



ANTLERS' RITUAL

INSTALLATION OF NEW ANTLERS OFFICERS

Grand Exalted Ruler:

We are gathered here today to forge another link in the great chain of fraternity that constitutes the Antlers of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. An organization that promotes Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity, as well as love and respect for others, our families, and for our great nation, the same principles for which the Elks stand. It is my pleasure to conduct the installation of new officers for

_____ Antlers Lodge # _____.

Please rise as the Grand Chaplain will lead us in prayer.

Grand Chaplain: *[from his/her station, without advancing to the Altar]*

Heavenly Father, we come before thee as thy most humble children and ask your gracious blessings on this gathering. We pray that you will guide these fine young adults so that they may bring honor and good names to themselves, their families, and our nation. Guide them to become our upstanding citizens and future leaders. Grant that this group will prosper and grow and that its members will ever be inspired to make a difference in the lives of others. Amen.

All in attendance:

Amen.

Grand Exalted Ruler:

Please join me in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

[Pledge recited by all]

Please be seated.

Grand Esquire, please take a position to the right of the Altar to await and assist the candidates with their obligation and initiation.

[Wait for Grand Esquire to assume position]

Grand Secretary, has this group been nominated and elected officers for the ensuing year?

Grand Secretary:

Yes, they have.

Grand Exalted Ruler:

Grand Secretary, please read the list of the new officers and as each name is called, that member will step forward and line up in the order in which your name is called.

Grand Secretary:

Grand Exalted Ruler, it is my pleasure to present the following officers elect and designate for this Antlers Lodge for the ensuing year. *[Read list]*

President Elect _____

1st Vice President _____

2nd Vice President _____

3rd Vice President _____

Secretary _____

Treasurer _____

Chaplain _____

Trustee _____

Inner Guard _____

Sgt. At Arms _____

Grand Exalted Ruler:

Those of you whose names have not been called, please take a seat in the front row.

Officers, do you each accept the office for which you have been chosen?

All Antlers Officers:

I do.

[Grand Exalted Ruler will proceed before the Altar to administer the oath of office]

Grand Exalted Ruler:

You will each place your left hand over your heart, raise your right hand, and repeat after me:

I solemnly promise and swear to conform with and maintain the By-laws, Rules, and Regulations of the Antlers; to practice the virtues of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and with Fidelity. To perform the duties of the office for which I have been chosen to the best of my ability.

[GER returns to his station]

Grand Exalted Ruler:

Officers, you have each been selected by the members of your lodge to guide its affairs during the ensuing year. I know you appreciate the importance of the trust that your fellow Antlers have confided in you. By accepting the office with which you have been honored you have assumed an important responsibility. You must do your best to guide this group to prosper, grow, and effect positive change in your own lives, the lives of the other members and in the lives of others.

Grand Esquire, you will now conduct the President Elect to a seat at my right.

[The Grand Esquire does so and returns to the Altar]

You will now conduct each officer to his/her station to be invested with the jewel of the office.

[The Grand Exalted Ruler resumes his seat. As the Grand Esquire arrives at each station, the Grand Lodge Officer will rise and deliver the station's charge and invest the officer with the jewel of the office. Then, surrender the chair to the Installed Officer and take a seat alongside.]

Grand Leading Knight:

First Vice President, you are expected to assist the President in the performance of his/her duties and to preside during his/her absence. It is now my pleasure to invest you with the jewel of your office, emblematic of Charity.

Grand Loyal Knight:

Second Vice President, you are expected to oversee the Membership Committee and to investigate and recommend new candidates for membership, to take a leadership role in organizing groups to complete the lodge's projects and fundraisers, and to assist the President and other Vice Presidents in the performance of their duties. It is now my pleasure to invest you with this jewel of your office, emblematic of Justice.

Grand Lecturing Knight:

Third Vice President, you are expected to oversee the Heritage and Historical Committees and to maintain a scrap book of all lodge activities during your term and to assist the President and other Vice Presidents in the performance of their duties. It is now my pleasure to invest you with this jewel of your office, emblematic of Brotherly Love.

Grand Secretary:

Lodge Secretary, while investing you with this jewel of your office, I wish to remind you to be ever aware of the importance of maintaining all the minutes and records and correspondence of this lodge with care, accuracy, and industry.

Grand Treasurer:

Lodge Treasurer, as I invest you with this jewel of your office, let me emphasize the necessity of care and caution in your handling of the Antlers' finances. Make sure that its financial structure is always sound.

Grand Chaplain:

Lodge Chaplain, as I invest you with this jewel of your office, let me remind you that your duties are to open and close each meeting or function with a prayer, Chair the Sick and Distress Committee, and assist other Lodge Officers as needed.

Grand Trustee:

Lodge Trustee(s), you are expected to review and prepare a budget for each fiscal year, review and approve all bills, review all reports of the fund-raising committees, promote membership and assist the Lodge Officers as needed. As I invest you with this jewel of your office. This jewel is conferred upon you in the expectation that you will use the utmost prudence and good judgment in the performance of these duties.

Grand Inner Guard:

Lodge Inner Guard, as I invest you with the jewel of your office, let me remind you of your duty to see that only members are admitted to meetings, to maintain attendance records and submit them to the Secretary each month, and to assist other officers as needed.

Grand Sergeant at Arms:

Sergeant at Arms, you are to hold one of the most active positions in this lodge. You will present the flag at all meetings, lead the Pledge of Allegiance, guide candidates during the Ceremony of Initiation, assist in all ceremonial functions, and perform any other duties as may be assigned by the President. As I invest you with this jewel of your office. I congratulate you for accepting this opportunity for service to your lodge. Be constantly on guard and vigilant in the performance of your duties.

Grand Exalted Ruler:

President _____, *[rises]* you have been accorded the highest honor within the power of membership of this Antlers Lodge to bestow upon one of its own. This is evidence of their confidence in your qualities of leadership. I am sure their confidence has not been misplaced.

President _____, *[rises]* it is with great satisfaction that I now invest you with the jewel of your office. I am confident that under your administration this lodge will prosper, grow, and accomplish great things, and that its reputation for works of charity and aid to humanity will be a shining light in this community.

This is your gavel of authority. *[holds gavel up]* Use it with firmness and decision, and always with consideration of what is best for the interests of your lodge.

May you be guided by wisdom and discretion, and may the influences of Charity, Justice, and Brotherly Love prompt you to rule with Fidelity.

Now in the name of and by the authority of the Grand Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, I do proclaim and declare:

_____ Antlers Lodge No. _____ duly installed. Congratulations!

After the ceremony:

[Remarks by the President of the Antlers Lodge]

[Remarks by dignitaries such as State Sponsor, District Deputy, State President, District Vice-President, etc.]

[Introduction of the Antlers Lodge Advisors]

[Introduction of the performing Grand Officers:]

Grand Exalted Ruler
 Grand Leading Knight
 Grand Loyal Knight
 Grand Lecturing Knight
 Grand Secretary
 Grand Treasurer
 Grand Chaplain
 Grand Trustee
 Grand Inner Guard
 Grand Sergeant at Arms

[Invite guests to stay for repast and photo opportunity]