

COUNCIL OPENING

SHORT FORM SIX COMPANIONS

Version 1.02

I.M. - * Illustrious Companion of Tyre, shall we resume our labors in the secret vault?

D.M. – Illustrious King Solomon, it is my ardent desire to see the Secret Vault completed and the Sacred Treasurers safely deposited therein, that I may return to my own country with the satisfaction of having faithfully discharged my duty to the craft.

I.M. - * Companion Captain of the Guard, are all present Select Masters?
(*C.G. ascertains through Stew, if necessary*)

C.G. – Illustrious Master, all present are Select Masters.

I.M. – Is our number complete?

C.G. – I find our number three times nine.

I.M. – See that the Companions are in order as Select Masters.

C.G. - *** Companions, be in order as Select Masters.
(*Comps, rise and give sign of pl ou ey, ch off hands*)

C.G. – Illustrious Master, the Companions are in order.

I.M. - * Companion Captain of the Guard, you will see that the secret vault is securely guarded, and inform the Sentinel that I am about to open _____ Council, Number _____ of Select Masters, and direct him to take due notice thereof and guard accordingly.

C.G. – Companion Steward, see that the secret vault is securely guarded, and inform the Sentinel that the Illustrious Master is about to open _____ Council, Number _____ of Select Masters. Direct him to take due notice thereof and guard accordingly.

STEW. – Companion Sentinel, the Illustrious Master is about to open _____ Council, Number _____ of Select Masters. Take due notice thereof and guard accordingly.
(*closes door and gives *** ***, answered by Sentinel *** ***, and reports*)

STEW. – Companion Captain of the Guard, the Sentinel is at his post and the Secret Vault is securely guarded.

C.G. – Illustrious Master, the Secret Vault is secure.

I.M. – Companion Captain of the Guard, are you a Select Master?

C.G. – I am acknowledged as such and have wrought my regular hours.

I.M. – What are the regular hours?

C.G. – From nine at night ‘til twelve, the time when prying eyes are closed in sleep.

I.M. – Where were you greeted as a Select Master?

C.G. – In a legally constituted Council of Select Masters assembled in a place representing the Secret Vault, erected by King Solomon under the Sanctum Santorum of the Temple.

I.M. – How many compose a Council of Select Masters?

C.G. – Six or more

I.M. – When composed of only six who are they?

C.G. – Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, Recorder, Captain of the Guard, Steward, and Sentinel.

I.M. – The Steward’s Station.

C.G. – At the entrance to the Secret Vault.

I.M. - ** (*all officers arise except the Illustrious Master*) Companion Steward, your duty?

STEW. – To guard the entrance of the Secret Vault with sleepless vigilance.

I.M. – The Captain of the Guard’s Station.

STEW. – In the West.

I.M. – Companion Captain of the Guard, whom do you represent?

C.G. – Adoniram.

I.M. – Your duty?

C.G. – To guard well my post and suffer none to pass it but the Select, the Faithful and the Worthy; to aid in the organizing and preserving order and decorum in the Council; to obey the commands of my chief and be near at hand to see them duly executed.

I.M. – The Recorder’s Station?

C.G. – On the left of the Illustrious Council.

I.M. – Companion Recorder, your duty?

REC. – To observe the will and pleasure of the Illustrious Master and record the proceedings of the Council so far as the same are proper to be written.

I.M. - What is the Deputy Master’s station

REC. – On the right of the Illustrious Master

I.M. – Companion Deputy Master, your duty?

D.M. – As a representative of Hiram, King of Tyre, with the Illustrious Master in Council, to exhibit the fellowship of Kings; to brighten the chain of friendship; to furnish memorials of the ancient craft, and to aid and support my chief in all the requirements of his office.

I.M. – The Illustrious Master’s Station?

D.M. – In the East of the Ninth Arch.

I.M. – His duty?

D.M. – As the representative of Solomon King of Israel in Council, to recite the secret traditions; to illustrate the moral principles of our order; to cherish the worthy and hold in due veneration the ancient landmarks.

I.M. – Companion Captain of the Guard, what is the hour?

C.G. – Nine at night.

I.M. – *(rises)* *** Since it is nine at night it is time to resume our labors. The Companions will repair to their several stations, and after the regular alarm of the mysterious nine, each will resume his labors as he may be directed. Give your order accordingly.

C.G. – Companions, it is the order of the Illustrious Master that you repair to your several stations and after the regular alarm of the mysterious nine, each will resume his labors as he may be directed.

I.M. – Companions attend to giving the signs.

(1 Hds to hd, 2 Pl ou eyes, 3 Ch of Hands, 4 body quartered and thro to left among rubbish)

BATTERY

I.M. - *** ***, **D.M.** - *** ***, **C.G.** - *** ***

I.M. – Companions, let us pray, Companion Chaplain, you will lead us in our devotions.

PRAYER

I.M. or Chaplain - May the Supreme Grand Master graciously preside over all our councils, and direct us in all such things as He will be pleased to approve and bless. May our profession as Masons be the rule of our conduct as men. May our secret retreat ever continue to be the resort of the just and merciful; the seat of the moral virtues, and the home of the select. Amen.

Response – So mote it be.

I.M. – I now declare _____ Council, Number _____ of Select Masters duly opened. Companion Captain of the Guard attend at the Altar: Companion Steward you will inform the Sentinel.

STEW. – *(gives *** ***, answered by Sentinel *** ***)* Companion Sentinel, the Council is duly opened.

STEW. – Illustrious Master, your order has been obeyed.

I.M. - *

COUNCIL CLOSING

SHORT FORM SIX COMPANIONS

CHARGE AT CLOSING

I.M. - Let us Pray,

I.M. or Chaplain: - Companions, Being about to quit this sacred retreat, to mix again with the world, let us not forget, amid the cares and vicissitudes of active life, the bright example of sincere friendship, so beautifully illustrated in the lives of the founders of this degree. Let us take the lesson home with us; and may it strengthen the bonds of fraternal love between us; incite our hearts to duty, and our desires to wisdom. Let us exercise Charity, cherish Hope, walk in Faith. And may that moral principle, which is the mystic cement of our fellowship, remain with us and bless us. Amen!

Response – So mote it be.

I.M. – I now declare this Council duly closed. Companion Captain of the Guard attend at the Altar. *(done)* Companion Steward, inform the Sentinel.

STEW. – *(at the door) (***) (***) (***)*, answered by Sentinel *(***) (***) (***)*) Companion Sentinel, this Council is closed.

C.G. – Illustrious Master, your order has been obeyed.

I.M. - *