

OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES

Santa Clara Section

When the time set for the opening of the meeting arrives, the President, after quietly arranging for necessary officer substitutions, rises, raps the gavel for attention, secures order, and proceeds as indicated below. **The other officers rise as called upon by the vice-president, and remain standing until seated by the President)**

(The President will **tap once** to restore order and all officers will sit except the president, (pause one-one-thousandth, let officers sit), then **tap twice** to open the meeting.)

President: “The meeting room will come to order. We are now holding a meeting of the Santa Clara FFA Section. Mr./Mdm. Vice President, Are all officers at their stations?”

Vice-President: (rising and facing the president) “I shall call the role of officers, determine if they are at their stations and report back to you, Mr./Mdm. President.”

(President is seated)

Vice-President: (calling the role of officers) “The Sentinel.”

Sentinel: (rising and facing the vice-president) “Stationed by the door.”

Vice-President: “Your duties there?”

Sentinel: Through this door pass many friends of the FFA. It is my duty to see that the door is open to our friends at all times and that they are welcome. I care for the meeting room and paraphernalia. I strive to keep the room comfortable and assist the president in maintaining order.”

(Remain standing)

Vice President: “The Reporter.”

Reporter: (rising and facing the vice-president) “The reporter is stationed by the flag.”

Vice President: “Why by the flag?”

Reporter: “As the flag covers the United States of America, so I strive to inform the people in order that every man, woman and child may know that the FFA is a national organization that reaches from the state of Alaska to the Virgin Islands and from the state of Maine to Hawaii.”

(Remain standing)

Vice President: “The Treasurer.”

Treasurer: (rising and facing the vice-president) “Stationed at the emblem of Washington.”

Vice President: “Your duties there?”

Treasurer: “I keep a record of receipts and disbursements just as Washington kept his farm accounts- carefully and accurately. I encourage thrift among the members and strive to build up our financial standing through savings and investments. George Washington was better able to serve his country because he was financially independent.”

(Remain standing)

Vice President: “The Secretary.”

Secretary: (rising and facing the vice-president) “Stationed by the ear of corn.”

Vice President: “Your duties there?”

Secretary: “I keep an accurate record of all meetings and correspond with other secretaries wherever corn is grown and FFA members meet.”

(Remain standing)

Secretary; “Mr./Mdm. Vice President, why do you keep a plow at your station?”

Vice President: “The plow is the symbol of labor and tillage of the soil. Without labor, neither knowledge nor wisdom can accomplish much. My duties require me to assist at all times in directing the work of our organization. I preside over meetings in the absence of our president, whose place is beneath the rising sun.”

Secretary: “Why is the president so stationed?”

Vice President: “The rising sun is the token of a new era in agriculture. If we will follow the leadership of our president, we shall be led out of the darkness of selfishness and into the glorious sunlight of brotherhood and cooperation. Mr./Mdm. President, (let President rise) all officers are at their stations.”

President: “Thank you, Mr./Mdm. Vice President.” **(All take seats except the Secretary at the tap of gavel.)** “The Secretary will call the roll of members.”

Secretary: “There are _____ members and many guests present, Mr./Mdm. President.”

President: “Thank you.” **(Secretary sits down)** “FFA members why are we here?”
(3 taps - Only Officers in chair stand)

All Officers: "To practice brotherhood, honor agricultural opportunities and responsibilities, and develop those qualities of leadership which an FFA member should possess."
(All are seated at 1 tap of gavel.)

President: "May we accomplish our purposes. I now declare this meeting of the Santa Clara FFA Section duly open for the transaction of business, or attention to any matters which may properly be presented."

CLOSING THE MEETING

President: "Mr./Mdm. Secretary, (let Secretary rise) do you have a record of any further business which should now be transacted?"

Secretary: (rising, replying to president) "I have none, Mr. /Mdm. President"
(Secretary sits down)

President: "Does any member know of any new or unfinished business which should properly come before this meeting?"

"We are about to adjourn this meeting of the Santa Clara FFA Section. As we mingle with others, let us be diligent in labor, just in our dealings, courteous to everyone, and, above all, honest and fair in the game of life."

President: "I now declare this meeting adjourned." (**Taps once** with gavel and the meeting is adjourned.)

Not part of script, but president can say the following to keep the contest moving.

The _____ Chapter now relinquishes the gavel to the
_____ Chapter or judges (if you are the last team in the chair)