

Preliminary Preparations

The tables are set up in the shape of a horseshoe, or inverted U. The Worshipful Master is placed in the East, facing the middle of the table, with the Chaplain at his right hand and the Wardens at the two ends of the tables in the West. The table lodge should be held in the banquet hall and should be tyled as securely as the lodge room. The Worshipful Master and Wardens should have their gavels and columns.

All that constitutes the table service should be set in three parallel lines. The plates, knives, forks, spoons, and napkins form the first line. The fruit juice, water glass, coffee cup and firing glass for each person should form the second line. The third line might be composed of such items as individual fruit cocktail and salad dishes, candles, salt and pepper shakers, etc.

The Stewards of the lodge (with helpers) are responsible for charging the cannons prior to each toast and the wind or beverage containers are not to be left on the tables between toasts.

A full course meal is to be served with this table lodge.

Opening of the Lodge

W.M. (***)

W.M. Brother Tyler, you will cause this table lodge to be tyled.

TYLER: (Gets up from his seat near one of the Wardens and goes to the door) Worshipful Master, this table lodge is duly tyled.

W.M. Brother S.W.: are you satisfied that all present are Masons?

S.W. I am satisfied on the North Column, Worshipful Sir.

W.M. Brother J.W., are you satisfied that all present are Masons?

J.W. I am satisfied on the South Column, Worshipful Sir.

W.M. Are the brethren satisfied with each other? I declare this Table Lodge opened. Brother Chaplain, you will lead us in prayer.

CHAPLAIN. (A short invocation)

W.M. Brother S.D. you will attend to the altar. (S.D. places the TGL)

W.M. Brethren, you will join with me in the pledge of allegiance to the flag of our country.

W.M.(*)

W.M. Brother Director of Ceremonies, would you please educate us on our duties this evening?

D.C.: Brethren, this table lodge is not to be construed as part of our ritual, but only as exemplification of what is held in other states, and countries. It is, however, just as solemn and binding an occasion as it is to our brethren in our sister jurisdictions. Our Freemasonry in America came from England and frequently it has been suggested that our craft would renew its strength if it reverted to some of the English practices.

A toast at the festive board of an English Lodge can take many forms. It can be short, long, poetic, or prosaic, humorous or serious--but always in good taste. When a toast is to be proposed, I will first ring the bell, and the gavels in the East, West and South will sound to alarm the Brethren, and you will act accordingly. At the appropriate time, you will unite with the one proposing the toast in the proper prescribed manner. Inter-spaced between the various toast will be responses and/or short talks, and close attention is requested. Between each of the toasts will be one course of the meal.

The Ceremony of the Seven Toasts

Toast	Toast For:	Made by	Response by:	Course
1	President of the US	Worshipful Master		Juice
2	Grand Master	Worshipful Master		Fruit Cup
3	Worshipful Master	Wardens		Salad
4	Wardens	Secretary		Salad
5	Past Masters	Treasurer		Entrée
6	Visiting Brethren	Senior Deacon	Senior Visiting Brother	Dessert and Coffee
7	All masons wheresoever dispersed	Tiler	None	None

RIGHT HAND TO ARMS. (The right hand touches the glass)

READY. (The glass is raised breast high, arm extended forward)

AIM. (The glass is brought to the lips)

FIRE, GOOD FIRE, FIRE ALL. (All Drink)

PRESENT ARMS. (The glass is brought to the second position in unison with the Worshipful Master, the glass is brought to the left breast, then to the right breast, then again to the second position so that the movement makes a triangle. This triangle is made three times: then the glass is brought to the table in three moves- it is first carried a little to the left, then to the right, and finally forcibly in unison to the table.)

THE BATTERY, THREE TIMES THREE (Done)

ALL: VIVAT. VIVAT. VIVAT (Right hand thrust upward with each VIVAT)

ADVANCE SWORDS. (Knife is raised breast high, arm extended forward)

POISE SWORDS. (Knife blade is elevated slightly - about 45 degrees)

SALUTE WITH SWORDS. (Knife handle is brought to within a few inches of the chin with the blade elevated about 45 degrees)

SWORDS AT REST. (Knife handles are carried in unison forcibly to the table preferably in a flat position to prevent table damage.)

THE BATTERY, THREE TIMES THREE (Done)

ALL: VIVAT. VIVAT. VIVAT. (Right hands are thrust forward with each VIVAT)

The foregoing should be done with the exactness and evenness so that everyone will execute all movements in unison and the firing glasses and knives shall strike the table simultaneously!

TRADITIONAL VOCABULARY OF TABLE LODGES:

Glasses are called CANNONS Knives are called SWORDS

Wine--STRONG POWDER Forks--PICKAXES

Coffee--BLACK POWDER Spoons--TROWLES

Water--WEAK POWDER Salt--WHITE SAND

Bread--ROUGH ASHLER Pepper--BLACK SAND

Plates are called TILES

First Toast: To the President of the United States of America

D.C. (**): Brethren you will charge your glasses and be upstanding for the toast to the President of the United States.

W.M. Brothers Senior and Junior Wardens, cause the arms to be charged and aligned for the first toast.

S.W. Brethren on the column of the North in all your grades and stations, charge and align your arms for the first toast of obligation which the Worshipful Master is about to propose.

(All cannons brought down on the table in unison by all on the North)

J.W. Brethren in the columns of the South in all your grades and stations, charge and align your arms for the first toast of obligation which the Worshipful Master is about to propose.

(All cannons brought down on the table in unison by all on the North)

(The cannons are charged)

W.M. Brothers Senior and Junior Wardens, are the cannons charged and aligned?

S&JW. Yes, Worshipful Master (In Unison)

W.M. (***) Brother Senior and Junior Wardens, announce to the Brethren that the first toast that I have the pleasure to present is that to the President of the United States of America.

S.W. Brethren on the column of the North, the toast that the Worshipful Master has the pleasure to propose is that to the President of the United States of America.

J.W. Brethren on the column of the South, the toast that the Worshipful Master has the pleasure to propose is that to the President of the United States of America.

W.M. To the President of the United States!

Brethren: To the President of the United States!

D.C. RIGHT HAND TO ARMS --(COMMANDS)

Response:

W.M. (*)

W.M. Brethren, partake of the first course. (juice)

Second Toast: To the Grand Master

D.C. (**): Brethren you will charge your glasses and be upstanding for the toast to the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge.

(All Grand Lodge Officers, past and present remain seated)

W.M. Brothers Senior and Junior Wardens, cause the arms to be charged and aligned for the second toast.

S.W. Brethren on the column of the North in all your grades and stations, charge and align your arms for the second toast of obligation which the Worshipful Master is about to propose.

(All cannons brought down on the table in unison by all on the North)

J.W. Brethren in the columns of the South in all your grades and stations, charge and align your arms for the first second of obligation which the Worshipful Master is about to propose.

(All cannons brought down on the table in unison by all on the North)

(The cannons are charged)

W.M. Brothers Senior and Junior Wardens, are the cannons charged and aligned?

S&JW. Yes, Worshipful Master (In Unison)

W.M. Brother Senior and Junior Wardens, announce to the brethren that the toast that I have the pleasure to propose is that to the Most Worshipful Grand Master and the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Wisconsin.

S.W. Brethren on the column of the North, the toast that the Worshipful Master has the pleasure to propose is that to Most Worshipful Grand Master and the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Wisconsin.

J.W. Brethren on the column of the South, the toast that the Worshipful Master has the pleasure to propose is that to the Most Worshipful Grand Master and the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Wisconsin.

W.M. To the Most Worshipful Grand Master and Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Wisconsin!

Brethren: To the Most Worshipful Grand Master and Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Wisconsin!

D.C. RIGHT HAND TO ARMS -- (COMMANDS)

Response:

W.M. (*)

(Response by the GM or presiding GL officer at this point with them proposing a toast using the same commands)

W.M. Brethren, partake of the second course. (Fruit Cocktail)

Third Toast: To the Worshipful Master

D.C. (**): Brethren you will charge your glasses and be upstanding for the toast to the Worshipful Master.

W.M. (*) Brothers Senior and Junior Wardens, what do you desire?

S.W. Worshipful Master, the Junior Warden and I beg to allow the arms to be charges and aligned for a toast that we wish to propose.

W.M. Brethren in all your grades and stations, charge and align your arms for a toast that our Brothers, the Senior and Junior Wardens wish to propose.

(All cannons brought down on the table in unison by all on the North)

(The cannons are charged)

W.M. Brothers Senior and Junior Wardens, are the cannons charged and aligned?

S&JW. Yes, Worshipful Master (In Unison)

W.M. The East yields to your desires. What is the toast that you wish to propose?

S.W. It is to you Worshipful Master. (all present Worshipful Masters remain Seated) (***) Brethren on the columns of the North, the toast which the Junior Warden and I have the pleasure to propose is that to our Worshipful Master.

W.M. Brothers Senior and Junior Wardens, are the cannons charged and aligned?

S&JW. Yes, Worshipful Master (In Unison)

J.W. Brethren on the columns of the South, the toast which the Junior Warden and I have the pleasure to propose is that to our Worshipful Master.

S.W. To our Worshipful Master!

Brethren: To our Worshipful Master!

D.C. RIGHT HAND TO ARMS --(COMMANDS)

Response: The Worshipful Master.

S.W. (*)

W.M. Brethren, partake of the third course. (Salad

FOURTH TOAST: To the Wardens

D.C. (***) Brethren you will charge your glasses and be upstanding for the toast to the Wardens.

W.M. Brothers Senior and Junior Wardens, cause the arms to be charges and aligned for the fourth toast.

S.W. Brethren on the column of the North in al your grades and stations, charge and align your arms for the fourth toast of obligation which the Secretary is about to propose.

(All cannons brought down on the table in unison by all on the North)

J.W. Brethren in the columns of the South in all your grades and stations, charge and align your arms for the first fourth of obligation which the Secretary is about to propose.

(All cannons brought down on the table in unison by all on the North)

(The cannons are charged)

W.M. Brothers Senior and Junior Wardens, are the cannons charged and aligned?

S&JW. Yes, Worshipful Master (In Unison)

(All present Wardens please remain seated)

W.M. Brother Senior and Junior Wardens, announce to the brethren that the toast that the Secretary has the pleasure to propose is that to the Wardens.

S.W. Brethren on the column of the North, the toast that the Secretary has the pleasure to propose is that to the Wardens.

J.W. Brethren on the column of the South, the toast that the pleasure has the pleasure to propose is that to the Wardens.

(Wardens sit)

W.M. Brother Secretary.

Secretary: To the Wardens!

Brethren: To the Wardens!

D.C. RIGHT HAND TO ARMS -- (COMMANDS)

Response: Senior Warden (rising)

W.M. (*)

W.M. Brethren, partake of the next course. (entrée)

FIFTH TOAST: TO OUR PAST MASTERS

D.C. (**): Brethren you will charge your glasses and be upstanding for the toast to the Wardens.

W.M. Brothers Senior and Junior Wardens, cause the arms to be charges and aligned for the fifth toast.

S.W. Brethren on the column of the North in all your grades and stations, charge and align your arms for the fifth toast of obligation which the Treasurer is about to propose.

(All cannons brought down on the table in unison by all on the North)

J.W. Brethren in the columns of the South in all your grades and stations, charge and align your arms for the fifth toast of obligation which the Treasurer is about to propose.

(All cannons brought down on the table in unison by all on the North)

(The cannons are charged)

W.M. Brothers Senior and Junior Wardens, are the cannons charged and aligned?

S&JW. Yes, Worshipful Master (In Unison)

(All Past Masters please remain seated)

W.M. Brother Senior and Junior Wardens, announce to the brethren that the toast that the Treasurer has the pleasure to propose is that to our Past Masters.

S.W. Brethren on the column of the North, the toast that the Treasurer has the pleasure to propose is that to our Past Masters.

J.W. Brethren on the column of the South, the toast that the Treasurer has the pleasure to propose is that to our Past Masters.

W.M. Brother Treasurer.

Treasurer: To our Past Masters!

Brethren: To our Past Masters!

D.C.. RIGHT HAND TO ARMS -- (COMMANDS)

Response:

W.M. (*)

W.M. Brethren, partake of the next course. (dessert and coffee)

SIXTH TOAST -- TO THE NEW INITIATES AND VISITING BRETHREN

D.C. (***): Brethren you will charge your glasses and be upstanding for the toast to the New Initiates and Visiting Brethren.

W.M. Brothers Senior and Junior Wardens, cause the arms to be charges and aligned for the sixth toast.

S.W. Brethren on the column of the North in all your grades and stations, charge and align your arms for the sixth toast of obligation which the Senior Deacon is about to propose.

(All cannons brought down on the table in unison by all on the North)

J.W. Brethren in the columns of the South in all your grades and stations, charge and align your arms for the sixth toast of obligation which the Senior Deacon is about to propose.

(All cannons brought down on the table in unison by all on the North)

(The cannons are charged)

W.M. Brothers Senior and Junior Wardens, are the cannons charged and aligned?

S&JW. Yes, Worshipful Master (In Unison)

(All new initiates and visiting Brethren please remain seated)

W.M. Brother Senior and Junior Wardens, announce to the brethren that the toast that the Senior Deacon has the pleasure to propose is that to our new initiates and visiting Brethren.

S.W. Brethren on the column of the North, the toast that the Senior Deacon has the pleasure to propose is that to our new initiates and visiting Brethren.

J.W. Brethren on the column of the South, the toast that the Senior Deacon has the pleasure to propose is that to our new initiates and visiting Brethren.

W.M. Brother Senior Deacon.

Senior Deacon: To our new Initiates and Visiting Brethren!

Brethren: To our new Initiates and Visiting Brethren!

D.C.. RIGHT HAND TO ARMS -- (COMMANDS)

W.M. (*)

(A new initiates or visiting brethren may respond using the same format for toasts and commands.)

W.M. INTRODUCE THE SPEAKER FOR THE EVENING AND HIS PRESENTATION.

**SEVENTH TOAST -- TO ALL MASONS WHERESOEVER SPREAD
OVER THE FACE OF THE EARTH**

D.C. (***) Brethren you will charge your glasses and be upstanding for the toast to all masons wheresoever spread over the face of the earth.

W.M. Brothers Senior and Junior Wardens, cause the arms to be charges and aligned for the seventh toast.

S.W. Brethren on the column of the North in all your grades and stations, charge and align your arms for the seventh toast of obligation which the Tiler is about to propose.

(All cannons brought down on the table in unison by all on the North)

J.W. Brethren in the columns of the South in all your grades and stations, charge and align your arms for the seventh toast of obligation which the Tiler is about to propose.

(All cannons brought down on the table in unison by all on the North)

(The cannons are charged)

W.M. Brothers Senior and Junior Wardens, are the cannons charged and aligned?

S&JW. Yes, Worshipful Master (In Unison)

W.M. Brother Senior and Junior Wardens, announce to the brethren that the toast that the Tiler is about to propose is that to all Masons wheresoever spread over the face of the earth.

S.W. Brethren on the column of the North, the toast that the Tiler is about to propose is that to all Masons wheresoever spread over the face of the earth.

J.W. Brethren on the column of the South, the toast that the Tiler is about to propose is that to all Masons wheresoever spread over the face of the earth.

W.M. Brother Tiler:

Tiler: To All brethren of this venerable and ancient lodge, where'er they may be, on Land or Sea, Wishing them a speedy relief from their sufferings, should they so desire it.

D.C. RIGHT HAND TO ARMS -- (COMMANDS)

W.M. Brethren, cross your arms, right over left, and all join hands forming a chain; and join with me in singing "God Bless America".

THE CLOSING OF TABLE LODGE

W.M. Brother Tyler, you will cause this Table Lodge to be tyled.

TYLER: (Goes to door) W.M. This Table Lodge is tiled.

W.M. Brother S.W., what is the time?

S.W. W.M. The time is past, and naught we can ever return the smallest bit of it.

W.M. Brother J.W., What is the hour?

J.W. W.M., the hour is late, and we must strive to capture every fleeting moment that slips from our lives like sand through our fingers.

W.M. Brother Chaplain, you will lead us in prayer.

CHAPLAIN - short benediction.

W.M. Brother S.D., attend to the altar.

W.M. This Table Lodge is closed

W.M. (*)