

LODGE MEETING
OPENING CEREMONY
Revised 10/13/2015

GOVERNOR (gives one rap): Under authority granted by the Supreme Lodge, _____Lodge No.____ of the Loyal Order of Moose will come to order. Officers will assume their respective stations. The inner door will be closed until otherwise directed. Brother Inner Guard (pauses while Inner Guard rises), are all present entitled to remain?

(Inner Guard faces the Governor, makes his report and is seated.)

INNER GUARD: Brother Governor, they are.

GOVERNOR: Brother Administrator, call the roll of officers.

(The administrator rises to call the roll of officers. Each officer rises as his name is called, responds accordingly and remains standing. The Administrator will note any absences. The Governor will make pro-tempore appointments for any officer who is absent.)

ADMINISTRATOR: The roll has been called.

GOVERNOR: Brother Sergeant-at-Arms, you will now prepare the Altar and distribute the emblems of office. *(Governor gives one rap and seats all officers except the Sergeant-at-Arms.)*

(The Sergeant-at-Arms proceeds to position 1, picks up the folded cover of the Altar Cloth and drapes the Altar. He then picks up the Bible with both hands, transfers it to his left hand, opens it with his right hand, and using both hands, places it in the center of the Altar. He then takes a small step back and gestures toward the Bible as he speaks.)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is the Holy Bible, our inspiration and our guide.

(The Sergeant-at-Arms moves toward the Prelate's station. The Prelate rises. The Sergeant-at-Arms picks up the Prelate's emblem with both hands, takes a small step back and holds the emblem vertically.)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is the station of Purity.

PRELATE: We pledge to keep our hearts pure, our minds true and our bodies clean, so that we may learn to love and love to learn that which is good.

(The Sergeant-at-Arms steps forward and presents the emblem to the Prelate using both hands. He stands facing the Prelate until the Prelate has invested himself with his emblem. The Prelate remains standing.)

(The Sergeant-at-Arms moves to the Junior Governor's station. The Junior Governor rises. The Sergeant-at-Arms picks up the Junior Governor's emblem with both hands, takes a small step back and holds the emblem vertically.)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is the station of Aid.

JUNIOR GOVERNOR: We are bound together in a common brotherhood and we work for the common good – “One for All and All for One.”

(The Sergeant-at-Arms steps forward and presents the emblem to the Junior Governor using both hands. He stands facing the Junior Governor until the Junior Governor has invested himself with his emblem. The Junior Governor remains standing.)

(The Sergeant-at-Arms moves to the Past Governor’s station. The Past Governor rises. The Sergeant-at-Arms picks up the Past Governor’s emblem with both hands, takes a small step back and holds the emblem vertically.)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is the station of wisdom.

PAST GOVERNOR: Get wisdom and get understanding, do not forget this. Wisdom is the principal thing, therefore, get wisdom, and with all that you receive, get understanding.

(The Sergeant-at-Arms steps forward and presents the emblem to the Past Governor using both hands. He stands facing the Past Governor until the Past Governor has invested himself with his emblem. The Past Governor remains standing.)

(The Sergeant-at-Arms moves to the Governor's station. When the Sergeant-at-Arms stops, the Governor and remaining officers rise in unison. The Sergeant-at-Arms picks up the Governor's emblem with both hands, takes a small step back and holds the emblem vertically.)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is the station of Progress.

GOVERNOR: Forward in the good, onward in the right.

(The Sergeant-at-Arms steps forward and presents the emblem to the Governor using both hands. He stands facing the Governor. As the Governor invests himself with his emblem, all remaining officers invest themselves and all remain standing.)

(The Sergeant-at-Arms returns to his chair and remains standing.)

GOVERNOR: *(Gives two raps)* Everyone will please rise.

GOVERNOR: The Prelate will deliver the opening prayer.

(The Prelate proceeds to Position 1.)

PRELATE: Let us fold our arms and bow our heads.

(The Prelate slowly raises his head and delivers the prayer.)

PRELATE: Almighty God, Creator of the universe and Father of all mankind, we give you thanks for our fraternal brotherhood and the great precepts it embodies. Keep us diligent and mindful of our commitments to you, our children, our senior members, our families and our communities. Give us a spirit of peace, harmony and progress as we carry out these precepts in our lodge and in our lives. Remind us each day that the greatest good we can do is to serve you through service to our fellow man. Amen.

MEMBERS: Amen.

(The Prelate returns to his station and remains standing.)

GOVERNOR: I present the flag of our country. *(turns to face flag.)* Place your right hand over your heart and join with me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands. One nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

GOVERNOR: Brother, what is the duty of every Moose member? You will repeat after me.

GOVERNOR: To uphold our fraternal obligations.

MEMBERS: *(Repeat)*

GOVERNOR: To strengthen and maintain the Defending Circle.

MEMBERS: *(repeat)*

GOVERNOR: And in our daily lives and conduct.

MEMBERS: *(repeat)*

GOVERNOR: To exemplify Purity, Aid and Progress.

MEMBERS: *(repeat)*

GOVERNOR: Brothers, form the Defending Circle by placing your left hand over your heart as a token of sincerity, place your right hand on the left shoulder of the Brother to your right as a token of friendship, and listen to the “Legend of the Locked Horns.”

(The officers and members form the Defending Circle about the Altar. Each member faces the Altar and positions hand as instructed. The Governor waits until the circle is formed and then advances to Position 8 through an opening created by the Sergeant-at-Arms. The Sergeant-at-Arms opens and then closes the circle after taking his place in front of the Governor's station. The Governor places his left hand over his heart, but does not raise his right hand.)

GOVERNOR: In the primeval wilds of the northland, two noble Moose, leaders of their herds, met in deadly combat. Today, their locked antlers, a silent reminder of the futility of antagonism and conflict, lie bleaching on the plains.

We meet tonight as Brothers united in a common cause. Let the spirit of harmony and fraternal regard guide our deliberations. Otherwise, we will be blinded to the lesson of the "Locked Horns."

Brothers, I welcome you and ask you to return to your places and remain standing.

(The Governor returns to his station.)

GOVERNOR: I now declare _____ Lodge No _____ of the Loyal Order of Moose officially opened. The Inner Guard will admit all who are qualified to enter.

(The Governor gives one rap to seat the lodge.)

MEMBERSHIP OBLIGATION

GOVERNOR: Are there members present who are attending a Lodge meeting for the first time? *(Pause to see if any are present)*

(If members are present for the first time):

MEMBERSHIP OBLIGATION

GOVERNOR: We invite you to come forward to a place at the Altar. If your sponsor is present, we invite him to join you.

(Governor pauses while new members and sponsors take places at Altar. He then proceeds to Position 1.)

GOVERNOR: Because the Loyal Order of Moose is a private organization, use of the social quarters in any Moose Center is limited to good standing members, their families and qualified guests.

As a member, you are expected to abide by the Constitution and General Laws of the Order and the by-laws of your Lodge. Further, by accepting this obligation, you agree that you will never bring legal action against the fraternity until you have taken your concerns to its leaders.

You should always be mindful of your obligation of membership, to assist in building the membership strength of the fraternity by sponsoring worthy friends, relatives and associates; and to provide financial support for our youngsters at Mooseheart and our seniors at Moosehaven through your donations to Moose Charities.

If you are willing to accept this obligation and follow our fraternal laws, please raise your right hand and repeat after me, using your name where I use mine.

I _____ - accept my obligation of membership – in the Loyal Order of Moose – and pledge my support – in caring for children in need – in looking after our senior members – in bringing our community closer together – and in celebrating life with my Brothers and Co-Workers.

You may lower your hand(s). On behalf of this lodge, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Moose Fraternity. You may return to your places and be seated.

(Governor returns to his station as new members and sponsors return to their chairs.)

GOVERNOR: We will now proceed with the regular order of business.

(If no members are present for the first time):

GOVERNOR: Seeing none, we will proceed with the regular order of business.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1 Governor: Reading of minutes of the previous meeting. *Administrator reads minutes*

Governor: May I have a motion to approve the minutes? *(Governor recognizes member who makes motion and Administrator records name)*

Governor: May I have a 2nd to that motion? *(Governor recognizes member who makes motion and Administrator records name)*

Governor: Any discussion? If not all in favor, vote by the usual sign of the Order. Those opposed? *(Governor announces: The vote is favorable and these minutes have been approved. (or not) (If not approved – an effort needs to be made to settle any dispute and make necessary corrections. It may be necessary to revote)*

- 2 Communications and notices.
- 3 Reports of sickness and distress.
- 4 Governor: Ordering of payment for approved bills.
Administrator reads bills

Governor: May I have a motion to approve the bills?
(Governor recognizes member who makes motion and Administrator records name)

Governor: May I have a 2nd to that motion?
(Governor recognizes member who makes motion and Administrator records name)

Governor: Any discussion? If not all those in favor, vote by the usual sign of the Order. Those opposed?
(Governor announces: The vote is favorable. (or not) (If not approved – an effort needs to be made to settle any dispute and make necessary corrections)

- 5 Applications for membership.

GOVERNOR: Brother Administrator, do we have any new applications for membership or any applications for re-enrollment?

ADMINISTRATOR: Yes Brother Governor we do. We have ___ new applications for membership and ___ applications for re-enrollment.

GOVERNOR: Has the Application Review Committee reported favorably on all these applications?

APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN: Yes Brother Governor we have.

GOVERNOR: Brother Administrator, please read the names of the applicants and their sponsors.

ADMINISTRATOR: *(Read names of all applicants and names of sponsors.)*

GOVERNOR: We will proceed to vote by the usual voting sign of the Order, unless there is a request to vote by secret ballot.

(A request can be made from the floor to have a secret ballot instead of the hand vote, or the Governor can also request a paper ballot. Paper ballots shall be available at all times. If a paper ballot is used, the Governor shall appoint a three-member election committee to count the ballots and report the results to the Lodge.)

GOVERNOR: All those in favor of accepting these applicants for membership will vote by using the voting sign of the Order.

GOVERNOR: Those opposed?

GOVERNOR: The vote is favorable, and these applicants have been accepted.

(If vote is not favorable, additional votes should be taken by dividing applicants until each individual has been accepted or rejected.)

6 Reports of Standing and Special Committees.

7 Governor: Reading of minutes of the Officer's Meeting. *Administrator reads minutes*

Governor: May I have a motion to approve the minutes?
(Governor recognizes member who makes motion and Administrator records name.

Governor: May I have a 2nd to that motion? *(Governor recognizes member who makes motion and Administrator records name)*

Governor: Any Discussion? If not all those in favor, vote by the usual sign of the Order. Those opposed? *(Governor announces: The vote is favorable and these minutes have been approved. (or not)*

8 Unfinished Business.

9 New Business. *(For referral to Officers.)*

10 *(Report of Nominating Committee when necessary.)*
(Election or Installation of Officers when necessary.)

11 Good of the Order. *(Including remarks of visiting Dignitaries or guests when appropriate.)*

INTRODUCTION OF DIGNITARIES OR GUESTS

GOVERNOR: At this time, we are privileged to have _____
(name) _____ (title) _____ visiting with us. Brother

(first name), welcome to _____ Lodge, No. _____.
(Governor yields floor to dignitary or guest for any
comments.)

12 Receipts

GOVERNOR: Brother Administrator, give the total sum of money collected by you as administrator of this Lodge since your last report, and prior to this meeting.

ADMINISTRATOR: I have collected in all the amount of \$_____.

GOVERNOR: Brother Treasurer, have you received bank deposit slips from the Administrator showing the amount \$_____ deposited to the credit of this Lodge?

TREASURER: I have, (or) I have not (as the case might be.)

(If the Treasurer has not received the proper deposit slips from the Administrator, the matter shall be adjusted at once.)

NINE O'CLOCK CEREMONY

(At the hour nine o'clock p.m., wherever Moose are gathered in the name of the Order, they are requested to stand, face toward Mooseheart, fold their arms across their chests, and for a moment bow their heads in silent prayer, repeating in concert the words of the Nine O'clock Ceremony. At a regular meeting the Governor should call for the ceremony as close to nine o'clock as possible.)

GOVERNOR: *(Gives two raps.)* It is now nine o'clock. At this time the little children at Mooseheart kneel at their beds to say their evening prayers. Let us face toward Mooseheart, *(Governor gestures in the direction of Mooseheart)* fold our arms, bow our heads, and join them in silent prayer.

(Lights turned low but never off, chimes sounded slowly nine times. After ninth stroke -)

GOVERNOR: Repeat after me.

GOVERNOR: Let the little children come to me

MEMBERS: *(Repeat)*

GOVERNOR: Do not keep them away

MEMBERS: *(Repeat)*

GOVERNOR: For they are like the kingdom of Heaven

MEMBERS: *(Repeat)*

GOVERNOR: God bless Mooseheart

MEMBERS: *(Repeat)*

GOVERNOR: Amen

MEMBERS: *(Repeat)*

GOVERNOR: Everyone will again face the Altar.

(Lights turned up)

GOVERNOR: *(Gives one rap.)* Please be seated.

GOVERNOR: This Lodge, along with all other units in our Fraternity participates in the building of an Endowment Fund, which we hope will be ample to meet any emergency that may confront Mooseheart or Moosehaven. All members are invited to contribute to this fund in such an amount as they desire. The Sergeant-at-Arms will now receive your contributions, and the sum collected will be remitted to Moose Charities so it may be credited to the Endowment Fund.

(While the contributions are being received, the Governor may call on the Endowment Fund Chairman to announce any current or future Endowment Fund activities.)

CLOSING CEREMONY

GOVERNOR: Brothers, has any matter of importance been overlooked or neglected? *(Pause)* If not, we will proceed to close.

(Governor gives two raps.)

GOVERNOR: What is the duty of every Moose member? You will repeat after me.

GOVERNOR: To refrain from discussing

MEMBERS: *(Repeat)*

GOVERNOR: The business of this Lodge

MEMBERS: *(Repeat)*

GOVERNOR: Outside of these walls

MEMBERS: *(Repeat)*

GOVERNOR: Or in the presence of non-members.

MEMBERS: *(Repeat)*

GOVERNOR: The Prelate will deliver the closing prayer.

(The Prelate proceeds to Position 1.)

PRELATE: Let us fold our arms and bow our heads.

(The Prelate slowly raises his head and delivers the prayer.)

PRELATE: Almighty Father, guide us, guard and keep us as we go our separate ways. We ask you to bless the good we have done. Hold Mooseheart and Moosehaven in the hollow of your hand and let your blessing rest upon the children and seniors entrusted to our care. Be with us in our homes and watch over us and our loved ones. Give us wisdom and understanding, and to you be all power and glory forever and ever. Amen.

(The Prelate returns to his station and remains standing.)

GOVERNOR: Brother Sergeant-at-Arms, please close the Bible.

(The Sergeant-at-Arms goes to Position 1 and closes the Bible by picking it up in both hands, closing it slowly and placing it back in the center of the Altar. The Sergeant-at-Arms then returns to his chair and remains standing.)

GOVERNOR: Brothers, please form the Defending Circle.

(Members form the defending Circle. The Governor advances within the circle.)

(If a member has died since the last meeting, the Governor will say :)

GOVERNOR: Brothers, our Defending Circle has been broken since our last meeting. Brother(s) _____
(announce name or names) has *(have)* been called to his *(their)* final reward. Let us for a moment, in silence, think of him *(them)* and remember his *(their)* loved ones who mourn. Please fold your arms and bow your heads. *(Pause)* May he *(they)* rest in peace.

MEMBERS: Amen.

(If there have been no deaths since the last meeting, the Governor will omit the preceding item and say :)

GOVERNOR: That which is done is done. Let none depart from this gathering with anger in his heart. Let us go forth with good thoughts, good words and good deeds for all mankind. Brothers, I fraternally bid you "Good Night". *(or Good Morning, Good Afternoon, Good Day)*