

## CEREMONY FOR THE INITIATION OF NEW MEMBERS

PRESIDENT: (\*)

Will the candidates to be initiated (*announce names of candidates*) please rise and step forward (in front of the dais/head table)?

PRESIDENT:

Brother/Sister \_\_\_\_\_ please act as Herald for the initiation of new members.

HERALD:

Mr. /Madam President, I am ready to act as requested.

PRESIDENT:

Brothers and Sisters, please sit in respectful silence and attention during the Ceremony. First impressions are those that linger longest.

PRESIDENT:

Will the Immediate Past President, Vice President and Orator please take their places.

*(Diagrams on pages???* give position information for the Vice President, the Immediate Past President and the Orator.)

HERALD:

Mr./Madam President, these are the candidates seeking to join us. Will you please state the goals and objectives of our Order to our candidates.

PRESIDENT:

Welcome to our Order that was founded on June 22, 1905, by Dr. Vincenzo Sellaro and a group of five colleagues; was brought to our State when a Grand Lodge was established in 19\_\_\_. Our Lodge was established in 19\_\_\_. The principles of our Order have always been "Liberty, Equality and Fraternity." The purpose of our organization is to seek to preserve and disseminate the rich cultural heritage and language of Italy. In addition, we promote a positive image within the framework of our American society, through its involvement in cultural, philanthropic, educational, civic and community activities.

PRESIDENT:

Will the Herald, please conduct the candidates to the officers who will tell them the principles of the Order.

HERALD:

The Immediate Past President will explain to the candidates our conception of Liberty.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:

We want a free country with individual freedom of thought, of conscience and of religion. This is our conception of liberty.

HERALD:

The Vice President will explain our conception of Equality.

VICE PRESIDENT:

We believe that all people are created equal so that the benefits of human progress may be achieved and enjoyed by all. This is our conception of Equality.

HERALD:

The Orator will explain our conception of Fraternity.

ORATOR:

The structure of the Order is founded upon our conception of Fraternity. We are united in this effort and share a common purpose in all our actions and deeds, affectionately offering a hand to all. We console the families of our deceased members and we keep alive the traditions of our ancestors. This is our conception of Fraternity.

PRESIDENT: (\*\*\*)

The Herald will now read the oath.

HERALD:

I will read the oath and ask you to attest to it. Please raise your right hand. "I declare and promise to accept and respect the principles upon which the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America is based; the laws of the Supreme Lodge, of the Grand Lodge, and of my Lodge. I believe in government by orderly process and do not believe in any doctrines which tend to unlawfully subvert constituted government and authority. I have an affectionate and high regard for the rich culture, traditions and history of the land of our ancestors. I promise to be bound by the deliberations of the majority and to obey the orders of the National President, the State President and the President of this Lodge. Finally, I promise to support the charitable endeavors of the Order."

Do you promise that you will faithfully conform to what you have just heard?

CANDIDATES:

I do.

HERALD:

Please lower your hands.

PRESIDENT:

Brothers and Sisters, I now declare you members of this Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Lodge and the Grand Lodge of this State. (\*) The Herald will now instruct our new members in the formalities of the Order?

HERALD: (*Addressing the new members*) These are the formalities of the Order:

1. To speak at your Lodge, you may do so by raising your hand and wait to be recognized by the President.
2. The President's gavel is the symbol of authority.
  - One rap (\*) calls the members to order or calls them be seated.
  - Two raps (\*\*) call for the officers, only, to stand.
  - Three raps (\*\*\*) call for the entire Lodge to stand.
  - Four raps (\*\*\*\*) call all members to rise to honor the attendance of the State President or a visiting National Officer.

HERALD: (*Addressing the President*):

Mr./Madam President the new members have been instructed in the formalities of the Order.

HERALD -

Mr./Madam President, I now present the new members of the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America. So that we may get to know you better, will the new members please turn to face the membership so that you may introduce yourselves individually, starting with the member nearest me.

PRESIDENT

I greet you in the name of all the members of our Lodge. We are happy to welcome you. Now, in the name of the Order, I present you with the symbol of membership, "the Lion". This pin signifies the strength our principles, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. Always wear it proudly in testimony of your membership in the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America. (*The President extends his/her hand to the new members, greets them personally and presents each with the membership pin.*)

PRESIDENT:

This concludes the Initiation Ceremony. I thank all on behalf of the Lodge for your assistance. The new members may return to their seats.