

**GRAND COUNCIL of KNIGHT MASONS  
of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA**



**COUNCIL OF KNIGHT MASONS  
AND  
CEREMONIAL AND DEGREES  
OF  
KNIGHT MASONRY**

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This Ritual was approved by the Grand Council of Knight Masons of the U. S. A. at the Annual Meeting held in Washington, DC on Friday, February 16, 2001 and is issued following review of the Grand Council of Knight Masons of Ireland.

Given the limited frequency of the meetings of Knight Mason Councils in the U. S. A. and the busy schedules of the participants in their labors, the Ritual Committee has determined that a more detailed and descriptive instructional document is necessary to preclude misinterpretation of our ritual and floor work and to reduce the necessity for frequent rehearsals to maintain the desired level of perfection in presenting the Work of the Order. It is to this end, that this manual has been prepared.

It is intended for the guidance and instruction of Knight Masons and should not be used in Open Council.

The Ritual Committee – 2000 – 2001

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# COUNCIL OF KNIGHT MASONS RITUAL AND CEREMONIAL

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
FOREWORD .....	iv
OFFICERS OF A COUNCIL OF KNIGHT MASONS.....	iv
PREPARATION AND SETUP OF LODGE ROOM .....	v
OFFICER'S STATIONS.....	v
REGALIA LAYOUT .....	vi
SWORD INSTRUCTION .....	vii
Draw Swords .....	vii
Carry Swords .....	vii
Present Swords .....	vii
Dividing the Sign.....	vii
Completing the Sign .....	vii
Depress Swords .....	vii
Sign of Assent.....	vii
Return Swords .....	vii
Retiring Salute .....	viii
KNIGHT MASON SIGN .....	viii
SALUTES OF HONOR .....	viii
COUNCIL OF INSTRUCTION .....	viii
COUNCIL OF KNIGHT MASONS .....	1
OPENING PROCESSION – Optional .....	2
OPENING – COUNCIL OF KNIGHT MASONS.....	3
DEGREE CHANGE OVER RITUAL .....	6
CLOSING – COUNCIL OF KNIGHT MASONS .....	6
RETIRING PROCESSION – OPTIONAL .....	8
COUNCIL OF KNIGHTS OF THE SWORD .....	10
COUNCIL OF KNIGHTS OF THE SWORD .....	11
OPENING CEREMONY.....	11
WORK OF THE DEGREE OF KNIGHT OF THE SWORD .....	13
CLOSING CEREMONY .....	18
SUPPLEMENT – COUNCIL OF KNIGHTS OF THE SWORD .....	20
COUNCIL OF KNIGHTS OF THE EAST .....	23
OPENING CEREMONY.....	24
WORK OF THE DEGREE OF KNIGHT OF THE EAST.....	26
CLOSING CEREMONY .....	36
SUPPLEMENT – COUNCIL OF KNIGHTS OF THE EAST.....	37
COUNCIL OF KNIGHTS OF THE EAST AND WEST.....	39
OPENING CEREMONY.....	40
WORK OF THE DEGREE OF KNIGHT OF THE EAST AND WEST .....	42
RESUMPTION OF LABOR– OPTIONAL FORM.....	47
CLOSING CEREMONY .....	47
SUPPLEMENT – COUNCIL OF KNIGHTS OF THE EAST AND WEST .....	49
RESUMPTION OF LABOR.....	52
RESUMPTION OF LABOR IN A KNIGHT MASON'S COUNCIL .....	53
THE ADDRESS .....	54
SUPPLEMENT – COUNCIL OF KNIGHT MASONS .....	55
EXAMPLE OF INSTRUCTION .....	55
APPENDIX.....	59
OPENING ODES .....	60
CLOSING ODES.....	61
MUSIC .....	62

## FOREWORD

The Ritual for the Opening and the Closing of a Council of Knight Masons is to be used for all Council Meetings. All business is to be transacted in a Council of Knight Masons. When one or two of the Degrees of Knight Masonry are to be conferred, the full form Opening and Closing Ritual as contained in the Ritual for the appropriate Degree should be used in addition to that of the Council of Knight Masons. When the several Degrees of Knight Masonry are to be conferred, at the discretion of the Excellent Chief, an abbreviated form of the Opening and Closing Ritual for changeover between the several Degrees as suggested in this Manual may be used.

## OFFICERS OF A COUNCIL OF KNIGHT MASONS

Excellent Chief.....	E. C.
Senior Knight.....	S. Kt.
Junior Knight.....	J. Kt.
Scribe .....	Scribe
Treasurer .....	Treas.
Scribe/Treasurer.....	Scribe/Treas *
<i>* If both Offices are filled by the same Sir Knight</i>	
Director of Ceremonies.....	D. C.
Priest .....	Priest
Senior Warden .....	S. W.
Junior Warden .....	J. W.
Steward .....	Stew. **
Sentinel .....	Sent. **
Tyler .....	Tyler

**\*\* [Note:—** In Knight Mason Councils chartered by the Grand Council of Knight Masons in Ireland, the titles of these appointive officers are “1st Captain of the Guard” and “2nd Captain of the Guard” respectively. Your Ritual Committee has chosen to continue with the titles currently in use in Councils chartered by the Grand Council of Knight Masons of the U. S. A. Although the ritual for the opening of a Council of Knight Masons, as adopted from the Grand Council of Knight Masons in Ireland, uses the officer titles of “Captains of the Guard” in assuring the seclusion of the Council; it should be understood that these references in the opening ritual equate to our appointive officers entitled Steward and Sentinel.]

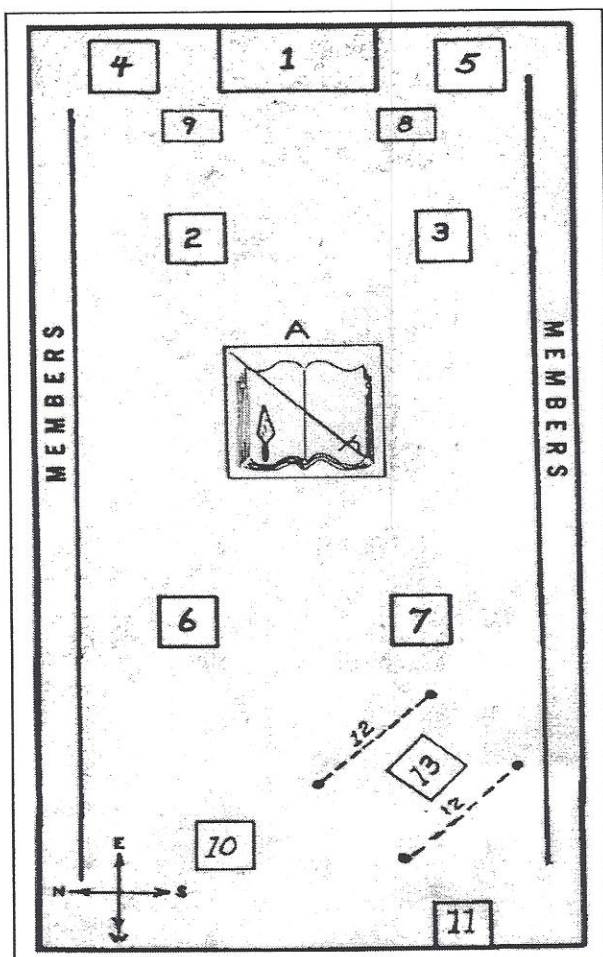


When meeting in a Masonic facility, Officers should be attired in Tuxedos. When possible, all Sir Knights should wear a Knight Mason's apron, a Sword with a red scabbard and red Sword belt, a Knight Mason's sash and a Knight Mason's Jewel. (The sash is worn from the left shoulder to the right hip outside the coat.) At the discretion of the Excellent Chief, Chapter or Council Robes may be worn for the Knight of the Sword and Knight of the East Degrees.

## PREPARATION AND SETUP OF LODGE ROOM

The Lodge Room should be organized and the equipment arranged in accordance with the Diagram and instructions below.

### OFFICER'S STATIONS



- 1– Excellent Chief
- 2– Senior Knight
- 3– Junior Knight
- 4– Treasurer
- 5– Scribe
- 6– Senior Warden
- 7– Junior Warden
- 8– Director of Ceremonies  
(Conductor)
- 9– Priest
- 10– Steward
- 2nd. Capt. of the Guard  
during Degrees
- 11– Sentinel
- 1st Capt. of the Guard  
during Degrees
- 12– Curtains \*
- 13– Bridge (Degree of  
Knight of the Sword only)
- A– Altar (Bible, Sword and  
Trowel)
- Tyler (outside the door)

\* [Note: – In some Knight Mason councils, a single curtain, representing the Tower, is used during the Degree of Knight of the Sword. This curtain remains in place, following completion of that Degree, for use in the other Degrees.]

The Presiding Officer of a Council of Knight Masons is addressed as Excellent Chief and is seated in the East. (Refer to diagram above.) The remaining Officers, both elective and appointive, are to be addressed as Brother followed by the Officer's Title (i.e. Bro. Junior Knight etc.) Members may be addressed as Sir Knight or Cousin (i.e. Sir Knight Jones or Cousin Jones etc.)

The Scribe is seated at the Blue Lodge Secretary's Desk, located as is the custom of the Jurisdiction. The Treasurer is seated at the Blue Lodge Treasurer's Desk located as is the custom of the Jurisdiction. The Senior Knight is seated in the North facing the Junior Knight. The Junior Knight is seated in the South facing the Senior Knight.

The Director of Ceremonies is seated to the left of the Excellent Chief facing West. The Priest is seated to the right of the Excellent Chief facing West. The Senior Warden is seated North and West of the Altar facing The East. The Junior Warden is seated South and West of the Altar facing the East. The Steward is seated in the West facing the East. The Sentinel is seated inside the Lodge Room at the Tiled door in the West. When Degree Work is in progress, however, the Sentinel or an approved Tyler must be stationed outside the door.

## **REGALIA LAYOUT**

1. Veils should be located in S. W. corner of Lodge Room or near entrance to Lodge Room. Place Royal Arch Apron and chain outside of the Veils.
2. Bridge (for the Knight of the Sword Degree only) should be between the sets of Veils in S. W. Corner. *[Note: After completion of the Degree of Knight of the Sword, remove one set of curtains and supports along with bridge.]*
3. Charter should be in East. The Director of Ceremonies should be holding the Signet Ring.
4. Place Large Trowel on Excellent Chief's Pedestal and the 3 Billets for Knight of the East Degree in the East.
5. For the Opening, place the closed Bible on the Altar. The small Trowel should be placed on the North-side Altar pad and the Altar Sword should be placed on the South-side Altar pad.
6. On the East-side Altar pad, place a Sword, small Trowel, watered silk Scarf, green breakaway Sash, Knight Mason Apron and Knight Mason Sash.
7. Place the Scroll for Knight of the East Degree at the Senior General's station.



## **SWORD INSTRUCTION**

### **Draw Swords**

On this command, you will draw your sword from its Scabbard and bring it to the position known as the Carry Swords position.

### **Carry Swords**

This position is to the right side of the body, with the upper arm vertical against the body, the forearm at right angles to it and parallel with the floor, the sword pointing vertically upwards.

### **Present Swords**

At the command "Swords", raise and carry the Sword to the front. The cross of the hilt of the Sword should be located at chin level, the edge of the Sword blade to the left, and the point of the Sword inclined forward approximately six inches from the vertical. All fingers should be grasping the grip; the thumb is extended on the Grip to the right, about one inch from the chin.

### **Dividing the Sign**

During the opening ceremony, all Sir Knights will be instructed to divide the sign. Members on the sidelines, attired with swords, will cross their swords at breast level with that of their neighboring Brother Knight – about halfway up the blade, making an angle of approximately sixty degrees between the blades. Members not situated next to a Brother Knight, should place their sword across and inside their left forearm, both being in front of the body at breast level, again forming an angle of about sixty degrees.

### **Completing the Sign**

The sign is completed in both instances, when acknowledged by the Excellent Chief by returning your sword to the carry position.

### **Depress Swords**

The attitude for prayer is adopted when the Junior Warden commands "Sir Knights, depress swords." You should lower the point of the sword and your right forearm so that they form a straight line at an angle of about forty-five degrees to the vertical. After prayer, the command is given to "Carry swords" again.

### **Sign of Assent**

The sign of Assent is used during the Degree of Knight of the Sword, and is given by taking a pace forward with the right foot at the same time lowering the point of the sword (as in the Depress Swords position; then raising the sword with the arm still straight until the sword is almost vertical, after which the right foot is withdrawn and the sword returned to the carry position.

### **Return Swords**

On the command "Return", you should guide the tip of your sword back into the

scabbard and continue until about ten inches of the blade is still exposed, then await the command "Swords" so that all Sir Knights will complete the final movement at the same time.

#### Retiring Salute

The sword is brought across the body so that the right hand is over the left breast and the sword is still pointing vertically. Those without Swords give the "Hand Sign".

### KNIGHT MASON SIGN

After the ceremonial opening and during labor within a Council of Knight Masons, when addressing or saluting the Excellent Chief, all Officers and Members, without Sword in hand, should give the Knight Mason Sign (i.e. the Hand Sign). *[Place your right forearm across and inside your left forearm in the position in which your sword blade would otherwise have been. Fingers should be straight, edge of palms out, cross arms at wrist.]*

### SALUTES OF HONOR

Salutes as follows are to be given as appropriate during Degrees, Installations, or at the reception of Grand Council Officers. (Hand claps; right hand over left.)

Knight of the East and West — ••• •• (3 & 2)

Knight Mason Council — ••••• •• (5 & 2)

Installed Chief — ••••••• •• (7 & 2)

Grand Council Officers — •••••••• •• (9 & 2)

### COUNCIL OF INSTRUCTION

The Ritual Committee recommends that, on an at least a once a year basis, each Council schedule and hold a Council of Instruction to ensure that all Officers remain well versed in the requirements of their respective offices and that the Council is prepared to conduct the Degree work in a satisfactory manner. It is further recommended that the participants in this Council of Instruction be made aware of the duties incumbent on each Office of a Council of Knight Masons.

To ensure, with the annual election of a new Sir Knight to the Office of Excellent Chief, that each Council maintain an adequate governance capability; it is recommended that all Officers, elected and appointed develop a comfortable familiarity with the Statutes and Bylaws governing their respective Councils. A copy of the Handbook of the Grand Council of Knight Masons of the United States of America should be provided to each Officer entering the line.