



Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Illinois

TABLE CHAPTER RITUAL

Revised 10.2016

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Purpose and Symbolism of the Table Chapter

The Purpose of the Table Chapter is to give the symbolic Chapters an opportunity to conduct the business of a Stated Convocation in a different setting, to further fellowship, to Honor our Country and those persons who have exulted the ideals of this great fraternity, and to create interest among the Companions, in the setting of a Festive Board.

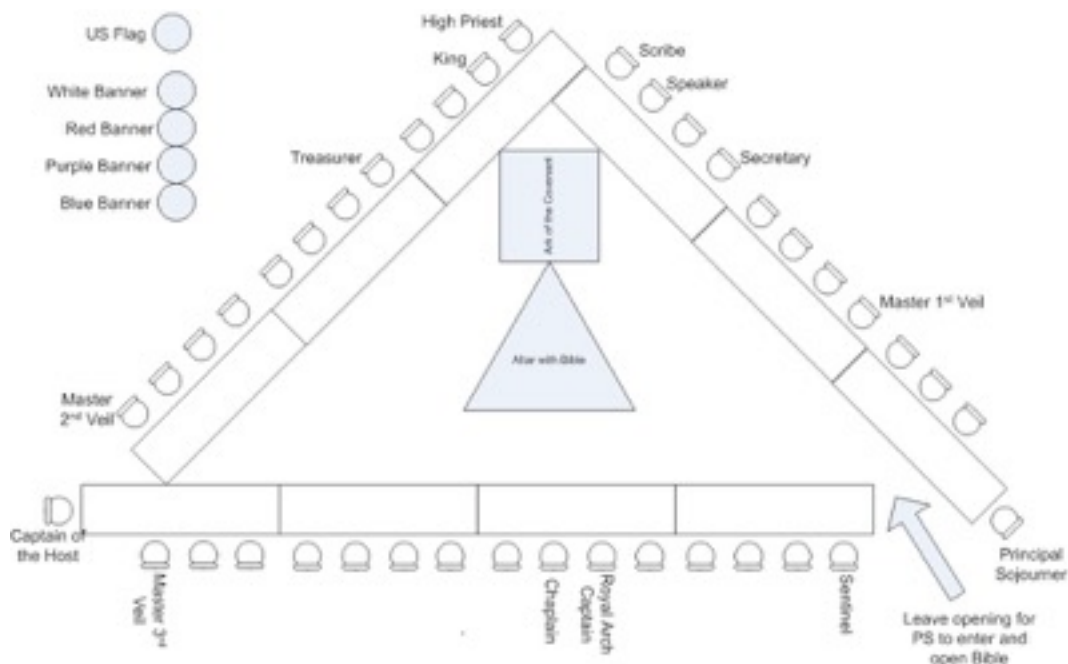
The American Flag is given a place of honor in the East and at the right of the High Priest, as is the custom of our country, and the Banners of the Four principal tribes of Israel, so important to Royal Arch Masonry, are placed in descending order towards the West in line with the American Flag.

The tables are arranged in the form of an equilateral triangle, which is the emblem of Deity. In the center of the triangle is the Ark with the two Cherubim, which was the dwelling place of God in ancient times, and the Holy Bible, which is God's Word in modern times. The triangle has an opening on the right of the base whereby the Principle Sojourner enters to open and close the Holy Bible, and symbolizes the availability of God's Word to all men. The triangle also symbolizes God's all encompassing love, not only for our ancient Companions, but for our modern Companions as well.

The Officers of the Royal Arch Chapter are spaced around the table so that they might fellowship with the Companions and spread Brotherly Love which is one of the great lessons of Masonry.

The Chaplain passes the fraternal basket so that all may share in doing unto others as you would have them to do unto you by supporting the great charity of Royal Arch Research Assistance.

Table Configuration



Order of Business – Tiled Table Chapter

- Opening of Table Chapter
 - Ritual Opening
- Introductions
 - All Distinguished guests with exception of M.W.G.M. (if in attendance)
 - Most Worshipful Grand Master (accorded Grand Honors)
- Meal
 - Serving or self-service to start with the High Priest and proceed single-file, counter-clockwise with Scribe being the last.
 - Following meal, all dishes except glasses for toasts must be removed.
- Introduction of Recipients of High Honors
 - Order of the Purple Cross
 - Knight York Cross of Honor
- Stated Convocation Meeting (if applicable)
- Ceremony of the Toast
 - Veilsmen charge glasses for their side of the triangle
 - First 6 toasts are given
 - Chaplain passes Fraternal Basket
 - Remarks from the Most Excellent Grand High Priest or highest ranking officer
 - Final toast
- Closing
 - Ritual closing

Order of Business – Open Table Chapter

- **Opening of Table Chapter**
 - The Presiding Officer will declare the Chapter open in due form in lieu of Ritual opening
- **Introductions**
 - All Distinguished guests with exception of M.W.G.M. (if in attendance)
 - Most Worshipful Grand Master (accorded Grand Honors)
- **Meal**
 - Serving or self-service to start with the High Priest and proceed single-file counter-clockwise with Scribe being the last.
 - Following meal, all dishes except glasses for toasts must be removed.
- **Introduction of Recipients of High Honors**
 - Order of the Purple Cross
 - Knight York Cross of Honor
- **Ceremony of the Toast**
 - Veilsmen charge glasses for their side of the triangle
 - First 6 toasts are given
 - Chaplain passes Fraternal Basket
 - Remarks from the Most Excellent Grand High Priest or highest ranking officer
 - Final toast
- **Closing**
 - The Presiding Officer will declare the Chapter closed in due form

Opening Ritual

All Officers will wear the Jewels and Aprons of their Office and all members will wear Aprons. The Bible will be opened at Haggai 2nd Chapter with the Square and Compass set. The Ark with Cherubim shall be placed as shown in diagram before opening. The three dais officers will have gavels. The Flag and four Banners will be displayed as shown in diagram. The Chaplain will have a small Basket to pass for fraternal contributions.

EHP-Companions, you will arise and join with me in pledging allegiance to the flag of our county.

EHP-(* Companion Captain of the Host, *CoH rises*. Proceed to satisfy yourself that all present are Royal Arch Masons.

CoH-*Convinced that all present are RAM's, he says*: Excellent High Priest; All present are Royal Arch Masons.

EHP-Is there a constitutional number present to open a Table Chapter of Royal Arch Masons?

CoH-There are three times three.

EHP-(* *Seats CoH*. Companion Royal Arch Captain; *RAC rises*. You will inform the Sentinel that I am about to open a Table Chapter of _____ Chapter No. ____ of Royal Arch Masons, and direct him to guard accordingly.

RAC- *Turns to Sentinel*, Companion Sentinel; *Sentinel stands* The High Priest is about to open a Table Chapter of _____ Chapter No. ____ on the Royal Arch Degree. You are directed to guard accordingly.

RAC- (* * * * *) *with foot*.

Sent-(* * * * *) *with foot*.

RAC-Excellent High Priest; That duty has been performed.

EHP-(* *Seats RAC and Sentinel*. Companion Captain of the Host; *CoH rises*. How shall I know you to be a Royal Arch Mason?

CoH-By three times three, under a living arch, and over a triangle.

EHP-How many compose a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons?

CoH- Nine or more.

EHP-When composed of nine, who are they?

CoH-The High Priest, King, Scribe, Captain of the Host, Principal Sojourner, Royal Arch Captain and three Masters of the Veils.

EHP-Whom do the first three represent?

CoH-Joshua, Zerubbabel and Haggai, who formed the first Grand Council at Jerusalem - and held their meetings in a Tabernacle.

EHP-Whom do the latter three represent?

CoH-Those three of our ancient brother who discovered and brought to light; the principal secret of this degree; and who, as a reward for their labors, were appointed Masters of the Veils.

EHP-(* *) *Officers will rise.* Companion Master of the First Veil; What is the color of your banner?

M1V- Blue; emblematic of friendship and characteristic of Symbolic Masonry.

EHP-Companion Master of the Second Veil; What is the color of your banner?

M2V-Purple; denoting union. It being a due admixture of blue and scarlet, is therefore placed between the First and Third Veils, which are of those colors, to remind us of the intimate connection existing between Symbolic Masonry and the Royal Arch.

EHP-Companion Master of the Third Veil; What is the color of your banner?

M3V-Scarlet; emblematic of that fervency and zeal which should actuate all Royal Arch Masons.

EHP-Companion Royal Arch Captain; What is the color of your banner?

RAC-White; emblematic of that purity of life and rectitude of conduct so essentially necessary for all those -who seek to gain admission into the Holy of Hollies above.

EHP-(* * *) *All Companions rise, including the High Priest.* Companion Chaplain; lead us in prayer.

CH-Supreme High Priest of Heaven and Earth, we humbly beseech thy blessing upon the purposes of our present assembly. Bless the hands that have prepared this bounty for us and bless this bounty so that it may nourish our bodies, and give us the strength to walk in thy way and do thy work. May the labors of all our Companions be acceptable in thy sight. Amen. *Response by all* So mote it be.

EHP-Companion Captain of the Host; it is my will and pleasure that a Table Chapter of _____ Chapter No. _____ be now opened on the Royal Arch Degree.

CoH-Companions; Take notice and govern yourselves accordingly. Look to the East. *All give the due guard and sign.*

EHP-(* * * * *)

K-(* * * * *)

S-(* * * * *)

EHP- Companion Principal Sojourner; Display the Three Great Lights.

PS-Opens bible to Haggai 2nd Chapter and sets Square and Compass.

EHP- In the name of God and Zerubbabel, I declare this Table Chapter of _____ Chapter No. _____ open in form on the Royal Arch Degree. Companion Royal Arch Captain; Inform the Sentinel.

EHP-(*) *EHP seats himself and the Companions except RAC and Sentinel.*

RAC- turns to Sent (* * * * *) *with foot.*

Sent-(* * * * *) *with foot.*

RAC-Companion Sentinel; A Table Chapter of _____ Chapter No. _____ is now open

on the Royal Arch Degree.

RAC- *Faces East* Excellent High Priest; that duty is performed.

EHP- (*) *which seats the RAC and Sentinel and completes the ceremony of opening.*

Introductions

EHP-All Distinguished guests please arise except the Most Worshipful Grand Master.
The last half is optional depending on the presences of the MW Grand Master.

EHP will introduce, or have them introduce themselves, all guests except the MW Grand Master.

Distinguished guests include current and past Grand Officers of all York Rite bodies.

(* * *) Companions, please join me in according these Grand Officers the Grand Honors give Grand Honors

(*) *seat all.*

If the Most Excellent Grand High Priest is present, he will attend to the introduction of the Most Worshipfull Grand Master. In his absense, the High Priest will do so.

Most Worshipful Grand Master, please arise. Companions, I have the honor of introducing Brother _____, the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the State of Illinois.

(* * *) Companions, please join me in according him the Grand Honors give Grand Honors

(*) *seat all.*

The Meal

The meal is to be served at this time. Whether it is plated service or cafeteria style, service begins with the High Priest and proceeds counter-clockwise with the right side of the triangle following, then the bottom, and then the left side, with the Scribe the last in line. After the meal, the dishes are all to be removed except the glass to be used for the toast.

The High Priest will now recognize the recipients of:

The Order Of The Purple Cross, give them a hardy welcome.

Knight York Cross of Honor, give them a hardy welcome in that order.

If this meeting is a stated convocation, the Business may now be conducted in the proper manner according to the Book of the Law. You may also have a speaker after all business is conducted.

(The following Toast are to be the last business conducted before closing.)

Ceremony of the Toast

EHP-(*) Companions Masters of the Veils, *the 3 Veils rise.* Charge the Cannons for our Toast. *The Master of the Veil charges the cannons on his side of the triangle, and is seated.*

EHP- (* * *) Companions, I propose a toast. *Hold glass in right hand with arm straight forward.*

May Freedom always be ours. To our Country, Our Flag, and Our President. With me Companions; *Companions repeat.* To Our Country, Our Flag, and Our President. *Bring Glass in and drink, then move it to left breast, then to right breast, then straighten arm and lower glass.*

EHP-Companion King; you may propose a toast.

K-Companions; I propose a toast. *Pick up glass.* To our Ancient Grand Masters, Solomon, King of Israel, Hiram, King of Tyre, and Hiram Abif. With me Companions; *Companions will repeat.* To our Ancient Grand Masters, Solomon, King of Israel, Hiram, King of Tyre, and Hiram Abif. *Drink and move glass as before*

EHP-Companion Scribe; You may propose a toast.

S-Companions, I propose a toast. *Pick up glass.* To the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Illinois. With me Companions; *Companions will repeat.* To the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Illinois. *Drink and move glass as before*

EHP-Companion Captain of the Host; You may propose a toast.

CoH-Companions, I propose a toast. *Pick up glass.* To our First Most Excellent Grand High Priest of Illinois, Companion William B. Warren. With me Companions; *Companions will repeat.* To our First Most Excellent Grand High Priest of Illinois, Companion William B. Warren. *Drink and move glass as before*

EHP-Companion Principal Sojourner; You may propose a toast.

PS-Companions, I propose a toast. *Pick up glass.* To _____ Chapter No. _____ of Royal Arch Masons, With me Companions. *Companions will repeat.* To _____ Chapter No. _____ of Royal Arch Masons. *Drink and move glass as before*

EHP- Companion Royal Arch Captain; you may propose a toast.

RAC-Companions; I propose a toast. *Pick up glass.* To the Most Excellent Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons of Illinois. With me Companions; *Companions will repeat.* To the Most Excellent Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons of Illinois. *Drink and move glass as before*

EHP-*Seats himself* (*) *seats all companions.* Companion Chaplain, *CH rises,* Is there anything you wish to contribute?

CH-Excellent High Priest, I wish to contribute to the Royal Arch Masons Charitable Foundation.

EHP-Companion Chaplain, that is a noble gesture. You may pass the fraternal basket among the Companions so that they may share in this great charity. *Chaplain passes basket to his left around the table. When it returns to him, he takes it to the Treasurer and returns to his place.*

CH-Excellent High Priest; The Fraternal basket has been passed, and we thank the Companions for their generosity.

If there is any remaining business for the Chapter to conduct, it must be conducted now.

Remarks from the Most Excellent Grand High Priest or highest ranking officer may be made at this time

EHP-(* * *) Companion Sentinel; You may propose the last toast.

Sent-Companions; I propose a toast. *Pick up glass.* To the Memory of our Departed Companions. May their contributions inspire us to rededicate our labors to our Brotherhood. With me Companions; *Companions will repeat.* To the Memory of our Departed Companions. *Drink and move glass as before*

EHP-(*) *Seats all Companions.*

Chapter must be closed immediately after last toast.

Closing

If Ladies are present, the Presiding Officer will declare the Chapter closed in due form in lieu of Ritual Closing

EHP-Companion Royal Arch Captain; *RAC rises.* You will inform the Sentinel that I am about to close this Table Chapter of _____ Chapter No. ____ of Royal Arch Masons and direct him to guard accordingly.

RAC-Turns right to face Sentinel, raps (* * * * *) with foot. Sentinel stands, turns to face RAC and raps (* * * * * *) with foot.* Companion Sentinel, the High Priest is about to close this Table Chapter. You will guard accordingly.

RAC-Faces the EHP Excellent High Priest; the Sentinel is informed.

EHP-(*) * *) Companion Chaplain; Lead us in prayer.

CH-Great Architect of the Universe, we thank you for all our blessings and pray that all that we have said and done here has been pleasing in thy sight. Now guide and direct us as we mingle with the world and may we as Royal Arch Masons ever display your teachings to all the world. Amen. *Response by all;* So mote it be.

EHP-Companion Principal Sojourner; Close the three Great Lights.

PS- *Closes bible on Altar.*

EHP-In the name of God and Zerubbabel, I declare this Table Chapter of _____ Chapter No. ____ duly closed. Companion Royal Arch Captain; Inform the Sentinel.

RAC-*RAC faces Sentinel*, Companion Sentinel; This Table Chapter of _____ Chapter No. _____ is closed.

RAC-Excellent High Priest; That duty has been performed.

EHP-(*)