

Opening

TIM: Will you please remain seated while our Chaplain opens in prayer.
Companion Chaplain, you will lead us in prayer.

TIM:: Companions Captain of the Guard and Conductor of the Council (*they rise*),
Invite our Companions on the columns of the North and South to assist us in
opening a Table Council of Cryptic Masons.

CG: Companions in the column of the North, assist us in opening a Council of
Cryptic Masons.

CC: Companions in the column of the South, assist us in opening a Council of
Cryptic Mason.

TIM:: Companion Captain of the Guard, are you a Cryptic Mason?

CG: All my Companions know me as such.

TIM:: Companion Ill Deputy Master, why are we here to meet together?

IDM: To erect Temples to virtue and dig dungeons for vices.

TIM:: How long must we work?

IDM: From midday to midnight

TIM:: How long a time is required to make a Cryptic Mason?

IDM: Nine years.

TIM:: What is your age?

IDM: Nine years.

TIM: What is the hour?

IDM: Eve of day.

TIM: In consideration of the hour and age, Companion Principal Conductor of the Work, inform our Companions that a Council of Cryptic Masons is open, and we are about to begin our work in the usual manner. ***

PCW: Companions in the columns of the North and the South, in consideration of the hour and age, a Council of Cryptic Masons is open, and we are about to begin our work.

TIM: Companions and Ladies. Join me in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

TIM: Companions attend to this food prepared for the nourishment of our bodies. Companion Marshall, you will lead the procession table by table.

TIM: <Reads Benevolent Lesson>

TIM: Companions, I wish to propose a toast. Are the cannons charged?

Companions: They are.

TIM: Then bring your cannons to the ready. I have the honor to propose a toast to our country. Long may our land be bright with Freedom's Holy Light. Now with me Companions, To our Country

Companions: To our Country

Continue with meal.

PCW: Thrice Illustrious Master, I wish to propose a toast to the First Grand Council.

TIM: *** Proceed Companion Principal Conductor of the Work

PCW: Companions, are the cannons charged?

Companions: They are

PCW: Then bring your cannons to the ready. Let us now drink a toast to the memory of our first Illustrious Grand Council; Solomon, King of Israel, Hiram, King of Tyre, and Hiram Abif. May their saintly qualities inspire each of us to live a life of more exalted quality.

PCW: To the First Illustrious Grand Council

Companions: To the First Illustrious Grand Council

Continue with meal.

CG: Thrice Illustrious Master, I wish to propose a toast to the First Table Council in the World

TIM: Proceed Companion Captain of the Guard

CG: Are the cannons charged?

Companions: They are

CG: Then bring your cannons to the ready. Let us now drink a toast to the First Table Council, may it long be remembered.

CG: To the First Table Council in the World.

Companions: To the First Table Council in the World

Continue with meal.

TIM: Companion Chaplain will you give the Benevolent Lesson.

Chaplain: (after talk) I would like to propose a toast to our companions who have been taken from our midst in recent months

TIM: Companion Chaplain, proceed with your toast.

Chaplain: Companions are the cannons charged?

Companions: They are.

Chaplain: Then bring your cannons to the ready. I propose a toast to the memory of our departed companions, may their contribution to our brotherhood inspire us more earnestly to dedicate our lives to the service of our fellow men. To the memory of our departed companions.

Companions: To the memory of our departed companions.

Continue with meal.

CC: Thrice Illustrious Master, I wish to propose a toast to the Most Illustrious Grand Master

TIM: Proceed Companion Conductor of the Council

CC: Then bring your cannons to the ready. Companions, I propose a toast to the Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons in Illinois. To the Most Illustrious Grand Master

Companions: To the Most Illustrious Grand Master

Continue with meal.

Treasurer: Thrice Illustrious Master, it was a custom among the ancient craft participating in a table council to pass the box of Fraternal Assistance to aid some worthy causes such as a distressed worthy Companion, his widow, or orphan. May I approach the East and make a presentation?

TIM: You may

Marshall: Thrice Illustrious Master, I wish to propose a toast to the Grand Lodge of Illinois.

TIM: Companion Marshall, you may proceed.

Marshall: Companions, are the cannons charged?

Companions: They are

Marshall: Then bring your cannons to the ready. I am pleased to propose a toast to the Grand Lodge of Illinois. May it long continue to spread Light, Wisdom, and Love throughout the world for many years. To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of Illinois

Companions: To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of Illinois

TIM: It is my pleasure to introduce Companion <insert name> who will give the Philosophical lesson

Closing

TIM: Companion Captain of the Guard, what is the hour?

CG: Nearly nine at night.

TIM: What is your age?

CG: Nine years.

TIM: *** In consideration of the hour and the age, inform all our Companions both on the columns of the North and the South that we are about to close this Table Council of Cryptic Mason, ending our work in the usual manner.

CG: Companions in the column of the North. I inform you on behalf of the Thrice Illustrious Master that we are about to close this Table Council of Cryptic Masons, ending our work in the usual manner.

CC: Companions in the column of the South. I inform you on behalf of the Thrice Illustrious Master that we are about to close this Table Council of Cryptic Masons, ending our work in the usual manner.

Sentinel: Thrice Illustrious Master. I would propose a toast to all Companions wheresoever dispersed.

TIM: Proceed Companion Sentinel

Sentinel: Companions are the cannons charged?

Companions: They are

Sentinel: I wish to propose a toast to all Companions wheresoever dispersed.

Sentinel: Now with me Companions. To all Companions wheresoever dispersed.

Companions: To all Companions wheresoever dispersed.

TIM: Companions, this Table Council of Cryptic Masons is closed.