

PUBLIC PROGRAM FOR LODGE ANNIVERSARIES

Abbreviations used hereafter: GM-Grand Master; DGM-Deputy Grand Master; GSW-Grand Senior Warden; GJW-Grand Junior Warden; GSecy-Grand Secretary; GChap-Grand Chaplain

The Grand Marshal will lead the Grand Lodge officers in procession into the lodge room, entering through the door of the preparation room or through the door of the lodge room and then turning left to the north side of the room. The Grand Master will be in the rear and those of descending rank in front of him. The procession will make one complete circuit of the room, and then as each officer approaches his station or place, he will take his position.

*The Grand Master gives * with his gavel to seat the officers.*

The Grand Master will explain to those assembled that when he uses the gavel that it applies to Masons only.

GM- As Masons, we are taught that before entering upon any great and important undertaking, to first invoke the blessing of God.

GM- (***) Brother Grand Chaplain, lead us in prayer.

GChap- Prayer

GM-(*) It has been said that Speculative Masonry is a system of morality, veiled in allegory, and illustrated by symbols. It makes use of the tools of the operative workman to teach its sublime lessons designed to erect a moral edifice.

Holding up a square, the DGM says:

DGM- The Square teaches to regulate our actions by rule and line, and to harmonize our conduct by the principles of morality and virtue.

Holding up a level, the GSW says:

GSW- The level demonstrates that we are descended from the same stock, partake of the same nature, share the same hope, and meet upon the level as brethren.

Holding up a plumb, the GJW says:

GJW- The plumb admonishes us to walk uprightly in our several stations before God and man, to hold the scale of justice in equal poise, and to make our thoughts and actions coincide with the line of our duty.

GM- In a day when a multitude of organizations seek to impress their objectives upon society, Freemasonry occupies a unique position. Its teachings are deeply religious in nature, yet it is in no sense a religion, nor a substitute therefore, and it adopts no sectarian creed. Many of its charities and benevolences are as well known as they are widespread, yet charity and benevolence are the fruits of its teachings, rather than the reason for its existence. It stands for citizenship of the highest order, for enlightenment and orderly liberty, yet it is not a political movement and engages in no partisan activity.

DGM- Through the ages, the ingenuity and industry of man have produced works which have been the admiration of every age. The lapse of time, the ruthless hand of ignorance, and the devastations of war, have laid waste and destroyed many valuable monuments of antiquity, on which the utmost exertions of human genius have been employed. Freemasonry, notwithstanding, has still survived.

GM- We are assembled here today to observe an example of that survival and continuance, the _____ anniversary of _____ Lodge, No. _____, Free and Accepted Masons. Brother Grand Secretary, what does the record show about the beginning of this lodge?

GSecy- The record states that a dispensation, dated _____ (*if known*), was granted to organize this lodge, and a charter was granted by the Grand Lodge of Kentucky on _____.

Note: It should be ascertained in advance what historical information that the lodge has prepared for presentation. If the lodge is not going to give the names of the first officers, the Grand Secretary may do so.

The Grand Master then calls on the lodge to present their program for the anniversary. The Grand Master then makes an appropriate address, if desired, and then says:

GM- We congratulate _____ Lodge, No. _____, on reaching this point of longevity. The future is ahead of us, and so long as you have only those of high moral standards in your lodge who live according to Masonic teachings, a bright future for your lodge should be assured. May kindness and brotherly affection distinguish your conduct as men and as Masons. Within your peaceful walls, may your children's children celebrate, with joy and gratitude, the transactions of this auspicious solemnity, and may the tenets of our profession be transmitted through your lodge, pure and unimpaired, from generation to generation.

(***) Brother Grand Chaplain, pronounce the benediction.

GChap- Prayer.