

CHAPTER INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

HP (*Friends and*) Companions, I am about to install the officers of _____ Chapter No. _____ Royal Arch Masons of Michigan.

HP Right Excellent Grand Secretary:
Sec. Most Excellent Grand High Priest

HP You will read the names of the officers-elect and those so named will take there place in order of rank, west of the Altar, the High Priest Elect nearest the South.

HP Right Excellent Grand Captain of the Host

COH Most Excellent Grand High Priest

HP You will place the High Priest-elect at the Altar, facing West.

HP Companions (*and ladies*) of _____ Chapter No. ____ Royal Arch Masons before you stand these Companions who have been duly chosen to serve your Chapter for the ensuing year. If you know of any reason why any of these Companions should not be so installed, speak now or forever hereafter hold your peace. There being no objections, I shall now proceed with the installation.

HP Right Excellent Grand Captain of the Host:

COH You will cause the High Priest-elect to face the East.

HP Companions (*and Friends*), The most important lesson that we are taught in Masonry is that before beginning any great and glorious undertaking, we should first invoke the blessing of Deity, to insure us of a successful journey. It is the first lesson that we are taught upon our entrance into the Lodge. Let us, therefore, ask for the blessing of that Supreme Being for His guidance and blessing on this auspicious occasion in which we are about to engage.

HP Right Excellent Grand Captain of the Host

COH Most Excellent Grand High Priest

HP You will cause the High Priest-elect to kneel at the Altar placing both hands upon the Holy Bible, Square and Compasses. @ @
@

HP Everyone will please rise. * * *

HP Right Excellent Grand Chaplain

Chap Most Excellent Grand High Priest

HP You will invoke the Blessings of Deity.

Chap Most Holy and glorious Lord God, High Priest of Heaven and Earth! We approach Thee with reverence, and implore Thy blessing upon these Companions chosen to preside over this Chapter for the ensuing year... Fill their hearts with Thy love, that their thoughts, words and actions may pronounce Thy Glory. Make them steadfast in Thy service; grant them firmness of mind; animate their hearts, and strengthen their endeavors; that they may teach Thy Judgements and Thy Laws; and may the incense they shall put before Thee, upon Thy Altar, prove an acceptable sacrifice unto Thee. Bless them, O Lord, and bless the work of their hands. Accept us in Thy mercy; hear Thou from Heaven, Thy dwelling place and forgive our transgressions.. Amen.

Response: So mote it be.

HP All but the Officers-elect may be seated. *

OBLIGATION OF ALL OFFICERS

HP The High Priest-elect will remain in position, the Officers-elect will raise their right hands. (*Grand High Priest moves to the Altar*)

HP All Officers-elect will say "I", state their name in full, and repeat after me:

Obligation: I _____ in the presence of Almighty God – and these witnesses – do solemnly promise – that I will serve this Chapter – in the office for which I have been chosen, -- for the

ensuing 12 months – until my successor shall have been duly selected – and installed in my stead. -- That I will perform all the duties – appertaining to that office – to the best of my abilities. -- That I will support and maintain – the By-Laws of this Chapter, -- the Constitution, General Regulations and Rituals – of the Grand Chapter – of Royal Arch Masons of Michigan – and those of the General Grand Chapter – of Royal Arch Masons, International.

HP Officer-elect may drop their hands and be seated, High Priest-elect will arise.

HP Right Excellent Grand Captain of the Host, you will present the High Priest-elect for installation.

COH Most Excellent Grand High Priest. I present (*Ex.*) Companion _____ who has been duly selected to serve this Chapter as High Priest for the ensuing Masonic Year, and who now declares himself ready for installation. I find him to be skillful in the Royal Art and attentive to the moral precepts of our forefathers, and have therefore no doubt that he will discharge the duties of his office with fidelity.

HP (*Excellent*) Companion _____ :

I feel much pleasure and satisfaction in installing you into the office of High Priest of this Chapter.

It is an office highly honorable to all those who diligently perform the important duties which belong to it.

Because of your Masonic knowledge and understanding I shall only observe that by a frequent referral to the Constitution and General Regulations, and a constant study of the sublime science, you will best be able to fulfill those duties.

I am confident that the Companions who have been chosen to assist you in Council will give strength to your endeavors and support to your exertions.

It is now necessary that I must propound to you certain questions, relative to the duties of your office, to which I must request your unequivocal answer.

HP Right Excellent Grand Secretary:

Sec. Most Excellent Grand High Priest

HP You will read the Constitutional Questions.

Constitutional Questions –

1. Do you solemnly promise that you will redouble your endeavors to correct the vices, purify the morals, and promote the happiness of your Companions who have attained the sublime degree of Royal Arch Masons?
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 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, and made a considerable proficiency in the preparatory degree?
5. That you will promote the general good of our Order, and on all occasions be ready to give and receive instructions, particularly from the General and 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?
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 formally healed?
9. That you will observe and support such by-laws as may be made by your Chapter, in conformity to the Constitution and General Regulations of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Michigan?
10. That you will pay respect and due obedience to the instructions of the General and State Grand Officers, particularly relating to the several lectures and charges, and resign the chair to them when they may visit your Chapter?
11. That you will support and observe the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, International, and the Constitution and General Regulations of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Michigan?
12. That you will bind your successor in office to the observance of these rules to which you now assent?

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

Response: I do.

HP Excellent Companion _____: Your agreement to these Ancient Charges which you have just heard recited qualifies you for installation as High Priest of this Royal Arch Chapter.

It is incumbent upon me, on this occasion to point out some of the particulars appertaining to your office; its duties and its dignities.

The High Priest of every Chapter has it in special charge to see that the officers of his Chapter perform the duties of their respective offices faithfully,

And are examples of diligence and industry to their Companions; that correct and punctual reports, returns and receipts are made to the Grand Chapter.

It is your right, responsibility and authority of calling the members of the Chapter together at any time, that in your opinion, a meeting of the membership is required.

It is your privilege and duty, together with that of the King and Scribe, to attend the convocations of the Grand Chapter; and the well-being of the institution requires that the duty should on no occasion be omitted.

You will now be invested with the Jewel of your office, the Crown or Mitre of Royal Dignity, as a mark of distinction, in your dependence upon God, and to remind you that he who presides over a Lodge should always remain covered.

(Musical Interlude would be appropriate at this time.)

You will now be conducted to the East and inducted into the Oriental Chair of the High Priest. @ @ @

(Grand High Priest then goes to the west of the Altar. He and the COH both conduct the High Priest to the East. Grand High Priest places the High Priest in front of his chair. COH remains just west of the East.)

HP * * * All Companions please rise.

HP Excellent High Priest, behold your Companions.

Companions, behold your Excellent High Priest. You will give him Grand Honors taking your time from the Captain of the Host.

COH @ @ @

(After Grand Honors, COH goes back to west of the Altar, Grand High Priest asks the High Priest to take his seat in the East.)

HP Right Excellent Grand Captain of the Host

COH Most Excellent Grand High Priest

HP Present the Officer-elect in order for Installation. (*Grand High Priest may go to the Altar or conduct the remainder of the Installation from the East*)

COH (*The following to be used to present each of the Officers-elect in order to the Grand High Priest*) Most Excellent Grand High Priest, it is with pleasure that I present to you (*Ex.*) Companion _____ who has been elected (*appointed*) to serve this Chapter as (*state the Office*) for the ensuing Capitular Year.

KING

(*Ex.*) Companion _____. The important station in this Chapter to which you have been elected requires from you exemplary conduct; while its duties demand your most assiduous attention. You are to second and support your chief in all the requirements of his office, and should casualties at any time prevent his attendance, you are to succeed him in the performance of his duties.

You will now be invested (*entrusted*) with the jewel or badge of your office which is the Level surmounted by a Crown @ which should remind you that although you are the representative of a King, and exalted by office above you Companions, yet that you remain upon a level with them, as respects your duty to God, to your neighbor, and to yourself; that you are equally bound with them to be obedient to the laws and ordinances of the institution; to be charitable, humane and just and to seek every occasion of doing good.

Your Office teaches a striking lesson of humility. In general in society, the King is considered as the magistrate of the Craft. The Royal Arch Degree, however, places the King in a position subordinate to the High Priest, and thereby teaches us that our duty to God is Paramount to all other duties.

You are entitled to sit at the right hand of your High Priest. The second seat in the Council of your Companions. Let the Bright example of your Illustrious predecessor stimulate you to faithfully discharge your duties. And when the King of Kings shall summon you into His immediate presence, from His hand may you receive a Crown of Glory.

You will now be conducted to your station in the East.

SCRIBE

(*Ex.*) Companion _____, the office of Scribe, to which you have been elected, is very important and respectable. Your position in order of rank in the Council of your Companions is at the left hand of the High Priest and third in rank. In the absence of your superior officers, you are bound to succeed them and to perform their duties. The purpose of the institution should never suffer for want of intelligence in its proper officers. You will, therefore, perceive the necessity of your possessing such qualifications as will enable you to accomplish those duties which are incumbent upon you in your appropriate station, as well as those which may occasionally devolve upon you by the absence of your superiors.

You will now be invested (*entrusted*) with the jewel or badge of your office which is the Plumb-Rule surmounted by the Turban. It is an emblem of rectitude and vigilance; and while you stand as a watchman on the tower to guard your Companions against the approach of those enemies of human happiness, intemperance and excess, let this emblem ever remind you to walk uprightly in your station, admonishing your Companions to fidelity and industry while at refreshment. And when that Great Watchman whose eye is never closed, shall relieve you from your post on Earth, may He permit you into Heaven to participate in the perpetual Banquet "Such as the saints in glory love, and such as Angels eat."

You will now be conducted to your station in the East.

TREASURER

(*Ex.*) Companion _____, you have been elected as the Treasurer of the Chapter, and I have the pleasure of investing

(entrusting) you with the badge of your office which is most appropriately the Crossed Keys.

The qualities which should recommend a Treasurer are accuracy and fidelity:

Accuracy in keeping a fair and minute account of all receipts and disbursements,

And fidelity in carefully preserving all the property and funds of the Chapter that may be placed in your hands, and rendering a just account of the same whenever you are called upon for that purpose.

I presume that your respect for the institution, your attachment to the interests of your Chapter, and your regard for a good name, which is better than precious ointment, will prompt you to the faithful discharge of the duties of your office.

You will now be conducted to your station by way of the East.

SECRETARY

(Ex.) Companion _____, it is with pleasure that I invest *(entrust)* you with the badge as Secretary of your Chapter which is most appropriately the Crossed Quill Pins.

The qualities which would recommend a Secretary are:

Promptitude in issuing such notifications as may be required, along with the orders of the High Priest;

Punctuality in attending the Convocations of this Chapter;

Correctness in recording the proceedings of this Chapter:

Judgment in discriminating between that which is proper and that which is improper to be committed to writing.

Regularity in making the Annual Returns to the Grand Chapter;

Integrity in accounting for all monies that may come into your hands;

And Fidelity in paying the same to the Treasurer.

The possession of these good qualities has designated you as a suitable Companion for this important office, and I entertain no doubt that you will discharge your duties with benefit to the chapter and Honor to yourself.

And when you shall have completed your work on Earth, and are standing before “That Great White Stone” I believe with confidence that you will find your name recorded, in bold print, in that Book of Life Eternal.

You will now be conducted to your station by way of the East.

CHAPLAIN

(Ex.) Companion _____, the sacred position of Chaplain has been entrusted to your care, and you are now invested (*entrusted*) with the Jewel of your office, which is appropriately the Open Bible.

In the discharge of your duties you will be required to conduct the devotional exercises of the Convocations of your Companions.

Though Masonry is not a Religion, it is emphatically Religion’s hand-maid; and I am sure that in ministering at its altar, the services you may perform will lose nothing of their vital importance because they are practiced in that spirit of universal tolerance which distinguishes our institution.

It will be your special charge to see to it that the Sacred Light shines upon our Altar and illuminates and brightens the pathway of the Craftsman by the Golden Rays of Truth.

The doctrines of morality and virtue, which you are accustomed to inculcate to the world, will form the appropriate lessons which you are expected to communicate to your Companions.

(Musical Interlude would be appropriate at this time.)

CAPTAIN OF THE HOST

(Ex.) Companion _____, you will now be invested (*entrusted*) with the Jewel of your office which is a Triangular Plate on which is engraved an Armed Soldier, armed with a sword.

The office with which you are entrusted is of high importance, and demands your most zealous consideration. The preservation of the most essential traits of our ancient customs, usages, and landmarks is within your province. It is indispensably necessary that the part assigned to you in the practice of our Rites and Ceremonies, should be perfectly understood and correctly administered.

Your office corresponds with that of Marshal or Master of Ceremonies in the other degrees in Masonry. You are to superintend all processions of your Chapter, when moving as a distinct body, either in public or private. It is by your deportment and leadership that the beauty and dignity of the Chapter is maintained.

As the world can only judge our private discipline by our public deportment, you are to be careful to see that the utmost order and decorum be observed on all occasions. You are to be attentive to the demands of your High Priest, and always near at hand to see them duly executed.

You will be conducted to your station by way of the East.

PRINCIPAL SOJOURNER

(Ex.) companion _____, you have been elected to the office of Principal Sojourner of your Chapter and are now invested (*entrusted*) with the Jewel of your office which is the Triangular Plate on which is engraved a Pilgrim.

The office confided to your care is equal in importance to any in the Chapter save that of the High Priest. Your office corresponds with that of the Senior Deacon in all of the preparatory degrees. Among all the duties required of you, the preparation and introduction of candidates are not the least. Experience teaches us that first impressions are often the most durable and most difficult to eradicate, it is therefore important that such impressions be correct and just. Hence, it is essential that the officer who would bring the blind by a way that they knew not and leads them in paths that they have not known should always be well qualified to make darkness light before them and crooked things straight.

Your past exertions will be considered as a pledge of your future assiduity in the faithful discharge of your duties.

You will be conducted to your station by way of the East.

ROYAL ARCH CAPTAIN

(*Ex.*) Companion _____, I congratulate you on having been elected to the office of Royal Arch Captain of this Chapter and invest (*entrust*) you with the badge of your office which is the Triangle encompassing the sword in expectation of you performing your duties with intelligence, assiduity and propriety.

Your office corresponds with that of the Junior Deacon in the preparatory degrees. It is your duty, together with that of the Captain of the Host to attend the examination of all visitors and to permit to enter the Chapter only those who have traveled the rugged path of trial and proven their right to our favor and friendship. You will be attentive to the commands of the Captain of the Host during the introduction of strangers among the workmen. I give it you strictly in charge never to suffer no one to pass your post without the Signet of Truth.

I now entrust to your care the White Banner of Judah. It is emblematic of that Purity of Heart and Rectitude of Conduct

which should actuate all who pass the white veil of the sanctuary. May the dignity and nobility of the Lion guide your future thoughts and actions in Masonry.

You will now be conducted to your station by way of the East.

VEILSMAN

Companions _____, _____, _____,
you will now be (*entrusted*) with the Jewels of your office.

Those who are placed as overseer of any work should be well qualified to judge of its beauties and deformities: its excellencies and its defects. They should be capable of estimating the former and amending the latter.

You represent the various banners of our chapter, each of which is an emblem of your office.

THIRD VEIL

Companion _____, I present you with the Scarlett Banner of Efram which is the insignia of the Master of the Third Veil. Be as strong and enduring in your labors for the Royal Arch as the Oxen are in their toll and labors.

The rich and beautiful color, Red, is emblematical of Fervency and Zeal; it is the appropriate color of the Royal Arch Degree and admonishes us that we should be fervent in the exercise of our devotions to God, and zealous in our endeavors to promote the happiness of man.

SECOND VIEL

Companion _____, I present you with the Purple Banner of Reuben which is the insignia of the Master of the Second Veil. To your charge is given the unity of man through peace and harmony.

The Purple Color of your banner is a dueadd mixture of Blue and Scarlet. Blue is the characteristic of the Symbolic or first three degrees in Masonry; and Scarlet is that of Royal Arch Degree. Your banner is an emblem of Union, and is the characteristic color of the intermediate degrees. It admonishes us to cultivate and improve that spirit of union and harmony between the Brethren of the symbolic degrees and the Companions of the sublime degrees.

FIRST VEIL

Companion _____, I present you with the Blue Banner of Dan which is the insignia of the Master of the First Veil. May the heart and eye of the Eagle strengthen you in your work in Masonry.

The Blue Color of your banner is one of the most durable and beautiful in nature. It is the appropriate color adopted and worn by our ancient Brethren of the symbolic degrees. It is the peculiar characteristic of an institution which has stood the test of ages. It is an emblem of universal Friendship and Benevolence, and instructs us, that in the mind of a Mason, these virtues should be as expansive as the Blue Arch of Heaven, itself.

Companions: Let the various colors of the Banners committed to your charge admonish you to the exercise of the several virtues of which they are emblematic. You are to enjoin the practice of those virtues upon all who shall present themselves with the work of their hands for your inspection. Let no work receive your approbation, but such work which is calculated to adorn and strengthen our Masonic edifice. Be industrious and faithful in practicing and disseminating a knowledge of the true and perfect work, which alone can stand the test of the grand Overseer's Square, in that great day of Trial and Tribulation.

Although every rod may become a serpent, every serpent an enemy to this institution, and their utmost exertions be to destroy its reputation and sap its foundation, yet then shall they become as impotent as the leprous hand, or as water spilled upon the ground, which cannot be gathered up again.

Companions, you will be conducted to your station by way of the East.

SENTINEL

(Ex.) Companion _____, you will now be invested with the badge and entrusted with the implement or sword of your office.

The sword is placed in the hands of the Sentinel to enable him to effectually guard against the approach of all Cowan's and eavesdroppers; allowing none to suffer to pass, but such as are of a duly conscience, void of offense toward God and man.

As the first application for admission, into the Chapter from visitors, it is generally made to the Sentinel at the door, your station will often present you to the observation of strangers. It is, therefore, essential that he who sustains the office with which you are entrusted, be a man of good morals, steady habits, strict discipline, temperate, affable and discreet. I trust that a just regard for the honor and reputation of the institution will ever induce you to perform with fidelity the trust reposed in you. And when the door of this earthly tabernacle shall be closed, may you find an abundant entrance through the gates into the Temple and City of God.

Since, you will make, for many their first and therefore most lasting impression of this Chapter, Guard your post well!

You will now be conducted to your station, inside the door, by way of the East.

(The Grand High Priest will move to the East, if he conducted the installation from the Altar.)

ADDRESS TO THE HIGH PRIEST

Excellent Companion _____:

Having been honored by the members of this Chapter, you have been selected to the most important office in their power to bestow.

This expression of their esteem and respect should draw from you a corresponding emotion and your demeanor should be such as to repay the honor which they have conferred upon you by a faithful discharge of the duties of your office.

It is within your power and providence to direct, lead and guide the Chapter and its Companions in all affairs.

You are to be an example of excellence to your Officers and Members, which they need not hesitate to follow; thus securing the favor of heaven and the applause of your brethren and companions.

ADDRESS TO THE OFFICERS

* *

Companions in Office:

Precept and example should ever advance with equal pace those moral duties, which you are required to teach to others you should never neglect to practice yourself.

You must always be ready to receive as well as to impart your knowledge and wisdom, in a manner of care and understanding.

Your outward demeanor should be such as to set a good example of respect toward your superiors, thereby affording you the applause and esteem of your fellow Companions.

Lead by example.

Ever remember that he who faithfully performs his duty, is invested with Supreme Authority.

ADDRESS TO THE CHAPTER

* * *

Companions:

The exercise and management of the affairs of Masonry within your Chapter are so high appreciated and the good reputation of the Chapter so well established, that I must presume that these considerations alone, were there no others of greater magnitude, would be sufficient to induce you to preserve and perpetuate this valuable and honorable institution.

I doubt not that your future conduct and that of your successors will be such as to increase still more the luster of your justly esteemed reputation.

May your Chapter become as beautiful as the Temple, as sacred as its most Holy Place and as peaceful as the ark anchored in the harbour.

May your offering of piety and praise be as grateful as the incense; your love as warm as its flame; and your charity as diffusive as its fragrance.

May your heart be as pure as the sacred Bible and your conduct ever acceptable for diffusing its light.

May the approbation of Heaven be your encouragement and the testimony of a good conscience by your support.

May you be endowed with every good and perfect gift while traveling rugged path of life.

And finally, when your weary feet shall have reached the end of their journeys here below, may you be admitted within the Veil of Heaven, to sit at the right hand of our Father, for the full enjoyment of life eternal.

HP Right Excellent Grand Captain of the Host

COH Most Excellent Grand High Priest

HP Make the Proclamation

COH (*moves to a position west of the east*)

In the name of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Michigan, I proclaim the officers of _____ Chapter No. _____ Royal Arch Masons, duly installed into their respective offices (*with the exception of the _____*).

This I proclaim to the South, to the West and to the East.

Take due notice thereof and govern yourselves accordingly.

Together Companions, you will attend Grand Honors of Masonry. @ @ @

HP *

I place in your hands the By-laws of your Chapter.
See that they are faithfully followed.

I, also, place in your hands, the Red Book of Capitular Law, containing the Constitution, By-Laws, and General Regulations of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Michigan. Study them and see that they are always readily available to the Officers and Companions of your Chapter.

I place in your charge the Charter of this Chapter. No meeting of your Chapter is legal unless it is present and properly displayed. It is your responsibility to see to it that it is duly transmitted to your successor in office.

I draw your attention to the Flag of our Country. Never meet but beneath its protective folds.

I commit to your care the Holy Bible, Square and Compasses, those great Lights of every degree of Masonry: I give it you strictly in charge to see that they are always present upon the Altar while the Chapter is in session, and that due reverence is maintained in the Chapter Room while they are present.

Finally, Excellent Companion _____, I now present to you the gavel. It is an emblem of authority. Wield it wisely with justice and prudence.

(When the gavel has been presented to the High Priest then the formal Installation of Officers is concluded.)