

**ANTLERS' RITUAL**  
**INITIATION OF CHARTER MEMBERS**  
— AND —  
**INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS**

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**Part I — Initiation of Charter Members**

**Grand Exalted Ruler:**

We are gathered here 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 Elks stand for.

This group shall become known as \_\_\_\_\_, Antlers Lodge # \_\_\_\_\_.

Please stand as the Grand Chaplain leads 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 OF ALLEGIANCE]*

Please be seated.

Grand Secretary, *[pause while Secretary rises, then continue]*

Are there any candidates awaiting initiation?

**Grand Secretary:**

Yes, Grand Exalted Ruler.

**Grand Exalted Ruler:**

Have they been duly elected to membership?

**Grand Secretary:**

They have.

**Grand Exalted Ruler:**

Are you satisfied that these candidates are worthy of Initiation into our Order?

**Grand Secretary:**

Yes, a finer group I have never seen.

**Grand Exalted Ruler:**

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, then continue]*

Grand Secretary, you will call the names of each of the Candidates. Candidates, as your name is called, please line up in a semi-circle before the Altar in line with the Grand Esquire.

*[Grand Secretary reads names, pausing briefly after each name]*

**Grand Exalted Ruler:**

Do you believe in God?

Are you a citizen of the United States?

*[Grand Exalted Ruler and Grand Chaplain proceed to the Altar to administer the obligation.]*

Please place your left hand over your heart and raise your right hand.

You will each say and pronounce your name in full and then repeat after me:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, of my own free will, do solemnly swear or affirm that:

I will support and uphold the rules and regulations of \_\_\_\_\_ Antlers Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_.

I will always uphold the Constitution and laws of the United States of America and respect our nation's flag.

I will always remain steadfast, loyal, and honest with the other members and all those with whom I deal.

From this point forward, I will guide my life so as never to be cold or indifferent to the needs or feelings of others.

I will live my life to promote the virtues of good citizenship.

I will always conduct myself in such a way that by my example all are inspired to a greater love and respect for others, for home, and family.

I acknowledge the debt of gratitude I owe to my parents for the sacrifice, guidance, and support they have given to me, and I vow never to forget all they have done for my benefit.

Finally, I promise to exemplify the motto of the Antlers: "Do unto others as we would they should do unto us".

At ease. One truth should be made known to you before you proceed further. We, as Antlers, strive to prove that we are not cold or indifferent to the higher and better things of life. Like all good American citizens, we love our country and the principles upon which it is founded. But, in addition to promoting the virtues of citizenship, we also know the debt we owe to our parents.

Antlers designate the hour of Ten O'clock as a memorial to those who gave us our being.

Twilight, and then the hour often,  
That brilliant point on the dial of time  
Which, with Antlers, is the setting?  
For the most precious of all gems, the jewel of parenthood.

If our parents are living,  
Endeavor today to see all that they are and have been to us,  
And let them know of it.  
Be kind to them while you may.  
If our parents have passed from this world,  
Venerate their memory.  
In your every action and thought.

At this sacred hour for Antlers, let each of us breathe. The sweetest sentiment of all,  
*To our Beloved Parents.*

*[The Grand Exalted Ruler and Grand Chaplain now return to their stations and the Grand Exalted Ruler gives one rap of the gavel.]*

**Grand Exalted Ruler:**

The principles for which this organization stands are "Brotherly Love and Fellowship", "Justice and Good Judgment", and "Charity".

Towards the cause of "Brotherly Love and Fellowship" I charge each of you to always strive to be sincere, caring, and kind with all people with whom you deal from this point forward. There must be no room in your lives for unkind words, or malice towards others.

Towards the cause of “Justice and Good Judgment” I charge you to always exercise thought, concern, fair play, and good sportsmanship in all you do from this point forward. Should any questionable situation arise in your life, ask yourself this question: What is the right thing to do?

Conscience will answer that your actions must be fair, considerate, and right even though it may be difficult to do. I assure you that if you always make choices that are fair, just, and right, you will be repaid many times over throughout your life.

Towards the cause of “Charity”, this virtue is typified by unselfishness. Throughout your lives you must strive to share with others some of the many gifts with which we are endowed. It is through helping others that you are made most whole and strong. Charity also teaches us to forgive and forget; and it is at the cornerstone of the Antlers motto: **“Do unto others as you would they should do unto you.”**

I charge you that these noble qualities should continue to guide you throughout the rest of your life.

Finally, I direct you to have fun and enjoy what you do with this organization and everything else you do for the rest of your lives.

By virtue of the authority vested in me, I now declare that each of you are official “**charter**” members of \_\_\_\_\_ Antlers Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_. Congratulations to each of you, please give them a big round of applause.

## Part II — Installation of Officers

### Grand Exalted Ruler:

At this time, we will install the new officers of \_\_\_\_\_ Antlers Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_. Would all Antlers have a seat in the front row and await your name being called.

*[All Grand Installing Officers should be seated in the proper seat.]*

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

### Grand Secretary:

Yes, they have.

### Grand Exalted Ruler:

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

Grand Secretary, you will 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 \_\_\_\_\_

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President \_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Sgt. At Arms

[Invite guests to stay for repast.]

[Photo opportunity.]



**Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks  
of the United States of America**