40. Dues are still due and collected on a yearly basis.

Please remember that it may take awhile after you apply before you can attend a meeting because we only take new candidates once every two years. If interested please e-mail BruceZed@hotmail.com or Write Norwood Chapter care of Scribe E. Stuart Krause (#331 21-10405 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, T5J 3S2). Join us as we keep these ancient and profound degrees alive, while enjoying education, and excellent fellowship.