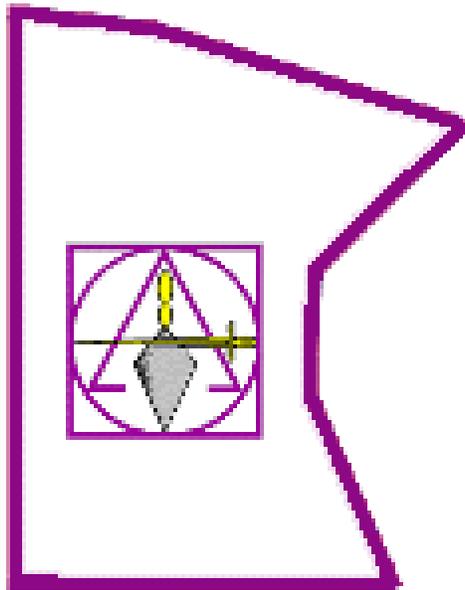


**INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS
OF A CHARTERED COUNCIL
IN MINNESOTA**



Installation of Officers

INSTALLING OFFICER:

Companions, the installation of officers in a Council marks the completion of one year's work and the beginning of the next. It teaches the peculiar art of laying aside the insignia of rank with willingness and gracefulness, and assuming the honors and responsibilities of office with humility. As the present officers relinquish their stations in token of the completion of the past year's duties, we are once more reminded of the equality that should always exist among the members.

Companion Recorder (*Recorder Rises*), you will announce the names of the officers elected and appointed for the ensuing year.

Companion Marshal (*Marshal Rises*), as the names are called you will place the officers in proper position.

(The officers, as their names are called, take positions (under direction of the Marshal) west of the Altar, facing east. The Illustrious Master-elect should be on the extreme right of the line. Chairs should be provided, one for each officer, but at this point officers remain standing. After all are in position, the Marshal says.)

(If it is a public Installation give directions instead of Gavel raps)

MARSHAL:

Illustrious Master, I present for installation these worthy companions who have been selected to serve as officers of this Council during the ensuing year.

INSTALLING OFFICER:

(Addressing the Council)

Companions of _____ Council No. _____, you see before you the Companions who have been selected to serve as officers of this Council during the ensuing year. If any Companion knows of a just cause why they, or any of them, should not be installed, let him now make it known or forever hold his peace.

INSTALLING OFFICER:

That we may have the needed strength and guidance to accomplish the task before us, let us invoke the blessing of Divine Providence. Companion Chaplain (*Chaplain rises*), you will lead us in prayer.

*(Installing officer calls up Council) ****

PRAYER

CHAPLAIN:

O, Thou Grand Master of Heaven and earth, we approach Thee with reverence and implore Thy blessing upon these Companions who are about to assume the duties of their important officers. Grant them firmness of mind and kindness of disposition, that they may govern the affairs of this Council with justice and moderation. Bless them, O Lord, and bless those whom Thou has placed under them. May Thy richest blessing rest upon all our Companions, wherever dispersed throughout the world. Amen.

Response: So Mote it be.

INSTALLING OFFICER:

My Companions, before proceeding to officially install you, it is necessary for you to take upon yourself a solemn obligation. You will therefore, each of you, place your right hand over your heart, say "I," your name and repeat after me:

OBLIGATION

"_____, do solemnly promise, on my honor as a Royal and Select Master, that I will support and maintain the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Minnesota, the by-laws of this Council, and all ancient Masonic usages; that I will to the best of my knowledge and ability, perform the duties of the office with which I am now to be invested.

*(Officers drop hands, Installing officer seats Council, including Officers.) **

INSTALLING OFFICER:

Companion Marshal, you will present the Illustrious Master-elect for installation.

(Marshal will approach Illustrious Master-elect from the south, take him by the right arm and conduct him by the most convenient route to the Altar, placing him directly in front of the same Altar.)

MARSHAL:

Illustrious Master, I present Companion _____, who is ready to be installed Illustrious Master of this Council.

INSTALLING OFFICER:

My Companion, I feel great satisfaction in installing you into the office of Illustrious Master of this Council. It is a station highly honorable to him who diligently and faithfully performs the important duties connected therewith. But, before investing you with the honors and responsibilities of your office, it is mandatory that I propound to you certain questions to which, I must require your unequivocal answers:

1. Do you solemnly promise that you will use your utmost endeavors to correct the vices, purify the morals and promote the happiness of your Companions?

2. That you will never suffer your Council to be opened unless there are present at least nine Select Masters?

3. That you will not suffer any person to receive the degree in your Council in whose integrity, fervency and zeal you have not entire confidence?

4. That you will not acknowledge or hold communication with any Council that does not work under some regular and constitutional authority.

5. That you will admit no visitor into your Council who has not been regularly and lawfully invested with the Council degrees?

6. That you will faithfully observe the by-laws of your Council, and the Constitution and laws of the Grand Council?

7. That in the government of your Council you will administer justice tempered with mercy?

8. That you will pay due respect and obedience to the Grand Officers when duly installed, aid and sustain them in the discharge of your duties?

Do you submit to all these requirements, and do you promise to observe them faithfully?

ILLUSTRIOUS MASTER-ELECT:

I do.

CHARGE TO THE ILLUSTRIOUS MASTER

INSTALLING OFFICER:

With entire confidence in the rectitude of your intentions, and in the integrity of your character as a Select Master, I now declare you duly installed as Illustrious Master of this Council. You will now be invested with the jewel of your office.

Having been elevated by the voice of your Companions to the highest station in their gift, you are now to assume the functions of that office. It is your duty to set an example of diligence, industry and fidelity; to see that the officers associated with you faithfully perform their respective duties, and that the interests and reputation of your Council are not endangered by imprudence or neglect. The important trust committed to your care will call for your utmost exertions, and the exercise of your best faculties. As the representative of Solomon, King of Israel, it will be your duty to recite the secret traditions, illustrate the moral principles of our order, cherish the worthy, and hold in due veneration the ancient landmarks.

I now present you with the charter under which your Council will work; you will receive it as a sacred deposit and never permit it to be used for any other purpose than those expressed therein.

And may He, without whose approbation all our labors are in vain, give wisdom to your counsels and strength to your endeavors. You will now assume your station in the East.

(Illustrious Master returns gavel to Installing Officer and assumes his station in the East. Installing Officer calls up the Council ***. And says, Illustrious Master, behold your Companions, Companions, behold your Illustrious Master. Let us salute him with the Grand Honors of Masonry, by three times three. Done. Installing Officer seats Council *.

INSTALLING OFFICER:

Companion Marshal, you will present the remaining officers in the order of their rank.

MARSHAL:

Illustrious Master, I present Companion _____, who is ready to be installed Deputy Master, of this Council.

CHARGE TO THE DEPUTY MASTER

INSTALLING OFFICER:

Companion _____, the duties of your office will require your constant and earnest attention. You are to occupy the second seat in this Council and it will be your duty to aid and support your chief in all the requirements of his office. In his absence you are to preside and perform his duties; in his presence you are to assist him. In this important trust it will be your duty, and should be your pleasure, to justify the confidence of your Companions. You will now be invested with the jewel of your office and be conducted to your station.

MARSHAL:

Illustrious Master, I present Companion _____, who is ready to be installed The Principal Conductor of the Work, of this Council.

CHARGE TO THE PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR OF THE WORK

Companion _____, in the absence of both your superiors you will be called upon to preside. As the interest of the Council should never be permitted to suffer through a lack of intelligence in its officers, you will allow me to urge upon you the necessity of being always prepared and qualified to meet such an emergency. You will now be invested with the jewel of your office and be conducted to your station.

MARSHAL:

Illustrious Master, I present Companion _____, who is ready to be installed Treasurer, of this Council.

CHARGE TO THE TREASURER

Companion _____, your interest in this Council, your attachment to the Craft, and your known integrity of character are a sufficient assurance that the duties of your office will be faithfully performed. You will now be invested with the jewel of your office and be conducted to your station.

MARSHAL:

Illustrious Master, I present Companion _____, who is ready to be installed Recorder, of this Council.

CHARGE TO THE RECORDER

Companion _____, the possession of the requisite qualities has designated you as a suitable Companion for this office and I doubt not that you will discharge its duties with diligence and fidelity. You will now be invested with the jewel of your office and be conducted to your station.

MARSHAL:

Illustrious Master, I present Companion _____, who is ready to be installed the Captain of the Guard, of this Council.

CHARGE TO THE CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD

Companion _____, guard well your post and suffer none to pass it by the select, the faithful and the worthy. Obey the commands of your chief and be near at hand to see them duly executed. You will now be invested with the jewel of your office and be conducted to your station.

MARSHAL:

Illustrious Master, I present Companion _____, who is ready to be installed the Conductor of the Council, of this Council.

CHARGE TO THE CONDUCTOR OF THE COUNCIL

Companion _____, in the discharge of the duties pertaining to your office; be fervent and zealous. You will thus merit the respect and esteem of your Companions and the approbation of your own conscience. You will now be invested with the jewel of your office and be conducted to your station.

MARSHAL:

Illustrious Master, I present Companion _____, who is ready to be installed the Chaplain, of this Council.

CHARGE TO THE CHAPLAIN

Companion _____, it is your special duty to conduct the devotions of this Council, and bear before the throne of Heavenly Grace the spiritual needs of your brethren. You will now be invested with the jewel of your office and be conducted to your station.

MARSHAL:

Illustrious Master, I present Companion _____, who is ready to be installed the Marshal, of this Council.

CHARGE TO THE MARSHAL

Companion _____, you have been chosen Marshal, and will now be invested with the jewel of your office.

You are also invested with this baton as the appropriate symbol of your office.

It is your duty to form and conduct processions of the Council on all public occasions, and to attend to such other matters in the practice of our Cryptic rites as the Illustrious Master may direct. You will now be conducted to your station.

MARSHAL:

Illustrious Master, I present Companion _____, who is ready to be installed the Steward, of this Council.

CHARGE TO THE STEWARD

Companion _____, your duty is to guard the entrance to the Secret Vault with sleepless vigilance and to suffer none to pass it without permission of the Illustrious Master. You will now be invested with the jewel of your office and be conducted to your station.

MARSHAL:

Illustrious Master, I present Companion _____, who is ready to be installed the Organist, of this Council.

CHARGE TO THE ORGANIST

Companion _____, you have been appointed Organist of this Council. As harmony is the strength and support of all institutions, so may the harmony furnished by you strengthen and support every gentle and ennobling emotion of the soul and be an inspiration to your Companions you will be invested with the jewel and apron of your office and be conducted to your station.

MARSHAL:

Illustrious Master, I present Companion _____, who is ready to be installed the Sentinel, of this Council.

CHARGE TO THE SENTINEL

Companion _____, as the first application from visitors is usually made to the Sentinel, it is therefore essentially necessary that you exemplify that spirit of friendliness which is manifest in the Council. You will now be invested with the jewel of your office and be conducted to your station.

ADDRESS TO THE ILLUSTRIOUS MASTER

INSTALLING OFFICER:

Illustrious Master, you now occupy the highest office in the power of your Companions to bestow. You have accepted a trust to which is attached a responsibility that will require your best efforts to discharge with honor to yourself and satisfaction to our Council.

You are to have a watchful eye over the general conductor of the Council, see that the members are properly instructed and that due solemnity be observed in the practice of our rites. Moreover, you should be an example to your officers and members which they need not hesitate to follow, thus securing for yourself the favor of Heaven and the approval of your brethren and Companions.

CHARGE TO THE COUNCIL

INSTALLING OFFICER:

Companions, from the nature of the constitution of every society, some must rule and others obey. While justice and moderation are required of the officers in the discharge of their official duties, subordination and respect are equally demanded of the members. The relation is reciprocal. The interests of both are inseparable. Without mutual cooperation the labors of neither can succeed. A house divided against itself cannot stand. Let brotherly love, therefore, prevail among you. Let each be emulous of the other in promoting peace and unity and in striving to see who can best rule and best obey.

And may He whose watchful care is over all those who put their trust in Him, ever keep and preserve this Council to His own name and glory.

Companion Marshal, you will make the proclamation.

PROCLAMATION

Marshal (*raises right hand*)

In the name of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Minnesota, I proclaim the offices of _____ Council No. _____ duly installed with the Grand Honors of Cryptic Masonry. All interested will take due notice and govern themselves accordingly.

INSTALLING OFFICER:

I now place in your hand this gavel an emblem of authority, as an additional insignia of your rank, a rap of which will command attention and maintain order in the council. Wield it, my Companion, with prudence and discretion.

INSTALLING MARSHAL

(The officers, as their names are called, take positions (under direction of the Marshal) west of the Altar, facing east. The Illustrious Master-elect should be on the extreme right of the line. Chairs should be provided, one for each officer, but at this point officers remain standing. After all are in position, the Marshal says.)

MARSHAL:

Illustrious Master, I present for installation these worthy companions who have been selected to serve as officers of this Council during the ensuing year.

(Marshal will approach Illustrious Master-elect from the south, take him by the right arm and conduct him by the most convenient route to the Altar, placing him directly in front of the same Altar.)

MARSHAL:

Illustrious Master, I present Companion _____, who is ready to be installed _____ of this Council.

(Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, Principal Conductor of the Work, Treasurer, Recorder, Captain of the Guard, Conductor of the Council, Chaplain, Marshal, Steward, Sentinel)

PROCLAMATION

Marshal *(raises right hand)*

In the name of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Minnesota, I proclaim the offices of _____ Council No. _____ duly installed with the Grand Honors of Cryptic Masonry. All interested will take due notice and govern themselves accordingly.