



Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons State of California

RESOLUTION 2021-06 AMPLE FORM OPENING AND CLOSING

The proponents of this Resolution seek to amend the Grand Chapter Ritual by adding an ample form opening and closing to the standard body of ritual.

WHEREAS, the Grand Chapter Constitution has for many years authorized specific Grand and Past Grand Officers to open and close constituent Chapters in “ample” form.

WHEREAS, the Grand Chapter Ritual has never been modified to include any form of ritual for opening and closing a Chapter in “ample” form.

WHEREAS, the recent pandemic has focused great attention on such “ample” form openings and closings in order to legally accomplish the affairs of Grand Chapter and its constituent Chapters.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Grand Chapter Ritual be enhanced by including the attached ritual which shall henceforth define for the Grand Chapter of California, the meaning of “ample” form opening and closing ritual.

Respectfully submitted by:

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AMPLE FORM OPENING AND CLOSING

The Grand Chapter or any Constituent Chapter under this Grand Chapter's jurisdiction may be opened and/or closed in Ample Form by a duly authorized officer of this Grand Chapter (GO). Duly authorized officers (GO) are the Grand High Priest, elected Grand Officers, Department Grand Officers (DGO) and past elected Grand Officers (GCC Article XIX 65.1 & 65.2.). For Capitular Year 2020-21, by order of the Grand High Priest (GHP), this also includes Deputy Grand Lecturers (DGL) and Inspectors (Insp) in their respective Departments as authorized by their Department Grand Officer (DGO). There are four ways to open and close a constituent Chapter in ample form; In-person, Tiled and Untiled and Virtual, Tiled and Untiled. A Chaplain (Chap) and Captain of the Host (CoH) or Marshal (Mar) as well as the Presiding Officer (HP/K/S) and the Opening/Closing authorized Grand Officer (GO) are the MINIMUM officer stations that will be required for the ritual part of UNTILED In-person meetings. If the Tabernacle is UNTILED, In-person or Virtual, no signs are EVER given and the jewels on the altar are broken and displayed on top of an OPEN BIBLE. For a TILED In-person meeting, the MINIMUM officer stations for the ritual are a Chaplain (Chap) and Captain of the Host (CoH) or Marshal (Mar) {or SD for closing}, a Royal Arch Captain (RAC) {or Junior Deacon (JD) for closing} and a Sentinel (Sent) as well as the Presiding Officer (HP/K/S) and the Opening/Closing authorized Grand Officer (GO). For a Virtual TILED meeting, the MINIMUM officer stations for the ritual are a Chaplain (Chap), a Captain of the Host (CoH) or Marshal (Mar) and a Meeting Host (Host) as well as the Presiding Officer (HP/K/S) and the Opening/Closing authorized Grand Officer (GO). For all cases of TILED meetings there shall be present a Bible (opened) for all participants to see with jewels placed properly when the Chapter is at labor. In the case of In-person TILED meetings an altar at the west end of the Tabernacle is the appropriate place to display the Bible and jewels. In the case of a Virtual TILED meeting, the physical location of the CoH or Mar would be appropriate to display the Open Bible when called for and jewels in such a manner as would be always visible to all attendees. In all cases of UNTILED meetings, the Bible is opened when called for and the jewels are placed on the Bible in a Broken (as at refreshment) fashion. In all cases of TILED or UNTILED Official meetings, ceremonial, business or degree conferrals, there Shall be present an appropriate quorum of members in good standing of each Chapter to be opened in Ample form.

OPENING

HP: *(Call Chapter to Order) *. (Most/Right)/Excellent Companion **title**, I invite you to open _____ Chapter in Ample form (presents the GO the gavel, removes hat and sits. If Virtual, GO should have a gavel at his location).*

GO: (Tiled only) * Companion CoH (or Marshal), *(rises)* are all present Royal Arch Masons?

CoH or Mar: (Tiled only) *(sign only for Tiled In-person meetings)*
(Most/Right)/Excellent Companion, All present will be purged to Royal Arch Masons only.

GO: Companion Captain of the Host (or Marshal), Is our number complete?

CoH or Mar: I find that a quorum is present.

GO: (Tiled only) Companion Captain of the Host (or Marshal), you will see that our Convocation is purged and duly guarded.

CoH or Mar: (Tiled In-person only) Companion Royal Arch Captain or Companion Host (Tiled Virtual only) See that the Tabernacle is purged and duly guarded.

RAC: (Tiled In-person only) (*goes to door and opens it*) Companion Sentinel, We are about to open a Convocation of Royal Arch Masons in this place and it is the order of the Captain of the Host (or Marshal) that you guard accordingly.

Sent: (Tiled In-person only) Companion Royal Arch Captain, the Tabernacle is purged and duly guarded. (*RAC closes door and knocks **/**/**/* responded to by Sent **/**/**/**)

Host: (Tiled Virtual only) Companion Captain of the Host (or Marshal), our virtual meeting is secure and all admitted are Royal Arch Masons.

RAC: (Tiled In-person only) Companion Captain of the Host (or Marshal), the Tabernacle is purged and duly guarded, all present are Royal Arch Masons.

CoH or Mar: (Tiled only) (Most/Right)/Excellent Companion, the Tabernacle is purged and duly guarded, all present are Royal Arch Masons.

GO: *** Companion Chaplain, you will lead us in our devotions.
(*The Chaplain delivers the prayer from the east or his virtual location. The following or any other appropriate prayer for the occasion may be given. For all Virtual meetings, participants stay seated.*)

Chap:

PRAYER

Supreme High Priest of heaven and earth, we humbly beseech Thy blessing upon the purpose of our present convocation. Grant us the wisdom to contrive, strength to support and the beauty of harmony to so administer the affairs of this Chapter that all our doings may be acceptable in Thy sight. Amen.

All present: So Mote it Be!

GO: Companion CoH (or Marshal), attend at the altar. (*CoH or Mar goes to altar, displays the Great Lights as appropriate, Tiled or Untiled, takes two steps back and gives sign to GO, if meeting is Tiled In-person. If meeting is Untiled In-person, he gives NO sign. If the meeting is Tiled Virtual, the CoH or Mar displays the Bible at his location opens the Bible, places the jewels properly and nods without sign remaining in position - usually seated. If the meeting is Untiled Virtual, The CoH or Mar displays the Bible at his location, Opens the Bible and places the broken jewels on the Bible as at refreshment and nods without sign remaining in position – usually seated.*)

GO: By virtue of the authority in me vested by the Constitution of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of California, I now declare _____ Royal Arch Chapter Number _____ opened in Ample form. The Companions will please join with me in the pledge of allegiance to the flag or our country. (*Pledge given*) * (*Virtual meetings display a flag via screen sharing by Host.*) (Tiled or

Untiled In-person meetings CoH or Mar then returns to station and remains standing.)

NOTE: If the Chapter is opened in Ample form for ceremonial purposes, the opening flag pledge may be postponed until the commencement of ceremonies.

GO: (Tiled In-person only) Companion Captain of the Host (or Marshal) (*faces GO and signs*), See that the Sentinel is informed.

CoH or Mar: (Tiled In-person only) Companion Royal Arch Captain (*rises*), inform the Sentinel.

RAC: (Tiled In-person only) (*goes to door knocks **/**/**/* and waits for the Sent to respond **/**/**/* and then opens door*) Companion Sentinel, the Chapter is now open, take due notice and guard accordingly. (*closes door, returns to station and reports*) Companion Captain of the Host (or Marshal), the Sentinel is informed and the Tabernacle is duly guarded. (*sits*).

CoH or Mar: (Tiled In-person only) (Most/Right)/Excellent Companion, the Sentinel is informed and the Tabernacle is duly guarded. (*sits*).

GO: Excellent High Priest (King/Scribe) (*HP/K/S rises except for Virtual meetings, dons hat*), _____ Chapter is duly opened on the Royal Arch Degree and I now return the gavel to your care. (*GO sits*).

(Note: For In-person Tiled meetings ONLY, if the Chapter's desire is to call down to a subordinate degree, then either the GO may accomplish that before handing off the gavel to the HP/K/S or it may be done by the HP/K/S after assuming the gavel.)

CLOSING

HP: (Most/Right)/Excellent Companion **title**, (*rises*) I invite you to close _____ Chapter in Ample form (*presents the GO the gavel, removes hat and sits. If Virtual, GO should now show a gavel at his location*).

GO: *** Companion Chaplain, you will lead us in our devotions. (*Prayer is delivered from the east or from Virtual location.*) (*The following or any other appropriate prayer may be given.*)

PRAYER

Supreme High Priest, we humbly beseech thee to protect and bless us that we may once again assemble to pursue our profession as Masons. Amen.

All present: So Mote it Be!

GO: Companion CoH (or Marshal or Brother Senior Deacon), attend at the altar. (*CoH or Mar or SD goes to altar and signs if Tiled In-person, closes the Great Lights places jewels on top of closed Bible, Tiled or Untiled, takes two steps back and stops. If meeting is Untiled In-person, he gives NO sign. If the meeting is Tiled Virtual, the CoH or Mar displays the Bible at his location, closes the Bible, places the jewels on the Closed Bible and nods without sign remaining in position - usually seated. If the meeting is Untiled Virtual, The CoH or Mar displays the Bible at his location, closes it and replaces the jewels on top of the closed Bible and nods without sign remaining in position – usually seated.*)

GO: And now, by virtue of the authority in me vested by the Constitution of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of California, I declare _____ Royal Arch Chapter Number _____ closed in Ample form. * (*CoH or Mar or SD returns to station if In-person meeting, remains standing*).

GO: (Tiled In-person only) Companion Captain of the Host (or Marshal or Brother Senior Deacon) (*faces GO and signs*), See that the Sentinel is informed.

CoH or Mar or SD: (Tiled In-person only) Companion Royal Arch Captain or Brother Junior Deacon (*rises*), inform the Sentinel.

RAC or JD: (Tiled In-person only) (*goes to door knocks appropriate to the degree at labor on and waits for the Sent to respond in the same manner and then opens door*) Companion Sentinel, the Chapter is now closed. (*closes door, returns to station and reports*) Companion Captain of the Host (or Marshal or Brother SD), the Sentinel is informed. (*sits*).

CoH or Mar or SD: (Tiled In-person only) (Most/Right)/Excellent Companion, the Sentinel is informed. (*sits*).

GO: Excellent High Priest (*HP/K/S rises except for Virtual meetings, dons hat*), _____ Chapter is duly closed and I return to you the gavel of authority. (*If Tiled or Untiled Virtual, HP shows gavel at his location*).

HP: *

Note: *The Chapter may be closed directly from any of the Royal Arch Degrees by the GO. There is no requirement to call back to the Royal Arch Degree to close in ample form.*