

**WHITE RIVER LODGE
No. 153**



Brotherhood & Friendship

Opening & Closing The Lodge

Opening

Worshipful Master gavels once, repeated by Senior Warden and Junior Warden

WM: Brethren, assist me to open the Lodge.

All rise.

WM: Brother Junior Warden, what is the first care of every Mason?

JW: To see that the Lodge is properly tyled.

WM: Direct that duty to be done.

JW: Brother Inner Guard, see that the Lodge is properly tyled.

IG goes to door, does not open it, gives three distinct knocks and returns to position in front of his chair.

Tyler responds with same knocks.

IG, no Sign: Brother Junior Warden, the Lodge is properly tyled.

JW three distinct knocks, no Sign, to WM: The Lodge is properly tyled.

WM: Brother Senior Warden, the next care?

SW: To see that none but Masons are present.

WM: To order Brethren in the First Degree.

All take Step with Entered Apprentice Sign.

WM: Brother Junior Warden, how many principal officers are there in the Lodge?

JW: Three: the Worshipful Master and the Senior and Junior Wardens.

WM: Brother Senior Warden, how many assistant officers are there?

SW: Three, besides the Tyler or Outer Guard: namely, the Senior and Junior Deacons and the Inner Guard.

WM to JW: The situation of the Tyler?

JW: Outside the door of the Lodge.

WM: His duty?

JW: Being armed with a drawn sword to keep off all intruders and cowans to Masonry and to see that the Candidate's are properly prepared.

WM to SW: The situation of the Inner Guard?

SW: Within the entrance of the Lodge.

WM: His duty?

SW: To admit Masons on proof, receive the Candidate's in due form, and obey the commands of the Junior Warden.

WM to JW: The situation of the Junior Deacon?

JW: At the right of the Senior Warden.

WM: His duty?

JW: To carry all messages and communications of the Worshipful Master from the Senior to the Junior Warden, and to see that the same are punctually obeyed.

WM to SW: The situation of the Senior Deacon?

SW: At or near to the right of the Worshipful Master

WM: His duty?

SW: To bear all messages and commands from the Worshipful Master to the Senior Warden, and await the return of the Junior Deacon.

WM: Brother Junior Warden, your place in the Lodge?

JW: In the South.

WM: Why are you placed there?

JW: To mark the sun at its meridian, to call the Brethren from labour to refreshment and from refreshment to labour, that profit and pleasure may be the result.

WM: Brother Senior Warden, your place in the Lodge?

SW: In the West.

WM: Why are you placed there?

SW: To mark the setting sun, to close the Lodge by command of the Worshipful Master, after having seen that every Brother has had his due.

WM to SW: The Master's place?

SW: In the East.

WM: Why is he placed there?

SW: As the sun rises in the East to open and enliven the day, so the Worshipful Master is placed in the East to open the Lodge, and employ and instruct the Brethren in Freemasonry.

WM: The Lodge being duly formed, before I declare it open, let us invoke the assistance of the Great Architect of the Universe in all our undertakings; may our labours, thus begun in order, be conducted in peace, and closed in harmony.

Immediate Past Master: So mote it be.

WM: Brethren, in the name of the Great Architect of the Universe, I declare the Lodge duly open **all cut Sign** for the purposes of Freemasonry in the First Degree.

WM gives EA-gavel.

SW gives EA-gavel and raises Cn.

JW gives EA-gavel and lowers Cn.

IG goes to door, gives EA knocks and returns to position in front of his chair.

Tyler responds with same knocks.

Immediate Past Master, meanwhile, opens Volume of Sacred Law and arranges Square and Compass.

Volume of Sacred Law is placed so that Worshipful Master can read it; points of the Compass are directed to Worshipful Master and hidden by the arms of the Square angle towards Worshipful Master. WM sits when this has been completed.

All the brethren take their seats when the Worshipful Master sits.

Closing

Before finally closing the Lodge at the end of a regular meeting, there are three risings according to the following formula:

WM gavels once, repeated by SW and JW.

WM: Brethren. I rise for the first **(or second or third)** time to ask if any Brother has aught to propose for the good of Freemasonry in general or of this Lodge ... in particular.

On each rising such business is transacted as is customary in the Lodge. When all business on the third rising is completed:

WM gavels once, repeated by SW and JW.

WM: Brethren, assist me to close the Lodge.

All rise.

WM: Brother Junior Warden, what is the constant care of every Mason?

JW: To prove the Lodge close tyled.

WM: Direct that duty to be done.

JW: Brother Inner Guard, prove the Lodge close tyled.

IG goes to door, gives EA-knocks and returns to position in front of his chair.

Tyler responds with same knocks.

IG takes Step and gives EA-Sign: Brother Junior Warden, the Lodge is close tyled. *Cuts Sign.*

JW, gives EA-knocks, takes Step and gives EA-Sign: Worshipful Master, the Lodge is close tyled. *Cuts Sign.*

WM: Brother Senior Warden, the next care?

SW: To see that the Brethren appear to order as Masons.

WM: To order, Brethren, in the First Degree.

All take Step with EA-Sign.

WM: Brother Senior Warden, your constant place in the Lodge?

SW: In the West.

WM: Why are you placed there?

SW: As the sun sets in the West to close the day, so the Senior Warden is placed in the West to close the Lodge by command of the Worshipful Master, after having seen that every Brother has had his due.

WM: Brethren, before we close the Lodge. let us with all reverence and humility express our gratitude to the Great Architect of the Universe for favours already received; may He continue to preserve the Order by cementing and adorning it with every moral and social virtue.

Immediate Past Master: So mote it be.

WM: Brother Senior Warden, the labours of the evening being ended, you have my command to close the Lodge. *Gives EA-knocks with left hand.*

SW: Brethren, in the name of the Great Architect of the Universe, and by command of the Worshipful Master, I close *All cut Sign* the Lodge.

SW gives EA-knocks and lowers Cn.

JW: And it is closed accordingly until ...day of ..., emergencies excepted, of which every Brother will have due notice. *Gives EA-knocks and raises Cn.*

IG goes to door, gives EA-knocks and returning tot position in front of his chair.

Tyler responds with same knocks.

Immediate Past Master, meanwhile, removes Square and Compass. Closes Volume of Sacred Law and places Square and Compass in convenient position on pedestal.

Immediate Past Master: Brethren, nothing now remains, but, according to ancient custom, to lock up our Secrets in a safe repository, uniting in the act Fidelity, Fidelity, Fidelity.

All touch left breast lightly with right hand, with each word Fidelity.