

APPENDIX III -- INSTALLATION RITUAL

Installation of officers shall be performed by one of the Past State Presidents of the Association or such installing officer as the President Elect may designate, together with the Chaplain.

The installing officer shall cause all officers to be installed to present themselves before him.

Installing Officer: You have been chosen by your fellow members of this Association to fill positions of trust and responsibility for the ensuing year. Do you accept the office to which you have been elected?

Officers: I do.

Installing Officer: Do you each, under your obligations as an Elk, solemnly promise and swear to support the Constitution and Bylaws of this Association, to further its interest, promote its welfare, and advance the work for which it is organized?

Officers: I do.

Installing Officer: The Chaplain will invoke the Divine Blessing.

Chaplain: Grand Exalted Ruler of the universe, grant, we beseech Thee, Thy special favors upon these officers of this Association. Invest them with the power and desire to exemplify the principles of charity, justice, brotherly love, and fidelity, so that under their direction the work of our Order through this Association may redound to the credit of Him who in Thy name taught us "Do unto others as we would they do unto us", and Thine shall be the power and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Installing Officer: Each of you have been elected and selected by the members of this Association to fill its various offices during the ensuing year. This action on their part is the result of their confidence reposed in you, their belief in your particular fitness and their knowledge of your interest in the welfare of Elkdom and the practice of its principles. Let me impress upon you our responsibility and the opportunity presented to you to further the work for which our Order was founded. You shall ever acknowledge and protect the sovereignty of the Grand Lodge, and it shall be your first duty to discourage and prevent any action by this Association that will in any manner conflict with the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Lodge.

Installing Officer: *{addressing the new President}* Now I present you with this gavel, the emblem of your authority. Use it with firmness and discretion, together with such admonition and teachings of the Order as will ever keep alive the principles of charity, justice, brotherly love, and fidelity.

Installing Officer: I now declare the officers of this Association for the ensuing year to be duly installed.