

ALTERNATE CEREMONY
INSTALLATION OF CHAPTER OFFICERS

Only a Past High Priest is qualified to conduct the installation of officers in a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. The Chapter having been regularly opened, and at labor, the Installing Officer is asked to take charge, the officers vacating their several stations. The Installing Officer will designate some Companion to act as Marshal, and another to serve as Chaplain.

It is suggested that the officers-elect retire to the ante-room and march in, under direction of the Installing Marshal, assuming a place in front of the Altar. If the officers have not been informed of their appointments, their names should be read before they retire.

If officer jewels are presented during the installation, the Installing Officer will instruct the Installing Marshal to present the officer with his jewel of office. The jewels should be arranged in order of presentation on a table next to the Altar, not on the Altar. The Installing Marshal will present all officers-elect in a like manner, "I present Companion (or Excellent Companion) _____ who has been elected (or appointed) to the office of _____."

Chairs may be used by the officers-elect, if necessary.

(After the officers-elect enter, and stand at the Altar.)

Installing Marshal:

Excellent Companion, I here present for installation the Companions who have been selected to serve this Chapter for the ensuing year, and who present themselves for installation.

Installing Officer:

*** We are taught in symbolic Freemasonry never to engage in any great or important undertaking without first invoking the aid and blessing of Deity. Companion Chaplain, you will lead us in prayer.

Installing Chaplain:

Most Holy and Glorious Lord God, Grand High Priest of Heaven and Earth; we approach Thee with reverence and humility, and implore Thy blessings on these Companions who have been selected to preside over this, our ancient fraternity. Fill him, who is to preside over us, with Thy fear; that his tongue and actions may pronounce Thy will. Make him steadfast in Thy service; grant him firmness of mind, and kindness of disposition; teach him to rule his brethren with justice and equity; animate his heart, and strengthen his endeavors to do good. May he inculcate Thy judgments and laws, and do all that his high office requires, with an eye single to Thy glory and the good of the Royal Craft.

Bless him, and bless those whom Thou hast put under him; and grant that when we shall have finished the work of this earthly temple of the body, we may be admitted to the glories of that second temple, which is of the spirit, eternal in the heavens. Amen.

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Companions:

So mote it be.

Installing Officers:

My Companions, before installing you into your respective stations, it becomes necessary for you to take an obligation of office. You will therefore speak your names, and repeat after me:

... do solemnly promise that I will faithfully perform all of the duties of the office to which I have been selected to the best of my ability, and that I will support and maintain the Constitution, Laws, and Edicts of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri, together with those of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, International, to the best of my ability.

(The obligation having been administered, the Installing Marshal will present the High Priest-elect in front of the Altar.)

Installing Marshal:

I present Companion (or Excellent Companion) ____ who has been selected to serve as High Priest of this Chapter.

Installing Officer:

The office into which you are to be installed is one highly honorable to all those who diligently perform the important duties annexed to it. Your reputed Masonic knowledge precludes the necessity of a particular enumeration of those duties, but I shall propose certain questions to you, relative to the duties of your office, to which I must require your unequivocal answer:

1. Do you solemnly promise that you will redouble your endeavors to correct the vices, purify the morals, and promote the happiness of those of your Companions who have attained to this sublime degree?
2. That you will never suffer your Chapter to be opened unless there be present nine regular Royal Arch Masons?
3. That you will never suffer either more or less than three Brethren to be exalted in your Chapter at one and the same time?
4. That you will not exalt anyone to this degree who has not shown a charitable and humane disposition; or who has not made a suitable proficiency in the foregoing degrees?
5. That you will promote the general good of the fraternity, and, on proper occasions, be ready to give and receive instruction, and particularly from General or State Grand Officers?
6. That to the utmost of your power, you will preserve the solemnities of our ceremonies, and behave, in open Chapter, with the most profound respect and reverence as an example to your Companions?

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7. That you will not acknowledge or have intercourse with any Chapter that does not work under a constitutional warrant or dispensation?
8. That you will not admit any visitor into your Chapter who has not been exalted in a Chapter legally constituted, without his having been formerly healed?
9. That you will observe and support such bylaws, as may be adopted by your Chapter, in conformity to the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, International, and those of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri?
10. That you will pay respect and due obedience to the instructions of the several Grand Officers, particularly those relating to the several lectures and charges, and will resign you station to them, severally, when they may visit your Chapter?
11. That you will support and observe the General Grand Chapter Constitutions and the General Regulations of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri?

Do you submit to all of these things, and do you promise to observe and practice them faithfully?

High Priest-elect:

I do.

Installing Officer:

In consequence of your reply to these charges, you are qualified for installation as High Priest, and it is now incumbent on me to point out some of the particular duties appertaining to your office and dignity.

The High Priest of every Chapter has it in special charge to see that the bylaws of his Chapter, as well as the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter, and the Constitution of the Grand Chapter of Missouri, are duly observed; that all the officers of his Chapter perform the duties of their respective offices; that true and accurate records of the proceedings of the Chapter are kept by the Secretary; that the Treasurer keep and render a just account of all monies and property of the Chapter; that the proper returns be made annually to the Grand Chapter; that the annual dues to the Grand Chapter be punctually paid. He has the right and authority of calling his Chapter together at pleasure, upon any emergency or occurrence, which in his judgment may require a convocation. It is your privilege and duty, together with the King and Scribe to attend the meetings of the Grand Chapter, either in person, or proxy; and the well being of the institution requires that this duty should on no occasion be omitted

You will now assume your station.

Installing Marshal:

(King and Scribe are presented.)

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Installing Officer:

(To the King) You have been elected as King of this Chapter, and will now assume the duties of your station. It will be your duty to aid and support your chief in all the requirements of his office, and in his absence, you are to preside.

(To the Scribe) You have been elected Scribe of this Chapter, and will now assume your station. In the absence of both the High Priest and King, it will be your duty to preside.

Installing Marshal:

(Treasurer and Secretary are presented.)

Installing Officer:

(To the Treasurer) Having been elected Treasurer of this Chapter, you will now enter upon the discharge of your duties. These you will perform with fidelity and care, thus proving your devotion to our fraternity.

(To the Secretary) You have been elected Secretary of this Chapter and will now assume your office. Your duties are most important, requiring promptness, accuracy, and fidelity. Let your record and your conduct command the approval and merit the confidence of your Companions.

Installing Marshal:

(Captain of the Host and Principal Sojourner are presented.)

Installing Officer:

(To the Captain of the Host) You have been selected as Captain of the Host, and will now assume your duties. Be ever attentive to the commands of your chief, and prompt to see them executed.

(To the Principal Sojourner) You will assume your duties as Principal Sojourner. Be fervent and zealous in the discharge of your duties. He who brings the blind by a way that they knew not, and leads them in paths that they have not known, should ever be qualified to make darkness light before them and crooked things straight.

Installing Marshal:

(Royal Arch Captain and Masters of Veils are presented.)

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Installing Officer:

As veils have been placed for the purpose of protecting the approaches of our sacred tabernacle, so it is necessary to have guards stationed to see that none who are unworthy are admitted. Be diligent in the discharge of your duties.

Installing Marshal:

(Sentinel and Chaplain are presented.)

Installing Officer:

(To the Sentinel) You have been appointed Sentinel of this Chapter, and will now assume the duties of your office. Be attentive, vigilant, faithful.

(To the Chaplain) You have been appointed Chaplain of the Chapter. It will be your duty to offer our thanks to Deity and implore His blessing upon our works.

Installing Officer:

The officers of this Chapter having been regularly charged and inducted into their respective stations, Companion Marshal, you will declare them duly installed. *** *(calls up the Chapter.)*

Installing Marshal:

(Installing Marshal goes to the Altar, left hand on Holy Bible, right hand raised.) In the name of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri, and by order of the Excellent High Priest, I hereby proclaim the officers of ____ Chapter No. ____, duly installed into their respective offices. All Companions will take due notice and govern themselves accordingly.

Installing Officer:

* *(The Chapter is seated.)*