FULL FORM OPENING

The following opening may proceed when all the officers are within the audience chamber and the SM, PC, PMP & EHP gather near the center of the floor.

SM: Prince Master of the Palace (s S): See that the Audience Chamber is in suitable array for my reception (s S). Companion Prince Chancellor and Excellent High Priest (s/b S), accompany me to my apartment (s/b S).

*The SM & PC secure swords before moving. They then take a direct route to the Prep. Room. SM leads with PC following and the EHP on his left. The PMP moves to his station and the other officers move to positions to enter in form.*

PMP: Companion Warder (s s), sound the assembly! (s s)

W: Companions *Assemble!* Companions, *Assemble!* Companions, *Assemble!*

*W makes at least 1 call outside chamber. Companions not in Audience Chamber should enter and remain standing on sidelines, those seated will rise.*

PMP: Officers, take your stations!

*Officers move to their respective stations in form (determined by the individual Councils).*

PMP: Companions, be seated.

*PMP draws his sword.*

PMP: Companion Master of the Cavalry (+ +). Are all present Companions of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross? (+ +)

*When addressed; MC rises, steps 1 pace out, draws sword & salutes.*

*MC faces North & calls up the MI.*

MC: Companion Master of Infantry (+ +). Are all in the North Companions of the Illustrious Order

of the Red Cross? (+ +)

*MI rises, steps 1 pace out, draws sword, faces South & salutes.*

*M's face East, then proceed East together, about face, march to the West marching line (passing inside of chairs, not between chairs & sidelines) & face inward. MI salutes & reports to MC.*

MI: (+) Companion Master of Cavalry(+). All in the North are Companions of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross. (+ +).

*M's. face East & return to their stations, 1 pace in front of their chair.*

MC: (+) Companion Prince Master of the Palace (+). All present are Companions of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross (+ +).

*M's. return swords together and are seated.*

PMP: Companion Warder (+ +). Post the Sentinel, inform him that a Council of the Illustrious Oder of the Red Cross is about to be opened, and direct him to guard accordingly. (+ +)

*W goes by regular route and informs S. W closes door with left hand, gives alarm (8), remains facing door until S returns alarm, then about faces and returns to his station by the same route when going to the door.*

W: (+) Companion Prince Master of the Palace (+). The Sentinel is at his post and the Audience

Chamber is duly guarded. (+ +)

*W returns sword and is seated.*

PMP: Companion Master of Cavalry (+ +). Form the Lines for the reception of the Sovereign Master. (+ +)

*MC rises & salutes as before.*

*Then marches directly to a position that places him 3 paces in front of the center of the Line Form, approx. 4 ft. from South side of the chamber, with right end 4 paces from foot of Dais.*

MC: Fall in!

*Companions move into position single file (facing East). The MI rises & marches directly to his position (1 pace south & 1 pace West of line) and faces East.*

MC: Left, face! Companions, draw, Swords! Count, threes; ones count; count twos. Companion

\_\_\_\_\_(Last Name)\_\_\_\_\_ , left of the first platoon; Companion \_\_\_\_\_(Last Name)\_\_\_\_\_, right of

the second platoon.

*MI faces & draws on command with the Line. Moves into line 1 pace on command right dress.*

MC: Right, dress!

*MC right faces, marches directly to his position 1 pace East of Line, right faces & superintends the alignment. (Gives the command “Front” from this position)*

MC: Front!

*SW right faces, marches directly to his position in front of Line & faces West.*

MC: Standard Guard, Attention! Companions, draw-

*StB & CB (working together) turn to the outside, secure the banner, face East and ground staff.*

MC: -swords!

*MC about faces.*

MC: (+) Companion Prince Master of the Palace (+). The Lines are formed (+ +).

*MC right faces, marches to a position 1 pace East and 1 pace South of Line, about faces and steps into Line.*

PMP: Companions not in Line, *Attention!* Companions, draw, *Swords!*

PMP: Companion Warder (+ +). Inform the Sovereign Master that the Audience Chamber is in suitable array for his reception. (+ +)

*W left faces, marches directly through Prep Rm. Door & faces SM.*

W: (+) Sovereign Master. (S) The Audience Chamber is in suitable array for your reception.(+ S)

SM: Companion Warder, lead on. (+ S)

*W about faces, marches directly to his station & left faces.*

*The ritual is given as the SM enters the Audience Chamber.*

W: The Sovereign Master!

PMP: Present, *Swords!*

*Given after W is in station.*

*SM, PC (at Secure Swords) & EHP step off 6 paces behind the W, enter the chamber in the same formation as they left, turn South across the West past the Flag (SM, PC & EHP eyes right), turn East 2 paces in front of Line and as the SM passes the right of Line he moves directly to his position at the foot of the Dais directly in front of his chair, the SMC,PC & EHP adjust their steps to arrive at the foot of the Dais together. All 3 ascend the Dais together, move to their stations and about face. SM & PC drop swords, draw swords & come to carry.*

SM: Carry, *swords!* Companions not in Line, return, swords. Be seated.

*W left faces, closes door & returns to his station.*

*Officers do not return swords.*

SM: Let the Words be communicated.

*PMP executes right face when addressed & salutes.*

*SM & PC return swords & are seated. PMP proceeds to his position 3 paces in front of the center of the Line, maintaining a 3 pace interval.*

*PMP will conduct the Lines forward a sufficient distance to mark the position which the front rank will occupy. This position will be in front of PC chair.*

PMP: Forward, March! Guide, right! Council, Halt! Open, ranks-

*After the preparatory command “Open Ranks”, the M's. step backward (6 ½ steps); the PMP marches directly to a point on right of Front Line and, without stopping, takes 3 steps to a point 1 pace East of the SW, right faces & checks the alignment of the M's. (parallel to the line). He then right faces and marches directly to a point 3 paces in front of the right file (#1 Comp.) and faces to give command:*

PMP: March!

*At the command 'March”, all Knights, except the right file, turn their heads to the right, the #2's step back (7 ½ steps), halt in the rear of the M's. & dress on the SW without closing intervals. PMP left faces, marches to a point 1 pace East of the MC, right faces, verifies alignment of rear rank, right faces, marches directly to a point 3 paces in front of right file (#1 Comp.), left faces and commands:*

PMP: Front!

*After the command, the Knights face front, the M's. move three paces forward to a position in front rank, the PMP marches directly West of the Center of the Lines, faces left and commands:*

PMP: Files cover.

*The rear rank takes 2 right steps to a position directly behind the front rank.*

CG: Front rank, about face.

*The front rank about faces, the MC hastens to a point 1 pace West and 1 pace to the rear of the front rank; the MI about faces, takes 4 steps forward (1 pace behind the ear rank) and working together, the M's. about face & step into line.*

*After his last command, the PMP left faces, marches to the center of the East end of the Lines, faces West and gives the following commands:*

PMP: Standard Guard, *order*, swords.

*PMP about faces & reports:*

PMP: (+) Sovereign Master. (S) The Lines are formed. (+ S)

*PMP resumes station in East, remains standing, sword at carry.*

*The SM & PC rise, draw swords, and with the PMP take posts on the East flank of the 1st & 2nd Divisions respectively, facing West. The SM takes takes post as the head of the Lines.*

PMP: First Division, communicate to the Second Division the Jewish Pass!

PMP: Guard. *(Done)* Carry, swords!

PMP: Second Division, communicate to the First Division the Persian Countersign!

PMP: Guard. *(Done)* Carry, swords!

PMP: First Division, communicate to the Second Division the Red Cross Word!

PMP: Guard. *(Done)* Carry, swords.

PMP: Second Division,communicate to the First Division the Sign, Grip and Word the Illustrious

Order of Red Cross. (*Sign, Grip & Word given.)* Carry, swords!

PMP: (+) Sovereign Master Knights (S). Your order has been executed (+ S).

*SM rises.*

SM: Companions; Attention! Order, swords! Un-cover. Excellent High Priest (b S) Lead our

devotions (b S).

*SM uncovers.*

The following may be used:

EHP:

Almighty and eternal Jehovah, the only living and true God. Whose throne is in heaven, yet who reardest alike the princes and the people that dwell upon the earth, we desire to thank Thee for the many mercies and blessings with which Thou hast been pleased to crown our lives. We thank Thee for this social and fraternal intercourse with our Companions. Be mercifully near us at all times, and give us the aid of Thy Holy Spirit to guide us into all Truth. Grant us Thy grace to cheer and strengthen us in our journey through life, and deliverance from the snares and pitfalls of the Evil One. Incline our hearts to seek Thy favor and protection as our rightful Sovereign, that we may not be impeded in the great work of erecting a spiritual edifice that shall endure forever. Pardon all our sins, we pray Thee, and finally admit us into the presence of the King of Kings, as members of His eternal household. Amen.

*After conclusion of the prayer, SM recovers & commands:*

SM: Companions, *Re*-cover. *Carry*, swords. *Re-turn*, swords.

*Lines are dismissed by the command:*

SM: Companions: Be seated.

SM: Companion Prince Master of the Palace.

*PMP stands, faces SM and renders hand salute; SM returns same.*

SM: It is my order that a Council of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross be now opened. This you will communicate to the Companions for their government.

*Faces West, draws swords, comes to carry and declares:*

PMP: Companions, Attention! Draw, Swords.

PMP: It is the order of the Sovereign Master that a Council of the Illustrious Red Cross be now opened. Take due notice and govern yourselves accordingly.

PMP: Present, Swords.

PMP: (+) Sovereign Master (S). Your order has been executed (+ S).

*SM rises & draws sword and comes to charge.*

SM: I now declare this Council of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross opened in due form.

*SM returns to carry sword.*

SM: *Carry*, swords. Companion Warder (+ **+**) Inform the Sentinel and direct him to guard accordingly

(+ **+**).

*W proceeds to door, opens & says*:

W: Companion Sentinel (+ +). The Council is now open. Take due notice and guard accordingly.

*W closes door, knocks (8), returned by S, returns to station and reports:*

W: (+) Sovereign Master (**+**). Your order has been obeyed (+ **+**).

SM: Companions; Return, swords. Be seated.