

GRAND COUNCIL
CRYPTIC MASONS
OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK



OPENING OF A CONSTITUENT
COUNCIL
IN AMPLE FORM
BY THE
GRAND MASTER ONLY

*Property of the Grand Council Cryptic Masons
Of the State of New York*

Revised June 2003

Grand Council
Cryptic Masons
Of The State Of New York

THE OPENING OF A CONSTITUENT COUNCIL

M.I.G.M.: COMPANION CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD, ARE ALL PRESENT SELECT MASTERS?

**Companion Captain of the Guard:
Most Illustrious Grand Master all present are Select Masters.**

M.I.G.M.: IS OUR NUMBER COMPLETE?

**Companion Captain of the Guard:
I find our number three times three.**

M.I.G.M.: * SEE THAT THE COMPANIONS ARE IN ORDER AS SELECT MASTERS.**

**Companion Captain of the Guard:
Companions, be in order as Select Masters.
Most Illustrious Grand Master the Companions are in order.**

M.I.G.M.: * COMPANION CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD, YOU WILL SEE THAT THE SECRET VAULT IS SECURELY GUARDED.

**Companion Captain of the Guard:
Companion Steward, see that the Secret Vault is securely guarded and inform the Sentinel that the Most Illustrious Grand Master is about to open _____ Council No. _____ of Select Masters. Direct him to take due notice thereof and guard accordingly.**

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Companion Steward:

(Opens door without alarm) Companion Sentinel,
The Most Illustrious Grand Master is about to
open _____ Council No. _____ of
Select Masters. Take due notice thereof and
guard accordingly. *(Closes door and raps*
***** ***)** *and the Sentinel answers *** ***)*

Companion Captain of the Guard, the Sentinel is
at his post and the Secret Vault is secure.

Companion Captain of the Guard:

Most Illustrious Grand Master the Secret Vault
is secure.

M.I.G.M.: *** COMPANIONS, LET US PRAY. COMPANION
CHAPLAIN YOU WILL LEAD US IN OUR
DEVOTIONS.

(The Chaplain Recites the Following Prayer:)

PRAYER

Companion Chaplain:

O THOU SUPREME GRAND MASTER, GRACIOUSLY
PRESIDE OVER ALL OUR COUNCILS, AND DIRECT
US IN ALL SUCH THINGS AS THOU WILT BE PLEASED
TO APPROVE AND BLESS. MAY OUR PROFESSIONS
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.

Companions Respond: So Mote It Be.

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**M.I.G.M.: COMPANION CONDUCTOR OF THE COUNCIL
ATTEND AT THE ALTAR AND DISPLAY THE
GREAT LIGHTS.**

Companion Conductor of the Council:

(Without response, Conductor of the Council proceeds to the Altar, opens the Bible to the 31st Chapter of Deuteronomy, places the Square, Compasses and Trowel on the page beginning the chapter. The Trowel should be in the center of the Square and Compasses. He then resumes his station.)

**M.I.G.M.: COMPANION MARSHAL, PRESENT THE FLAG
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WEST
OF THE ALTAR.**

Companion Marshal:

(Without response, he proceeds for the Flag in the West, hand salutes, and then marches West of the Altar with the Flag and remains there for the Pledge of Allegiance and one verse of our National Anthem.)

**M.I.G.M.: COMPANIONS, YOU WILL JOIN ME IN PLEDGING
ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF OUR COUNTRY,
FOLLOWED BY SINGING ONE VERSE OF OUR
NATIONAL ANTHEM. *(Singing Optional)***

Companion Marshal:

(At the conclusion of the National Anthem, if sung, the Marshal proceeds to post the Flag at its proper station in the East, hand salutes, and then resumes his Station.)

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M.I.G.M.: I NOW DECLARE _____ COUNCIL No. _____
OF SELECT MASTERS OPEN IN AMPLE FORM.

M.I.G.M.: COMPANION CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD, SEE
THAT THE SENTINEL IS INFORMED.

Companion Captain of the Guard:
Companion Steward inform the Sentinel.

Companion Steward:
*(Without response he goes to the entrance
of the Secret Vault knocks *** ***, which
is answered by the Sentinel *** ***, The
Steward opens the door and says:)*

*Companion Sentinel the Council is open in
Ample Form. (The Steward closes the door,
and he resumes his station and reports.)*

Companion Captain of the Guard, the Sentinel
is informed.

Companion Captain of the Guard:
Most Illustrious Grand Master your order has
been obeyed.

M.I.G.M.: * *(Seats the Companions and continues with
the Business of the Evening.)*

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THE CLOSING OF A CONSTITUTENT COUNCIL

M.I.G.M.: ILLUSTRIOUS MASTER IF IT IS YOUR WISH, I WILL CLOSE THE COUNCIL FOR YOU THIS EVENING, HOWEVER, THE MINUTES OF THIS ASSEMBLY MUST BE READ AND APPROVED AT YOUR NEXT STATED ASSEMBLY.

M.I.G.M.: *** COMPANIONS GIVE YOUR ATTENTION TO THE CHAPLAIN. COMPANION CHAPLAIN YOU WILL LEAD US IN OUR DEVOTIONS.

(Chaplain Recites the Following Prayer.)

PRAYER

Companion Chaplain:

ALMIGHTY AND ETERNAL GOD, WE THANK THEE FOR THIS HOUR OF FRATERNAL COMPANIONSHIP AND AS WE ARE ABOUT TO DEPART FROM THIS SECRET RETREAT, WE PRAY THY BENEDICTION UPON THE PROCEEDINGS OF OUR ASSEMBLIES. AS WE FACE THE VICISSITUDES OF LIFE WITH OUR FELLOWMAN, MAY THEY SEE IN OUR EVERY MOTIVE THE BEAUTY OF THEE, WHICH SO INSPIRED THE FOUNDERS OF OUR GREAT FRATERNITY, CONTINUE TO INCITE OUR HEARTS TO DUTY AND GIVE US AN EARNEST DESIRE FOR DIVINE WISDOM. ENABLE US BY THY GRACE TO EXERCISE CHARITY, CHERISH HOPE AND TO WALK WITH THEE BY FAITH. AND MAY THAT MORAL PRINCIPAL WHICH IS THE MYSTIC CEMENT OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS EVER REMAIN WITH US AND PROSPER OUR COUNCILS. IN THY GREAT AND SACRED NAME WE PRAY. AMEN.

Companions Respond: So Mote It Be.

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**M.I.G.M.: COMPANION CONDUCTOR OF THE COUNCIL,
ATTEND AT THE ALTAR AND CLOSE THE
GREAT LIGHT.**

Companion Conductor of the Council:

*(Without response he proceeds to the Altar
and closes the Great Light and resumes his
station.)*

**M.I.G.M.: IN THE NAME OF AND BY THE POWER
GRANTED ME AS THE GRAND MASTER OF
THE GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS
OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, I NOW DECLARE
THIS COUNCIL CLOSED IN AMPLE FORM.**

**M.I.G.M.: COMPANION CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD INFORM
THE SENTINEL.**

Companion Captain of the Guard:

Companion Steward inform the Sentinel.

Companion Steward:

*(Without response he proceeds to the entrance
of the Secret Vault and opens the door without
knocks and says:)*

**Companion Sentinel, the Council is closed.
*(The Steward leaves the door open and he
resumes his station and reports.)***

Companion Steward:

**Companion Captain of the Guard, the Sentinel
is informed.**

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Companion Captain of the Guard:

**Most Illustrious Grand Master your order has
been obeyed.**

M.I.G.M.: COMPANIONS GOOD NIGHT AND GOD SPEED.

*** *(Dismisses the Companions.)***

**(NOTE: * *Symbol Denotes raps of the Gavel
or Knocks at the door.)***