

Gavel Talk

This gavel I hold in my hand is the age-old symbol of the authority of office.

When you accept this gavel, you will accept it in all its wrappings. Those wrappings, just like your color stations, are seven in number. They are invisible. You cannot see them, but they are just as real as the gold and the enamel that cover the wood (or plastic materials) of which this gavel is made.

The first of these wrappings is that of **RESPONSIBILITY**. This Assembly is now your responsibility. Your responsibility is to see that it thrives and grows while you are in office.

The second wrapping is that of **LOYALTY**. Members of this Assembly will, without a doubt, be loyal to you. But it is far more important that you be loyal to them.

The third wrapping is that of **LOVE**. Just as you have been reared in love, let that same love flow from you to all members of this Assembly around you. Love is like a pebble dropped in a still pond. The waves of love will radiate from their origin and will spread to encompass everything and everyone around you.

Then there is the wrapping of **HUMILITY**. Do not be overly proud, for you occupy this office, not by your work alone, but by the efforts of all those assembled around you.

The next wrapping will find, is the wrapping of those twins that always go hand-in-hand, **JUSTICE and FAIRNESS**. Just as a judge wields his gavel with those two great virtues in mind, so must you always strive to be fair and to be just.

And then down underneath, you will find the innermost and finest wrapping of all is that of **REVERENCE**. Our entire Order is founded on GOD. Without Him, you can do nothing. With Him, there is nothing you cannot do.

Now, with deep humility and great pride, I present this gavel to you.