

## ***SUGGESTED CEREMONY FOR INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL OFFICERS***

*(Before the installation, prepare the Council by setting up an additional chair in the Assistant Marshal's position, have the jewels of office arranged in order of presentation on a table next to the Altar, not on the Altar, have the Marshal's baton and Sentinel's sword on the table also if used in your Council.)*

The Installing Officer having arrived in the East announces:

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.

### ***Installing Officer:***

Companion Marshal, you will present the Officers to be installed west of the Alter.

### ***Installing 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:***

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.

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, you will lead us in prayer.

### ***Installing Officer:***

\* \* \* *(Calls up Council)*

### ***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 offices. 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 blessings rest upon all our companions, wherever dispersed throughout the world. Amen.

### ***Companions Response:***

So mote it be.

### ***Installing Officer:***

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

... 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 the State of Missouri, 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.

***Installing Officer:***

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***Installing Officer:***

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

***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, at the close, 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 at least nine Select Masters?
3. That you will not suffer any person to receive the degrees 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, 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. *(At this time if Jewels are presented, it would be presented now.)*

### ***Installing Officer:***

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 place in your care 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.

### ***Installing Officer:***

Companion Marshal, you will present the remaining Officers in their rank.

## 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 the 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 be conducted to your station.

## CHARGE TO THE PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR OF THE WORK

### ***Installing Officer:***

Companion \_\_\_\_\_, in the absence of both your superiors you will be called upon to preside. As the interests 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 be conducted to your station.

CHARGE TO THE TREASURER

***Installing Officer:***

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 be conducted to your station.

CHARGE TO THE RECORDER

***Installing Officer:***

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

CHARGE TO THE CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD

***Installing Officer:***

Companion \_\_\_\_\_, guard well your post and suffer none to pass it but 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 be conducted to your station.

CHARGE TO THE CONDUCTOR OF THE COUNCIL

***Installing Officer:***

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 be conducted to your station.

CHARGE TO THE MARSHAL

***Installing Officer:***

Companion \_\_\_\_\_, your duty is to assist the Conductor of the Council in examining visitors and see that none are permitted to enter but such as have proved their title to our favor and friendship. You will be conducted to your station.

CHARGE TO THE STEWARD

***Installing Officer:***

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 be conducted to your station.

## CHARGE TO THE CHAPLAIN

### *Installing Officer:*

Companion \_\_\_\_\_, your duty is to lead our devotions when called upon and to render other duties as are appropriate to your office. You will be conducted to your station.

## CHARGE TO THE SENTINEL

### *Installing Officer:*

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 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 your Council. I present you this Gavel, an emblem of authority, a knock of which will command attention and restore order in the Council. Wield it, my Companion, with prudence and discretion. You are to have a watchful eye over the general conduct 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.

### *Installing Officer:*

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## 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 discharging 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 others 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 glory.

Companion Marshal, you will make the proclamation.

PROCLAMATION

***Marshal:***

In the name of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri, I proclaim the Officers of \_\_\_\_\_ Council No. \_\_\_\_\_ duly installed. All interested will take due notice and govern themselves accordingly.

Companions, the Grand Honors.

*(Installing Officer hands the Gavel to the Illustrious Master, who seats the Council.) (\*)*