

INFORMAL OPENING

TOC Form

This ceremony is to be used to open the State Association informally, with parents and guests present. The entire ritual is to be given from memory. If some State Officers are not available, the Executive Officer may designate such persons to participate.

Required Parts: State Master Councilor: S.M.C.; State Senior Councilor: S.S.C.; State Junior Councilor: S.J.C.; State Senior Deacon: S.S.D.; State Junior Deacon: S.J.D.; State Senior Steward: S.S.S.; State Junior Steward: S.J.S.; State Chaplain: S.Ch.; State Marshal: S.Mar.; Executive Officer: E.O.; State Chapter Dad: S.C.D.

Required Paraphernalia: Gavel on S.M.C.'s pedestal, Holy Bible in possession of S.S.S., School books in possession of S.J.S., National flag in standard, State flag in standard, seven candlesticks with candles arranged around the Altar in the usual manner.

Optional Paraphernalia: Altar cloth, Altar flowers, pedestal covers, gavel on S.S.C.'s and S.J.C.'s pedestals.

Prior to the beginning of the ceremony, officers line up in the following order:

<u>Door A</u>	<u>Door B</u>
S.M.C.	S.Ch.
S.S.C.	S.J.C.
S.S.D.	S.J.D.

S.C.D. (welcoming remarks)

Lights dimmed. S.Mar. enters from Door B proceeds to the spot equidistant from the Altar and the East. Upon a nod from S.Mar., officers lined up at the doors enter and form a two lines parallel to the sides of the room and lined up with the outer edges of the Altar.

S.C.D. * * * (3 raps)

S.S.S., carrying open bible, and S.J.S., carrying school books, enter simultaneously, S.S.S. from Door A, and S.J.S. from Door B. The Stewards proceed directly to the front of the Altar, S.S.S. in front of S.J.S. S.S.S. approaches Altar and, without kneeling, places open Bible on the Altar, does about-face, and proceeds to the spot behind S.S.D. S.J.S. approaches Altar and, without kneeling, places school books on the northeast corner of the Altar, does about-face, and proceeds to the spot behind S.J.S.

Upon a nod from S.Mar., officers in line turn inward and kneel for a moment of silent prayer. S.Mar. does not kneel.

S.M.C. Amen.

Those kneeling rise. S.Mar. moves to the south side of the Altar and proceeds across the west walking band. When he turns East, S.M.C. turns north and moves out to the north walking band. S.Mar. escorts S.M.C. from that point to his podium. When S.M.C. is behind his podium, S.Mar. moves to his station.

S.M.C. * (rap)

S.Ch. turns south, moves to his station. When S.Ch. has reached the first walking band, S.S.C. turns north, moves to his station. Simultaneously, S.J.C. turns south, moves to his station. When S.S.C. and S.J.C. have reached the first walking band, S.S.D. turns north, moves to his station. Simultaneously, S.J.D. turns south, moves to his station. When S.S.D. and S.J.D. have reached the first walking band, S.S.S. turns south, crosses in front of S.J.S. and moves to his station. Simultaneously, S.J.S. turns north, crosses in front of S.S.S. and moves to his station.

S.M.C. * (rap)

All except S.M.C. sit down.

S.M.C. Brethren and friends, on behalf of the Associated DeMolay Chapters of Georgia, I welcome you most cordially to this Tournament of Champions. It may not be out of place at this time to explain briefly the general purposes of our Order, to which only young men between the ages of 12 and 21 years are eligible. While we have secret signs, words, and modes of recognition, we have no secrets from the world so far as our central purposes are concerned. We are banded together for mutual improvement, to help each other live clean, manly, upright, patriotic lives, which will be a credit to our parents and friends, and which will merit the commendation of all good men. In our meetings we inculcate only principles which are in harmony with this exalted purpose in our daily lives and seek to carry them into effect. We feel we can rightly bespeak for our Order in general and for ourselves in particular the hearty assistance of all good men and women.

S.M.C. Brother State Senior Deacon, you will attend at the Altar.

S.S.D. lights the candles in the usual manner. S.M.C. begins his next part as S.S.D. lights the first candle.

S.M.C. Our forefathers were well aware that religious liberty, represented by the Holy Bible, civil liberty, represented by the flag of our country, and intellectual liberty, represented by the school books, must go hand in hand in order to be effective. Around these bulwarks, the Order of DeMolay places seven candles which are symbolic of the seven cardinal virtues of a DeMolay — filial love, reverence for sacred things, courtesy, comradeship, fidelity, cleanness, and patriotism. As the light from the candles permeates this Chapter room, let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father Who is in heaven.

S.S.D. returns to his station.

S.M.C. Brother State Senior Deacon, you will present the flag of our country at the Altar.

S.M.C. * * * (3 raps)

S.S.D. moves to the National flag, removes it from its stand.

S.M.C. Brethren and friends, you will stand at attention and salute our flag.

S.S.D. moves to the west side of the Altar by way of the east and south.

S.M.C. Brethren and friends, join me in saluting and pledging allegiance to the flag.

ALL 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.

S.M.C. As no great undertaking should ever begin without asking the blessing of Almighty God, let us give our attention to the State Chaplain as he leads us in prayer.

Brother State Chaplain, you will lead us in prayer.

Lights dimmed. S.Ch. conducted by S.Mar. moves to the west side of the Altar by way of the south.

S.M.C. Active DeMolays will kneel on left knee. All others will remain standing.

All Active DeMolays except S.Mar. kneel in unison as S.Ch. kneels.

S.Ch. Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for the many opportunities we have had to display Thy manifold gifts of grace. We thank Thee for the privilege of service and for the knowledge of Thine eternal love. We ask Thy special blessing upon these State Officers who have assumed the responsibilities of leadership in this State Association this year. Reassure them of Thy continued guidance and protecting care. Give them the will to understand, the courage to do that which is right, and the strength to carry out Thy teachings. Amen.

ALL Amen.

Active DeMolays rise as S.Ch. rises. S.Ch. conducted by S.Mar. moves back to his station by way of the north. Lights raised to full.

When S.Ch. and S.Mar arrive at their stations, S.S.D. returns to his station by way of the north and returns flag to standard.

S.M.C. In the name and under the authority of the International Supreme Council of the Order of DeMolay, whose See is at Kansas City in the State of Missouri, and by virtue of the power in me vested as State Master Councilor of the Associated DeMolay Chapters of Georgia, sponsored by the Grand Lodge of Georgia, I declare this State Association informally open.

S.M.C. * (rap)

S.M.C. Brother State Marshal, you will present the Executive Officer of this jurisdiction west of the Holy Altar for introduction.

S.Mar. moves to the west side of the Altar by way of the south, descends stage, and receives E.O. at the right rear door. E.O. conducted by S.Mar. enters from the Door B, and moves to the west side of the Altar.

S.Mar. Brother State Master Councilor, it gives me great pleasure to present to you and through you, to the members and guests here assembled, Dad William R. Carver, Jr., Executive Officer of the Jurisdiction of Georgia and Active Member of the International Supreme Council of the Order of DeMolay.

S.M.C. Brother State Marshal, you will present him further east.

As E.O. conducted by S.Mar. moves to the east by way of the north, S.M.C. leads applause. When E.O. arrives at the east, S.M.C. comes out from behind podium to receive him and tenders the gavel to E.O. Once E.O. is received by S.M.C., S.Mar. returns to his station.

E.O. * (rap)

All except E.O. sit down. After saying any words he might have, the E.O. returns the gavel to the S.M.C. so he can proceed.