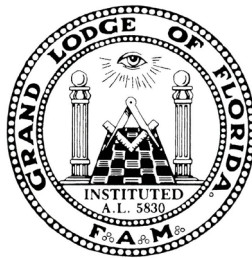


**DIGEST**  
**of**  
**Masonic Law of Florida**  
**F. & A. M.**



REVISED BY THE COMMITTEE ON MASONIC DIGEST  
A.L. 5975-5976                      A.D. 1975-1976  
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE MOST  
WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND  
ACCEPTED MASONS OF FLORIDA  
A.L. 5976                      A.D. 1976

REPRINT 2015  
(Contains 2023 updates)

## **PROCLAMATION**

**By virtue of the authority vested in me by The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida, I do hereby declare and promulgate the within Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida as the official Masonic Law of this Grand Jurisdiction.**

**My thanks and the thanks of the Masons of Florida go to the committees listed herein which have had the revision of the Digest in charge.**

**A careful study of the provisions of our law as contained herein will afford the answers to practically all questions of law that may arise in the conduct of Masonic affairs of this Grand Jurisdiction.**

**Given under my hand and the Seal of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida, at Cross City, Florida, this 25<sup>th</sup> day of April, A.L. 5977, A.D. 1977.**

**RICHARD F. GRIFFIE  
Grand Master of Masons of Florida**

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## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Masons of the State of Florida have been fortunate to have the advantage of an established Digest of Masonic Law to guide the operations and deliberations of the Masonic organizations of the State; and

WHEREAS, the Digest has been kept current over the years by a diligent and active Digest Committee operating through the auspices of and under the direction of The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the excellence of the Digest and the diligent work of the Committee has been a direct result of the dedication, devotion, and perseverance of its Chairman M.:W.: J. Lewis Hall; and

WHEREAS, the 1976 Edition of the Masonic Digest, introduced at Grand Lodge on April 27, 1977, is a continuing credit to the Committee and its Chairman and should be properly acknowledged.

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved by The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, in Regular Communication assembled at Orlando, Florida, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1977, that the 1976 Edition of the Digest of Masonic Law of the State of Florida be and is hereby dedicated to our distinguished Past Grand Master and beloved Brother, M.:W.: J. Lewis Hall.

IT IS further resolved that this dedication be evidenced by the insertion of an appropriate page in the front of each volume of the 1976 Edition of the Digest of Masonic Law of the State of Florida.

### RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

George L. Myers, P.G.M., Chairman  
Perry R. Marsh, P.G.M., Vice Chairman

I certify that this Resolution was unanimously adopted in the 148<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication of Grand Lodge on April 27, 28, and 29, 1977.

William A. Whitcomb, Grand Secretary

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## THE DIGEST-HOW TO USE IT

It has been said that half of knowledge is knowing where to find it.

In recognition of this truism this revision of the Digest provides several aids for finding the Masonic Law of Florida for which search is being made.

These aids are:

- (1) General Index
- (2) Index of Chapters
- (3) Outline of the Digest-Constitution
- (4) Outline of the Digest-Regulations
- (5) Quick References
- (6) Masonic Home Rules and Regulations-Index
- (7) Forms-Adopted
- (8) Key Words-Pronunciation and Style
- (9) Table of Constitutional Amendments
- (10) Table of Numbered Regulations
- (11) Cross References

In addition to the above aids, each Chapter contains not only the applicable Regulations but also excerpts from the Constitution relevant to the subject of the Chapter and the Rulings and Decisions of the Grand Lodge interpreting the Constitution and Regulations and also cross references to other provisions of the Constitution and other Regulations that are relevant to the subject.

The Digest also contains extensive Tables showing the derivation and history of the Constitution, the Regulations, and the changes made therein.

The Digest has a dual system of numbering in that pages are numbered in sequence: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, etc., and each page of the Constitution shows the Article and Section number of the first Section appearing on that page and each page of the Regulations shows the Chapter number and the Regulation number of the first Regulation appearing on that page.

The Outline of the Digest, the Quick Reference Table, and the General Index all refer to the Article and Section of the Constitution or to the Regulation number and the page number.

The Uniform Code of By-Laws for Particular Lodges appearing in Chapter 24, and the Masonic Home Rules and Regulations appearing in the Appendix are prefaced by outlines, with a special index for Masonic Home Regulations.

The General Index is cross indexed with each regulation and constitutional provision outlined under each applicable category.

We trust that our efforts will be of assistance to the Craft.

The Digest Committee

## **FREEMASONRY**

### **RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, Freemasonry has for its guide certain clear and definite, unchanging and unchangeable precepts, principles, tenets, and beliefs which every Mason shall subscribe to and abide by and which Freemasonry shall never forsake without hazard of dissolution and from which no Mason shall ever depart without loss of his identity as such, which precepts, principles, tenets, and beliefs are universally known and designated "Landmarks" and among which are the following:

- (1) A belief in the existence of one ever living and true God.
- (2) A belief in the immortality of the human soul and a resurrection thereof to a Future Life, and
- (3) The Volume of the Sacred Law, open upon the Altar, is an indispensable furnishing of every Lodge while at Labor; and

WHEREAS, every meeting of Masons on Masonic affairs is opened and closed with prayer invoking the blessing of Deity; and

WHEREAS, every Mason is bound by his tenure to obey the moral law and live by the eternal virtues, among which are charity, temperance, tolerance, truth, and justice; and

WHEREAS, Freemasonry inculcates in its ritual and exemplifies by its Degrees, the great moral principles of charity, temperance, tolerance, truth, and justice and by an organized and systematic program of education teaches the principles of patriotism and the duties and responsibilities of citizenship; and

WHEREAS, it is a fundamental tenet of Freemasonry that every man is a creature of a Supreme Creator and as such is endowed with certain inalienable rights, one of which is the right to charity, aid, and assistance from his fellow creatures when his need is greater than theirs; and

WHEREAS, The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, and each of the Particular, individual and subordinate Lodges Masonically Chartered by it, are bound by Masonic Law, precepts, principles, tenets, and beliefs to subscribe and adhere to the Landmarks above referred to and to inculcate and exemplify the principles of patriotism and the duties; and

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responsibilities of citizenship, and to provide for those who by reason of age, misfortune, or infirmity have claim upon the sympathy and charity of their fellowman, and in accordance therewith conducts and maintains a program of education which teaches the principles of patriotism and the duties and responsibilities of citizenship and have established and maintained charitable institutions and operations for the relief of mankind; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States, by enactment of the 1969 Tax Reform Act recognized that Freemasonry is characterized by and possessed of all those attributes that make and distinguish non-sectarian religious organizations, educational organizations, and charitable organizations and that the Grand Lodge and Particular Lodges of regular Freemasonry are entitled to all the rights, privileges, and immunities provided for and granted to such organizations; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida, for itself and all the Particular, individual, and subordinate Lodges Masonically Chartered by it publish and proclaim that by reason of its fundamental precepts, principles, tenets, and beliefs that Freemasonry is a non-sectarian religious organization and that by reason of its program of education it is an educational organization, and that by reason of its charitable programs, activities, and operations it is a charitable organization, and that by reason thereof may, shall be, and is hereby denominated as such.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida, in Annual Grand Communication assembled, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of April, A.L. 5972, A.D. 1972, for itself, and all the Particular, individual and subordinate Lodges Masonically Chartered by it, does hereby proclaim and publish that Freemasonry is a non-sectarian religious organization, an educational organization, and a charitable organization founded upon, possessed of, and adhering to all those principles, precepts, tenets, and beliefs that characterize and distinguish such organizations. (1972 Proc. 284)



**FREEMASONRY CHARITY**

**RESOLUTION**

~~WHEREAS, the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory in Utica, New York, was founded and originally funded by the Masons of New York; and~~

~~WHEREAS, this is the only known Medical Research Facility in this country and perhaps the world, that began with the support of Freemasons; and~~

~~WHEREAS, the basic biomedical research done there and the findings shared with all mankind, Masons, and non Masons alike, have led to remarkable discoveries in heart disease; the number one killer of man; and~~

~~WHEREAS, the Grand Lodge Officers, beginning with the Grand Master in 1994 and each succeeding Grand Master until the present time has seen fit to continue support of the Laboratory by naming it his charity; and~~

~~WHEREAS, the Grand Line Officers for the next three years have found it to be most beneficial to all mankind and have pledged their continuing support.~~

~~THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The Grand Lodge of Florida designate the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory as its continuing FLAGSHIP CHARITY which all Blue Lodge Masons can support and point to with pride and say, "That's our Charity; That is what distinguishes us, we support a cause that helps everyone." (1997 Proc. 440)~~

Repealed at the 187<sup>th</sup> Annual Grand Communication (2016)

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**MASONIC HOME**

- 48.01 Apportionment of Relief
- 48.02 Board May Adopt Rules and Regulations Subject to Review by Grand Lodge

**QUICK REFERENCES****Affiliation**

- (1) General information Chapter 41.
- (2) Petition must be presented at Stated Communication. (Reg. 25.02; Const., Art. X, Sec. 15)
- (3) Referred to Investigating Committee. (Const., Art. X, Sec. 15)
- (4) One month must intervene before ballot on petition. (Const., Art. X, Sec. 15)
- (5) If petition is rejected, it may be renewed at any subsequent Stated Communication. (Reg. 41.32)
- (6) Unanimous ball ballot required for acceptance. (Art. X, Sec. 16)
- (7) Waiver of jurisdiction not required. (Reg. 41.20)

**Balloting**

- (1) General information Chapter 35.
- (2) For Degrees. (Reg. 35.09)
- (3) For affiliation. (Reg. 35.09)
- (4) For waiver of jurisdiction. (Reg. 34.02)
- (5) For reinstatement NPD. (Reg. 27.13)
- (6) Collective. (Reg. 35.08)
- (7) Re-ballot after one black ball. (Reg. 35.11)
- (8) Vote on proficiency. (Reg. 37.15)

**Dimits**

- (1) General information Chapter 41.
- (2) Dimit may be granted upon request to any member including E.A.'s and F.C.'s, if not under charges and is in good standing. (Reg. 41.01)
- (3) Dues must be paid before dimit issued. (Const., Art. X, Sec. 21)

**Election of Lodge Officers**

- (1) General information Chapter 19.
- (2) Held at first Stated Communication in December. (Const., Art. X, Sec. 4)

- (3) Secret written ballot, majority necessary to a choice. (Const., Art. X, Sec. 2)
- (4) Installed on December 27<sup>th</sup>. (Const., Art. X, Sec. 4)

### **Honorary Membership**

- (1) General information Chapters 25 and 26.
- (2) Resolution for honorary membership must be presented at Stated Communication. (Reg. 25.06) (Reg. 26.10)
- (3) Ballot at subsequent Stated Communication. (Reg. 25.06)
- (4) Unanimous ball ballot required for approval. (Reg. 25.06)
- (5) May be revoked by majority vote at any Stated Communication. (Reg. 25.06) (Reg. 26.10)

### **Initiation and Advancement**

- (1) General information Chapter 37.
- (2) Entered Apprentice Degree may be conferred upon up to five candidates at the same time. (Reg. 37.01)
- (3) One month must intervene between conferring any two Degrees. (Reg. 37.06)
- (4) Grand Master may grant Dispensation to confer Degrees short of time. (Reg. 6.10 (b))

### **Installation of Lodge Officers**

- (1) General information Chapter 19.
- (2) Any Past Master, the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, or District Deputy Grand Master may act as installing officer. (Const., Art. X, Sec. 9)
- (3) Installed on December 27<sup>th</sup>. (Const., Art. X, Sec. 4)

### **Petition for the Degrees**

- (1) General information Chapter 33.
- (2) Presented at a Stated Communication. (Const., Art. X, Sec. 14) (Reg. 25.02)
- (3) Referred to Petitions Committee. (Reg. 33.08) (Uniform Code By-Law 10.04)
- (4) Referred to Investigating Committee. (Reg. 33.10) (Uniform Code By-Law 10.07)

**Quick References****Reinstatement**

- (5) One month must intervene between presenting of petition and ballot thereon, which ballot must be at a Stated Communication. (Const., Art. X, Sec. 14)

**Reinstatement, non-payment of dues**

- (1) General information Chapter 27.
- (2) Petition for reinstatement takes same course as petition for Degrees. (Reg. 27.13)
- (3) Favorable vote of 3/4 of members present by ball ballot or secret written ballot. (Reg. 27.13)
- (4) May be renewed after three months. (Reg. 27.13)
- (5) Per Capita due Grand Lodge must be paid. (Reg. 27.14)

**Rejection**

- (1) General information Chapter 36.
- (2) A rejected candidate for the Degrees must wait six months before presenting another petition. (Reg. 36.01)
- (3) Rejected petitioner for affiliation may renew petition at any subsequent Stated Communication. (Reg. 41.32)
- (4) Rejected petitioner for reinstatement for non-payment of dues may renew petition after three months from date of rejection. (Reg. 27.13)

**Suspension for non-payment of dues**

- (1) General information Chapter 27.
- (2) Procedure. (Uniform Code By-Law 4.02)
- (3) Members in arrears for six months must be notified of such arrearage. (Const., Art. X, Sec. 20) (Uniform Code By-Law 4.02)
- (4) After three months notice of arrearage member may be suspended by vote of the Lodge. (Const., Art. X, Sec. 20) (Uniform Code By-Law 4.02)

**Waiver of Jurisdiction**

- (1) General information Chapter 34.
- (2) Requires unanimous ball ballot. (Reg. 34.02)
- (3) No waiver over non-mason permanently removed. (Reg. 34.05)

**Digest of Masonic Law**



Corporate Status

**CORPORATE STATUS OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE  
OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF FLORIDA AND THE  
SUBORDINATE OR PARTICULAR LODGES MASONICALLY  
CHARTERED THEREBY**

Chapter 4281, Laws of Florida, Acts of 1893, incorporated the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, and the Grand Wardens of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida as a body politic and corporate by the name and style of "The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida" and providing that such corporation shall be capable and liable in law to sue and be sued, to contract and be contracted with, to plead and be impleaded, and to acquire, own, hold, possess, and convey property either real, personal or mixed, either by purchase, gift, or devise, and to issue Masonic Charters according to its own constitution, By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations to such subordinate, particular, or individual Lodges of Free and Accepted Masons as it may see fit, with full power to recall, abrogate, revoke, or annul any such Masonic Charter.

This act further provided that the Worshipful Master and the Junior and Senior Wardens and their successors in office of any and all particular, individual, or subordinate Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons heretofore or hereafter Masonically Chartered by the Grand Lodge are declared to be separate and independent bodies politic and corporate, under such general corporate names and styles as may be assigned to them respectively in their Masonic Charters, and shall have the right to contract and be contracted with; to sue and be sued; plead and be impleaded; and to acquire, own, hold, possess, and convey property of all kinds, real, personal, and mixed, so long as their Masonic Charters shall remain unrevoked by said Grand Lodge; and to elect their said corporate officers at such times and places as their own Rules, Regulations, and By-Laws not in conflict with the Rules and Regulations properly laid down for them by said Grand Lodge, may provide.

Said act further provided that whenever the Masonic Charter of any particular, individual, or subordinate Lodge shall be recalled, abrogated, revoked, or annulled by the Grand Lodge, such particular or individual Lodge shall cease to have corporate existence except for the purpose of being sued for its legal obligations; and upon such cessation of its corporate existence all of its property, real, personal, and mixed shall revert to and belong to the Grand Lodge, subject to

any debts that may have been contracted by such particular or individual Lodge. By specific provision of said act the Grand Lodge shall in no event be responsible or liable for any indebtedness created by any particular, individual, or subordinate Lodge.

In quo warranto proceedings in the Circuit Court of the Second Judicial Circuit in and for Leon County, Florida, entitled "The State of Florida, ex rel., Earl Faircloth, as Attorney General of the State of Florida, Plaintiff, vs. William M. Hollis, as Grand Master of Masons of Florida, et als., Defendants, Case No. 11497," said court held Chapter 4281 to be a valid act of the legislature and that The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge and the particular, individual, or subordinate Lodges Chartered by it were lawfully entitled to all of the rights, privileges, and benefits hereinabove enumerated and lawfully entitled to exercise all of the powers vested in them by said act.

The report of the special committee on the above litigation and copy of the judgment entered therein appears in the 1967 Proceedings of The Grand Lodge of Florida at pages 232-243 and the opinion and decision of the Court is reported in Florida Supplement, Volume 27, at pages 15-24.

A copy of the entire proceedings is on file in the office of the Grand Secretary.

**CONSTITUTION****ARTICLE I****STYLE AND JURISDICTION**

**Section 1.** Style - The style of the Grand Lodge is “The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Florida.”

**Section 2.** Jurisdiction - The jurisdiction of The Grand Lodge of Florida extends over all the recorded Lodges of Free and Accepted Masons within the political boundaries of the State, and within which it is the Supreme Masonic head and authority. Its jurisdiction also extends to any State, Province, or Territory in which no Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons exists, in which it may Charter Particular Lodges; *provided*, that its jurisdiction and authority over Lodges so Chartered ceases as soon as a Grand Lodge is legally constituted in such State, Province, or Territory.

**Section 3.** Corporate Entity - It is recognized that the Grand Lodge is a regularly constituted Masonic Grand Lodge and as such is subject to and governed by the Landmarks of Freemasonry and those laws and customs that govern all Masonic Grand Lodges.

It is further recognized that the Grand Lodge is a body politic and corporate created and existing under and by virtue of Chapter 4281, Laws of Florida, Acts of 1893, and it, and all Particular Lodges Masonically Chartered by it, are corporate bodies subject to laws governing corporations so created and existing in Florida.

**Section 4.** Corporate Board - (1) The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, and Junior Grand Warden are hereby designated as corporate officers and together with the Grand Treasurer and two appointees as hereinafter set forth are hereby designated as the Board of Directors of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida in its corporate character, which Board of Directors may be referred to as the Corporate Board.

(2) The Grand Master shall be Chairman of the Corporate Board and the Deputy Grand Master shall be Vice Chairman of said Board.

(3) The Grand Treasurer shall be Treasurer of the Corporation and the internal auditor of all claims and orders for disbursement of corporate funds and shall be responsible for pre-audit of all such claims and orders. When in doubt as to the legality or validity of any such claim or order the Grand Treasurer shall not make payment thereof pending appeal to and decision by majority vote of membership of the Corporate Board. The Corporate Board shall prescribe the procedure for such appeals and the disposition thereof.

(4) The Grand Secretary shall, ex-officio, be Secretary to, but not a member of the Corporate Board and shall be the keeper of the Seal of the Grand Lodge, which Seal shall be the Corporate Seal. In the event the Grand Secretary shall be, for any reason, unable to attend his duties as Secretary to the Corporate Board, the Board may designate a member of said Board to act as Secretary. Full and complete minutes of the proceedings and actions of the Corporate Board shall be made and signed by the Grand Master and by the Secretary or acting Secretary and shall be filed in the office of the Grand Secretary.

(5) The two appointive members of the Corporate Board, one of which shall be a Past Grand Master, shall be appointed by the Grand Master for a term of one year. No appointive member of said Board shall serve for more than three consecutive years.

(6) The Grand Master and any three other members of the Corporate Board shall constitute a quorum. All decisions and actions by said Board shall be by majority vote, which majority shall and must include the Grand Master. There shall be no proxy voting.

(7) In the event of a vacancy arising by death, resignation, removal, or any other cause of an appointive member of the Corporate Board the Grand Master, then in office, shall appoint a successor to serve the unexpired term of such appointive member.

**Section 5.** Grand Master Supreme in Fraternal Matters-In all purely fraternal matters, as hereinafter designated, the Grand Master is the supreme authority and in corporate matters, as hereinafter designated, the Corporate Board is the supreme authority. In the recess of the Grand Lodge all executive powers of the Grand Lodge of fraternal character vest in the Grand Master and all powers of the Grand Lodge of corporate character vest in the Corporate Board.

**Section 6.** Corporate Board Powers - (a) All financial affairs of the Grand Lodge are hereby declared to be corporate in character and the Corporate Board is hereby declared to be and constituted as the Budget Commission of the Grand Lodge and is hereby vested with all the powers and duties of such Budget Commission as now or hereafter prescribed by this Constitution and the Regulations of the Grand Lodge and all programs, projects, activities, functions, and operations of the Grand Lodge financial in nature or character are hereby declared to be under the supervision of the Corporate Board and to be administered by such Board in accordance with this Constitution and the Regulations of the Grand Lodge.

(b) All programs, projects, activities, functions, and operations carried on or directed by and under the jurisdiction of the Corporate Committees as set forth, defined and prescribed in and by the terms and provisions of Article IX of this Constitution are hereby declared to be corporate in nature and character to-wit: The Board of Directors as provided for herein and as the Corporate Board of the Grand Lodge as provided in this Constitution and in the Regulations of the Grand Lodge, the Masonic Home Endowment and Investment Committee, the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home, the Finance and Accounts Committee, the Endowment Procurement Committee, the Committee on Grand Lodge Properties, the Panel of Attorneys, the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, the Committee on Perpetual Membership, and the Insurance Committee. (1991)

(c) Except as provided for elsewhere in this Constitution the Grand Master shall appoint all Corporate Committees. (1989)

**Section 7.** Fraternal Matters Defined - The following activities, functions, operations, and programs of the Grand Lodge carried on, directed by, or under the jurisdiction of the following Committees are declared to be fraternal in character and are hereby designated as Fraternal Committees, and shall be subject to supervision, direction, and control of the Grand Master, subject to provisions of the Landmarks of Freemasonry and the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge to-wit:

- (a) The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence
- (b) The Committee on Work
- (c) The Committee on Returns and Credentials
- (d) The Grand Master's Coordinating Committee
- (e) The Committee on Arrangements
- (f) The Penal Affairs Panel
- (g) The Committee on Museum and History

- (h) The Committee on Masonic Education
- (i) The Committee on Public Education and Citizenship
- (j) The Committee on Youth Activities
- (k) The Committee on Workshops for Lodge Officers
- (l) The Committee on Public Relations and Publicity (1993)
- (m) The Committee on Wardens' Workshop (2001)
- (n) The Committee on the Child ID Program (2002)
- (o) The Flagship Charity Committee (2016)

The duties, powers, and jurisdiction of the Committees designated in this Section shall be prescribed by this Constitution and by the Regulations of the Grand Lodge, but no power, duty, authority, nor jurisdiction shall be conferred upon the above designated Committees nor upon any other Committee of the Grand Lodge that limits, restricts, or impairs the duties, powers, authority, or jurisdiction of the Committees designated in Section 6 hereof as Corporate Committees.

Except as otherwise provided in this Constitution, the Committees designated in this Section shall be appointed by the Grand Master.

**Section 8.** Fraternal Matters Further Defined - Any and all activities, functions, and operations of the Grand Lodge, except those defined, delineated, and designated as Corporate activities, functions, and operations are hereby declared to be Fraternal in character including but not limited to appointment of District Deputy Grand Masters, District Instructors, and Appointed Grand Lodge Officers; visitation by the Grand Master to the Lodges and Districts; issuance of Edicts, Proclamations, Executive Orders, and Dispensations and all such fraternal matters, subject to the provisions of the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge shall be under exclusive control and direction of the Grand Master.

**Section 9.** Powers, Duties, and Limitations of and on Corporate Board - The Corporate Board shall also have the following powers, duties, and authority and be subject to the limitations, restrictions, and prohibitions enumerated herein:

(a) Prescribe by appropriate Resolution the manner, procedure, and requirements for disbursement of Grand Lodge funds but such Resolution shall provide for one genuine signature of at least one Corporate Officer and one facsimile signature on all checks or drafts not to exceed \$10,000. All disbursements over \$10,000 will require genuine signatures of at least two Corporate Officers. (2015)

(b) Make recommendations for legislation fixing the fiscal year of Grand Lodge.

(c) No Committee shall be approved or appointed whose operation, meetings or functions will require expenditure of Grand Lodge funds without specific appropriation therefore and approval by the Corporate Board, which approval must be recorded

in the minutes of the said Board together with detailed statement of the purpose, authority, and scope of activity of the Committee and no Committee shall be approved or appointed for a purpose, project or program that is within the power, jurisdiction, or scope, either expressly or by fair implication, of an Officer or Committee provided for in the Constitution or Regulations of the Grand Lodge.

(d) No program, project, or undertaking shall be initiated, promoted, carried on, or prosecuted which requires expenditure of Grand Lodge funds or solicitation of funds from membership of the Fraternity except such programs or projects as are authorized by this Constitution or by Grand Lodge Regulation or Resolution or with written approval of the Corporate Board, which approval by the Corporate Board shall set forth in detail the nature, scope, purpose, method of procedure, and other relevant matters in respect to the proposed project or program.

(e) The Seal of the Grand Lodge shall be the Corporate Seal and shall be affixed to all documents requiring such Seal. In the event of incapacity or for any other reason the Grand Secretary shall not affix such Seal, the Corporate Board may designate a member of the Corporate Board to affix such Seal as Acting Secretary.

(f) The Grand Master may be suspended, and the Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden, Grand Treasurer, or Grand Secretary can be suspended or removed from office in such manner as the Grand Lodge may prescribe by Constitutional provision or Regulation of the Grand Lodge.

(g) Documents requiring execution in the name of or on behalf of the Grand Lodge that obligate the Grand Lodge to do or perform any act or action or permit any act or action by another party or provides for expenditure of funds shall be executed by the Grand Master or Acting Grand Master and the Grand Lodge Seal affixed and the document attested by the Grand Secretary or Acting Grand Secretary. No such document shall be executed as aforesaid except by approval of the Corporate Board.

(h) Subject to review by the Grand Lodge at the next succeeding Annual Grand Communication, the Corporate Board may promulgate and issue Rules for the procedures and conduct of business of any Corporate Committee not in conflict with the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge. (1984)

(i) The Corporate Board may authorize the solicitation and sale of advertising for *The Florida Mason* and other publications, providing that such advertising does not pertain to the sale of alcoholic beverages, or violate the principles of Masonic teachings. (1997)

**Rulings and Decisions**

The Deputy Grand Master, upon being elected and installed to the Office of Grand Master of Masons, is supreme in his appointments and cannot be held to any nomination made by the newly elected and or installed Senior Grand Warden. (1989 Proc. 74)



## ARTICLE II

**GRAND OFFICERS AND MEMBERS**

**Section 1.** The Officers of the Grand Lodge are: the Grand Master, whose title is Most Worshipful; the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden, the Junior Grand Warden, the Grand Treasurer, and the Grand Secretary, the title of each being Right Worshipful; and the Right Reverend Grand Chaplain - who shall be appointed by the Grand Master; and a District Deputy Grand Master from each Masonic District, which Districts shall not exceed twenty-nine (29) in number, who shall be appointed by the Grand Master, the title of each being Right Worshipful. (2022)

And the following Subordinate Grand Officers, viz: Grand Orator, Grand Marshal, Senior Grand Deacon, Junior Grand Deacon, Grand Standard Bearer, Grand Sword Bearer, Senior Grand Steward, Junior Grand Steward, Grand Pursuivant, and Grand Tyler whose title is Worshipful - who shall be appointed by the Grand Master, but the Junior Grand Deacon shall be appointed only upon nomination of the Senior Grand Warden. (1990)

**Section 2.** The members of the Grand Lodge by inherent right are the Masters and Wardens of the Particular Lodges, and U.D.

Lodges who have paid for their Charters and have been working more than one year in this jurisdiction, or their regular appointed proxies, and who with the elected Officers of the Grand Lodge for the time being only, and all Past Grand Masters, have the right to vote for Grand Officers.

**Section 3.** All the Elected Past Grand Officers and Past Masters of Lodges are, by courtesy, members of the Grand Lodge, so long as they continue membership of some Particular Lodge under this jurisdiction, and have a right to vote upon all questions arising in the Grand Lodge, which are determined by the usual Masonic Sign at the sound of the gavel.

**Section 4.** All members of the Grand Lodge are entitled to one vote; and in case of a tie, the Grand Master, or Officer presiding, has the casting vote.

### ARTICLE III

#### ELECTION AND INSTALLATION

**Section 1.** The election of Grand Officers shall be held at the Annual Grand Communication at such time as the Grand Lodge may appoint by appropriate Resolution.

**Section 2.** In balloting for Grand Officers, each Lodge is entitled to three (3) votes; if there be but two (2) of the three (3) principal Officers of a Lodge present, the Officer highest in rank shall cast two (2) votes; the Officer present shall have precedence over the proxy of an Officer higher in rank, but if two (2) or more of the Officers are represented by proxies, such proxies shall have precedence according to the rank of the Officers they severally represent; and if there be but one (1) Officer or proxy present, he shall cast the three votes of his Lodge.

**Section 3.** The Grand Master is always in nomination, and a majority of all the votes cast is requisite to a choice.

**Section 4.** Only members of the Grand Lodge who have been regularly elected and installed the Master of a Particular Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Florida are eligible to be elected to any Office in the Grand Lodge. (1992)

**Section 5.** It is the duty of the Grand Master-elect, as soon after the election as may be, to appoint the Subordinate Grand Officers and to announce the same to the Grand Lodge.

**Section 6.** The last Grand Master, or any other Past Grand Master, may install the Grand Master-elect, whose duty it is to install the other Grand Officers elected and appointed, which duty must be performed before the close of the Grand Lodge; *provided*, any Past Grand Master, or Deputy Grand Master, or Past Deputy Grand Master, may perform that duty. But no Elected Grand Officer can be installed by proxy, except under some peculiar circumstances when the Grand Master may grant a Dispensation for that purpose.

**Section 7.** All Grand Officers duly elected and installed shall continue in office one year, and until their successors in office are duly elected and installed. The Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, and the Grand Wardens cannot resign during the year for which they are elected and installed in office.

### **Rulings and Decisions**

The Deputy Grand Master upon being elected and installed to the Office of Grand Master of Masons is supreme in all his appointments and cannot be held to any nomination made by the newly elected and or installed Senior Grand Warden. (1989 Proc. 74)

## ARTICLE IV

### **GRAND COMMUNICATIONS**

**Section 1.** The Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Florida shall be held within the State of Florida between the 1<sup>st</sup> of April and the 30<sup>th</sup> of June at the time and place to be appointed by the Grand Master by Executive Order. At least sixty (60) days prior to the time and place of the Annual Communication, notice shall be provided to each of the Particular Lodges, Grand Lodge Officers, and Past Grand Masters. The Grand Master may call a special Communication of the Grand Lodge when, in his opinion, the interest of the Craft may require it. (1996)

**Section 2.** A due representation of at least three Particular Lodges is necessary to constitute a quorum to open the Grand Lodge; *provided*, that should there not be a quorum of Lodges represented by 11 o'clock a.m. on the first day of the Annual Communication, it shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary to adjourn the meeting from day to day, or time to time, until a quorum shall be in attendance, not exceeding three days.

**Section 3.** The Grand Master, when present, presides, and the Grand Lodge is opened in Ample Form. In his absence, the Deputy Grand Master presides, and the Grand Lodge is opened in Due Form. In the absence of the Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden presides; and in his absence also, the Junior Grand Warden presides. And should the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and the Grand Wardens be absent, the Grand

Master may appoint as his Special Deputy, any permanent member of the Grand Lodge to preside, and in case no Special Deputy shall be appointed and be present, and in case neither of the Grand Officers mentioned shall be present, then the oldest Master Mason present, being a Master of a Lodge, shall preside; and in either of the four last alternatives, the Grand Lodge will only be opened in Form, and the Officer so presiding pro tem, shall, during his presence in the East, be clothed with all the powers, prerogatives, and authority of the Grand Master, and be held to worship until a Grand Officer higher in rank shall appear and take his place.

**Section 4.** When the Senior Grand Warden is not in the West, the Junior Grand Warden does not succeed to fill it, because his proper place is in the South; and the West must be filled by a pro tem appointment from time to time.

**Section 5.** Prior to the opening of Grand Lodge, the Grand Master shall appoint a Committee on Returns and Credentials and the Grand Secretary shall deliver to such Committee all necessary materials for the work of the Committee. The Committee on Returns and Credentials shall report as soon as practicable after opening of Grand Lodge.

## ARTICLE V

### POWERS OF THE GRAND LODGE

**Section 1.** The Grand Lodge is a representative body and derives its power from the Particular Lodges who are its constituents, and from immemorial usage and custom; and is, therefore, the supreme head and authority of Ancient Craft Masonry in this jurisdiction.

**Section 2.** It has original jurisdiction over all subjects of legislation for the benefit of the Craft, and judicial powers in the interpretation and administration of its own Laws, and in the trial and punishment of its own Officers and members, and appellate jurisdiction in all cases involving Masonic rights and benefits, not in violation of this Constitution, and the established Landmarks of the Order; *provided*, that the Grand Master cannot be tried during his Grand Mastership, because no one can preside in his presence, but when the term for which he is elected and installed expires, he may be tried as provided by Grand Lodge Regulations for trial of past Elected Grand Lodge Officers, if charges and specifications be filed against him within one year after the expiration of his Grand Mastership. (1985)

**Section 3.** In cases of an appeal from a suspension or expulsion, if the Grand Lodge acquits the accused, or reverses the decision of the Lodge or Special Trial Commission below, or when the Grand Lodge confirms the decision of the Particular Lodge or Special Trial Commission and subsequently restores the party

to the rights and benefits of Masonry, the action of the Grand Lodge does not in either case restore the party to membership in the Lodge from which he is suspended or expelled without the unanimous consent of the Lodge, as in cases of a ballot for membership. In all cases of definite suspension, the member returns to his membership upon the expiration of the term of suspension.

**Section 4.** The Grand Lodge has the power to constitute new Lodges, and grant Charters or Warrants of Constitution for the same, and has the supervision and approval of the By-Laws of the Particular Lodges, and therefore may adopt a Uniform Code of By-Laws for their government; *provided*, that local Regulations for the benefit of the Craft be not interfered with.

**Section 5.** The Grand Lodge has the power to suspend the Charter of any of the Particular Lodges or of arresting or withdrawing the Charter of any of the Particular Lodges for good cause shown; and when a Lodge forfeits or surrenders its Charter, the Grand Lodge succeeds to all its furniture, jewels, funds, books, papers, and other property, and may appoint some proper officer to take charge of the same for the benefit of the Craft; *provided*, that when the Charter of a Lodge is restored, all its furniture, jewels, books, papers, and other property, shall also be restored.

**Section 6.** The Grand Lodge has the power to assess and collect an annual revenue, adequate to its current demands, and to make such other assessments from time to time, and appropriations, as may be required for its permanent accommodation, the increase of its library, and the preservation and security of its public proceedings and archives; and to do all other matters and things which, in its wisdom, may be required and necessary for the general benefit of the Craft in the jurisdiction, not prohibited by this Constitution and the Old Landmarks of Freemasonry.

## ARTICLE VI

### POWERS AND DUTIES OF GRAND OFFICERS

**Section 1.** Besides those duties which are unwritten, and which every Officer should know and understand, and faithfully perform, the following duties are required of the Grand Officers respectively:

**Section 2.** It is the duty of the Grand Master to attend all Communications of the Grand Lodge and, when present, to preside, and at the opening of each Annual Communication, to read an address or report relating to the transactions of the past year, and suggesting such measures for the actions of the Grand Lodge as in his opinion the good of the Craft and the prosperity of good Masons may require.

**Section 3.** The Grand Master is clothed with powers and prerogatives, from ancient usages and customs, besides those conferred by Constitutional Law. When presiding, he is supreme, and no appeal can be taken from his decision, nor call for the previous question or motion to adjourn be entertained.

**Section 4.** In the recess of Grand Lodge, all the executive powers and authority of the Grand Lodge in fraternal matters devolve upon the Grand Master. He can grant Dispensations for new Lodges, and may suspend a Lodge or take possession of its Charter, when he believes the good of the Order requires it, until the next Annual Communication. He can suspend the Master and Wardens of a Lodge, or any of them, and may cause charges to be preferred against the officer or officers so suspended. He can make a Mason at sight; but he must be made in a body of a regularly constituted Lodge, and by the trial of the ballot. He can grant Dispensations for extraordinary processions and in all cases of emergency when in his opinion the good of Masonry will be promoted. In the recess of Grand Lodge all Corporate power and authority of the Grand Lodge devolve upon the Corporate Board. (1984)

**Section 5.** It is the duty of the Grand Master, with the assistance of the Deputy Grand Master, or one of the District Deputy Grand Masters, to visit the Particular Lodges in his jurisdiction at least once a year, and to examine their work and condition; and, when necessary, to have access to books and papers, and to preside, with the Master of the Lodge on his left.

**Section 6.** When the Grand Lodge is in session, it is the duty of the Grand Master to appoint all committees and to make pro tem appointments; to appoint the Subordinate Officers, and install the Grand Officers. He has general supervision of the books and accounts of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary, and unrestrained access to them; and in case of vacancy by death, resignation, removal, or other cause of the Grand Treasurer or Grand Secretary, to make other appointments until the next Annual Communication. And generally, the Grand Master being the representative of the Grand Lodge in recess, may do, order, and direct all matters and things which in his wisdom and judgement may tend to the prosperity of the Craft, not in violation of this Constitution and the Ancient Landmarks of Freemasonry. (1984)

**Section 7.** It is the duty of the Deputy Grand Master to assist the Grand Master in the discharge of all his official duties, and in his absence to preside. And in case of his death, or incapacity from any cause, to perform the duties of his office, all the duties, powers, and prerogatives of the Grand Master devolve on the Deputy Grand Master until the next Annual Communication.

**Section 8.** It is the duty of the Senior Grand Warden to assist the Grand Master in opening and closing the Grand Lodge, and in his absence, and in the absence of the Deputy Grand Master, to preside; and in case of the death, removal, or inability from any other cause to perform the duties of the office of the Grand Master and the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden succeeds to all the powers, rights, and prerogatives of the Grand Master. And in case of the death, removal, or inability from any cause to perform the duties of the office of the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master and the Senior Grand Warden, the Junior Grand Warden succeeds to all the powers, rights, and prerogatives of the Grand Master.

**Section 9.** It is the duty of the Grand Treasurer to receive all monies received or collected for or on account of the Grand Lodge, giving his receipt for same, and to keep a just and true account thereof in a book to be provided for that purpose, to which the Grand Master and Corporate Board shall at all times have free access for inspection; and at each Annual Communication to make a full and accurate statement of his accounts, to be laid before the Committee on Finance and Accounts for examination and report. In case of the death, resignation, or removal from office of the Grand Treasurer, the Grand Master has authority to take possession of all the books, papers, accounts, and funds appertaining to his office, to be turned over to his successor in office. The Grand Treasurer, for his service and responsibilities, shall be entitled to receive compensation as may be provided for, from time to time, by Budget appropriation. (1984)

**Section 10.** It is the duty of the Grand Secretary to receive all monies due to the Grand Lodge payable to him, and to pay the same to the Grand Treasurer, taking a receipt therefore, to keep a just and true account of all monies received by him, and paid over to the Grand Treasurer, in books provided for that purpose, to which the Grand Master and members of the Corporate Board shall at all times have free access; and at each Annual Communication, to make out a true and accurate statement and report of the same, to be laid before the Committee on Finance and

Accounts for examination. It is the duty of the Grand Secretary to report to the Grand Lodge all communications and correspondence which may have been received at his office during the recess of Grand Lodge, pertinent to be reported on; to furnish the respective committees with all necessary papers, documents, and records to them referred; to keep a true and accurate journal and record in a book provided for that purpose, of all the proceedings of the Grand Lodge, proper to be written, must be signed by the Grand Master and the Junior Past Grand Master or other officer who presided at the Communication, and their signatures shall be shown in the printed Proceedings. To preserve in his office all the returns, papers, and other documents from the Particular Lodges, and the Proceedings, foreign correspondence, and other communication, from other Grand Lodges in correspondence with the Grand Lodge to which the Committee on Foreign Relations of this Grand Lodge shall have access during the recess. And as soon after the close of the Grand Lodge as may be, he shall cause a true copy or transcript of all matters ordered or intended to be published as the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge, to be prepared for the Corporate Board for publication, and which, when published, he shall cause to be transmitted to all the Particular Lodges under this Jurisdiction, and to all the Grand Lodges in correspondence with this Grand Lodge. It is the duty of the Grand Secretary to furnish the Particular Lodges with all necessary blank forms as prescribed, or may from time to time, be prescribed by the Grand Lodge. The Grand Secretary is, by virtue of his office, Grand Librarian and has charge and custody of all books, papers, and archives of the Grand Lodge. It is his duty to provide all necessary blank forms of Charters, Dispensations, Diplomas, etc., and to cause the same, when required, to be properly executed under the Seal of the Grand Lodge, and to furnish widows and orphans of Master Masons Certificates or Diplomas, when required, without fee.

In the event of the death, removal, or resignation of the Grand Secretary, it is the duty of the Grand Master to appoint a successor, who shall take charge of all the books, papers, archives, Seal, and furniture, and other effects belonging to the Grand Secretary's Office, and make and preserve a correct inventory of same.

If the Grand Secretary is requested or directed to execute or attest any document and has doubts as to the legality or validity thereof under civil or Masonic Law, he shall appeal to the Corporate Board for instructions or directions in the matter. (1984)



**Section 11.** Each District Deputy Grand Master shall visit every Lodge in his District, at a Stated or Called Communication, at least once during his term of office, and of such intended visit he shall give notice to the Master or Secretary of the Lodge. He shall examine the records of the Lodge, and see if they are regularly kept, inform himself of the number of members, inquire into the condition of the Lodge, point out any errors he may observe in the condition or manner of working, instruct the Lodge in every particular wherein he may conceive them to require information, recommend attention to the moral and benevolent principles of the institution, caution in the admission of candidates, and a punctual representation of their Lodge in every Communication of the Grand Lodge. When any District Deputy Grand Master shall discover, either in his own District or any other part of the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, any Masonic error or evil, he shall immediately endeavor, by Masonic means, to arrest its progress, and if he shall judge it expedient he shall forward to the Grand Master full information of the whole subject. The District Deputy Grand Master shall, under direction of the Grand Master, receive the whole property belonging to any dormant or extinct Lodge, and, except in cases where a different disposition shall be made, or hereafter may be made, in relation to any part of the whole thereof, forward to the Grand Secretary the several Charters, Jewels, Seals, books, papers, etc., and sell the furniture or other personal property of such Lodge, and account to the Grand Lodge for the proceeds thereof. Previous to every Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, every District Deputy Grand Master shall so far as it is proper to be done, make out in writing a full report of the state of each Lodge in his District and forward it to the Grand Master.

**Section 12.** The duties of the Subordinate Grand Officers are defined by the unwritten law and ancient Masonic usage and custom, and inculcated in their installation Charges and instructions of the

Grand Master. The Grand Tyler is entitled to receive for his services such compensation as shall be provided for by Resolution of the Grand Lodge.

**Section 13.** (New) In case of the death, incapacity, or inability from any other cause to perform the duties of the office of the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden, and the Junior Grand Warden, the Junior Past Grand Master shall forthwith call and give notice of a meeting of all living Past Grand Masters to be held not less than ten (10) days nor more than fifteen (15) days after notice of such meeting at the time and place specified in such notice, and the Past Grand Masters in such meeting, shall, in such manner as they deem appropriate from among themselves fill all vacancies then existing in Elective Grand Lodge Offices and the Officers so elected to fill such vacancies shall have all of the powers appertaining to the offices to which they have been designated to fill, and shall serve until their successors are elected and installed at the next Special or Annual Grand Communication, and the Past Grand Masters may, at such meeting, call a Special Communication of Grand Lodge for the purpose of filling by election the offices filled by selection of the Past Grand Masters. The Grand Master designated by the Past Grand Masters shall immediately, after such meeting of the Past Grand Masters, promptly proclaim and publish to the Particular Lodges the actions of the Past Grand Masters.

## ARTICLE VII

### CHARTERS AND DISPENSATIONS

**Section 1.** The Grand Lodge is clothed with the power of constituting new Lodges upon the Petition of not less than twenty (20) Master Masons. But no Dispensation nor Charter shall be issued to a Lodge except upon written consent of the Lodge nearest the place where the new Lodge is to be located and Certificate of the Committee on Work or its duly authorized representative that the Officers and membership of the new Lodge are qualified and capable of conferring the Degrees of Freemasonry.

In the event that two or more Lodges meet at the place nearest the location of the new Lodge, the consent of any one of such Lodges shall be sufficient.

**Section 2.** In the recess of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master has authority to grant Dispensations for new Lodges until the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, when due returns of the

work, with a copy of their proposed By-Laws for examination, shall be submitted to the Grand Lodge, when a Charter may be granted. But until a Charter is granted, the petitioners for the Dispensation continue their membership in their respective Lodges.

## ARTICLE VIII

### TAXATION AND REVENUE

**Section 1.** The fee for a Charter, or Warrant of Constitution for a new Lodge, shall be fifty dollars (\$50.00), to be paid at time of delivery, and five dollars (\$5.00) to be paid as a fee to the Grand Secretary. For Dispensation, a fee of five dollars (\$5.00) shall be paid to the Grand Secretary for his services, but no fee for the Dispensation.

**Section 2.** The Particular Lodges under this Jurisdiction shall make Lodge Returns, and shall account for and pay to the Grand Lodge such fees, dues, assessments, and revenue at such time as shall be prescribed by Regulations, and until such Returns are made, and dues paid or remitted, no Lodge shall be entitled to representation in the Grand Lodge; *provided*, that members exempted from payment of dues by provisions of this Constitution shall not be included and accounted for in the Returns; *provided further*, that members who have membership in more than one (1) Lodge during the year shall only be accounted for by the Lodge wherein such members first had a membership during the year, except in the case of newly Chartered Lodges. Members whose names appear upon the Returns of the Lodge of which they were former members, and also upon the Returns of newly Chartered Lodges, shall be accounted for by such newly Chartered Lodges only.

**Section 3.** No Officer, Group of Officers, Agency, Board, or Committee of The Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of Florida can borrow money or execute any evidence of indebtedness, nor create any debts whatsoever, in the name of the Grand Lodge, nor in the name of any Officer, Group of Officers, Agency, Board, or Committee of the said Grand Lodge, unless notice of the amount and purpose thereof is given by the Grand Master, or by his authority, to each Particular Lodge at least sixty (60) days prior to any Grand Communication, and be authorized by a majority vote of Grand Lodge, except that notice to the Particular Lodges shall not be necessary in case of great emergency and necessity resulting from fire, storms, or other acts of God. (1982)

ARTICLE IX  
STANDING COMMITTEES

**Section 1.** Corporate Committees - The Corporate Committees of the Grand Lodge are:

(1-a) The Corporate Board of Directors, constituted as provided in Article I of this Constitution and as the Corporate Board of the Grand Lodge as provided in this Constitution and the Regulations of the Grand Lodge.

(1-b) The Corporate Board composed of the Grand Master as Chairman, the Deputy Grand Master as Vice Chairman, the Senior Grand Warden, the Junior Grand Warden, the Grand Treasurer, and two members appointed by the Grand Master, one of which shall be a Past Grand Master, which Corporate Board shall have power of general supervision over and management of Grand Lodge Funds and property, except Masonic Home property.

(2) The Masonic Home Endowment and Investment Committee composed of nine Master Masons in good standing in Florida Lodges. The members of the Committee shall be men of experience in the management and investment of funds or men qualified in professions that acquaint them with the duties and responsibilities of management and investment of funds, including but not limited to bankers, public accountants, lawyers, financial counselors, and men of similar training and experience.

Each incoming Grand Master shall make three appointments to this committee for a term of three years each. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the Grand Master for the remainder of the vacant term. Initial implementation shall be by appointment by the Grand Master of three members for three year terms, three members for two year terms, and three members for one year terms. (1999)

No person while a member of this committee, or for a period of two (2) years after serving on this committee, may, directly or indirectly, gain any economic benefit by reason of bidding, providing, or contracting to provide financial services to The Grand Lodge of Florida. Any attempt to circumvent this Regulation will be prima facie evidence of unmasonic conduct and will be punishable as such. (1999)

The Committee shall make recommendations to the Corporate Board in respect to the following matters: (1999)

- (a) Selection of Registered Investment Adviser(s) to manage, or Registered Representative's(s') broker-dealer or its clearing firm to act as custodian for such portions of the Masonic Home Endowment Fund as shall be entrusted to such Registered Investment Adviser(s) or Registered Representative's(s') broker-dealer or its clearing firm by written contract/document with the Grand Lodge. (1999)
  - (b) The terms of contract with the Registered Investment Adviser(s) or the Registered Representative's(s') broker-dealer for management and custodianship of the Masonic Home Endowment Fund. (1999)
  - (c) The means, methods, and standards for evaluation of the services of the Registered Investment Adviser(s), the Registered Representative(s), or its broker-dealer managing and investing the Masonic Home Endowment Fund. (1999)
  - (d) The Committee shall comply with the foregoing in respect to other Grand Lodge funds. (1999)
- (3) The Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home shall be composed of nine (9) members. One (1) member shall be appointed by the Grand Master as Chairman and one (1) to serve as Vice Chairman. The Board shall be divided into sub-committees as shall be prescribed by the Constitution or Regulations of the Grand Lodge and such other sub-committees as shall be deemed appropriate by the Chairman of the Board. The Grand Treasurer and the Grand Secretary shall be Treasurer and Secretary, respectively, of the Board. (2023)

The initial implementation on May 29, 2024, and thereafter shall be three (3) of the nine (9) members of the Board shall be appointed by the Grand Master for a one (1) year term. Three (3) shall be appointed by the Grand Master only upon nomination of the Deputy Grand Master for a two (2) year term, and three (3) shall be appointed only upon nomination of the Senior Grand Warden for a three (3) year term. Thereafter, the incoming Grand Master shall appoint, only upon nomination of the incoming Senior Grand Warden, three (3) members of the Craft for a three (3) year term. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment of the Grand Master for the remainder of the vacant term. No person shall serve as a member of the Board of Trustees for more than six (6) consecutive years. (2023)

The members of the Board of Trustees shall be men of experience in the management of or men qualified in professions that acquaint them to the duties and responsibilities of managing and operating all aspects of nursing facilities for the aged, including, but not limited to,

accountants, building maintenance, dieticians, doctors, food management, health insurance advisors, inventory management, legal counsel, marketing specialist, nurses, pharmacist, and men of similar training and experience.

The Board shall be divided into such sub-committees as shall be prescribed by the Constitution or Regulations of the Grand Lodge, such as Committee on Admissions and Non-Resident Relief, Long Range Planning/Facility, Masonic Home Budget, Hal W. Adams Hospital Service and Emergency Relief, Masonic Home Activities, and such other sub-committees as shall be deemed appropriate by the Chairman of the Board, which sub-committees shall report to the Board of Trustees the results of their respective investigations with their recommendations. All actions taken by the Board must be approved by a majority thereof.

It shall be the duty and responsibility of the Board of Trustees to determine and fix basic policy for operation of the Masonic Home and Relief Programs; to employ an Administrator to implement, administer, and operate the Masonic Home. No member of the Board of Trustees, except the Chairman, shall give or attempt to give instructions or directions to the Administrator in respect to administration or operation of the Masonic Home. It shall be the duty of the Chairman to insure strict compliance with the provisions of this paragraph. (2011)

The Board of Trustees shall have the care, custody, and control of Masonic Home property, real and personal, and shall maintain and make routine repairs thereto and shall arrange for insurance coverage through the Insurance Committee and the Corporate Board. (1992)

- (4) The Finance and Accounts Committee, of which the Senior Grand Warden shall be Chairman and a Past Grand Master shall be a member. This Committee shall prepare proposed Budget and simplified financial statement as to financial condition of the Grand Lodge, which proposed Budget and statement shall be delivered to the Corporate Board for consideration and transmittal to the Particular Lodges as shall be prescribed by Regulation or by Resolution of the Corporate Board. (1992)

- (5) The Endowment Procurement Committee shall be composed of the Junior Grand Warden as Chairman and not more than thirty-five (35) members, which Committee shall be divided into such sub-committees as shall be prescribed by Regulation of the Grand Lodge and such other sub-committees as the Chairman of the Committee shall deem appropriate, but there shall be a sub-committee designated Let Your Pennies Make Good Cents, a sub-committee designated Wills and Gifts, and a sub-committee designated Masonic Home-100, each sub-committee to be composed of a Chairman and at least three (3) other members of the Committee. (2015)

- (6) The Committee on Grand Lodge Properties shall be divided into such sub-committees as shall be prescribed by Regulation of the Grand Lodge and such other sub-committees as the Grand Master shall deem appropriate. This Committee shall have the care, custody, and control of all Grand Lodge properties, except the Masonic Home and shall advise the Insurance Committee in respect to appropriate insurance coverage thereof. (1992)
- (7) A panel of Attorneys at Law to advise with the Grand Master and Corporate Board on all matters of civil law and to represent the Grand Lodge or any Officers, Committee, Board, or Commission thereof when designated so to do by direction of the Grand Master or the Corporate Board. (1984)
- (8) The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, constituted as provided in Article IX, Section 1, of this Constitution, which shall be divided into such Sub-Committees as shall be prescribed by Regulations of the Grand Lodge and such other sub-committees as the Grand Master shall deem appropriate. When acting as a Corporate Committee, it shall have the duty and authority to review report and make recommendations to the Grand Lodge on all Corporate matters. (1989)
- (9) The Committee on Perpetual Membership shall be appointed by the Grand Master and shall be composed of a Chairman and not more than ten (10) members. Under the direction of the Grand Master, the Committee shall promote Perpetual Membership in the Particular Lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction. (1995)
- (10) The Insurance Committee shall review all insurance matters, including insurance policies of the Grand Lodge of Florida and residents of the Masonic Home of Florida, and shall make recommendations concerning the same to the Corporate Board. No person while a member of this committee, or for a period of two (2) years after serving on this committee, may bid or contract to provide insurance to the Grand Lodge of Florida. (1992)

**Section 2.** Fraternal Committees -The Fraternal Committees of the Grand Lodge as defined in Article I of the Constitution are:

- (1) The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, which shall be divided into such sub-committees as shall be prescribed herein or by Regulations of Grand Lodge, and such other sub-committees as the Grand Master shall deem appropriate, but there shall be a sub-committee designated Committee on Resolutions, a sub-committee designated Committee on Masonic Digest, a sub-committee designated Committee on Appeals, a sub-committee designated Committee on Lodge Charters, a sub-committee designated Committee on Appendant and Allied Orders, and a sub-committee designated Committee on Foreign Relations.

Sub-committees shall be composed of a Chairman and at least two (2) other members. All Resolutions, except Memorial Resolutions, all penal appeals, all applications for Lodge Charters, all requests for recognition or withdrawal of recognition of organizations whose

membership is predicated on Masonic affiliation, all correspondence or reports of recognized foreign Jurisdictions and all matters of recognition or withdrawal of recognition of foreign Masonic Jurisdictions and all matters of Masonic Law, customs, practices, policies, and procedures shall be referred to this Committee for report and recommendation thereon. All Past Grand Masters in good standing shall be members of this Committee together with such additional members as may be appointed by the Grand Master.

- (2) The Committee on Work, which may be divided into such sub-committees as shall be prescribed by Regulations of the Grand Lodge and such other sub-committees as the Grand Master shall deem appropriate, but there shall be a sub-committee designated committee on Actual Past Master Degree. The Committee shall give instructions in the Forms and Ceremonies of the Grand Lodge and conduct appropriate memorial ceremonies and confer the Actual Past Master Degree at each Annual Grand Communication. All matters of Masonic Etiquette, ceremonies, and ritual shall be referred to this Committee for report and recommendation thereon. All Resolutions, changes, corrections, or revisions to the sacred written work shall be limited to once every three (3) years. Grand Lodge may waive this provision and requirements by three-fourths ( $\frac{3}{4}$ ) vote. (1990)
- (3) The Committee on Returns and Credentials. This Committee shall examine credentials of and register all members of the Grand Lodge in attendance at each Grand Communication and make report thereon and shall include in such report or indicate therein the Brothers eligible to be placed on the payroll of the Grand Lodge and shall furnish copy of the report to the Grand Secretary and to the Grand Treasurer.
- (4) The Grand Master's Coordinating Committee. This Committee, subject to direction of the Grand Master, shall provide and arrange for presentation to the Grand Lodge by appropriate reports all matters of Grand Lodge business and affairs.
- (5) The Committee on Arrangements, which shall have a sub-committee designated Committee on Distinguished Guests. The Committee, subject to the direction of the Grand Master, shall make all arrangements for facilities,



entertainment, and related matters for each Grand Communication and for accommodation and introduction of Distinguished Guests.

- (6) A Committee on Workshops for Lodge Officers composed of a Chairman and ten (10) members. Under direction of the Grand Master, this Committee shall conduct workshops for instruction of Lodge Officers in all matters of Masonic Law and Practice relating to their offices. (1995)
- (7) A Penal Affairs Panel composed of fifteen (15) Master Masons of Florida Lodges to render such service in Penal matters as may be prescribed by Regulation. The appointment, term, duties, and powers of the Panel and the members thereof may be prescribed by Regulation or by the Constitution.
- (8) The Grand Lodge, by Regulation, may create and prescribe duties and powers of a Committee on Museum and History, a Committee on Masonic Education, a Committee on Public Education and Citizenship, a Committee on Youth Activities, a Committee on Public Relations and Publicity, a Committee on Wardens' Workshop, a Committee on the Child ID Program, and a Flagship Charity Committee. (2016)
- (9) The above Committees named in Section 2, (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), and (8) are hereby declared to be Fraternal Committees as designated in Section 7 of Article I of the Constitution and shall be appointed by the Grand Master and shall be under his exclusive direction and control subject to the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge and budgetary limitations.

**Section 3.** Power to Sit in Recess of Grand Lodge - All Corporate Committees shall have power to sit in the recess of the Grand Lodge. The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence and the Committee on Work shall have power to sit during the recess of the Grand Lodge and other Fraternal Committees and members thereof may sit or perform duties during the recess of Grand Lodge by direction of the Grand Master.

**Section 4.** General Service Panel - Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution to the contrary, the Grand Master and Corporate Board may agree upon and designate a Panel of not more than twelve (12) Master Masons for assignment to aid or assist any Grand Lodge Committee upon showing to Corporate Board of need for such aid and assistance. Members so selected and assigned to assist a Committee shall not be members of or have

vote on such committee. This panel shall not be considered a committee, no funds shall be appropriated for the panel, and no report need be made in respect to its activities. Funds necessary for use of General Service Panel shall be included in committee appropriation of the committee using members of the panel.

**Section 5.** Appropriation - Appropriation shall be made in the annual budget for each of the above committees or Panels by name except General Service Panel.

**Section 6.** Special Committee Limitations - No special committee shall be appointed, designated, or authorized except pursuant to provisions of Section 9(c) of Article I relating to Special Committees.

**Section 7.** Number of Committees - Except as specified above or elsewhere in this Constitution, each committee shall be composed of not fewer than three nor more than eleven members, except the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence which shall have such number of members as may be determined by the Grand Master, subject to provisions of Sub-section (1) of Section 2 thereof. The Committee on Masonic Education shall be composed of not fewer than three nor more than twelve members. The Committee on Work shall be composed of not fewer than ten nor more than eighteen members, of which one shall be the State Chairman, another may be the Vice Chairman, and at least one must be Spanish speaking. (2018)

**Section 8.** Committee Reports - All committees shall report in writing to the Grand Lodge. Reports of all sub-committees of committees provided for herein shall be reviewed by the full committee and included in and made a part of the full committee report. (1984)

## ARTICLE X

**PARTICULAR LODGES**

**Section 1.** The Particular Lodges are the source and foundation of all Symbolic Masonry, and possess inherent rights and powers, sanctioned by immemorial custom and usage, which never can be changed or altered.

**Section 2.** The Officers of a Lodge are the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, and Secretary, who must be elected by ballot, and a majority of all the votes cast is necessary to a choice and shall have a current paid dues card for the forthcoming year, or a receipt for the same, prior to installation. The Subordinate Officers are the Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Senior and Junior Stewards, and Tyler, who are appointed by the Worshipful Master, but the Senior Warden has the nomination of the Junior Deacon; and the Worshipful Master may also appoint a Chaplain and a Marshal. (1997)

**Section 3.** Every Lodge must have one Stated monthly Communication at which every Brother should punctually attend, but the Lodge may dispense with the Stated Communications in the months of July, August, and September. The Worshipful Master has the power to order Called Communications of the Lodge at any time, by causing sufficient number of the members to be served with timely notice thereof.

**Section 4.** The election and appointment of the Officers of Lodges shall take place at the first Stated Communication in December of each year and such Officers shall be installed on the anniversary of Saint John the Evangelist, or as soon thereafter as practical, and the Officers so elected and installed shall continue in office for one year and until their successors are duly elected and installed unless for good and sufficient reasons the Most Worshipful Grand Master has granted permission for the resignation and authorized an election to fill the vacancy and such other vacancies created by the election; *provided*, that if, from any cause, there should be no election at the time appointed for the annual election, it shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master to order an election at any time before or on the anniversary of Saint John the Evangelist. (1997)

**Rulings and Decisions**

The Subordinate Officers, who are the Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Senior Steward, Junior Steward, Chaplain, Marshal, Organist, and Tyler, who are appointed by the Worshipful Master, shall also have a current paid dues card for the forthcoming year, or a receipt for the same, prior to Installation. (2011 Proc. 142-143)

If one written nomination is made for one or more office(s) and no other written nomination has been made for such office(s), a motion can be made from the floor to elect the nominated member by acclamation. Once the motion is seconded, the member(s) may be elected by a majority, show of hands vote by the members present, thereby completing the election process. If more than one member is nominated in writing for any office, a majority vote by written ballot is required to complete the election process for that office. (2016 Proc. 120)

The nomination form shall be read at the next Stated Communication after it is received by the Secretary of the Lodge and handled in the same manner as all other correspondence received by the Lodge Secretary and read again on the night of the Election of Lodge Officers. (2017 Proc. 116)

A member of a Florida Lodge may not hold any two or more Offices at the same time in any Lodge of which he is a member. The intent of this Ruling and Decision is to restrict any member from holding more than one Office at a time whether the Office is elected or appointed. (2017 Proc. 116)

**Section 5.** The Master and Wardens of a Lodge cannot be tried by the Lodge; but complaint may be made against them or either of them to the Grand Master by not less than seven members of the Lodge, and he may investigate the matter, and file charges or direct that charges be filed for Grand Lodge Trial as provided by Grand Lodge Regulations. The Grand Master may suspend the accused from office pending trial of the charges. (1985)

**Section 6.** The Master is supreme in his Lodge and must be held to worship. No appeal can be taken from his decision, nor call for the previous question, nor motion to adjourn, can be entertained.

**Section 7.** The Master and Wardens, or their duly appointed proxies, are the representatives of their Lodge in the Grand Lodge.

**Section 8.** Besides the duties inculcated by the unwritten law, and the installation ceremonies, which every Mason should understand, remember, and faithfully perform, there are duties required by the Constitution, of the Worshipful Master, the Wardens, the Treasurer, and Secretary which cannot be neglected without being liable to Masonic censure.

**Section 9.** The last Master, or any Past Master of a Lodge, can install the Master-elect and he then can install the other Officers, but when the Grand Master, or Deputy Grand Master, or one of the District Deputy Grand Masters is present, it is his privilege to install the officers.

**Section 10.** Every Particular Lodge has a right to adopt its own By-Laws in conformity to Grand Lodge Regulations, and subject to the supervision of the Grand Lodge.

**Section 11.** The Master and Wardens of a Lodge cannot resign during the year for which they are elected and installed unless for good and sufficient reasons the Most Worshipful Grand Master has granted permission for his resignation. If by death, removal from the jurisdiction, or other cause, the Master becomes incapable to perform the duties of his office, the Senior Warden succeeds to all powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Master, and the Senior Warden's place in the West must be filled by pro tempore

appointment, from time to time; and if from any of the like causes the Master and Senior Warden should both be rendered incapable of performing the duties of Master of the Lodge, then the Junior Warden succeeds to all the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Master, and the South must be filled, from time to time, by pro tempore appointment. But the Junior Warden cannot succeed to the seat in the West, when vacant, by absence of the Senior Warden. (1996)

### **Rulings and Decisions**

Any Lodge wishing to have an advance night for any purpose may do so at a Called Communication of the Lodge when called for that purpose. Or the Lodge may hold a practice night at the Lodge when wishing to demonstrate the proficiency of its Officers before advancing to the next highest Office. (2013 Proc. 131-132)

**Section 12.** The work and business of the Lodge must be transacted in a Master Mason Lodge, except the work and lectures in conferring the Degrees of Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft; but those Degrees should be opened when there is no work to be done, for the instruction of the young Masons, and all Degrees should be closed at the close of every Communication.

**Section 13.** No Lodge in this Jurisdiction shall confer the Three Degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason, for a less sum than one hundred dollars, of which a minimum fee of fifty dollars shall be required for Initiation in addition to the fee for a criminal background investigation must accompany the petition or be paid electronically to any processing company selected and approved by the Grand Lodge. The fee received for Initiation shall be returned to the petitioner if rejected, however, the fee received for the criminal background investigation shall be retained by the Lodge, the Grand Lodge, or any processing company selected and approved by the Grand Lodge. The fee for Passing or Raising must be paid to the Secretary before the Degree is conferred; *provided*, that any Lodge may remit monthly or annual dues to members of the Lodge, who from bodily infirmities or misfortune, have become unable to pay them. (2018)

**Section 14.** Every candidate for Initiation should read and approve the By-Laws of the Lodge, and must present his petition in writing vouched for by two members of the Lodge at a Stated Communication, which must lie over at least one month for the Brethren to make due inquiry into the character and standing of the candidate and review a criminal background investigative report of the candidate. And a petition thus presented cannot be withdrawn, but must be acted upon, and if rejected, cannot again be presented within six months. But rejections for Passing and Raising, and for membership, shall not be required to lie over six months, but may be renewed at any subsequent Stated Communication of the Lodge. (2009)

**Section 15 (a).** Any upright Mason, on presentation of satisfactory evidence of his having paid all dues against him, and having regularly withdrawn from a Lodge from which he was last a member, may present a petition in writing, which must be vouched for by two members of the Lodge, at a Stated Communication, and which must lie over at least one month for the Brethren to make due inquiry into the character and standing of the petitioner; *provided*, that any Particular Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction may adopt a By-Law (subject to approval of the Grand Master), permitting a member in good standing of a Particular Lodge of a Grand Jurisdiction with which this Grand Lodge sustains fraternal relations, to petition such Particular

Lodge for affiliation without dimitting from his home Lodge; in such petition all facts and circumstances upon which such petition is based, and the reasons for the dual membership thereby sought, shall be fully stated; upon the reception of such petition it shall take the usual course with respect to investigation and voting, and be subject to the same requirements as to vouchers, as a regular petition based upon a regular dimit; *provided*, that such petition for dual membership shall not be received from a Mason from a Grand Jurisdiction whose laws prohibit its members from becoming dual members.

If such petition for affiliation be voted upon favorably, such petitioner shall thereupon become a member of such Particular Lodge, vested with all the rights and privileges of membership, and be subject to the discipline of the Lodge; and *provided further*, that upon the suspension, or expulsion, of such member by the Lodge of which he was a member prior to applying for dual membership as above provided for, such member shall be automatically suspended or expelled from the Particular Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction with which he shall have affiliated; *provided further*, that in the event that a member receiving the privileges of dual membership in this Grand Jurisdiction shall take his dimit from his Lodge of original membership, it shall be his duty to place such dimit, and his full membership, in the Particular Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction in which he shall have received the privileges of dual membership; and upon his failure to do so, and satisfactory evidence having been presented to the Particular Lodge of such failure, it shall be the duty of such Particular Lodge to suspend such member from membership; *provided further*, that the Grand Master of this Grand Jurisdiction may draft and promulgate such Regulations as he may find necessary and expedient for the purpose of carrying the provisions of this Section into effect, which Regulations shall be subject to the approval of the Grand Lodge, and subject to amendment and alteration from time to time, as in the case of other Regulations. (2005)

**Section 15 (b).** Any Particular Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction may adopt a By-Law (subject to approval of the Grand Master) permitting a member in good standing of another Particular Lodge in Florida to petition such Particular Lodge for affiliation without dimitting from his home Lodge, regardless of any action that his home Lodge may or may not have taken with respect to accepting Plural Members. In such petition all facts and circumstances upon which such petition is based, and the reasons for the plural membership thereby sought, shall be fully stated. Upon the reception of such petition it shall take the usual course with respect to investigation and voting, and be subject to the same requirements as to vouchers, as a regular petition based upon a regular dimit. If such petition for affiliation be voted upon favorably, such petitioner shall thereupon become a member of such Particular Lodge, vested with all the rights and privileges of membership, and be subject to the discipline of the Lodge, except, that such member shall not be eligible to be elected or appointed an Officer in more than one Particular Lodge at one and the same time; and *provided further*, that upon suspension, or expulsion, of such member by any Lodge of which he was a member prior to applying for plural membership as above provided for, such member shall be automatically suspended or expelled from any other Particular Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction with which he shall have affiliated;

*provided further*, that in the event that a member receiving the privileges of plural membership shall take his dimit from his Lodge of original membership, it shall be his duty to place such dimit, and his full membership, in a Particular Lodge in the Grand Jurisdiction in which he shall have received the privileges of plural membership; and upon his failure to do so, and satisfactory evidence having been presented to the Particular Lodge of such failure, it shall be the duty of such Particular Lodge to suspend such member from membership; *provided further*, that the Grand Master of this Grand Jurisdiction may draft and promulgate such Regulations as he may determine, which Regulations shall be subject to the approval of the Grand Lodge, and subject to amendment and alteration from time to time, as in the case of other Regulations. (2004)

### **Rulings and Decisions**

A collective ballot can be used for the purpose of balloting on petitions for dual membership and for transfer by affiliation. (1994 Proc. 101)

A Plural Member suspended or expelled for any cause from his Lodge of Original Membership shall automatically be suspended or expelled from all Florida Lodges with which he is affiliated. (2008 Proc. 106-107)

A Plural Member expelled or suspended for any cause other than non-payment of dues shall be automatically expelled or suspended from all Florida Lodges in which he is a member. (2008 Proc. 106-107)

A Plural Member suspended for non-payment of dues from a Lodge with which he is affiliated shall be automatically suspended from all Lodges with which he is affiliated but not from his Lodge of Original Membership. (2008 Proc. 106-107)

A member of a Florida Lodge may not hold any two or more Offices at the same time in any Lodge of which he is a member. The intent of this Ruling and Decision is to restrict any member from holding more than one Office at a time whether the Office is elected or appointed. (2017 Proc. 116)

**Section 16.** Balloting for Initiation, Passing, Raising, and membership must be unanimous; but when only one black ball appears, the ballot should be spread again to guard against





mistakes; but if a black ball appears on the second ballot it is final, as it shall be when two or more black balls appear on the first ballot. Not more than one Degree shall be conferred on the same candidate at the same Stated Communication, unless under a Dispensation from the Grand Master.

**Section 17.** The Grand Lodge, shall, by Regulation uniformly applicable to all Lodges prescribe, define, and regulate the jurisdiction of Lodges in regard to accepting and receiving petitions for the Degrees, administering Masonic Justice, and for all other purposes.

**Section 18.** Every member of a Lodge must pay to the Secretary of the Lodge such monthly or annual dues as may be prescribed by the By-Laws of the Lodge.

**Section 19.** The Grand Lodge shall, by Regulation, prescribe the procedures for administration of Masonic Justice. Such Regulations shall provide for notice to an accused Mason, service of specific charges upon him, reasonable opportunity to respond thereto, fair and impartial hearing thereon, and right of appeal from any judgment to the Grand Lodge.

**Section 20.** Every member of a Lodge who is six months or more in arrears for dues shall be notified thereof by the Secretary, and in case of failure or refusal to come forward and pay his dues, or give satisfactory excuse, within three months after such notification, may be suspended at the discretion of the Lodge.

**Section 21.** Any member of a Lodge who has no charges preferred against him has a clear Masonic right to withdraw from membership by dimit, on payment of all dues against him.

**Section 22.** Every Lodge must make full and complete Return of the proceedings annually to the Grand Lodge, with the names of its Officers and members, and a statement of all dues, signed by the Master, and countersigned by the Secretary under the Seal of the Lodge; and without such Returns made, and payment or remission of all dues, no Lodge shall be entitled to representation in the Grand Lodge. And every Lodge failing to be represented in the Grand Lodge for two consecutive years shall forfeit its Charter; *provided*, that if such defaulting Lodge shall, on or before the next Annual Communication, make full Returns and payment of dues to the Grand Secretary, and satisfactory explanation to the Grand Lodge, or in the recess to the Grand Master, such forfeiture shall be released and the Lodge restored to its regular standing.

**Section 23.** Every Particular Lodge must be furnished with a Seal and appropriate Jewels, Furniture, and Working Tools, and all official documents must be verified by the Secretary, under the Seal of the Lodge.

**Section 24.** No Lodge has the right to receive a petition of any person for the Degree of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, or Master Mason, residing out of its jurisdiction, without the express consent of the Lodge in whose jurisdiction such person resides, certified by its Secretary with the Lodge Seal.

**Section 25.** The Master and Wardens of each Particular Lodge are a standing Committee on Masonic Education in their respective Lodge jurisdictions. (2015)

**Section 26.** On the death of a Master Mason in good standing in his Lodge, leaving a widow and orphan, or a widow, or an orphan, or orphans, it is the duty of the Secretary of the Lodge to grant to such widow and orphans, or to the widow or to the orphan or orphans of such deceased Master Mason, a Certificate of the fact under the Seal of the Lodge; and on the presentation of such Certificate to the Grand Secretary, it shall be his duty to grant to the said widow and orphans an appropriate Grand Lodge Certificate of Respect without charge or fee.

**Section 27.** Every Particular Lodge has the right and it is the duty of its members when summoned by the Worshipful Master to turn out in public procession on the anniversaries of Saint John and in funeral procession of a Master Mason, or laying a cornerstone, but on all extraordinary Masonic occasions (except attendance on Divine Service for which no Dispensation is necessary), a Dispensation must be obtained from the Grand Master.

**Section 28.** It is the duty of each Worshipful Master of the Particular Lodges in this jurisdiction to make a report of the Proceedings of the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge to his Lodge, as soon as practicable after said Communication has been closed, and to impress upon all the members of his Lodge the duty of familiarizing themselves with this Constitution and the Old Charges of Free and Accepted Masons.

**Section 29.** The vote or decision at a Stated Communication of the Lodge cannot be rescinded, altered, or amended at a Called Communication of the Lodge, nor at any subsequent Stated Communication; unless the membership of the Lodge is given due notice of such proposed reconsideration.

**Section 30.** Expulsion and suspension from the “higher Degrees” of Masonry do not necessarily work as such in Symbolic Masonry, but may be good cause for investigation by a Lodge.

**Section 31.** When all of the three principal Officers of a Particular Lodge are absent, the Lodge may be opened and presided over by the District Deputy Grand Master or by the Junior Past Master present.

## ARTICLE XI

### AMENDMENTS

**Section 1.** Any proposed Amendment or alteration of this Constitution shall be presented in writing to the Grand Lodge at an Annual Communication as provided by Regulation; and if sanctioned by written vote by a majority of the members of the Grand Lodge present and voting, it shall be published in the Proceedings as a subject for action at the next Annual Communication of Grand Lodge; and, if sanctioned by two-thirds written vote of the members present and voting at that Annual Communication, the same shall become a part of this Constitution. Alternatively, in the event such proposed Amendment or alteration of this Constitution is sanctioned by two-thirds written vote of the members of Grand Lodge present and voting, at its initial presentation, the same shall become part of this Constitution. (2009)

## ARTICLE XII

### MASONIC HOME

**Section 1.** The supervision of the Masonic Home including all Relief Programs, is hereby vested in a Board of Trustees constituted and organized as provided in Section 1(3) of Article IX of this Constitution and having the powers and duties and subject to the provisions of said Section. (1985)



**Section 2.** The Board of Trustees shall meet not less than once a month, at the Home in St. Petersburg, Florida, on a day to be fixed by the Chairman of the Board; *provided* the Board may hold the monthly meeting at the same location as the Annual Grand Communication for the month of said Annual Grand Communication and at such other times and places as the Grand Master or the Chairman of the Board may designate. All actions taken by the Board must be approved by a majority of the membership of the Board. (2014)

**Section 3.** The Grand Treasurer of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Florida and Grand Secretary thereof, shall respectively be the Treasurer and Secretary of the Board of Trustees. (2011)

**Section 4.** The Grand Lodge of Florida in Annual Grand Communication shall, by Regulation, adopt such Rules and Regulations as may be found necessary or desirable for the management, operation, and supervision of the Masonic Home and Relief Funds, relating to eligibility for admission to the Home or to receive Masonic Relief, and for the management of finances, and all operations and actions pertaining to the above shall be in strict accord with such Rules and Regulations.

**Section 5.** All the Rules and Regulations now in effect and not inconsistent with the provisions of this Article shall remain in full force and effect until amended or repealed as herein provided for.

### ARTICLE XIII

#### LANDMARKS AND CERTAIN LAWS OF FREEMASONRY

**Section 1.** It being well known that for any concept, precept, or principle of Freemasonry to be recognized as being a Landmark, the same must be possessed of two (2) principal attributes, namely, Antiquity and Universality, the following definition of those terms are hereby adopted:

“Antiquity: Those beliefs and those practices which were fixed at the time when Freemasonry emerged from its prehistoric era into the period of recorded Masonic history.”

“Universality: A suggested Landmark has universality when it is one of the practices, principles, or beliefs which Masons everywhere accept, believe, and practice and without which there would be no Freemasonry.”

**Section 2.** The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida hereby recognizes, as being Landmarks of Freemasonry, the following:

- (a) A belief in the existence of one ever living and true God.
- (b) A belief in the immortality of the human soul and a resurrection thereof to a Future Life.
- (c) The Volume of the Sacred Law, open upon the Altar, is an indispensable furnishing of every regular Lodge while at labor.
- (d) The Legend of the Third Degree.
- (e) Secrecy, which includes: The necessary words, signs, and tokens, whereby one Mason may know another to be such, ‘in darkness as in light,’ that every regular Lodge must be tyled while at labor; that every visitor seeking admission to the Lodge must be examined and prove himself a Mason, unless duly and properly avouched for; those other matters which cannot be written in any language.
- (f) The symbolism of the Operative Art.
- (g) Every candidate for Freemasonry must be a man, free born, of lawful age, being under the tongue of good repute, and well recommended, and unless Dispensation is granted by the Grand Master, having no maim or defect of body that may render him incapable of learning the art or of being advanced to the Several Degrees. (1992)
- (h) The division of Ancient Craft Masonry into three (3) classifications, namely, Entered Apprentices, Fellow Crafts, and Master Masons, out of which classifications grew the present Three Degrees of Craft Masonry.

- (i) The government of the Fraternity by a presiding Officer who, since the advent of Speculative Masonry, has borne the title of Grand Master and been elected from the body of the Craft, and the prerogatives inherent in that office, among which are:

The prerogative of the Grand Master to enter into and preside over every assembly of Masons within his jurisdiction and, corollary thereto, to supervise and regulate the affairs of Masonry within that jurisdiction, between Communications of the Grand Lodge, subject to the Constitution and lawful Regulations duly enacted by the Grand Lodge.

The prerogative of the Grand Master to grant his Dispensation.

The prerogative of the Grand Master to make a Mason at sight in the body of a regularly constituted Lodge and by trial of the ballot.

- (j) The necessity for Freemasons to congregate in Lodges.

The recognition of the above as Landmarks shall not be construed to mean or imply that this Grand Lodge is in any wise prohibited from recognizing, from time to time, hereafter, by appropriate amendment hereto, other principles, precepts, practices, or tenets, of Freemasonry as being Landmarks, nor is this Grand Lodge prohibited from reconsidering and, if deemed proper, withdrawing, this recognition of any of the above.

### **Rulings and Decisions**

The Grand Lodges of the United States use the Holy Bible as the Volume of Sacred Law on their Altars (Mentor's Manual, 3.14.) Therefore, the Holy Bible with the Square and Compasses displayed is the only Volume of Sacred Law authorized to be displayed upon the Altar during Lodge, except that a candidate may seal his obligation upon the Volume of Sacred Law of his choice, e.g., a Muslim on the Koran or a Jew on the Torah. These other Volumes of Sacred Law may be present only during the Obligation and are to be removed immediately after the candidate has sealed his Obligation. At no time shall the Holy Bible, with the Square and Compasses displayed upon the Holy Bible, be absent from the Altar. (2008 Proc. 105)

**Section 3.** Although not recognized as being Landmarks, this Grand Lodge recognizes the following as being fundamental concepts, principles, precepts, practices, and tenets, of Freemasonry possessing the qualities and characteristics of Ancient Craft Masonic precedents and law, but not possessed of the immutable qualities of Landmarks:

- (a) The government of the Craft, when congregated in a Lodge, by a Master and two (2) Wardens.
- (b) The right of every Mason to be represented in all general meetings of the Craft and to instruct his representatives.

- (c) The right of every Mason to appeal to the Grand Lodge from any decision affecting his status as a Mason.
- (d) The right of every Mason to visit and sit in every regular Lodge.
- (e) No Lodge can interfere with the business of another Lodge.
- (f) Every Freemason is amenable to the laws of the Masonic Jurisdiction in which he resides.
- (g) The equality of all Masons.

#### ARTICLE XIV

#### GRAND LODGE FINANCES AND ACCOUNTS

##### **Section 1.** Budget System Established-

- (a) The Funds and finances of the Grand Lodge shall be managed, invested, and expended in accordance with an annual budget adopted at each Annual Grand Communication. The budget shall be divided into Funds for each major operation, activity, or purposes of Grand Lodge and each of such Funds shall be divided into accounts and sub-accounts for detailed appropriations to accomplish the purpose of the Fund. Grand Lodge shall by Regulations further prescribe the form of the budget.
- (b) There shall be a Budget Manual that shall prescribe in detail the Funds by letter and accounts and sub-accounts of the budget by number with description as to the purposes, limitations, restrictions, and conditions relating to each of such funds, accounts, and sub-accounts, and such Budget Manual shall upon its approval by the Grand Lodge be and become a part by reference of each and every Annual Budget. (1985)

##### **Section 2.** Corporate Board of Directors-

- (1) The Corporate Board of Directors as provided in this Constitution shall be and act as the Budget Commission of the Grand Lodge.
- (2) The Corporate Board of Directors shall meet at least once each month at such time and place as determined by the Board, and at call of the Grand Master.



- (3) A quorum of the Corporate Board shall be any three (3) members and the Grand Master. All decisions of the Board shall be by majority vote of members present which majority shall and must include the Grand Master. There shall be no proxy voting. (1985)

**Section 3.** Preparation of Budget-Each Officer, Board, Commission, and Committee of the Grand Lodge shall submit a request for appropriation of funds at such time and in such manner and in such form as may be prescribed by Grand Lodge Regulation. The Finance and Accounts Committee shall consider such requests and prepare a tentative Budget with such amendments, additions, and deletions made thereto or therefrom by the Corporate Board, together with a narrative statement of the general financial condition of the Grand Lodge shall be sent to each Particular Lodge at least thirty (30) days prior to the Grand Lodge Annual Communication each year. At the ensuing Grand Communication the proposed Budget shall be reviewed by the Finance and Accounts Committee and the Corporate Board and presented, with suggested changes, for final action by the Grand Lodge but any and all suggested changes shall be specifically recited in detail to the Representatives of the Particular Lodges when the Budget is presented for final adoption. The Grand Lodge by Regulation shall adopt such other provisions as shall be necessary to fully implement the purpose of intent of this Section. (2021)

**Digest of Masonic Law**

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**Section 4.** Adoption of Budget and Effect Thereof-The proposed Budget shall be submitted to the Grand Lodge at the Annual Grand Communication with such amendments thereto as may be approved by the Grand Lodge, after which such Budget shall be adopted. Upon the adoption of the budget by the Grand Lodge, the Budget shall control the expenditures for all departments of the Grand Lodge and the itemized estimates of the expenditures shall have the effect of fixed appropriations and shall not be amended, altered, or exceeded except as provided for herein. Transfers from one sub-account to another sub-account within the same Fund in the Budget shall be made upon Executive Order of the Grand Master. No Officer, agent, committee, or board shall make any expenditures in excess of the Budget appropriation except as may be authorized in accordance with the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge. The Grand Secretary shall compile a monthly statement of expenditures of each Budget account and a statement of disbursement of trust funds and mail or deliver a copy to each of the Elective Grand Officers, Past Grand Masters, and Chairmen of all Committees authorized to meet during the recess of the Grand Lodge.

**Section 5.** Duties and Powers of the Corporate Board-The Corporate Board is hereby vested with the following powers, duties, and authority over the finances of the Grand Lodge:

(1) During the recess of the Grand Lodge, the Corporate Board shall supervise the financial affairs of Grand Lodge and shall administer the same in accordance with the Budget provided for herein and the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge.

(2) The Corporate Board shall cause to be set up the Budget accounts in the books of the Grand Lodge immediately after the close of each Annual Grand Communication.

(3) The members of the Corporate Board and any authorized agent of such Board shall have access to the records of every Officer, agent, committee, and board handling moneys of the Grand Lodge, or having supervision of any Grand Lodge function with reference to finances.

(4) The Corporate Board shall have authority during the recess of the Grand Lodge to set up such temporary sub-accounts as may be necessary for the keeping of clear and accurate records of all receipts and disbursements for which an account is not already provided.

(5) The Corporate Board is hereby vested with authority to invest and reinvest current income funds, budgeted funds, and reserve funds in savings accounts or in obligations of the United States of America, maintaining only sufficient checking account balance in the depositories to meet current demands.

(6) The Corporate Board shall develop and supervise insurance and retirement programs affecting Grand Lodge properties and employees and make arrangements to implement the same.

(7) The Corporate Board shall provide for minutes of every meeting to be properly recorded, which shall include copies of each and every order by number, as issued by them, and make written report to the Grand Lodge each year and shall attach a copy of all such minutes.

(8) The Corporate Board is hereby vested with the authority to do all things necessary and proper to the full exercise of the power and authority provided for herein.

**Section 6.** Emergency Expenditures-When in the recess of Grand Lodge an emergency that could not have reasonably been foreseen or anticipated and which requires immediate expenditure of funds, reserve or otherwise not budgeted for such emergency, that the Corporate Board may meet in called meeting and by vote of at least three members and the Grand Master, recorded in the minutes of the meeting together with full statement of the material facts as to the emergency, may transfer necessary funds of the Grand Lodge to a special and/or sub-account to meet the needs raised by the emergency. All records and facts relevant to such proceedings shall be reviewed by the Jurisprudence Committee and reported to the Craft thereon. (1985)

**Section 7.** Audit-There shall be an annual audit of the books, records, and accounts of the Grand Lodge. Special audits shall be made of all such books, records, and accounts or any part or portion thereof when ordered or directed by the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master or by the Corporate Board. The Grand Lodge may adopt other and further Regulations concerning the audit as may be appropriate. (1985)

**Section 8.** Masonic Home Endowment Fund-

(a) The Masonic Home Endowment Fund is hereby designated and dedicated as a sacred trust fund, the principal amount whereof may not be expended for any purpose or purposes whatsoever save for investment and reinvestment; the income therefrom to be expended for the uses and purposes of Masonic Charity and for no other purpose whatever save the payment of unexpended balances of such income into the Masonic Home Endowment Fund to further increase the said Fund.

(b) The Corporate Board is hereby empowered and directed to receive and hold all assets now or hereafter belonging to said Masonic Home Endowment Fund and which may have or may hereafter be given, devised, or bequeathed to or for the benefit of the Masonic Home; to invest and reinvest from time to time all moneys and assets in the said capital Fund in securities listed on recognized stock exchanges in the United States of America, or in bonds of the United States Government, or in direct obligations of the United States Government, or agencies which are fully guaranteed by the United States Government, or in securities issued by instrumentalities of the United States Government, or in corporate bonds having a rating of "A" or better by some nationally recognized rating institution, or in deposits in federal savings and loan associations of Florida or in banking institutions not to exceed the insurance limit provided by FDIC. (1999)

(c) The Corporate Board shall employ the services of Registered Investment Adviser(s) or Registered Representative(s) and shall make investments only on the advice of such Registered Investment Adviser(s) or Registered Representative(s) and by majority approval of the Corporate Board and the concurrence of the Grand Master; and *provided further* that the expressed wish of every donor as to the type or kind of investment shall be followed. The Corporate Board is hereby authorized to retain any property acquired by gift, bequest, or otherwise, for as long as is deemed advisable, even though such property may not qualify under the above and foregoing provisions for investment of capital and/or principal constituting such Fund. The Corporate Board shall receive the income from said Endowment Fund on or before the close of the Grand Lodge Fiscal year and pay over said income annually to the Grand Secretary to be used for such Masonic Charity as the Grand Lodge may direct. (1999)

(d) The Corporate Board shall authorize the Registered Investment Adviser(s) or Registered Representative's(s') broker-dealer or its clearing firm to act as custodian or custodians of said Fund and all capital and/or principal belonging to said Fund may be delivered to said Registered Investment Adviser(s) or Registered Representative's(s') broker-dealer or its clearing firm as custodian or custodians and said Registered Investment Adviser(s) or

Registered Representative's(s') broker-dealer or its clearing firm so authorized shall proceed to keep the assets of said Fund in Trust, holding all assets in the name of its nominee and be authorized by reason thereof to execute all stock powers, proxies, and other instruments pertaining to said assets and held by such Registered Investment Adviser(s) or Registered Representative's(s') broker-dealer or its clearing firm. No broker-dealer or its clearing firm may hold Grand Lodge securities or funds in excess of the amount of their respective insurance on accounts. (1999)

(e) The Corporate Board shall authorize the Registered Investment Adviser(s) or Registered Representative(s) selected as financial adviser(s) to make the decision as to the purchase and sales of securities according to prescribed limitations and guidelines approved by the Corporate Board but such guidelines shall conform to the requirements of this Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge relating to investments of the Endowment Fund. (1999)

(f) The Corporate Board shall meet immediately after close of Grand Lodge and shall employ the Registered Investment Adviser(s) or Registered Representative's(s') broker-dealer above provided for and shall meet in regular meeting of at least once every quarter thereafter and at such other times as called by the Grand Master. (1999)

**Section 9.** There is hereby established a Grand Lodge Fund to be designated the Cumulative Depreciation Fund, which Fund and all monies deposited in or allocated to or appropriated for such Fund, shall be used exclusively for replacement of existing facility for administration of Grand Lodge affairs, or Masonic Home affairs, or for place of residence of or care for Residents of the Masonic Home.

Any monies deposited, allocated, or appropriated as aforesaid may be invested in same manner as investment of Masonic Home Endowment Fund and all interest and dividends earned by the Cumulative Depreciation Fund shall accrue to and be credited to such Fund.

Any monies deposited, allocated, or appropriated for such Fund shall not be withdrawn, except for investment purposes as aforesaid, nor expended for any other purpose whatsoever except by direct action by secret written ballot of Representatives of Particular Lodges, Elected Grand Lodge Officers, and Past Grand Masters in Annual Grand Communication after thirty (30) days written notice by the Corporate Board to all Particular Lodges, District Deputy Grand Masters then in office, and all Past Grand Masters. (2021)

The Grand Lodge shall by Regulation provide for funding of such Cumulative Depreciation Fund and designation thereof by appropriate letter with designation shown in Grand Lodge financial records.

Anything in this Constitution to the contrary notwithstanding this Section 9 of Article XIV of the Constitution may be amended only by two-thirds majority of secret written ballots of Representatives of Particular Lodges, Elected Grand Lodge Officers then in office, and Past Grand Masters in two consecutive Annual Grand Communications after written notice sixty (60) days before each Annual Grand Communication to all Particular Lodges, Elected Grand Lodge Officers, and Past Grand Masters. (1985)

**Section 10.** There is hereby established a Grand Lodge Fund to be designated the Masonic Museum Fund of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Florida. Said fund is hereby designated and dedicated as a Sacred Trust Fund, the principal amount whereof may not be expended for any purpose or purposes whatsoever save for investment and reinvestment, the income therefrom to be expended for the use of capital improvement of the Masonic Museum of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Florida. All expenditures are to be under the direction and supervision of the Corporate Board. (1989)

**Section 11.** There is hereby established a Grand Lodge Fund to be designated the Grand Lodge Administrative Endowment Fund of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida. Said fund is hereby designated and dedicated as a Sacred Trust Fund, the principal amount whereof shall not be expended for any purpose or purposes whatsoever save for investment and reinvestment. The income therefrom may be expended for the use of the Administrative Budget of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida. All monies received from the Grand Lodge proportion of the Perpetual Membership Program in excess of the current per capita shall be paid into this fund. (1993)

## ARTICLE XV

### FORMS AND CEREMONIES

**Section 1.** All ritualistic ceremonies, forms, services, and esoteric work of the Grand Lodge and all Subordinate, Particular, or Individual Lodges, hereinafter referred to as "Forms and Ceremonies" as transcribed and written and adopted in Annual Grand Communication, April 26, A.L. 5967, A.D. 1967, and on file in the office of the Grand Secretary, together with such changes, amendments, and deletions as from time to time may be duly authorized and made, is declared to be the true, authentic, and genuine Forms and Ceremonies of the Grand Jurisdiction of Florida, and are the only Forms and Ceremonies authorized for use in such Grand Jurisdiction, and no other Forms or Ceremonies shall be used by the Grand Lodge or any of the Subordinate, Particular, or Individual Lodges of said Grand Jurisdiction.

**Section 2.** There shall be one (1) original and up to thirty-five (35) duplicate copies of the Forms and Ceremonies described herein. There shall also be one Spanish Translation and three (3) duplicate copies of the Spanish Translation of the Forms and Ceremonies. There shall also be one (1) digitized copy of the original and Spanish Translation of the Forms and Ceremonies. (2019)

The digitized copy shall be used for the purposes of updating, printing corrections, or replacement copies of the bound volumes of the Forms and Ceremonies as necessary and approved. The digitized copy shall only be accessed on a computer or printing device that, as applicable, 1) has received all operating system updates and 2) is running an updated version of virus protection software and 3) is not connected to any network (including the internet) either physically or wirelessly or through any other connection means and 4) does not have any form of removable media attached except the media containing the digitized copy. (2019)

The original shall be permanently bound in not more than three volumes and shall not be used unless such use is specifically authorized by appropriate Resolution of Grand Lodge, which Resolution shall specify in detail the use to be made of such original and the terms and conditions governing such use. (1989)

The duplicate copies of the Forms and Ceremonies shall be permanently bound in such number of volumes as the Grand Master may from time to time direct by Edict, and may be moved to a Committee room in the Grand Lodge Building, but shall not be removed to any other building or place except by direction of the Grand Master and only after the Lodge in the requesting District has signed a satisfactory contract and agreement with The Grand Lodge of Florida and agreed to pay the cost incurred in the reproduction of the duplicate copies and provides a safe to house the "Books." The duplicate copy of the "Forms and Ceremonies" retained at the Grand Lodge Building will be used as the "Master" for producing those duplicates. (2009)

There shall also be a First Letter Cipher of the Forms and Ceremonies, which shall be available to all Master Masons in good standing in a Particular Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction. This Cipher shall contain the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Three Degrees, the Degree Work of the Three Degrees, the Lectures of the Three Degrees, and the Catechisms of the Three Degrees. There shall also be two untitled and uncredited booklets containing the First Letter Cipher of the Catechisms of the Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Degrees, which shall be available for use by the Particular Lodges of Florida to assist the candidates. (1997)

There shall also be a Grand Lodge Officers First Letter Cipher Code Book. Copies of this Grand Lodge Officers Code Book shall be prepared at no cost to the Grand Lodge; printed on 8½ X 11 inch sheets, mounted in a cover folder and kept with the Aprons of the Elected and Appointed Grand Lodge Officers having speaking parts for their use during the year. A master copy of said Grand Lodge Officers Code Book shall be prepared and held by the Grand Secretary in order to provide future replacement copies if necessary. (2001)

The Grand Lodge by Regulation may further regulate the use of such duplicate copies and Ciphers. (1995)



**Section 3.** The original and duplicate copies of the Forms and Ceremonies described herein shall be kept in a safety deposit box permanently anchored in the vault in the Grand Lodge Building, which safety deposit box shall be provided with lock which can only be opened by operation of two different keys, one of which keys shall be in the custody of the Grand Master except as hereinafter provided and the other of such keys in the custody of the Grand Secretary.

The safety deposit box herein above referred to shall not be opened except by the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary in the presence of at least one Past Grand Master and a member of the Committee on Work; *provided, however*, the Grand Master may be represented by the Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, or Junior Grand Warden when he shall so direct in writing.

In the event of illness, incapacity, or unavoidable absence of the Grand Secretary, the Grand Master may designate, in writing, an additional Past Grand Master to act for the Grand Secretary. A record shall be provided and kept on file in said safety deposit box showing each time that said safety deposit box is opened, what was removed therefrom, the use made thereof of the original or duplicate copy, the persons present at the time of opening of said safety deposit box, and the time of return of anything removed therefrom.

**Section 4.** At no time and under no circumstances and by no person shall any copy be made of the secret work adopted by the Grand Lodge, nor any notes or memorandum made or prepared therefrom, nor any changes, amendments, or deletions made thereto or therefrom, unless authorized by Grand Lodge in Annual Grand Communication, and then only after sixty (60) days notice to the Particular Lodges of any proposed change, modification, abridgement, amendment, or repeal hereof.

At no time and under no circumstances and by no person shall any copy be made of the Ciphers authorized by Grand Lodge, nor any notes or memorandum made or prepared therefrom, nor any changes, amendments, or deletions made thereto or therefrom, unless authorized by the Grand Lodge. (1995)

**Section 5.** The provisions hereof shall not be changed, modified, abridged, amended, or repealed by any manner or means whatsoever except by direct action of the Grand Lodge in Annual Grand Communication after not less than sixty (60) days notice to all Particular Lodges of any proposed change, modification, abridgement, amendment, or repeal hereof.

### Rulings and Decisions

Article XV, Section 3, requires that the Grand Master, the Grand Secretary, at least one other Elective Grand Lodge Officer, and at least one Past Grand Master be personally present at the opening and closing of the vault, wherein is kept the written Forms and Ceremonies. (1971 Proc. 301-302)

The merged Handbook of Floorwork Procedures shall not be used or opened during any Called or Stated Communication of a Particular Lodge inasmuch as it contains the same information as the Florida Masonic Code Book. The merged Handbook of Floorwork Procedures may be used for the instruction of a Brother during a Particular Lodge Practice. The violation of this Ruling and Decision shall be subject for Masonic discipline. (2023 Proc. \_\_\_\_\_)

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## CHAPTER 1

### MASONIC LAW, TRADITION, AND POLICY LANDMARKS AND CERTAIN LAWS OF FREEMASONRY

#### Constitutional Provisions

It being well known that for any concept, precept, or principle of Freemasonry to be recognized as being a Landmark, the same must be possessed of two principal attributes, namely, Antiquity, and Universality, the following definitions of those terms are hereby adopted:

“Antiquity: Those beliefs and those practices which were fixed at the time when Freemasonry emerged from its prehistoric era into the period of recorded Masonic history.”

“Universality: A suggested Landmark has universality when it is one of the practices, principles, or beliefs which Masons everywhere accept, believe, and practice and without which there would be no Freemasonry.” (Art. XIII, Sec. 1)

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida hereby recognizes, as being Landmarks of Freemasonry the following:

- (a) A belief in the existence of one ever living and true God.
- (b) A belief in the immortality of the human soul and a resurrection thereof to a Future Life.
- (c) The Volume of the Sacred Law, open upon the Altar, is an indispensable furnishing of every regular Lodge while at labor.
- (d) The Legend of the Third Degree.
- (e) Secrecy, which includes: The necessary words, signs, and tokens, whereby one Mason may know another to be such, in darkness as in light; that every regular Lodge must be Tyled while at labor; that every visitor seeking admission to the Lodge must be examined and prove himself a Mason, unless duly and properly avouched for; those other matters which cannot be written in any language.
- (f) The symbolism of the Operative Art.
- (g) Every candidate for Freemasonry must be a man, free born, of lawful age, being under the tongue of good repute, and well recommended, and unless Dispensation is granted by the Grand Master, having no maim or defect of body that may render him incapable of learning the art or of being advanced

to the several Degrees. (NOTE: Under our law, this language has been interpreted to mean that an artificial substitute will qualify a maimed applicant if by the use thereof he is capable of conforming literally to what is required of him by the ritual of the several Degrees of Craft Masonry.)

- (h) The division of Ancient Craft Masonry into three classifications, namely, Entered Apprentices, Fellow Crafts, and Master Masons, out of which classifications grew the present Three Degrees of Craft Masonry.
- (i) The government of the Fraternity by a presiding Officer who, since the advent of speculative Masonry, has borne the title of Grand Master and has been elected from the body of the Craft, and the prerogatives inherent in that office, among which are:

The prerogative of the Grand Master to enter into and preside over every assembly of Masons within his jurisdiction and, corollary thereto, to supervise and regulate the affairs of Masonry within that jurisdiction, between Communications of the Grand Lodge, subject to the Constitution and lawful Regulations duly enacted by the Grand Lodge.

The prerogative of the Grand Master to grant his Dispensation.

The prerogative of the Grand Master to make a Mason at sight in the body of a regularly constituted Lodge and by trial of the ballot.

- (j) The necessity for Freemasons to congregate in Lodges.

The recognition of the above as Landmarks shall not be construed to mean or imply that this Grand Lodge is in any wise prohibited from recognizing, from time to time, hereafter, by appropriate amendments hereto, other principles, precepts, practices, or tenets of Freemasonry as being Landmarks, nor is this Grand Lodge prohibited from reconsidering and, if deemed proper, withdrawing, this recognition of any of the above. (Art. XIII, Sec. 2).

Although not recognized as being Landmarks, this Grand Lodge recognizes the following as being fundamental concepts, principles, precepts, practices, and tenets of Freemasonry, possessing the qualities and characteristics of Ancient Craft Masonic precedents and law, but not possessed of the immutable qualities of Landmarks:

- (a) The government of the Craft, when congregated in a Lodge, by a Master and two Wardens.

- (b) The right of every Mason to be represented in all general meetings of the Craft and to instruct his representatives.
- (c) The right of every Mason to appeal to the Grand Lodge, from any decision affecting his status as a Mason.
- (d) The right of every Mason to visit and sit in every regular Lodge.
- (e) No Lodge can interfere with the business of another Lodge.
- (f) Every Freemason is amenable to the laws of the Masonic Jurisdiction in which he resides.
- (g) The equality of all Masons. (Article XIII, Sec. 3)

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

### Regulations

**1.01** The Constitution and Regulations of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida as set forth and contained in this Digest are hereby adopted, ratified, confirmed, and with the amendments, changes, alterations, and additions thereto which may hereafter be made by direction of Grand Lodge, are declared to be the supreme Masonic Law of this Grand Jurisdiction.

The Rulings and Decisions of this Grand Lodge set forth and contained herein are declared to be in full force and effect and all Rulings and Decisions in conflict therewith are hereby revoked, rescinded, and declared of no force and effect. (1985)

**1.02** Masonic Law is a rule of fraternal conduct, and applies only to the moral and fraternal rectitude of its members. It is based upon the law of Divine Revelation, therefore, any covenant, affirmation, declaration, assumption, prescription, or requirement derogatory thereto, or in conflict therewith, is void. Hence the precept, "a Mason is bound by his tenure to obey the moral law." It embodies an innate principle of right, whose footprints distinctly mark the path of virtue in all authentic antecedents' history, and whose plumbline of moral rectitude will guide its consistent votaries of all successive future generations through the vista of coming time to the verge of human demolition.

**1.03** Masonic Law is of two kinds, viz: The unwritten and written. The unwritten law of Masonry comprises its mystic covenants and ceremonies which have been handed down by tradition from time

immemorial, and which no Mason, or set of Masons, is at liberty to violate or unlawfully reveal. The written law of Masonry is embraced in the Holy Bible, the Constitution and legislation of Grand Lodge, and the Laws, Rules, and Regulations of the Particular Lodges, respectively, to which every Mason in his proper sphere of fraternal jurisdiction should yield dutiful conformity.

**1.04** Freemasonry has for its guide in jurisprudence an array of “Ancient Landmarks,” from which, without the hazards of dissolution, it can never depart. They are from “time immemorial,” certain, continued, immovable, and easily discerned and comprehended through the medium of mystic intelligence. They form the circle of boundary lines of official prerogatives, Grand Lodge legislation, work of Particular Lodges, and the covenants, relations, rights, privileges, and duties of constituents.

**1.05** Lodges are recommended to establish libraries for the use and benefit of their members, and to place therein the various works on jurisprudence and other Masonic subjects, which they can obtain; but for Masonic Law in this Grand Jurisdiction they must be governed by the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge, which are by no means meager, and which may be enlarged from time to time, as the increasing necessities of the Craft may demand.

**1.06** Freemasonry professes to promote virtue, with which vice, of whatever shape or magnitude, is antagonistic. It is, therefore, incumbent upon every true Mason to conform and take counsel with his Brethren concerning any and all matters properly involving fraternal discipline.

**1.07** Masonic Law or jurisprudence is sufficiently large and comprehensive in area and application to need no special legislation to enable the Particular Lodges to correct, by discipline, the vices and irregularities of their wayward members.

**1.08** Officers of Lodges, Grand and Particular, are by the nature of their contract with the Fraternity, required to be prompt and faithful in the discharge of their official duties. Culpable negligence and dereliction on their part tend to discourage the Brethren, whereby the normal force or influence of the Lodge is weakened or destroyed. Such conduct is therefore censurable, and the Brethren should not be slow in seeking effectual fraternal remedy.

**1.09** It is not within the province of a Masonic Lodge to assume the functions of judicial courts. It cannot pass upon compensation supposed to be due from one Brother to another, but

when there are reasons to believe that a premeditated or intentional wrong has been done, the erring Brother should be disciplined.

**1.10** Masonry exercises no absolute control over the natural and civil rights of individuals, they being left to the law of the land. Masonic penalties, therefore, cannot be inflicted upon the person of any member, but may affect and deprive him of his fraternal rights and relations.

**1.11** Anderson's Constitution, 1722, the General Regulations of Thirty-Nine Articles, and the Charges of a Freemason, are in force in this Grand Jurisdiction, so far as they are not in conflict with the Constitution and Laws of this Grand Lodge.

GENERAL REGULATIONS  
FROM  
ANDERSON'S CONSTITUTION

Compiled first by Mr. George Payne, Anno 1720, when he was Grand Master, and approved by the Grand Lodge on Saint John Baptist's Day, Anno 1721, at Stationer's Hall, London; when the most noble Prince John Duke of Montagu was unanimously chosen our Grand Master for the year ensuing; who chose John Beal, M.D., his Deputy Grand Master; Mr. Josiah Villeneau and Mr. Thomas Morris, Jun., were chosen by the Lodge Grand Wardens. And now, by the command of our said Right Worshipful Grand Master Montagu, the author of this book has compared them with, and reduced them to the ancient records and immemorial usage of the Fraternity, and digested them into this new method, with several proper explications, for the use of the Lodges in and about London and Westminster.

I. The Grand Master, or his Deputy, hath authority and right, not only to be present in any true Lodge, but also to preside wherever he is, with the Master of the Lodge on his left hand, and to order his Grand Wardens to attend him, who are not to act in Particular Lodges as Wardens, but in his presence, and at his command; because there the Grand Master may command the Wardens of that Lodge, or any other Brethren he pleaseth, to attend and act as his Wardens pro tempore.

II. The Master of a Particular Lodge has the right and authority of congregating the members of his Lodge into a chapter at pleasure, upon any emergency or occurrence, as well as to appoint the time and place of their usual forming; and in case of sickness, death, or necessary absence of the Master, the Senior Warden shall act as

Master pro tempore, if no Brother is present who has been Master of that Lodge before; for in that case the absent Master's authority reverts to the last Master then present; though he cannot act until the said Senior Warden has once congregated the Lodge, or in his absence the Junior Warden.

III. The Master of each Particular Lodge, or one of the Wardens, or some other Brother by his order, shall keep a book containing their By-Laws, the names of their members, with a list of all the Lodges in town, and the usual times and places of their forming, and all their transactions that are proper to be written.

IV. No Lodge shall make more than five new Brethren at one time, nor any man under the age of twenty-five, who must be also his own Master; unless by a Dispensation from the Grand Master or his Deputy.

V. No man can be made or admitted a member of a Particular Lodge, without previous notice one month before given to the said Lodge, in order to make due inquiry into the reputation and capacity of the candidate; unless by the Dispensation aforesaid.

VI. But no man can be entered a Brother in any Particular Lodge, or admitted to be a member thereof, without the unanimous consent of all the members of that Lodge then present when the candidate is proposed, and their consent is formally asked by the Master; and they are to signify their consent or dissent in their own prudent way, either virtually or in form, but with unanimity; nor is this inherent privilege subject to a Dispensation; because the members of a Particular Lodge are the best judges of it; and if a fractious member should be imposed on them, it might spoil their harmony, or hinder their freedom; or even break and disperse the Lodge, which ought to be avoided by all good and true Brethren.

VII. Every new Brother at his making is decently to clothe the Lodge, that is, all the Brethren present, and to deposit something for the relief of indigent and decayed Brethren, as the candidate shall think fit to bestow, over and above the small allowance stated by the By-Laws of that Particular Lodge, which charity shall be Lodged with the Master or Wardens, or the Cashier, if the members think fit to choose one.

And the candidate shall also solemnly promise to submit to the Constitutions, the Charges, and Regulations, and to such other good usages as shall be intimated to them in time and place convenient.

VIII. No set or number of Brethren shall withdraw or separate



themselves from the Lodge in which they were made Brethren, or were afterwards admitted members, unless the Lodge becomes too numerous; nor even then, without a Dispensation from the Grand Master or his Deputy; and when they are thus separated, they must either immediately join themselves to such other Lodge as they shall like best, with the unanimous consent of that Lodge to which they go (as above regulated) or else they must obtain the Grand Master's Warrant to join in forming a new Lodge.

If any set or number of Masons shall take upon themselves to form a Lodge without the Grand Master's Warrant, the regular Lodges are not to countenance them, nor own them as fair Brethren and duly formed, nor approve of their acts and deeds: but must treat them as rebels, until they humble themselves, as the Grand Master shall in his prudence direct, and until he approve of them by his Warrant, which must be signified to the other Lodges, as the custom is when a new Lodge is to be registered in the list of Lodges.

IX. But if any Brother so far misbehave himself as to render his Lodge uneasy, he shall be twice duly admonished by the Master or Wardens in a formed Lodge; and if he will not refrain his imprudence, and obediently submit to the advice of the Brethren, and reform what gives them offence, he shall be dealt with according to the By-Laws of that Particular Lodge, or else in such a manner as the Quarterly Communication shall in their great prudence think fit; for which a new Regulation may be afterwards made.

X. The majority of every Particular Lodge, when congregated, shall have the privilege of giving instructions to their Master and Wardens, before the assembling of the Grand Chapter, or Lodge, at the three Quarterly Communications hereafter mentioned, and of the Annual Grand Lodge too; because their Master and Wardens are their representatives, and are supposed to speak their mind.

XI. All Particular Lodges are to observe the same usages as much as possible; in order to which, and for cultivating a good understanding among Freemasons, some members out of every Lodge shall be deputized to visit the other Lodges as often as shall be thought convenient.

XII. The Grand Lodge consists of, and is formed by the Masters and Wardens of all the regular Particular Lodges upon record, with the Grand Master at their head, and his Deputy on his left hand, and the Grand Wardens in their proper places; and must have a Quarterly Communication about Michaelmas, Christmas, and Lady-Day, in some convenient place, as the Grand Master shall appoint, where no

Brother shall be present, who is not at that time a member thereof, without a Dispensation; and while he stays, he shall not be allowed to vote, nor even give his opinion, without leave of the Grand Lodge asked and given, or unless it be duly asked by the said Lodge.

All matters are to be determined in the Grand Lodge by a majority of votes, each member having one vote, and the Grand Master having two votes, unless the said Lodge leave any particular thing to the determination of the Grand Master, for the sake of expedition.

XIII. At the said Quarterly Communication, all matters that concern the Fraternity in general, or Particular Lodges, or single Brethren, are quietly, sedately, and maturely to be discoursed of and transacted; Apprentices must be admitted Masters and Fellow Craft only here, unless by a Dispensation. Here also all differences, that cannot be made up and accommodated privately, nor by a Particular Lodge, are to be seriously considered and decided; and if any Brother thinks himself aggrieved by the decision of this Board, he may appeal to the Annual Grand Lodge next ensuing, and leave his appeal in writing, with the Grand Master, or his Deputy, or the Grand Wardens.

Here also the Master or the Wardens of each Particular Lodge shall bring and produce a list of such members as have been made or even admitted in their Particular Lodges since the last Communication of the Grand Lodge; and there shall be a book kept by the Grand Master, or his Deputy, or rather by some Brother whom the Grand Lodge shall appoint for Secretary, wherein shall be recorded all the Lodges, with their usual times and places of forming, and the names of all the members of each Lodge; and all the affairs of the Grand Lodge that are proper to be written.

They shall also consider of the most prudent and effectual methods of collecting and disposing of what money shall be given to, or lodged with them in charity, towards the relief only of any true Brother fallen into poverty or decay, but of none else; but every Particular Lodge shall dispose of their own charity for poor Brethren, according to their own By-Laws, until it be agreed by all the Lodges (in a new Regulation) to carry in the charity collected by them to the Grand Lodge, at the Quarterly or Annual Communication, in order to make a common stock of it; for the more handsome relief of poor Brethren.

They shall also appoint a Treasurer, a Brother of good worldly substance, who shall be a member of the Grand Lodge by virtue of his

office, and shall be always present, and have power to move to the Grand Lodge anything, especially what concerns his office. To him shall be committed all money raised for charity, or for any other use of the Grand Lodge which he shall write down in a book, with the respective ends and uses for which the several sums are intended; and shall expend or disburse the same by such a certain order signed, as the Grand Lodge shall afterwards agree to in a new Regulation; but he shall not vote in choosing a Grand Master or Wardens, though in every other transaction. As in like manner the Secretary shall be a member of the Grand Lodge by virtue of his office, and vote in everything except in choosing a Grand Master or Warden.

The Treasurer and Secretary shall have each a clerk, who must be a Brother and Fellow Craft, but never must be a member of the Grand Lodge, nor speak without being allowed or desired.

The Grand Master, or his Deputy, shall always command the Treasurer and Secretary, with their clerks and books, in order to see how matters go on, and to know what is expedient to be done upon any emergent occasion.

Another Brother (who must be a Fellow Craft) should be appointed to look after the door of the Grand Lodge; but shall be no member of it.

But these offices may be farther explained by a new Regulation when the necessity and expediency of them may more appear than at present to the Fraternity.

XIV. If at any Grand Lodge, Stated or Occasional, Quarterly or Annual, the Grand Master and his Deputy should both be absent, then the present Master of a Lodge, that has been the longest Freemason, shall take the chair, and preside as Grand Master pro tempore; and shall be vested with all his power and honour for the time; provided there is no Brother present that has been Grand Master formerly, or Deputy Grand Master; for the last Grand Master present, or else the last Deputy present, should always of right take place in the absence of the present Grand Master and his Deputy.

XV. In the Grand Lodge, none can act as Wardens but the Grand Wardens themselves, if present; and if absent, the Grand Master, or the person who presides in his place, shall order private Wardens to act as Grand Wardens pro tempore, whose places are to be supplied by two Fellow Craft of the same Lodge, called forth to act, or sent thither by the Particular Master thereof; or if by him omitted, then they shall be called by the Grand Master, that so the Grand Lodge may be always complete.

XVI. The Grand Wardens, or any others are first to advise with the Deputy about the affairs of the Lodge or of the Brethren, and not to apply to the Grand Master without the knowledge of the Deputy, unless he refuses his concurrence in any certain necessary affair; in which case, or in case of any difference between the Deputy and the Grand Wardens, or other Brethren, both parties are to go by concert to the Grand Master, who can easily decide the controversy and make up the difference by virtue of his great authority.

The Grand Master should receive no intimation of business concerning Masonry, but from his Deputy first, except in such certain cases as his Worship can well judge of; for if the application to the Grand Master be irregular, he can easily order the Grand Wardens, or any other Brethren thus applying, to wait upon his Deputy, who is to prepare the business speedily, and to lay it orderly before his Worship.

XVII. No Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary, or whoever acts for them, or in their stead pro tempore, can at the same time be the Master or Warden of a Particular Lodge; but as soon as any of them has honorably discharged his grand office, he returns to that post or station in his Particular Lodge, from which he was called to officiate above.

XVIII. If the Deputy Grand Master be sick, or necessarily absent, the Grand Master may choose any Fellow Craft he pleases to be his Deputy pro tempore; but he that is chosen Deputy at the Grand Lodge, and the Grand Wardens too, cannot be discharged without the cause fairly appear to the majority of the Grand Lodge; and the Grand Master, if he is uneasy, may call a Grand Lodge on purpose to lay the cause before them, and to have their advice and concurrence; in which case, the majority of the Grand Lodge, if they cannot reconcile the Master and his Deputy or his Wardens, are to concur in allowing the Master to discharge his said Deputy or his said Wardens, and to choose another Deputy immediately; and the said Grand Lodge shall choose other Wardens in that case, that harmony and peace may be preserved.

XIX. If the Grand Master should abuse his power, and render himself unworthy of the obedience and subjection of the Lodges, he shall be treated in a way and manner to be agreed upon in a new Regulation; because hitherto the ancient Fraternity have had no occasion for it, their former Grand Masters having all behaved themselves worthy of that honourable office.

XX. The Grand Master, with his Deputy and Wardens, shall (at

least once) go round and visit all the Lodges about town during his Mastership.

XXI. If the Grand Master should die during his Mastership, or by sickness, or by being beyond sea, or any other way should be rendered incapable of discharging his office, the Deputy, or in his absence, the Senior Grand Warden, or in his absence the Junior, in his absence any three present Masters of Lodges, shall join to congregate the Grand Lodge immediately, to advise together upon the emergency, and to send two of their number to invite the last Grand Master to resume his office, which now in course reverts to him; or if he refuse, then the next last, and so backward; but if no former Grand Master can be found, then the Deputy shall act as Principal until another is chosen; or if there be no Deputy, then the oldest Master.

XXII. The Brethren of all the Lodges in and about London and Westminster, shall meet at an Annual Communication and Feast, in some convenient place, on Saint John Baptist's Day, or else on Saint John Evangelist's Day, as the Grand Lodge shall think fit by a new Regulation, having of late years met on Saint John Baptist's Day; provided,

The majority of the Masters and Wardens, with the Grand Master, his Deputy and Wardens, agree at their Quarterly Communication, three months before, that there shall be a Feast, and a General Communication of all the Brethren; for if either the Grand Master, or the majority of the Particular Masters, are against it, it must be dropped for that time.

But whether there shall be a Feast for all the Brethren, or not, yet the Grand Lodge must meet in some convenient place annually on Saint John's Day; or if it be Sunday, then on the next day, in order to choose every year a new Grand Master, Deputy, and Wardens.

XXIII. If it be thought expedient, and the Grand Master, with the majority of the Masters and Wardens, agree to hold a Grand Feast, according to the ancient laudable customs of Masons, then the Grand Wardens shall have the care of preparing the tickets, sealed with the Grand Master's Seal, of disposing of the tickets, of receiving the money for the tickets, of buying materials of the Feast, of finding out a proper and convenient place to feast in; and of every other thing that concerns the entertainment.

But that the work may not be too burdensome to the two Grand Wardens, and that all matters may be expeditiously and safely managed, the Grand Master, or his Deputy, shall have power to

nominate and appoint a certain number of Stewards, as his Worship shall think fit, to act in concert with the two Grand Wardens; all things relating to the Feast being decided amongst them by a majority of voices; except the Grand Master or his Deputy interposes by a particular direction or appointment.

XXIV. The Wardens and Stewards shall, in due time, wait upon the Grand Master, or his Deputy, for directions and orders about the premises; but if his Worship and his Deputy are sick, or necessarily absent, they shall call together the Masters and Wardens of Lodges to meet on purpose for their advice and orders; or else they may take the matter wholly upon themselves, and do the best they can.

The Grand Wardens and the Stewards are to account for all the money they receive, or expend, to the Grand Lodge, after dinner, or when the Grand Lodge shall think fit to receive their accounts.

If the Grand Master pleases, he may in due time summon all the Masters and Wardens of Lodges to consult with them about ordering the Grand Feast, and about any emergency or accidental thing relating thereunto, that may require advice; or else to take it upon himself altogether.

XXV. The Masters of Lodges shall each appoint one experienced and discreet Fellow Craft of his Lodge, to compose a committee, consisting of one from every Lodge, to who shall meet to receive in a convenient apartment, every person that brings a ticket, and shall have power to discourse him, if they think fit, in order to admit him, or debar him, as they shall see cause; provided, they send no man away before they have acquainted all the Brethren within doors with the reason thereof, to avoid mistakes that no true Brother may be debarred, nor a false Brother, or mere pretender, admitted. This committee must meet very early on Saint John's Day, at the place, even before any persons come with tickets.

XXVI. The Grand Master shall appoint two or more trusty Brethren to be porters, or door-keepers, who are also to be early at the place, for some good reasons; and who are to be at the command of the committee.

XXVII. The Grand Wardens, or the Stewards, shall appoint beforehand such a number of Brethren to serve at table as they think fit and proper for that work; and they may advise with the Masters and Wardens of Lodges about the most proper persons, if they please, or may take in such by their recommendation; for none are to serve that day, but free and accepted Masons, that the Communication may be free and harmonious.

XXVIII. All the members of the Grand Lodge must be at the place long before dinner, with the Grand Master, or his Deputy, at their head, who shall retire, and form themselves. And this is done in order,

1. To receive any appeals duly lodged, as above regulated, that the appellant may be heard, and the affair may be amicably decided before dinner, if possible; but if it cannot, it must be delayed till after the new Grand Master is elected; and if it cannot be decided after dinner, it may be delayed, and referred to a particular committee, that shall quietly adjust it, and make report to the next Quarterly Communication, that brotherly love may be preserved.

2. To prevent any differences or disgust which may be feared to arise that day; that no interruption may be given to the harmony and pleasure of the Grand Feast.

3. To consult about whatever concerns the decency and decorum of the Grand Assembly, and to prevent all indecency and ill manners, the assembly being promiscuous.

4. To receive and consider of any good motion, or any momentous and important affair, that shall be brought from the Particular Lodges, by their representatives, the several Masters, and Wardens.

XXIX. After these things are discussed, the Grand Master and his Deputy, the Grand Wardens, or the Stewards, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Clerks, and every other person, shall withdraw, and leave the Masters and Wardens of the Particular Lodges alone, in order to consult amicably about electing a new Grand Master, or continuing the present, if they have not done it the day before; and if they are unanimous for continuing the present Grand Master, his Worship shall be called in, and humbly desired to do the Fraternity the honour of ruling them for the year ensuing; and after dinner it will be known whether he accepts of it or not; for it should not be discovered but by the election itself.

XXX. Then the Masters and Wardens, and all the Brethren, may converse promiscuously, or as they please to sort together, until the dinner is coming in, when every Brother takes his seat at table.

XXXI. Some time after dinner the Grand Lodge is formed, not in retirement, but in the presence of all the Brethren, who yet are not members of it, and must not therefore speak until they are desired and allowed.

XXXII. If the Grand Master of last year has consented with the

Master and Wardens in private, before dinner, to continue for the year ensuing; then one of the Grand Lodge deputed for that purpose, shall represent to all the Brethren his Worship's good government, etc. And turning to him, shall, in the name of the Grand Lodge, humbly request him to do the Fraternity the great honour (if nobly born, if not the great kindness) of continuing to be their Grand Master for the year ensuing. And his Worship declaring his consent by a bow or a speech, as he pleases, the said deputed member of the Grand Lodge shall proclaim him Grand Master, and all the members of the Lodge shall salute him in due form. And all the Brethren shall for a few minutes have leave to declare their satisfaction, pleasure, and congratulation.

XXXIII. But if either the Master and Wardens have not in private, this day before dinner, nor the day before, desired the last Grand Master to continue in the Mastership another year; or if he, when desired, has not consented; then,

The last Grand Master shall nominate his successor for the year ensuing, who, if unanimously approved by the Grand Lodge, and if there present, shall be proclaimed, saluted, and congratulated the new Grand Master, as above hinted, and immediately installed by the last Grand Master, according to usage.

XXXIV. But if that nomination is not unanimously approved, the new Grand Master shall be chosen immediately by ballot, every Master and Warden writing his man's name, and the last Grand Master writing his man's name too; and the man, whose name the last Grand Master shall first take out, casually or by chance, shall be Grand Master for the year ensuing; and if present, he shall be proclaimed, saluted, and congratulated, as above hinted, and forthwith installed by the last Grand Master, according to usage.

XXXV. The last Grand Master thus continued, or the new Grand Master thus installed, shall next nominate and appoint his Deputy Grand Master, either the last or a new one, who shall be also declared, saluted, and congratulated as above hinted.

The Grand Master shall also nominate the new Grand Wardens, and if unanimously approved by the Grand Lodge, shall be declared, saluted, and congratulated, as above hinted; but if not, they shall be chosen by ballot, in the same way as the Grand Master; as the Wardens of private Lodges are also to be chosen by ballot in each Lodge, if the members thereof do not agree to the Master's nomination.

XXXVI. But if the Brother, whom the present Grand Master



shall nominate for his successor, or whom the majority of the Grand Lodge shall happen to choose by ballot, is, by sickness or other necessary occasion, absent from the Grand Feast, he cannot be proclaimed the new Grand Master, unless the old Grand Master, or some of the Masters and Wardens of the Grand Lodge can vouch, upon the honour of a Brother, that the said person, so nominated or chosen, will readily accept of the said office; in which case the old Grand Master shall act as proxy, and shall nominate the Deputy and Wardens in his name, and in his name also receive the usual honours, homage, and congratulation.

XXXVII. Then the Grand Master shall allow any Brother, Fellow Craft, or Apprentice to speak, directing his discourse to his Worship; or to make any motion for the good of the Fraternity, which shall be either immediately considered and finished, or else referred to the consideration of the Grand Lodge at their next Communication, Stated or Occasional. When that is over,

XXXVIII. The Grand Master or his Deputy, or some Brother appointed by him, shall harangue all the Brethren, and give them good advice; and lastly after some other transactions, that cannot be written in any language, the Brethren may go away or stay longer, as they please.

XXXIX. Every Annual Grand Lodge has an inherent power and authority to make new Regulations, or to alter these, for the real benefit of this ancient Fraternity; Provided always that the Old Landmarks be carefully preserved, and that such alterations and new Regulations be proposed and agreed to at the Third Quarterly Communication preceding the Annual Grand Feast; and that they be offered also to the perusal of all the Brethren before dinner, in writing, even of the youngest Apprentice; the approbation and consent of the majority of all the Brethren present being absolutely necessary to make the same binding and obligatory; which, must, after dinner, and after the new Grand Master is installed, be solemnly desired; as it was desired and obtained for these Regulations, when proposed by the Grand Lodge, to about one hundred and fifty Brethren, on Saint John Baptist's Day, 1721.

**THE CHARGES  
OF  
A FREEMASON**

Extracted from  
The Ancient Records of Lodges Beyond the Sea, and of  
Those in England, Scotland, and Ireland, For  
the Use of the Lodges in London  
To be Read at the Making of New Brethren, or when the  
Master shall order it.

THE GENERAL HEADS, VIZ.:

- I. OF GOD AND RELIGION.
- II. OF THE CIVIL MAGISTRATE, SUPREME, AND SUBORDINATE.
- III. OF LODGES.
- IV. OF MASTERS, WARDENS, FELLOWS, AND APPRENTICES.
- V. OF THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CRAFT IN WORKING.
- VI. OF BEHAVIOR, VIZ.:
  - 1. IN THE LODGE WHILE CONSTITUTED.
  - 2. AFTER THE LODGE IS OVER, AND THE BRETHREN NOT GONE.
  - 3. WHEN BRETHREN MEET WITHOUT STRANGERS, BUT NOT IN A LODGE.
  - 4. IN THE PRESENCE OF STRANGERS NOT MASONS.
  - 5. AT HOME AND IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.
  - 6. TOWARDS A STRANGE BROTHER.

**I. CONCERNING GOD AND RELIGION**

A Mason is obliged, by his tenure, to obey the moral law; and if he rightly understands the art, he will never be a stupid Atheist, nor an irreligious libertine. But though in ancient times Masons were charged in every country to be of the religion of that country or nation, whatever it was, yet it is now thought more expedient only to oblige them to that religion in which all men agree, leaving their particular opinions to themselves; that is, to be good men and true, or men of honour and honesty, by whatever denominations or persuasions they may be distinguished; whereby Masonry becomes the center of union,

and the means of conciliating true friendship among persons that must have remained at a perpetual distance.

## II. OF THE CIVIL MAGISTRATE, SUPREME, AND SUBORDINATE

A Mason is a peaceable subject to the civil powers, wherever he resides or works, and is never to be concerned in plots and conspiracies against the peace and welfare of the nation, nor to behave himself undutifully to inferior magistrates; for as Masonry hath been always injured by war, bloodshed, and confusion, so ancient kings and princes have been much disposed to encourage the Craftsmen, because of their peaceableness and loyalty whereby they practically answered the cavils of their adversaries, and promoted the honour of the Fraternity, who ever flourished in times of peace. So that if a Brother should be a rebel against the State, he is not to be countenanced in his rebellion, however he may be pitied as an unhappy man; and, if convicted of no other crime, though the loyal Brotherhood must and ought to disown his rebellion, and give no umbrage or ground of political jealousy to the government for the time being; they cannot expel him from the Lodge, and his relation to it remains indefeasible.

## III. OF LODGES

A Lodge is a place where Masons assemble and work; hence that assembly or duly organized society of Masons is called a Lodge, and every Brother ought to belong to one, and to be subject to its By-Laws and the General Regulations. It is either particular or general, and will be best understood by attending it, and by the Regulations of the General or Grand Lodge hereunto annexed. In ancient times, no Master or Fellow could be absent without it, especially when warned to appear at it, without incurring a severe censure, until it appeared to the Master and Wardens, that pure necessity hindered him.

The persons admitted members of a Lodge must be good and true men, free-born, and of mature and discreet age, no bondmen, no women, no immoral, or scandalous men, but of good report.

## IV. OF MASTERS, WARDENS, FELLOWS, AND APPRENTICES

All preferment among Masons is grounded upon real worth and personal merit only; that so the lords may be well served, the Brethren not put to shame, nor the royal Craft despised; therefore no Master or Warden is chosen by seniority, but for his merit. It is impossible to describe these things in writing and every Brother must attend in his

place, and learn them in a way peculiar to this Fraternity; only candidates may know, that no Master should take an Apprentice, unless he has sufficient employment for him, and unless he be a perfect youth, having no maim or defect in his body, that may render him incapable of learning the art, of serving his Master's lord, and of being made a Brother, and then a Fellow Craft in due time, even after he has served such a term of years as the custom of the country directs; and that he should be descended of honest parents; that so, when otherwise qualified, he may arrive to the honour of being the Warden, and then the Master of the Lodge, the Grand Warden, and at length the Grand Master of all the Lodges, according to his merit.

No Brother can be a Warden until he has passed the part of a Fellow Craft; nor a Master until he has acted as a Warden, nor Grand Warden until he has been Master of a Lodge, nor Grand Master unless he has been a Fellow Craft before his election, who is also to be noble born, or a gentleman of the best fashion, or some eminent scholar, or some curious architect or other artist, descended of honest parents, and who is of singular great merit in the opinion of the Lodges. And for the better, and easier, and more honourable discharge of his office, the Grand Master has a power to choose his own Deputy Grand Master, who must be then, or must have been formerly, the Master of a Particular Lodge, and has the privilege of acting whatever the Grand Master, his principal, should act, unless the said principal be present, or interpose his authority by a letter.

These rulers and governors, supreme and subordinate, of the ancient Lodge, are to be obeyed in their respective stations by all the Brethren, according to the old Charges and Regulations, with all humility, reverence, love, and alacrity.

#### **V. OF THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CRAFT IN WORKING**

All Masons shall work honestly on working days, that they may live creditably on holy days; and the time appointed by the law of the land, or confirmed by custom, shall be observed.

The most expert of the Fellow Craftsmen shall be chosen or appointed the Master, or overseer of the lord's work; who is to be called Master by those that work under him. The Craftsmen are to avoid all ill language, and to call each other by no disobliging name, but Brother or Fellow; and to behave themselves courteously within and without the Lodge.

Both the Master and the Masons receiving their wages justly, shall be faithful to the lord, and honestly finish their work, whether

task or journey; nor put the work to task that hath been accustomed to journey.

None shall discover envy at the prosperity of a Brother, nor supplant him, nor put him out of his work, if he be capable to finish the same; for no man can finish another's work so much to the lord's profit, unless he be thoroughly acquainted with the designs and draughts of him that began it.

When a Fellow Craftsman is chosen Warden of the Work under the Master, he shall be true both to Master and Fellows, shall carefully oversee the work in the Master's absence to the lord's profit; and his Brethren shall obey him.

All Masons employed, shall meekly receive their wages without murmuring or mutiny, and not desert the Master till the work is finished.

A younger Brother shall be instructed in working, to prevent spoiling the materials for want of judgment, and for increasing and continuing of brotherly love.

All the tools used in working shall be approved by the Grand Lodge.

No labourer shall be employed in the proper work of Masonry, nor shall Free Masons work with those that are not free, without an urgent necessity; nor shall they teach labourers and unaccepted Masons, as they should teach a Brother or Fellow.

## **VI. OF BEHAVIOR, VIZ.:**

### **1. In the Lodge While Constituted**

You are not to hold private committees, or separate conversation, without leave from the Master, not to talk of anything impertinent or unseemly, nor interrupt the Master or Wardens or any Brother speaking to the Master; nor behave yourself ludicrously or jestingly while the Lodge is engaged in what is serious and solemn; nor use any unbecoming language upon any pretence whatsoever; but to pay due reverence to your Master, Wardens, and Fellows, and put them to worship.

Any complaint be brought, the Brother found guilty shall stand to the award and determination of the Lodge, who are the proper and competent judges of all such controversies (unless you carry it by appeal to the Grand Lodge), and to whom they ought to be referred, unless a lord's work be hindered the meanwhile, in which case a particular reference may be made; but you must never go to law about

what concerneth Masonry, without an absolute necessity apparent to the Lodge.

## **2. Behavior After the Lodge is over, and the Brethren not Gone**

You may enjoy yourselves with innocent mirth, treating one another according to ability, but avoiding all excess, or forcing any Brother to eat or drink beyond his inclination, or hindering him from going when his occasions call him, or doing or saying anything offensive, or that may forbid an easy and free conversation; for that would blast our harmony, and defeat our laudable purposes. Therefore no private piques or quarrels must be brought within the door of the Lodge, far lest quarrels about religion, or nations, or state policy, we being only, as Masons, of the catholic religion above mentioned; we are also of all nations, tongues, kindreds, and languages, and are resolved against all politics, as what never yet conduced to the welfare of the Lodge, nor ever will. This Charge has been always strictly enjoined and observed; but especially ever since the Reformation in Britain, of the dissent and secession of these nations from the communion of Rome.

## **3. Behavior When Brethren Meet Without Strangers, But Not in a Lodge Formed**

You are to salute one another in a courteous manner, as you will be instructed, calling each other Brother, freely giving mutual instructions as shall be thought expedient, without being overseen or overheard, and without encroaching upon each other, or derogating from that respect which is due to any Brother, were he not a Mason; for though all Masons are as Brethren upon the same level, yet Masonry takes no honour from a man that he had before; nay, rather it adds to his honour, especially if he has deserved well of the Brotherhood, who must give honour to whom it is due, and avoid ill manners.

## **4. Behavior in Presence of Strangers Not Masons**

You shall be cautious in your words and carriage, that the most penetrating stranger shall not be able to discover or find out what is not proper to be intimated; and sometimes you shall divert a discourse, and manage it prudently for the honour of the worshipful Fraternity.

## **5. Behavior at Home and in your Neighborhood**

You are to act as becomes a moral and wise man; particularly, not to let your family, friends, and neighbours know the concerns of the Lodge, etc., but wisely to consult your own honour, and that of the

ancient Brotherhood, for reasons not to be mentioned here. You must also consult your health, by not continuing together too late, or too long from home, after Lodge hours are past; and by avoiding gluttony or drunkenness that your families be not neglected or injured, nor you disabled from working.

### **6. Behavior Towards a Strange Brother**

You are cautiously to examine him, in such a method as prudence shall direct you, that you may not be imposed upon by an ignorant false pretender, whom you are to reject with contempt and derision, and beware of giving him any hints of knowledge.

But if you discover him to be a true and genuine Brother, you are to respect him accordingly; and if he is in want, you must relieve him if you can, or else direct him how he may be relieved; you must employ him some days, or else recommend him to be employed. But you are not charged to do beyond your ability, only to prefer a poor Brother, that is a good man and true, before any other poor people in the same circumstances.

Finally, all these Charges you are to observe, and also those that shall be communicated to you in another way; cultivating brotherly love, the foundation and capstone, the cement and glory of this ancient Fraternity, avoiding all wrangling and quarrelling, all slander and backbiting, nor permitting others to slander any honest Brother, but defending his character, and doing him all good offices, as far as consistent with your honour and safety, and no farther. And if any of them do you injury, you must apply to your own or his Lodge; and from thence you may appeal to the Grand Lodge at the Quarterly Communication, and from thence to the Annual Grand Lodge, as has been the ancient laudable conduct of our forefathers in every nation; never taking a legal course but when the case cannot be otherwise decided, and patiently listening to the honest and friendly advice of Master and Fellows, when they would prevent your going to law with strangers, or would excite you to put a speedy period to all lawsuits, that so you may mind the affair of Masonry with the more alacrity and success; but with respect to Brothers or Fellows at law, the Master and Brethren should kindly offer their mediation, which ought to be thankfully submitted to by the contending Brethren; and if that submission is impracticable, they must however carry on their process, or lawsuit, without wrath and rancor (not in the common way), saying or doing nothing which may hinder brotherly love, and good offices to be renewed and continued; that all may see the benign influence of Masonry, as all true Masons have done from the beginning of the world, and will do to the end of time. Amen, so mote it be.

### **Rulings and Decisions**

Just as a candidate for Freemasonry must be a man, so it follows that to remain a Mason, he must not become a woman or portray himself as a woman. This portrayal may be by gender change, name change, identification, attire, or accouterment. (2008 Proc. 106)

**Digest of Masonic Law**

**CHAPTER 2**

**GRAND LODGE - NAME AND STYLE**

**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

That the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, and the Grand Wardens of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Florida\*\*\* be and they are hereby declared to be a body politic and corporate by the name and style of “The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida\*\*\*.” (Act of Incorporation-excerpt)

**Constitutional Provisions**

The style of the Grand Lodge is “The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Florida.” (Art. I, Sec. 1)



## CHAPTER 3

### GRAND LODGE - MEMBERSHIP

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS

##### **Constitutional Provisions**

The members of the Grand Lodge by inherent right are the Masters and Wardens of the Particular Lodges, and U. D. Lodges who have paid for their Charters and have been working more than one year in this jurisdiction, or their regular appointed proxies, and who with the Elected Officers of the Grand Lodge for the time being, only, and all Past Grand Masters have the right to vote for Grand Officers. (Art. II, Sec. 2)

All the Elected Past Grand Officers and Past Masters of Lodges are, by courtesy, members of the Grand Lodge, so long as they continue members of some Particular Lodge under this jurisdiction, and have a right to vote upon all questions arising in the Grand Lodge, which are determined by the usual Masonic Sign at the sound of the gavel. (Art. II, Sec. 3)

##### **Regulations**

**3.01** Article II, Section 3, of the Constitution, applies only to those Past Masters who are members and Past Masters of Particular Lodges under the jurisdiction of The Grand Lodge of Florida.

**Digest of Masonic Law**

**CHAPTER 4**

**GRAND LODGE - JURISDICTION AND POWERS**

**TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION**

**Constitutional Provisions**

The jurisdiction of The Grand Lodge of Florida extends over all the recorded Lodges of Free and Accepted Masons within the political boundaries of the State, and within which it is the Supreme Masonic head and authority. Its jurisdiction also extends to any State, Province, or Territory in which no Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons exists, in which it may Charter particular Lodges; *provided*, that its jurisdiction and authority over Lodges so Chartered ceases as soon as a Grand Lodge is legally constituted in such State, Province, or Territory. (Art. I, Sec. 2)

**Regulations**

**4.01** This Grand Lodge has exclusive original jurisdiction over all Regular Masonic Lodges within the boundary lines of the State of Florida and concurrent right with all other Regular Grand Lodges in the world to establish and superintend Lodges in any State, Territory, or Country where no Grand Lodge exists.

**EXECUTIVE POWERS**

**Constitutional Provisions**

The Grand Lodge is a representative body and derives its powers from the Particular Lodges who are its constituents and from immemorial usage and custom; and is, therefore, the supreme head and authority of the Ancient Craft Masonry in this jurisdiction. (Art. V, Sec. 1)

**LEGISLATIVE, JUDICIAL, AND APPELLATE POWERS**

**Constitutional Provisions**

It has original jurisdiction over all subjects of legislation for the benefit of the Craft, and judicial powers in the interpretation and administration of its own Laws, and in the trial and punishment of its own Officers and members, and appellate jurisdiction in all cases involving Masonic rights and benefits, not in violation of this Constitution, and the established Landmarks of the order; *provided*, that the Grand Master cannot be tried during his Grand Mastership, because no one can preside in his presence, but when the term for

which he is elected and installed expires, he may be tried as provided by Grand Lodge Regulations for trial of past Elected Grand Lodge Officers, if charges and specifications be filed against him within one year after the expiration of his Grand Mastership. (1985) (Art. V, Sec. 2)

### **Regulations**

**4.02** The Grand Lodge has exclusive original penal jurisdiction over Elected Grand Lodge Officers for life, and over Masters and Wardens of the Particular Lodges and District Deputy Grand Masters and subordinate Grand Lodge Officers while in office and continuing jurisdiction after expiration of term of office as to offenses committed while in office. (1984)

**4.03** A Particular Lodge has penal jurisdiction as provided in Chapter 44 except as provided in Regulation 4.02. (Amended 1979)

**4.04** The Grand Lodge has appellate jurisdiction in all matters arising in the Particular Lodges.

**4.05** Any act or decision of a Lodge, or Master, may be reviewed by the Grand Lodge, or in the recess of the Grand Lodge, by the Grand Master, subject to the action of the Grand Lodge.

## **POWERS RELATING TO PARTICULAR LODGES**

### **Constitutional Provisions**

The Grand Lodge has the power to constitute new Lodges, and grant Charters or Warrants of Constitution for the same, and has the supervision and approval of the By-Laws of the Particular Lodges, and therefore may adopt a Uniform Code of By-Laws for their government; *provided*, that local Regulations for the benefit of the Craft be not interfered with. (Art. V, Sec. 4)

The Grand Lodge has the power to suspend the Charter of any of the Particular Lodges or of arresting or withdrawing the Charter of any of the Particular Lodges for good cause shown; and when a Lodge forfeits or surrenders its Charter, the Grand Lodge succeeds to all its furniture, jewels,

funds, books, papers, and other property, and may appoint some proper officer to take charge of the same for the benefit of the Craft; *provided*, that when the Charter of a Lodge is restored, all its furniture, jewels, books, papers, and other property, shall also be restored. (Art. V, Sec. 5)

## POWERS RELATING TO REVENUE AND FINANCES

### Constitutional Provisions

The Grand Lodge has the power to assess and collect an annual revenue, adequate to its current demands, and to make such other assessments from time to time, and appropriations as may be required for its permanent accommodation, the increase of its library, and the preservation and security of its public proceeds and archives; and to do all other matters and things which, in its wisdom, may be required and necessary for the general benefit of the Craft in the jurisdiction, not prohibited by this Constitution and the Old Landmarks of Freemasonry. (Art. V, Sec. 6)

### References

Grand Lodge Revenue and Finances, Chapter 14.

## POWERS RELATING TO OTHER ORDERS AND ORGANIZATIONS

### Regulations

**4.06** The Grand Lodge of Florida claims and asserts jurisdiction of all Masonic affairs in Florida, including all organizations, whose fundamental or principal predicate for membership is Masonic affiliation for the members of such organizations. Such organizations may not be formed or used for any purpose in violation of any of the laws, principles, or tenets of Freemasonry, nor for the purpose of serving as a forum for the debate of partisan and controversial questions, nor as an agency for the dissemination of propaganda. Such organizations shall not be used, directly or indirectly, for the endorsement of or opposition to the candidacy for office of

any person, nor for supporting or proposing any proposal or program, in the Grand Lodge, any Particular Lodge, or other organization whatever, or in the United States, any State or subdivision thereof.

**4.07** Master Masons of this Grand Jurisdiction are prohibited from petitioning any organization whose fundamental or principal predicate for membership is Masonic Affiliation until they have been Master Masons for at least six (6) months or have passed a satisfactory examination on the catechism of the Third Degree. Organizations exempt from this prohibition shall be the Order of the Eastern Star, the Order of the Amaranth, the White Shrine of Jerusalem, or any recognized Masonic Youth Organization, such as the Rainbow for Girls, the Order of DeMolay, or Job's Daughters. (2001)

**4.08** Every assembly, Lodge, or organization or person claiming to be Masonic, and is not under the charge, control, and protection or recognition of regular and competent Masonic authority, is clandestine.

**4.09** It is not proper for a corporation for profit to use the corporate name "Masonic Temple Corporation," nor any other name that would indicate Masonic connection.

**4.10** No Mason shall be a member or a stockholder of a corporation hereafter formed which predicates its membership therein on Masonic affiliation, unless such corporation is expressly authorized or approved by the Grand Lodge.

**4.11** Members of the Particular Lodges of Florida, in good standing, when temporarily residing outside the Grand Jurisdiction of Florida, may affiliate with or become members of any Masonic Club or other organization sponsored, approved, or Chartered by any other Grand Jurisdiction of Masonry recognized by the Grand Jurisdiction of Florida.

### **Rulings and Decisions**

Order of the Eastern Star is not an Appendant Order of Masonry. (1948 Proc. 194; 1969 Proc. 212)

The White Shrine of Jerusalem is not an Appendant Order of Masonry. (1976 Proc. 102)

This is in regard to the contract between Bahia Temple A.A.O.N.M.S. and Brother Melvin L. Duncan. Having considered the contract and the Masonic Law of this state, Ruling and Decision as follows:

1. The parties know the Masonic Law of this State:

(a) That The Grand Lodge of Florida, F. & A. M., and the Grand Master in the recess of Grand Lodge is the Supreme Authority and that the Landmarks, the Constitution, and Regulations of the Grand Lodge and the lawful Orders of Edicts of the Grand Master are Supreme Masonic Law of this Jurisdiction.

(b) Every Masonic resident in the State of Florida is subject to and bound by his obligation to obey these laws.

(c) Every Mason is bound to obey every Summons, Order, or Edict issued by proper Masonic Authority.

(d) That no Organization Masonic in character has the power to modify, deny, defy, or obstruct any Summons, Order, or Edict of the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master and no such organization may by contract, agreement, order or directive impair, diminish, or weaken the supreme power of the Grand Lodge in the recess to direct and control all Masonic Fraternal Matters in this State.

2. The contract referred must be construed in the light of the foregoing rules and knowledge of the parties as to the law governing same. No presumption is intended that the parties intended to break Masonic Law or impede any Mason in his compliance with Masonic Law but on the other hand was entered into with full knowledge that the contract could not lawfully be used to allow any Mason in this State to defy, refuse to obey, evade, or avoid full and prompt obedience and compliance with each and every Order, Edict, Summons, or request for aid, assistance or information made by the Grand Master or his designated representatives.

3. The contract and agreement may be binding upon members of Bahia Temple in their relations one with the other but in no way impairs the power of the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master nor constitutes any reason or excuse for any Mason to fail or refuse to obey fully, completely, and promptly all Summons, Orders, Edicts, or requests for aid and assistance made and issued in the name of the Grand Lodge by any proper and authorized Masonic authority. Any Mason who fails or refuses to promptly obey any and all Orders, Directives, and Summons as issued in the name of the Grand Lodge or any duly constituted Committee, Board, Commission, or Representative of the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master shall be subject to Masonic Discipline. September 12, 1984. (1985 Proc. 91, 325)

### References

Chapter 47, Clubs and Similar Organizations

## MISCELLANEOUS POWERS

### Regulations

**4.12** It is not expedient, or authorized by an existing law, for the Grand Lodge to act as a trustee for the property or estate of a Brother Mason who may desire the same to be held by it and the income to be applied for the benefit of his family after his decease.

**4.13** No solicitations nor circulations of a non-Masonic character shall be made unless they are of service or benefit to the members of the Particular Lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction or the Craft in general.

All funds collected will be directed to the Masonic Home and/or the Grand Lodge Administrative Endowment Fund.

No member will be solicited for any service or program if he has requested in writing not to be solicited, and no list of membership will be provided to any company or organization except such list of members that have agreed in writing to participate in a particular program. (1995)

**4.14** Anything in the Regulations of the Grand Lodge to the contrary notwithstanding, the Corporate Board shall each year set a price to be charged to all Particular Lodges for all printed material furnished to them, except the Proceedings of the Annual Grand Communication. (1983)

**Digest of Masonic Law**

**CHAPTER 5**

**GRAND LODGE - OFFICERS**

**Title, Election, Appointment, Installation, Term, Resignation,  
Removal, Vacancies, Succession in Office and Discipline**

**TITLE**

**Constitutional Provisions**

The Officers of the Grand Lodge are: The Grand Master, whose title is Most Worshipful; the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden, the Junior Grand Warden, the Grand Treasurer, and the Grand Secretary, the title of each being Right Worshipful; and the Right Reverend Grand Chaplain-who shall be appointed by the Grand Master; and a District Deputy Grand Master from each Masonic District which Districts shall not exceed twenty-eight (28) in number, who shall be appointed by the Grand Master, the title of each being Right Worshipful. (2016)

And the following Subordinate Grand Officers, viz: Grand Orator, Grand Marshal, Senior Grand Deacon, Junior Grand Deacon, Grand Standard Bearer, Grand Sword Bearer, Senior Grand Steward, Junior Grand Steward, Grand Pursuivant, and Grand Tyler whose title is Worshipful-who shall be appointed by the Grand Master, but the Junior Grand Deacon shall be appointed only upon nomination of the Senior Grand Warden. (1990) (Art. II, Sec. 1)

**Regulations**

**5.01** No Brother shall be appointed Grand Marshal, Senior Grand Deacon, Junior Grand Deacon, Grand Standard Bearer, Grand Sword Bearer, Senior Grand Steward, Junior Grand Steward, Grand Pursuivant, Grand Tyler, or District Deputy Grand Master who is not a Past Master of a Florida Lodge. Any Master Mason in good standing in a Florida Lodge shall be eligible for appointment to any other Grand Lodge appointive office or position and to any Grand Lodge Committee, Board, or Commission.

**ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT**

**Constitutional Provisions**

The election of Grand Officers shall be held at the Annual Grand



Communication at such time as the Grand Lodge may appoint by appropriate Resolution. (Art. III, Sec. 1)

In balloting for Grand Officers, each Lodge is entitled to three (3) votes; if there be but two (2) of the three (3) principal Officers of a Lodge present, the Officer highest in rank shall cast two (2) votes; the Officer present shall have precedence over the proxy of an Officer higher in rank, but if two (2) or more of the Officers are represented by proxies, such proxies shall have precedence according to the rank of the Officers they severally represent; and if there be but one (1) Officer or proxy present, he shall cast the three votes of his Lodge. (Art. III, Sec. 2).

The Grand Master is always in nomination, and a majority of all the votes cast is requisite to a choice. (Art. III, Sec. 3)

Only members of the Grand Lodge who have been regularly elected and installed the Master of a Particular Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Florida are eligible to be elected to any office in the Grand Lodge. (Art. III, Sec. 4). (1992)

It is the duty of the Grand Master-elect, as soon after the election as may be, to appoint the Subordinate Grand Officers and to announce the same to the Grand Lodge. (Art. III, Sec. 5)

### **Regulations**

**5.02** (a) Except as to incumbent Elected Grand Lodge Officers, hereinafter provided for, all nominations for election to an elective Grand Lodge Office shall be by nominating petition stating the name of the nominee, his address, telephone number (if any), and the nominee's Lodge number, and shall be signed by ten (10) Master Masons in good standing in one or more of the Lodges in the same Masonic District in which the nominee is a dues-paying member of some Lodge.

The petition shall contain an agreement signed by the nominee that if elected he will accept the office for which he is nominated.

The nominating petition shall be filed with the Grand Secretary on or before January 15. Upon receipt of the petition, the Grand Secretary shall note thereon the time and date of receipt and shall forthwith deliver to the nominee a form which shall provide for the nominee to furnish his personal history, Masonic record, and other pertinent information. The nominee shall sign the personal information form attesting to the correctness

of the information contained therein and return the same to the Grand Secretary on or before February 1. The Grand Secretary shall note on the personal and Masonic history form the date of delivery to and receipt from the nominee.

The Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, and Junior Grand Warden shall always be in nomination for the next successive office in the Progressive Grand Lodge Line and the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary shall always be in nomination for re-election; *provided*, however, such officer shall file in the office of the Grand Secretary, on or before January 15 a signed, written statement that he will accept the office for which he is nominated as herein provided. The Grand Secretary, upon receipt of the signed written statement aforesaid shall deliver to the nominee a personal and Masonic history form which shall be completed, signed, and attested as to its correctness by the nominee and filed in the office of the Grand Secretary on or before February 1, and the Grand Secretary shall note thereon the date of delivery to the nominee and the date returned to the Grand Secretary's Office.

The Grand Secretary shall send a copy of all nominating petitions and signed written statements of incumbent officers and all personal and Masonic information forms of all nominees to each Particular Lodge, the Grand Lodge Elective Officers, the District Deputy Grand Masters, the District Instructors, and Past Grand Masters on or before March 15.

No other written or printed material or matter shall be distributed by mail or otherwise by, or in behalf of, any candidate or nominee for Grand Lodge Office.

In the event a vacancy or vacancies shall occur in the progressive Grand Lodge Line prior to January 15, the signed statement of an incumbent shall designate the office to which he in traditional course of events would be nominated. If the vacancy shall occur after January 15, the signed written statement of incumbent Grand Lodge Line Officer shall be construed to be an agreement to accept the highest office to which in traditional course of events he would be nominated and elected, that is, in event of a vacancy in the office of Deputy Grand Master the Senior Grand Warden shall be in nomination for Grand Master and the Junior Grand Warden shall be in nomination for Deputy Grand Master. In the event of more than one vacancy, the signed statements of incumbents shall be construed to be nominations to preserve the traditional progress of Grand Lodge Line Officers.

In the event of vacancy in nominations or nominees in the Grand Lodge Line Officers, all nominations for office of Junior Grand Warden shall be construed to be nominations for Junior Grand Warden and next highest office or offices so that each nominee shall be eligible for election to either office and may stand for election for the highest office and if not elected he shall be eligible for election to the other office, i.e. all nominees for Junior Grand Warden shall be in nomination for any or all offices vacant and not filled by nomination as above provided.

The Grand Master shall have authority to formulate and issue such Executive Orders as shall be necessary or appropriate to insure orderly election for all vacancies and preserve the traditional progress of Grand Lodge Line Officers.

The Grand Secretary, with the approval of the Grand Master shall prepare form of nominating petition and form for personal and Masonic history of nominees. Nominating petition shall be furnished to any Florida Master Mason upon request therefore.

In the event of any vacancy in nominations or nominees and filling such vacancy is not provided for herein, the Grand Master shall issue Executive Order setting forth the method and time for qualifying to fill such vacancy. (1983)

- (b) The Grand Secretary, with the approval of the Grand Master



shall arrange for printing and delivery of ballots, and if practicable, for use of voting machines and such other arrangements for secret voting by Lodge representatives as shall be appropriate.

The ballot shall show the name of the office, and the name of each nominee for said office shall be printed thereunder; *provided*, if there is only one nominee for an office the name of such office and the name of the nominee shall not be printed on the ballot and the Grand Secretary shall certify to the Grand Lodge that such nominee was elected to the office without opposition.

(c) The Committee on Returns and Credentials shall, under the supervision and direction of the Grand Master, or someone designated by him, conduct the election.

The election shall be by secret ballot or by voting machine.

Upon registration with the Committee on Returns and Credentials, each Lodge Representative shall be given paper ballot with name of office and nominees for such office printed thereon with appropriate space provided for designating the choice and vote of such representative by checkmark or crossmark. The ballot shall contain specific directions as to the manner of casting the ballot. If voting machines are used the Lodge representative, upon registration, shall be given an identification slip entitling him to enter a voting machine and cast his ballot.

The Grand Secretary, with the approval of the Grand Master, shall prepare detailed instructions governing conduct of the election, prescribing time for opening registration, casting of ballots and the period during which ballots may be cast which shall not be earlier than the opening of Grand Lodge nor later than 5:00 P.M. of said day, and shall further prescribe in said instructions detailed information as to place of ballot and preservation of ballots until counting, which instructions so prepared by the Grand Secretary shall be presented to the Jurisprudence Committee no later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to time of beginning of balloting.

Any Lodge representative claiming right to vote more than one ballot by reason of absence of other Lodge representatives shall register his claim with the Committee on Returns and Credentials but at the time of such registration shall be allowed to cast only one (1) ballot. Not later than one (1) hour prior to the time of closing of balloting the representative claiming the right to cast more than one (1) ballot shall again present his claim to the Committee on Returns and Credentials and if no conflict appears with the right of such representative to cast additional ballot or ballots, he shall be given such ballots as he shall be entitled to vote or identification slips entitling him to vote such extra ballots on voting machine.

(d) At the close of the time of balloting the Committee on Returns and Credentials, under supervision of a Canvassing Committee of five (5) members, two of whom shall be Past Grand Masters, shall count and canvass the ballots for each nominee and prepare written reports of the results of such count and canvass, which report shall be signed by the Chairman of the Committee on Returns and Credentials and Chairman of the Canvassing Committee, which report shall be forthwith presented to the Grand Lodge. If balloting as above provided shall not result in any nominee for an office receiving a majority of the votes or ballots cast, then and in such event further balloting shall be conducted in accordance with instructions and directions of the Grand Master. Successive ballots shall be taken in accordance with the above procedures by directions of the Grand Master until all offices have been filled by majority vote.

#### References

The Grand Secretary shall furnish each Grand Lodge Officer with a certificate of his election or appointment. Reg. 9.08

### INSTALLATION

#### Constitutional Provisions

The last Grand Master, or any other Past Grand Master, may install the Grand Master-elect, whose duty it is to install the other Grand Officers elected and appointed, which duty must be performed before the close of the Grand Lodge; *provided*, any Past Grand Master, or Deputy Grand Master, or Past Deputy Grand Master, may perform that duty. But no Elected Grand Officer can be installed by proxy, except under some peculiar circumstances, when the Grand Master may grant a Dispensation for that purpose. (Art. III, Sec. 6)

#### Regulations

**5.03** (a) The Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, any Past Grand Master, any Past Deputy Grand Master, or Constitutional Acting Grand Master may install the Grand Master-elect.

(b) Upon installation of the Grand Master, the Grand Lodge shall present him with a Grand Master's Jewel, including date plate, to be retained by him during his lifetime. That Grand Master shall take such action as is necessary to cause his estate to return the Jewel and date plate to the Grand Lodge upon his death. Upon receipt thereof the date plate shall be removed, inscribed with that Grand Master's name, and placed in the Masonic Museum. A Jewel received by the Grand Lodge, if available, with a new date plate, shall then be presented to a subsequently installed Grand Master. This regulation shall apply to all Grand Master's Jewels, commencing with the Jewel presented at the 165<sup>th</sup> Annual Grand Communication. All Past Grand Masters to whom this Regulation does not apply are urged to voluntarily comply herewith. (1995)

#### References

The Grand Master may grant Dispensation for installation of Grand Lodge Officers by proxy. Reg. 6.11 (a)

**GRAND HONORS****Regulations**

**5.04** The Particular Lodges are required to receive the Official Visits of the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden, the Junior Grand Warden, the Past Grand Masters, and District Deputy Grand Masters (in their own Districts) with Grand Honors, respect, and obedience. The Grand Treasurer, the Grand Secretary, Past Deputy Grand Masters, and Past Grand Wardens may be received as a courtesy. A regularly elected Worshipful Master is entitled to Grand Honors at time of installation. (None others, except those provided for by Regulation, are entitled to be received with Grand Honors. See Monitor.) (2002)

**Rulings and Decisions**

Action of Grand Master in requiring written apology for discourtesies to District Deputy Grand Master on occasion of Official Visit was proper and in accord with requirements of Masonic Law. (1969 Proc. 58, 212)

**TERM; RESIGNATION AND REMOVAL****Constitutional Provisions**

All Grand Officers duly elected and installed shall continue in office one year, and until their successors in office are duly elected and installed. The Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, and the Grand Wardens cannot resign during the year for which they are elected and installed in office. (Art. III, Sec. 7)

**Regulations**

**5.05** The Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, and the Grand Wardens cannot resign during their term of office and no other Grand Officer can resign except by permission of the Grand Lodge, or the Grand Master in recess.

**5.06** Repealed (1984)

**5.07** It shall be the duty of a District Deputy Grand Master, when unable or unwilling to attend to his duties as prescribed by Article VI, Section 5, of the Constitution, to resign his office, and

upon such resignation, the Grand Master shall appoint another District Deputy Grand Master to fill such vacancy.

## VACANCIES AND SUCCESSION IN OFFICE

### Constitutional Provisions

In case of the death, incapacity, or inability from any other cause to perform the duties of the office of the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden, and the Junior Grand Warden, the Junior Past Grand Master shall forthwith call and give notice of a meeting of all living Past Grand Masters to be held not less than ten (10) days nor more than fifteen (15) days after notice of such meeting at the time and place specified in such notice, and the Past Grand Masters in such meeting, shall, in such manner as they deem appropriate from among themselves fill all vacancies then existing in Elective Grand Lodge Offices and the officers so elected to fill such vacancies shall have all of the powers appertaining to the offices to which they have been designated to fill, and shall serve until their successors are elected and installed at the next Special or Annual Grand Communication, and the Past Grand Masters may, at such meeting, call a Special Communication of Grand Lodge for the purpose of filling by election the offices filled by selection of the Past Grand Masters. The Grand Master designated by the Past Grand Masters shall immediately, after such meeting of the Past Grand Masters, promptly proclaim and publish to the Particular Lodges the actions of the Past Grand Masters. (Art. VI, Sec. 13)

“And in case of his (Grand Master’s) death, or incapacity for any cause, to perform the duties of his office, all the duties, powers, and prerogatives of the Grand Master devolve on the Deputy Grand Master until the next Annual Communication.” (Art. VI, Sec. 7 - Excerpt)

“and in case of death, removal, or inability from any other cause to perform the duties of the office of Grand Master and the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden succeeds to all the powers, rights, and prerogatives of the Grand Master. And in case of the death, removal, or inability from any cause to perform the duties of the office of the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master and the Senior Grand Warden, the Junior Grand Warden succeeds to all the powers, rights, and prerogatives of the Grand Master.” (Art. VI, Sec. 8 - Excerpt)

When the Senior Grand Warden is not in the West, the Junior Grand Warden does not succeed to fill it, because his proper place is in



the South; and the West must be filled by a pro tem appointment from time to time. (Art. IV, Sec. 4)

### **Regulations**

**5.08** The offices of Master, Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and District Deputy Grand Master are clearly incompatible with each other, and therefore, no two (2) of them can be held by an individual at one and the same time. If a Brother holding any of said offices accepts either of the others, such acceptance is a surrender of the office so held, and it at once becomes vacant.

**5.09** The office of Grand Master is never vacant, for succession being instant, there is no interim.

A - Suspension of Grand Master for Inability or Incapacity.

In the event the Senior Grand Warden, the Junior Grand Warden, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Secretary, or any two or more of them, shall believe, for good cause or reason, that the Grand Master is unable or incapable of performing the duties of his office, they shall forthwith give written notice thereof to the Junior Past Grand Master of such belief and the cause or reason therefore. The Deputy Grand Master shall not be an initiating party in order to avoid the appearance of impropriety or a conflict of interest.

The Past Grand Master so notified in accordance with the above procedure shall call and give notice to the Grand Master and all Past Grand Masters of a meeting at a time and place specified in such notice and the reason therefore.

At the meeting of the Past Grand Masters, a majority of whom shall constitute a quorum, the Junior Past Grand Master, or in his absence the immediate past Junior Past Grand Master, or in the absence of both of them a Past Grand Master selected by those present, shall preside.

The Past Grand Masters shall determine whether or not the Grand Master is unable to perform the duties of his office and may receive such evidence and testimony, including any evidence offered by or in behalf of the Grand Master, as may seem to them necessary or appropriate to make such determination, a majority vote of those Past Grand Masters present being sufficient for such determination.

If the Past Grand Masters shall find and determine that the Grand Master is unable to perform his duties, they shall enter an

appropriate order of such determination signed by the presiding Past Grand Master and in said order shall direct that the Deputy Grand Master shall forthwith assume the duties of office of Grand Master.

A full and complete record of all proceedings, including testimony and evidence received at the meeting together with the order entered at such meeting, shall be filed in the office of the Grand Secretary and copy of the order delivered to the Deputy Grand Master and to the Grand Master.

**B - Request by Grand Master for Assumption of Duties.**

Upon receipt of a request from the Grand Master and a statement from him that he is able to assume the duties of his office, the presiding Past Grand Master shall call a meeting of the Past Grand Masters to take such action as shall be appropriate in accordance with the same procedure established in Section A above for the suspension of the Grand Master, including an evidentiary hearing and order of determination in connection therewith.

**C - Suspension or Removal of Other Elected Grand Lodge Officers.**

In the event the Grand Master and two other Elected Grand Lodge Officers shall believe for good cause or reason that the Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden, Grand Treasurer, or the Grand Secretary is unable or incapable of performing the duties of his office, or should be removed for any other reason, including misconduct or violation of established Masonic principles, they shall forthwith give notice of such belief and the grounds therefore to all other Elected Grand Lodge Officers, including the officer whose conduct or capability is in question, and to all Past Grand Masters and of a meeting of said Grand Lodge Officers and Past Grand Masters at a time and place named and designated in said notice. At the meeting aforesaid, a majority of the Elected Grand Lodge Officers, exclusive of the officer whose conduct or capability is in question, and the Past Grand Masters present collectively shall constitute a quorum and the Grand Master, or in his absence the highest ranking Grand Lodge Officer present whose conduct or capability is not in question, shall preside.

Said Grand Lodge Officers and Past Grand Masters shall determine by collective majority vote whether or not the officer whose conduct or capability is in question is unable to perform the duties of his office or should be removed for reasons alleged and may receive such evidence and testimony, including any evidence offered for or in behalf of the officer whose conduct or

capability is in question, as may be necessary or appropriate to make such determination.

If it shall be determined as aforesaid that the officer whose conduct or capability is in question is unable to perform the duties of his office or should be removed from office for reasons alleged, all participating in said decision shall subscribe to and sign an appropriate order of such determination which shall be filed in the office of the Grand Secretary and a copy delivered to the affected officer. Upon filing of such an order, the officer whose conduct or capability was in question shall stand suspended or removed from his office as set forth in said order and the Grand Master shall forthwith appoint a qualified Master Mason as acting officer to fill the vacancy created by the suspension or removal.

#### D - Reinstatement of Suspended Elected Grand Lodge Officer

An officer suspended for incapacity may be reinstated by the Grand Master at such time as the Grand Master shall determine, with the concurrence of two other Elected Grand Lodge Officers, that the suspended officer is again capable of performing the duties of his office. The Grand Master shall have no power to reinstate an officer removed from office for misconduct.

The salary or compensation of an officer suspended for incapacity shall be continued during the period of his incapacity, but not beyond the Officer's term of office. An Officer removed for misconduct shall not be paid any compensation after such removal. (1983)

### DISCIPLINE

#### Constitutional Provisions

“the Grand Master cannot be tried during his Grand Mastership, because no one can preside in his presence, but when the term for which he is elected and installed expires, he may be tried as provided by Grand Lodge Regulations for trial of past Elected Grand Lodge Officers, if charges and specifications be filed against him within one year after the expiration of his Grand Mastership.” (1985) (Art. V, Sec. 2 - Excerpt)

#### Regulations

**5.10** All Officers of the Grand Lodge, except the Grand Master, are subject to discipline by the Grand Lodge.

#### References

As to Powers and Duties of Grand Lodge Officers, see:  
 Grand Master: Chapter 6  
 Deputy Grand Master and Wardens: Chapter 7  
 Grand Treasurer: Chapter 8  
 Grand Secretary: Chapter 9



## CHAPTER 6

### GRAND MASTER

**As to Election, Installation, Term, Title, Vacancies, Succession,  
and Discipline of Grand Lodge Officers See Chapter 5**

#### POWERS AND DUTIES GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES

##### Constitutional Provisions

It is the duty of the Grand Master to attend all Communications of the Grand Lodge and, when present, to preside, and at the opening of each Annual Communication, to read an address or report relating to the transactions of the past year, and suggesting such measures for the action of the Grand Lodge as in his opinion the good of the Craft and the prosperity of good Masons may require. (Art. VI, Sec. 2)

The Grand Master is clothed with powers and prerogatives, from ancient usages and customs, besides those conferred by Constitutional Law. When presiding, he is supreme, and no appeal can be taken from his decision, nor call for the previous question or motion to adjourn be entertained. (Art. VI, Sec. 3)

#### POWERS IN RECESS OF GRAND LODGE

##### Constitutional Provisions

In the recess of Grand Lodge, all the executive powers and authority of the Grand Lodge in fraternal matters devolve upon the Grand Master. He can grant Dispensations for new Lodges, and may suspend a Lodge or take possession of its Charter, when he believes the good of the Order requires it, until the next Annual Communication. He can suspend the Master and Wardens of a Lodge, or any of them, and may cause charges to be preferred against the officer or officers so suspended. He can make a Mason at sight; but he must be made in a body of a regularly constituted Lodge, and by the trial of the ballot. He can grant Dispensations for extraordinary processions and in all cases of emergency when in his opinion the good of Masonry will be promoted. In the recess of Grand Lodge all Corporate power and authority of the Grand Lodge devolve upon the Corporate Board. (Art. VI, Sec. 4) (1984)

**Digest of Masonic Law**

**POWERS WITH RESPECT TO GRAND LODGE**

**Constitutional Provisions**

When the Grand Lodge is in session, it is the duty of the Grand Master to appoint all committees and to make pro tem appointments; to appoint the Subordinate Officers and install the Grand Officers. He has general supervision of the books and accounts of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary, and unrestrained access to them; and in case of vacancy by death, resignation, removal, or other cause of the Grand Treasurer or Grand Secretary, to make other appointments until the next Annual Communication. And generally, the Grand Master being the representative of the Grand Lodge in recess, may do, order, and direct all matters and things which in his wisdom and judgment may tend to the prosperity of the Craft, not in violation of this Constitution and the Ancient Landmarks of Freemasonry. (1984) (Art. VI, Sec. 6)

All members of the Grand Lodge are entitled to one vote; and in case of a tie, the Grand Master, or Officer presiding, has the casting vote. (Art. II, Sec. 4)

### **Regulations**

**6.01** The Grand Master is requested to file in the office of the Grand Secretary, at least ten days before the opening day of Annual Grand Communication, copies of his address or report together with all necessary papers, records, and documents relating thereto and to his other official acts and actions. All other Elected Grand Lodge Officers shall file similar reports as to their official acts and recommendations during the year. The Grand Secretary shall lay before the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence said address or report together with all papers, records, and documents relating thereto and to other official acts and actions, implemented or to be implemented by the Grand Master and all other Elected Grand Lodge Officers and all papers and documents relating to penal appeals, applications for Lodge Charters, relations with foreign jurisdictions, relations with appendant and allied orders, and all matters pertaining to Masonic Law, policy, and practices and the Committee shall review all such matters and things and make report and recommendations thereon to the Grand Lodge.

## **POWERS WITH RESPECT TO GRAND COMMUNICATIONS**

### **References**

The Grand Master may appoint time and place for Annual Communications. Const. Art. IV, Sec. 1;  
Chapter 12

The Grand Master may call Special Communications of Grand Lodge. Const. Art. IV, Sec. 1;  
Chapter 12

The Grand Master may call an Emergent Communication of Grand Lodge at any time and place.  
Reg. 12.02

### **Rulings and Decisions**

An Emergent Communication can be called by the Grand Master at any time for any purpose he may elect. (1951 Proc. 26)

#### **POWERS WITH RESPECT TO GRAND LODGE OFFICERS**

##### **References**

The Grand Master-elect shall appoint the Subordinate Grand Officers. Const. Art. III, Sec. 5; Chapter 5

The Grand Master may grant Dispensations for installation of Grand Lodge Officers by proxy. Const. Art. III, Sec. 6; Reg. 6.11(a)

Grand Master shall appoint District Instructors. Reg. 10.10

#### **POWERS WITH RESPECT TO GRAND LODGE COMMITTEES**

##### **References**

Chapter 13, Grand Lodge Committees  
Const., Art. IX, Sec. 1 (2) (c), (i), (j), (l)

#### **POWERS WITH RESPECT TO GRAND LODGE REPRESENTATIVES**

##### **References**

Grand Lodge Representatives are appointed by the Grand Master. Reg. 15.03

#### **POWERS WITH RESPECT TO GRAND LODGE RITUAL AND CEREMONIES**

##### **References**

Chapter 38, Ritual and Ceremonies  
Const., Art. XV, Sec. 3

#### **POWER TO REINSTATE EXPELLED MEMBER**

##### **References**

See: Chapter 44. Reg. 44.67



**POWERS WITH RESPECT TO  
PARTICULAR LODGES  
CHARTERS AND ACTIONS OF LODGES**

**Constitutional Provisions**

In the recess of Grand Lodge, all the executive powers and authority of the Grand Lodge in fraternal matters devolve upon the Grand Master. He can grant Dispensations for new Lodges, and may suspend a Lodge or take possession of its Charter, when he believes the good of the Order requires it, until the next Annual Communication. He can suspend the Master and Wardens of a Lodge, or any of them, and may cause charges to be preferred against the officer or officers so suspended. (1984) (Art. VI, Sec. 4)

**Regulations**

**6.02** The Grand Master, during the recess of the Grand Lodge, may in the exercise of proper discretion, restore a suspended or surrendered Charter, or he may arrest or suspend a Lodge Charter until the next Annual Grand Communication.

**6.03** Any act or decision of a Lodge, or Master, may be reviewed by the Grand Lodge, or in the recess of the Grand Lodge, by the Grand Master, subject to the action of the Grand Lodge.

**6.04** When a Charter is lost or destroyed, the Grand Master may order a certified copy thereof to be issued in lieu of the original. (As to forfeiture of Charter see Constitution, Art. X, Sec. 22)

**6.05** It is not competent for the Grand Master to appoint a Brother to represent a Particular Lodge in the Grand Lodge.

**References**

Grand Master's approval is necessary for consolidation of Lodges. Reg. 16.03 (c)

**APPEALS FOR AID**

**References**

Grand Master's approval is necessary before a Lodge can issue an appeal for aid. Reg. 25.38

**LODGE BY-LAWS**

**References**

Lodge By-Laws have no validity until approved by the Grand Master. Regs. 24.01; 24.04

**BUILDING PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS  
AND FINANCING**

**References**

Grand Master's approval of plans and specifications for buildings and financing must be obtained. Reg. 28.03

### **Rulings and Decisions**

If properly designed, the Grand Master may permit construction of ground floor Temple. (1952 Proc, 31)

### **PUBLIC PROCESSIONS**

#### **References**

Grand Master may grant Dispensation for public processions. (See Dispensations below)

### **OFFICERS OF PARTICULAR LODGES**

#### **References**

The Grand Master is privileged to install a Master-elect. Const. Art. X, Sec. 9; Chapter 19.  
The Grand Master may suspend the Master of a Lodge. Const. Art. VI, Sec. 4; Chapter 19; Reg. 19.12

As to Dispensations for election and installation of Lodge Officers, see Dispensations below.

### **POWERS WITH RESPECT TO MILITARY LODGES**

#### **Regulations**

**6.06** The Grand Master has authority to establish Military Lodges; but it is inexpedient for him to do so, except under specific Regulations of the Grand Lodge.

### **POWERS WITH RESPECT TO DEFUNCT LODGES PROPERTY**

#### **References**

With approval of Grand Master the Grand Secretary may sell personal property of defunct Lodges. Reg. 43.02

With approval of Grand Master the Committee on Grand Lodge Properties may sell real and personal property of defunct Lodges. Reg. 13.13

See Constitution, Article V, Sec. 5, for restoration of property to Lodges upon restoration of Charter. Chapter 43

### **RESTORATION OF CHARTER**

#### **References**

As to restoration of Charters, See Chapter 17

### **POWERS WITH RESPECT TO U.D. LODGES**

#### **References**

U.D. Lodges are creatures of Grand Master. Regs. 42.07; 42.08

Grand Master may grant Dispensations for new Lodges. Const. Art. VII, Sec. 2; Chapter 42

Grand Master controls roll of members of U.D. Lodges. Reg. 42.07; Chapter 42  
 Grand Master shall open and set to work U.D. Lodges. Reg. 42.06; Chapter 42

## **PREROGATIVES**

### **Constitutional Provisions**

A Landmark of Freemasonry is:

“The government of the Fraternity by a presiding Officer who, since the advent of Speculative Masonry, has borne the title of Grand Master and been elected from the body of the Craft, and the prerogatives inherent in that office, among which are:

The prerogative of the Grand Master to enter into and preside over every assembly of Masons within his jurisdiction and, corollary thereto, to supervise and regulate the affairs of Masonry within that jurisdiction, between Communications of the Grand Lodge, subject to the Constitution and lawful Regulations duly enacted by the Grand Lodge.

The prerogative of the Grand Master to grant his Dispensation.

The prerogative of the Grand Master to make a Mason at sight in the body of a regularly constituted Lodge and by trial of the ballot.” (Art. XIII, Sec. 2 - Excerpt)

### **Regulations**

**6.07** The prerogatives of a Grand Master are commensurate with his high and honorable position, and circumscribed only by Masonic propriety and usefulness. They are so extensive as to need no legislation to enlarge them, but they are restricted by the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge, so far as they are specifically embraced within the scope of such laws.

**6.08** The Grand Master may make a Mason at sight, but only as the Constitution provides.

## **DISPENSATIONS**

### **Regulations**

**6.09** Dispensations may be granted for public processions on extra-ordinary occasions. A Worshipful Master may summon the members of his Lodge to turn out in public procession without Dispensation on the anniversaries of the Saints John, for Masonic funerals, or to attend with the Grand Master or his special Deputy in the ceremony of laying a cornerstone. A Lodge may meet and attend Divine Services, but not in Masonic regalia, and the members shall not be summoned for the occasion.

**6.10** The Grand Master may grant Dispensations to a Particular Lodge to provide material for Degree work, conformably to the Constitution, the ballot being required in each case, for example:

- (a) To receive and ballot on a petition short of the Constitutional time.
- (b) To ballot and confer the Degrees short of time at Stated and Called Communications.
- (c) To reopen a dark ballot.
- (d) To confer more than one Degree on the same candidate at the same Communication.
- (e) To confer the M.M. Degree upon a F.C. who, after election, becomes badly wounded or crippled in pursuit of his regular vocation.
- (f) To allow a Lodge to accept a petition from a rejected candidate.

#### References

As to fees for Dispensations to confer Degrees short of time, see Reg. 14.18.

#### Regulations

**6.11** Dispensation may be granted and shall be required for election and installation of officers in the following cases:

- (a) To install an Elected Grand Officer under the provisions of Article III, Section 6 of the Constitution.
- (b) To elect and install Officers when election did not take place as set forth in Article X, Section 4 of the Constitution.
- (c) To elect and install any Officer when the Officer-elect remains permanently beyond the Lodge jurisdiction.
- (d) To elect and install any elective Officer when the Brother named in the Charter, or elected to office, declines installation, and another Brother cannot be elected on or before December 27<sup>th</sup>.
- (e) To fill vacancies in elective offices to Particular Lodges for unexpired terms. (See Reg. 19.19)
- (f) To permit joint installation of the Officers of Lodges outside of their respective territorial jurisdiction, within this Grand jurisdiction.

**6.12** Dispensations may be granted and shall be required for Lodge Communications in the following cases:

- (a) To authorize a Lodge to continue its work in the absence of its Charter when lost, stolen, or destroyed, until the Charter is returned or a certified copy issued.
- (b) To authorize a Lodge to change its place of meeting within its jurisdiction, but without changing its jurisdictional lines, until and unless Grand Lodge makes such changes permanent, in which case its jurisdictional lines will measure from its new location.
- (c) To authorize a Lodge to hold its Communications in ground floor rooms when necessity demands, and the approval of the District Deputy Grand Master has been secured.

**6.13** Dispensations cannot be issued to Lodges to hold their annual election of Officers prior to their first Stated Communication in December, nor to install their Officers prior to December 27<sup>th</sup>, since both are prohibited by Article X, Section 4 of the Constitution.

**6.14** Public installation of Officers may hereafter be held by the Lodges in their territorial jurisdictions without Dispensations.

### References

A Dispensation may be granted to a Lodge to elect a Master. Reg. 19.19

A Dispensation may be granted to fill the office of Senior or Junior Warden. Reg. 19.21

## DUTY TO VISIT LODGES

### Constitutional Provisions

It is the duty of the Grand Master, with the assistance of the Deputy Grand Master, or one of the District Deputy Grand Masters, to visit the Particular Lodges in his jurisdiction at least once a year, and to examine their work and condition; and, when necessary, to have access to books and papers, and to preside, with the Master of the Lodge at his left. (Art. VI, Sec. 5)

**Digest of Masonic Law**

**CHAPTER 7**

**DEPUTY GRAND MASTER AND GRAND WARDENS**

**As to Election, Installation, Term, Title, Vacancies, Succession,  
and Discipline of Grand Lodge Officers, See Chapter 5**

**POWERS AND DUTIES**

**Constitutional Provisions**

It is the duty of the Deputy Grand Master to assist the Grand Master in the discharge of all his official duties, and in his absence to preside. And in case of his death, or incapacity from any cause, to perform the duties of his office, all the duties, powers, and prerogatives of the Grand Master devolve upon the Deputy Grand Master until the next Annual Communication. (Art. VI, Sec. 7)

It is the duty of the Senior Grand Warden to assist the Grand Master in opening and closing the Grand Lodge, and in his absence, and in the absence of the Deputy Grand Master, to preside; and in case of the death, removal, or inability from any other cause to perform the duties of the office of Grand Master and the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden succeeds to all the powers, rights, and prerogatives of the Grand Master. And in case of the death, removal, or inability from any cause to perform the duties of the office of the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master and the Senior Grand Warden, the Junior Grand Warden succeeds to all the powers, rights, and prerogatives of the Grand Master. (Art. VI, Sec. 8)

**References**

The Deputy Grand Master is privileged to install a Master-elect in absence of the Grand Master. Const. Art. X, Sec. 9; Chapter 19

**Regulations**

**7.01** Prior to each Annual Grand Communication, the Deputy Grand Master may file with the Grand Secretary a confidential list of names of Brothers whom he desires to have in attendance at such Grand Communication, not to exceed fifty (50) in number, who, if present at such Grand Communication, shall be eligible to be placed on the payroll thereof as specified by the Deputy Grand Master as follows:

- (1) Forty-five Brothers for a period not to exceed one day and one night plus mileage; and

(2) Five Brothers for a period not to exceed four days and three nights plus mileage.

The Grand Secretary shall give notice to the named Brothers so listed and designated by the Deputy Grand Master and shall certify such Brothers to the appropriate Grand Lodge Officers and Committees as eligible to be placed on the payroll as above provided.

**7.02** The Deputy Grand Master, prior to the Annual Grand Communication shall be invited to present to the Jurisprudence Committee an outline of his proposed program and projects for the coming year, should he be elected Grand Master. This outline shall give detail as to projects and programs where Lodges and Lodge members are involved. The Jurisprudence Committee will review the Deputy Grand Master's proposed plans and advise him as to the legality of such plans under Masonic Law. (1983)





## CHAPTER 8

### GRAND TREASURER

#### **As to Election, Installation, Term, Title, Vacancies, Succession, and Discipline of Grand Lodge Officers, See Chapter 5**

#### POWERS AND DUTIES

##### **Constitutional Provisions**

It is the duty of the Grand Treasurer to receive all monies received or collected for or on account of the Grand Lodge, giving his receipt for same and to keep a just and true account thereof in a book to be provided for that purpose, to which the Grand Master and Corporate Board shall at all times have free access for inspection; and at each Annual Communication to make a full and accurate statement of his accounts, to be laid before the Committee on Finance and Accounts for examination and report. In case of the death, resignation, or removal from office of the Grand Treasurer, the Grand Master has authority to take possession of all the books, papers, accounts, and funds appertaining to his office, to be turned over to his successor in office. The Grand Treasurer, for his service and responsibilities, shall be entitled to receive compensation as may be provided for, from time to time, by Budget appropriation. (1984) (Art. VI, Sec. 9)

##### **Regulations**

**8.01** The Grand Treasurer shall give a good and sufficient surety bond conditioned for the faithful performance of his duties, payable to the Grand Lodge in a sum of not less than \$10,000.00, the premium to be paid by the Grand Lodge.

#### REVENUE AND FINANCES

##### **References**

See Grand Lodge Revenue and Finances; Chapter 14

**Digest of Masonic Law**

**CHAPTER 9**

**GRAND SECRETARY**

**As to Election, Installation, Term, Title, Vacancies, Succession,  
and Discipline of Grand Lodge Officers, See Chapter 5**

**POWERS AND DUTIES**

**GENERAL**

**Constitutional Provisions**

It is the duty of the Grand Secretary to receive all monies due to the Grand Lodge payable to him, and to pay the same to the Grand Treasurer, taking a receipt therefore, to keep a just and true account of all monies received by him, and paid over to the Grand Treasurer, in books provided for that purpose, to which the Grand Master and members of the Corporate Board shall at all times have free access; and at each Annual Communication, to make out a true and accurate statement and report of the same, to be laid before the Committee on Finance and Accounts for examination. It is the duty of the Grand Secretary to report to the Grand Lodge all communications and correspondence which may have been received at his office during the recess of Grand Lodge, pertinent to be reported on; to furnish the respective committees with all necessary papers, documents, and records to them referred; to keep a true and accurate journal and record in a book provided for that purpose, of all the proceedings of the Grand Lodge, proper to be written, must be signed by the Grand Master and the Junior Past Grand Master or other officer who presided at the Communication, and their signatures shall be shown in the printed Proceedings. To preserve in his office all the returns, papers and other documents from the Particular Lodges, and the Proceedings, foreign correspondence, and other communication, from other Grand Lodges in correspondence with the Grand Lodge to which the Committee on Foreign Relations of this Grand Lodge shall have access during the recess. And as soon after the close of the Grand Lodge as may be, he shall cause a true copy or transcript of all matters ordered or intended to be published as the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge, to be prepared for the Corporate Board for publication, and which, when published, he shall cause to be transmitted to all the Particular Lodges under this Jurisdiction, and to all the Grand

Lodges in correspondence with this Grand Lodge. It is the duty of the Grand Secretary to furnish the Particular Lodges with all necessary blank forms as prescribed, or may from time to time, be prescribed by the Grand Lodge. The Grand Secretary is, by virtue of his office, Grand Librarian and has charge and custody of all books, papers, and archives of the Grand Lodge. It is his duty to provide all necessary blank forms of Charters, Dispensations, Diplomas, etc., and to cause the same, when required, to be properly executed under the Seal of the Grand Lodge, and to furnish widows and orphans of Master Masons Certificates or Diplomas, when required, without fee.

In the event of the death, removal, or resignation of the Grand Secretary, it is the duty of the Grand Master to appoint a successor, who shall take charge of all the books, papers, archives, Seal, and furniture, and other effects belonging to the Grand Secretary's Office, and make and preserve a correct inventory of same.

If the Grand Secretary is requested or directed to execute or attest any document and has doubts as to the legality or validity thereof under civil or Masonic Law, he shall appeal to the Corporate Board for instructions or directions in the matter. (Art. VI, Sec. 10) (1984)

### **Regulations**

**9.01** The Grand Secretary shall not act as Secretary for any other Grand Body.

### **BOND**

#### **Regulations**

**9.02** The Grand Secretary shall give a good and sufficient surety bond conditioned for the faithful performance of his duties, payable to the Grand Lodge in a sum of not less than \$10,000.00, the premium to be paid by the Grand Lodge.

**GRAND LODGE RECORDS, PROCEEDINGS,  
AND BUSINESS****Regulations**

**9.03** The Grand Secretary, under the direction of the Corporate Board, shall arrange for the printing of Grand Lodge Proceedings, Masonic Digest, Forms, and other documents necessary for carrying on the business and affairs of the Grand Lodge.

**9.04** The Regulations and Amendments passed each year by the Grand Lodge shall be properly recorded in the Proceedings of that Grand Communication, and the Grand Secretary is also directed to publish therewith the names of all members of new Lodges Chartered at that Grand Communication and their former Lodge membership. (1985)

**9.05** Immediately after the adjournment of each Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Secretary shall prepare, and cause to be distributed, an "Advance Booklet" showing the names of Grand Lodge Officers, Elective and Appointive, Lodges by Districts with name of the District Deputy Grand Masters and name of the District Instructors, and all Committees appointed by the Grand Master with complete mailing address of each, and with such other information as directed by the Grand Lodge, and shall furnish each Particular Lodge with one copy of said Booklet, the receipt of which shall be announced to the Craft in open Lodge at the next Stated Communication after its receipt. The Lodge copy of the Booklet shall be retained by the Lodge Secretary and shall be open and available to all members of the Craft. One copy of the Booklet shall be furnished to each Grand Lodge Officer, Past Grand Master, and District Deputy Grand Master. (2009)

**9.06** The Grand Secretary is authorized to sell the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge to any Master Mason in good standing at cost.

**9.07** The Grand Secretary is authorized to have such books bound as may be authorized by the Grand Lodge, and to keep the Jewels and other personal property insured and securely in his possession.

**References**

See Grand Lodge Communications and Proceedings, Chapter 12

**GRAND LODGE OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES****Regulations**

**9.08** The Grand Secretary is required to furnish every Grand Officer with a Certificate, under the Seal of the Grand Lodge, of his election or appointment and installation.

**9.09** It shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary, upon the death of a Past Grand Master, or Elective Grand Lodge Officer, to notify the Grand Master, all living Past Grand Masters, and Elective Officers of the Grand Lodge of such death, and the time and place appointed for funeral. Such notice shall state if Emergent Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge has been called by the Grand Master, giving time and place for convening.

**References**

The Grand Secretary shall sign commissions of Grand Lodge Representatives. Reg. 15.03  
The Grand Secretary shall notify appointing power of a Representative in Florida who vacates his appointment. Reg. 15.05

**GRAND LODGE COMMITTEES**

**References**

The Grand Secretary shall notify all members of Committees of their selection. Reg. 13.23  
The Grand Secretary shall, ex-officio, be Secretary to, but not a member of the Corporate Board. (1984) (Sec. 4 (4) Art. I)  
The Grand Secretary shall furnish identification cards and roll of Lodges to Committee on Returns and Credentials. Reg. 13.14; Const., Art. IV, Sec. 5  
The Grand Secretary shall lay before the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence the address of the Grand Master the day before Grand Lodge convenes. Reg. 6.01

**REVENUE AND FINANCES**

**References**

See Grand Lodge - Revenue and Finances, Chapter 14

**PROPERTY OF GRAND LODGE**

**References**

The Grand Secretary shall keep the Grand Lodge Jewels and other personal property insured and in his possession. Reg. 9.07

**PARTICULAR LODGES  
RETURNS AND REPORTS**

**Regulations**

**9.10** The Grand Secretary is authorized to furnish the Particular Lodges with such blank forms as prescribed by Grand Lodge, and the costs therefore set by the Corporate Board. (1985)

**9.11** The Grand Secretary is authorized and directed to furnish the Particular and Memorial Lodges with prescribed forms for reporting change of status of membership, for Annual Returns, and other forms prescribed for implementing the Data Processing Lodge Membership and Annual Returns Centralized System.

## CORRESPONDENCE

### References

All requests for work by courtesy to and from other Grand Jurisdictions may be made through office of Grand Secretary. Reg. 15.01

Correspondence relating to waiver of jurisdiction by Lodge of another Grand Jurisdiction over rejected candidate must be handled through office of Grand Master. Reg. 31.19

## LODGE CHARTERS

### Regulations

**9.12** The Grand Secretary shall record accurately all Charters hereafter issued in a book to be kept for the purpose.

### References

Ancient Lodge Charters of historical value may be surrendered to the Grand Secretary for safekeeping and a duplicate issued with approval of the Grand Master. Reg. 17.03

Charters and Seals of consolidating Lodges shall be surrendered to the Grand Secretary. Reg. 16.03 (f)

## LODGE RECEIPTS AND DUES CARDS

### References

Wording and issuance of card receipts to Lodges shall be under Regulation prescribed by the Grand Secretary with approval of the Grand Master. Reg. 26.11

## DEFUNCT LODGES

### PROPERTY

### References

With the approval of the Grand Master, the Grand Secretary may sell the personal property of defunct Lodges. Reg. 43.02

## MEMBERS OF DORMANT LODGES

### Regulations

**9.13** A Mason, whose Lodge is dormant or defunct, is not suspended, but merely unaffiliated, and may apply for affiliation only upon a proper Certificate from the Grand Secretary, to whom a fee of

one dollar and all arrears must be paid; *provided*, that it shall be in the power of the Grand Lodge, or the Grand Master in recess, to remit such arrears in meritorious cases, upon the recommendation of the Lodge to which such Mason proposes to apply for affiliation.

## APPENDANT AND ALLIED ORDERS

### Regulations

**9.14** The Grand Secretary and the Secretaries of the Particular Lodges shall provide to appropriate officers of appendant, allied, or affiliated orders and organizations lists of names of persons that for any reason have been removed from the Lodge roll of members and the reason for such removal and such other lists of members as may be approved by the Grand Master. (2018)

If any appendant, allied, or affiliated order or organization wherein membership is predicated upon Masonic membership or relationship to a Mason shall willfully carry on its roll of members a Mason not in good standing in a Particular Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction, or a Grand Jurisdiction recognized by the Grand Lodge of Florida, the same shall constitute grounds for investigation by the Grand Master and report to the Grand Lodge for consideration as to continued recognition of such appendant, allied, or affiliated order or organization.

### Penal Proceedings

**9.15** The Grand Secretary shall keep and maintain a record book in his office relating to the progress of all penal proceedings. A separate page or portion of the book shall be assigned to each penal proceeding and shall have recorded thereon, the name, address, and Lodge of the accused, the date of receipt of papers and documents or copies thereof received by the Grand Secretary and the name, title, or character of each such paper or document. A separate file folder shall be maintained as to each penal proceeding and all papers and documents relating to such proceeding shall, after recording in the record book aforesaid, be filed in such file folder. The record book shall be maintained in alphabetical order of surname of accused.

Records of completed proceedings shall be removed from current record book and filed or bound in an appropriate manner.

**Digest of Masonic Law**

**CHAPTER 10**

**DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS  
AND DISTRICT INSTRUCTORS**

**As to Appointment, Installation, Term, Title, Vacancies, Succession,  
and Discipline of Grand Lodge Officers, See Chapter 5**

**POWERS AND DUTIES**

**GENERAL**

**Constitutional Provisions**

The officers of the Grand Lodge are: “a District Deputy Grand Master from each Masonic District, which Districts shall not exceed twenty-eight (28) in number, who shall be appointed by the Grand Master, the title of each being Right Worshipful.” (2016) (Art. II, Sec. 1 - Excerpt)

Each District Deputy Grand Master shall visit every Lodge in his District, at a Stated or Called Communication, at least once during his term of office, and of such intended visit he shall give notice to the Master or Secretary of the Lodge. He shall examine the records of the Lodge, and see if they are regularly kept, inform himself of the number of members, inquire into the condition of the Lodge, point out any errors he may observe in the condition or manner of working, instruct the Lodge in every particular wherein he may conceive them to require information, recommend attention to the moral and benevolent principles of the institution, caution in the admission of candidates, and a punctual representation of their Lodge in every Communication of the Grand Lodge. When any District Deputy Grand Master shall discover, either in his own District or any other part of the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, any Masonic error or evil, he shall immediately endeavor, by Masonic means, to arrest its progress, and if he shall judge it expedient he shall forward to the Grand Master full information of the whole subject. The District Deputy Grand Master shall, under direction of the Grand Master, receive the whole property belonging to any dormant or extinct Lodge, and except in cases where a different disposition shall be made, or hereafter may be made, in relation to any part of the whole thereof, forward to the Grand Secretary the several Charters, Jewels, Seals, books, papers, etc., and sell the furniture or other personal property of such Lodge, and account to the Grand Lodge for the



proceeds thereof. Previous to every Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, every District Deputy Grand Master shall so far as it is proper to be done, make out in writing a full report of the state of each Lodge in his District and forward it to the Grand Master. (Art. VI, Sec. 11)

### References

The District Deputy Grand Master is privileged to install the Master-elect of a Lodge in absence of the Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master. Const. Art. X, Sec. 9; Chapter 19

### Regulations

**10.01** No Dispensation is necessary to enable a District Deputy Grand Master to hold a district convention, but if a Lodge is opened it must be under the auspices of a Lodge in the District. When a Degree is conferred it must be upon a candidate regularly elected by a Particular Lodge.

**10.02** In case of failure of a District Deputy Grand Master to visit any Lodge or Lodges in his District, he may appoint some competent Past Master to visit such Lodge or Lodges for him, and to report to him the status of the same.

**10.03** The District Deputy Grand Master is the personal representative of the Grand Master. Any officer, board, commission, or committee desiring the assistance of or action by the District Deputy Grand Master shall first obtain approval of request for such assistance or action before such request is made of the District Deputy. (1984)

**10.04** All reports of District Deputy Grand Masters must be made to the Grand Master at least thirty days before the first day of the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, and such reports shall not be made to the Grand Lodge; the Grand Master to take such cognizance of such reports as he may deem proper.

**10.05** When a District Deputy Grand Master answers a question on Masonic Law, his answer is advisory only and must be referred to the Grand Master at once for confirmation.

**10.06** The Constitution of this Grand Lodge confers no power upon a District Deputy Grand Master to grant Dispensations for any purpose. Their duties are clearly defined in the Constitution and cannot exceed the limitations there fixed.

**10.07** According to proper Masonic usage and practice, no Brother shall wear his hat while being received by a Particular Lodge except the Most Worshipful Grand Master in person.

**10.08** The District Deputy Grand Master may approve in writing a change of meeting place for any single or particular Stated

Communication of a Particular Lodge within his Masonic District, provided such change has been approved by special action of the Lodge and that written notice is given to the membership of the Lodge.

### **PRESIDING OFFICER**

#### **References**

When all of the three principal Officers of a Lodge are absent the Lodge may be opened and presided over by the District Deputy Grand Master. Const. Art. X, Sec. 31; Reg. 25.18

### **LODGE COMMUNICATIONS IN GROUND FLOOR ROOMS**

#### **References**

The approval of the District Deputy Grand Master must be secured for a Lodge to hold its Communications in ground floor rooms. Reg. 6.12(c)

### **ELIGIBILITY FOR APPOINTMENT**

#### **Regulations**

**10.09** No Brother shall be appointed Grand Marshal, Senior Grand Deacon, Junior Grand Deacon, Grand Standard Bearer, Grand Sword Bearer, Senior Grand Steward, Junior Grand Steward, Grand Pursuivant, Grand Tyler, or District Deputy Grand Master who is not a Past Master of a Florida Lodge. Any Master Mason in good standing in a Florida Lodge shall be eligible for appointment to any other Grand Lodge appointive office or position and to any Grand Lodge Committee, Board, or Commission. (1982)

### **DISTRICT INSTRUCTORS**

#### **Regulations**

**10.10** The Grand Master is authorized to appoint one District Instructor for each Masonic District, with one additional Spanish Speaking District Instructor in District 27, which District appointments shall not exceed twenty-nine (29) in number, for a term of one year, to work in their respective Districts under the Supervision of the Grand Lodge Committee on Work, subject to the approval of the Grand Master. (2021)

Each District Instructor shall hold a minimum of a Blue Card certificate of proficiency; *provided*, however, a Brother appointed as District Instructor who does not have such minimum requirement shall be permitted ninety (90) days within which to achieve such degree of proficiency.

The title of a District Instructor shall be “Right Honorable District Instructor” and the title of all Past District Instructors shall be “Right Honorable Past District Instructor” for life. District Instructor may be abbreviated “D.I.” and Right Honorable Past District Instructor may be abbreviated “R.:H.: P.D.I.”. (2008)

### Masonic Districts

**10.11** The Grand Secretary shall annually compile and publish in an appropriate appendix to the Proceedings a list of the Masonic Districts, the name and number of the Lodges in each District, the place and time of Stated Communications of such Lodges, and the name, address, and telephone number of the District Deputy Grand Master.

This compilation shall be the official allocation of Lodges and Districts for the year of such publication.

**10.12** There shall be seven (7) Masonic Zones with the twenty-nine (29) Districts as follows (2022):

- Zone 1 - Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5 (2016)
- Zone 2 - Districts 6, 7, 10, & 12 (2016)
- Zone 3 - Districts 8, 9, 11, & 13 (2016)
- Zone 4 - Districts 14, 18, 19, 20, & 21 (2016)
- Zone 5 - Districts 15, 16, 17, & 22 (2016)
- Zone 6 - Districts 23 & 24 (2016)
- Zone 7 - Districts 25, 26, 27, 28, & 29 (2022)

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## CHAPTER 11

### SUBORDINATE GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

**As to Appointment, Installation, Term, Title, Vacancies, Succession,  
and Discipline of Grand Lodge Officers, See Chapter 5**

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS

##### **Constitutional Provisions**

“And the following Subordinate Grand Officers, viz; Grand Orator, Grand Marshal, Senior Grand Deacon, Junior Grand Deacon, Grand Standard Bearer, Grand Sword Bearer, Senior Grand Steward, Junior Grand Steward, Grand Pursuivant, and Grand Tyler...” (Const. Art. II, Sec. 1 - Excerpt)

#### POWERS AND DUTIES

#### SUBORDINATE OFFICERS

##### **Constitutional Provisions**

The duties of the Subordinate Grand Officers are defined by the unwritten law and ancient Masonic usage and custom, and inculcated in their installation Charges and instructions of the Grand Master. The Grand Tyler is entitled to receive for his services such compensation as shall be provided for by Resolution of the Grand Lodge. (Art. VI, Sec. 12)

##### **Regulations**

**11.01** No Brother shall be appointed Grand Marshal, Senior Grand Deacon, Junior Grand Deacon, Grand Standard Bearer, Grand Sword Bearer, Senior Grand Steward, Junior Grand Steward, Grand Pursuivant, Grand Tyler, or District Deputy Grand Master who is not a Past Master of a Florida Lodge. Any Master Mason in good standing in a Florida Lodge shall be eligible for appointment to any other Grand Lodge appointive office or position and to any Grand Lodge Committee, Board, or Commission.

**11.02** The Grand Master may appoint a Grand Historian for the Grand Lodge.

**11.03** The Grand Master may appoint a Grand Musician for the Grand Lodge. (1989)

Digest of Masonic Law

CHAPTER 12

GRAND COMMUNICATIONS AND PROCEEDINGS

GENERAL PROVISIONS

**Constitutional Provisions**

The Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Florida shall be held within the State of Florida between the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April and the 30<sup>th</sup> day of June at the time and place to be appointed by the Grand Master by Executive Order. At least sixty (60) days prior to the time and place of the Annual Communication, notice shall be provided to each of the Particular Lodges, Grand Lodge Officers, and Past Grand Masters. The Grand Master may call a special Communication of the Grand Lodge when, in his opinion, the interest of the Craft may require it. (1996) (Art. IV, Sec. 1)

A due representation of at least three Particular Lodges is necessary to constitute a quorum to open the Grand Lodge; *provided*, that should there not be a quorum of Lodges represented by 11 o'clock a.m., on the first day of the Annual Communication, it shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary to adjourn the meeting from day to day, or time to time, until a quorum shall be in attendance, not exceeding three days. (Art. IV, Sec. 2)

The Grand Master, when present, presides, and the Grand Lodge is opened in Ample Form. In his absence, the Deputy Grand Master presides, and the Grand Lodge is opened in Due Form. In the absence of the Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden presides; and in his absence also, the Junior Grand Warden presides. And should the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and the Grand Wardens be absent, the Grand Master may appoint as his Special Deputy, any permanent member of the Grand Lodge to preside, and in case no Special Deputy shall be appointed and be present, and in case neither of the Grand Officers mentioned shall be present, then the oldest Master Mason present, being a Master of a Lodge, shall preside; and in either of the four last alternatives, the Grand Lodge will only be opened in Form, and the Officer so presiding pro tem, shall, during his presence in the East, be clothed with all the powers, prerogatives, and authority of the Grand Master, and be held to worship until a Grand Officer higher in rank shall appear and take his place. (Art. IV, Sec. 3)

**Regulations**

**12.01** The phrase “the oldest Master Mason present, being a Master of a Lodge” used in Article IV, Section 3, of the Constitution

to designate the person to preside over the Grand Lodge in the absence of the regular presiding officer, means “the present Master of a Lodge, who has been longest a Freemason.”

## DEFINITIONS

### Regulations

**12.02** The lawful assemblage of Masons in Grand Lodge capacity is called “Grand Communication.” Grand Communications are of three kinds: “Annual..... Special,” and “Emergent.” An “Annual Communication” of Grand Lodge is for the transaction of general business and the election and installation of Grand Officers for the ensuing year. A “Special Communication” of Grand Lodge is called by the Grand Master for such business as he may lay before it, of which all Grand Lodge Officers and members shall have due and timely notice. An “Emergent Communication” of Grand Lodge is a Grand Master’s prerogative, to be called at any time or place, or for any purpose as he may elect, and without formal notice to any one. He may call and preside over such Emergent Communication in person, or he may delegate his authority for such a Communication to a “Special Deputy,” unless the Deputy Grand Master be present, in which case he will take precedence over the Special Deputy, and Grand Lodge Officers who may be present are entitled to assume their respective stations or places, unless requested to serve in another. The minutes of all such meetings shall be filed with the Grand Secretary. (The only “Special Communication” ever held by the Grand Lodge of Florida was called by Grand Master Jesse Coe, and held at Tallahassee in June, 1845, for the transaction of general business and joining in the celebration of Florida’s admission to statehood, and the inauguration of Florida’s first Governor. The session lasted three days.)

### Rulings and Decisions

An Emergent Communication can be called by the Grand Master at any time for any purpose he may elect. (1951 Proc. 26)

## SEATING ARRANGEMENT

### Regulations

**12.03** The seats in Grand Lodge shall be arranged by Masonic Districts, under direction of the Grand Secretary, with the number of each District displayed at the East end of seat row. The District Deputy Grand Master, or some competent Brother appointed to act as such in his absence, shall occupy the front seat, and shall be responsible for those occupying seats in his section or division. No visitor or member

shall occupy a seat in Grand Lodge until he shall have made himself known to the District Deputy Grand Master in whose section he would be seated.

### TIME OF CONVENING

#### Regulations

12.04 (Repealed 1985)

### PROCEDURE AND PROCEEDINGS

#### Regulations

12.05 In making up the Grand Lodge Payroll, the mileage and per diem allowed Officers, Committees, and Members of the Grand Lodge shall be the amount set by recommendation of the Finance Committees with the approval of the Grand Lodge. (1985)

12.06 No Brother shall receive any mileage or per diem in more than one capacity, nor shall any Brother be entitled to compensation for any day in which he is not in actual and dutiful attendance upon the Grand Communication; nor mileage, when the traveling expenses have not been incurred exclusively for attendance upon the Grand Lodge.

12.07 The custom heretofore prevailing of recording the Proceedings of Annual Communications of the Grand Lodge in a book prepared for the purpose, after they have been made ready for the printer, is discontinued. In lieu thereof, the original minutes as made in the Grand Lodge should be carefully preserved and filed for future reference. The published Proceedings, after the approval by Grand Lodge, will then be the recognized record of the Annual Communications as they occur, and a copy thereof should be filed with the original minutes.

12.08 The Grand Lodge Proceedings are required to be printed annually, as soon as practicable after the close of the Annual Grand Communication, on the best possible terms, and in the most approved style.

12.09 The Regulations and Amendments passed each year by the Grand Lodge shall be properly recorded in the Proceedings of



that Grand Communication, and the Grand Secretary is also directed to publish therewith the names of all Members of new Lodges Chartered at that Grand Communication and their former Lodge membership. (1985)

**12.10** The Grand Secretary is authorized to sell the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge to any Master Mason in good standing at cost.

**12.11** It has for many, many years been the unbroken custom of this Grand Jurisdiction to include in the Proceedings of our Annual Grand Communications the names, names and numbers of Lodges, and date of death of deceased Master Masons of this Grand Jurisdiction. This Grand Lodge now adopts this custom as a declared policy.

**12.12** All motions, Resolutions, Reports, and other proposals for Grand Lodge action shall, prior to such Grand Lodge action, be referred to, acted upon and recommendation made in regard thereto by an appropriate Grand Lodge Committee, including but not limited to:

(a) All proposals for legislation, trials and appeals, Charters, relations with other Grand Jurisdictions, relations with Foreign Jurisdictions, Appendant and Allied Orders, Masonic Digest, all Resolutions except Memorial Resolutions and all matters of Masonic Law, policies, and procedures, shall be referred to the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence and the appropriate sub-committee thereof.

(b) All proposals involving management, control, budgeting, and expenditure of Grand Lodge funds, except the Masonic Home Endowment Fund, shall be referred to the Committee on Finance and Accounts.

(c) All proposals relating to management and operation of the Masonic Home shall be referred to the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home.

(d) All proposals relating to Forms and Ceremonies, Ritual, Masonic protocol, and Memorial Resolutions shall be referred to Committee on Work and the appropriate sub-committee thereof.

(e) All other proposals shall be referred to an appropriate committee for action and recommendation.

(f) All proposals of like or similar nature or topics having been rejected by the Grand Lodge at two (2) consecutive Annual Grand Lodge Communications, shall not be submitted for consideration again for a period of three (3) years.

(g) Grand Lodge may waive the provisions and requirements of this Regulation by three-fourths vote. (1989)

## VOTING

### Regulations

**12.13** All voting, in both Grand and Particular Lodges, not requiring ball or written ballot, shall be by “show of hands.”

**12.14** In all cases, when voting in Grand Lodge upon any Resolution which will levy, or cause to be levied, a tax or assessment upon Particular Lodges or the members thereof, the vote shall be taken in the same manner and under the same Laws and Regulations as the voting for Grand Lodge Officers.

**12.15** Any proposed amendment or alteration of the Constitution, or Regulations to be presented to the Grand Lodge for adoption at an Annual Communication shall be submitted to the Grand Secretary before December 31<sup>st</sup> by Resolution explaining the reasons for amending the Constitution or Regulation or proposing new Constitutional provisions or Regulations, using no more than two letter size typewritten single spaced pages, and must be sent by the Grand Secretary to each Particular Lodge, the Grand Lodge Elective Officers, the District Deputy Grand Masters, the District Instructors, and Past Grand Masters no later than sixty (60) days prior to the Grand Lodge Annual Communication. (1993)

A proposed amendment or alteration of a Regulation or of the Constitution may be designated emergency legislation by a majority vote of members present and presented at the Annual Grand Communication for consideration by the members of the Grand Lodge present and voting. (1984)

## References

As to Powers of Grand Master relating to Communications, see Chapter 6  
As to Lodge Representatives to Grand Lodge, see Chapter 29

CHAPTER 13

**GRAND LODGE COMMITTEES**

GENERAL PROVISIONS

**Constitutional Provisions**

The Committees of the Grand Lodge shall be as provided for herein:  
(Art. IX)

**Section 1.** Corporate Committees - The Corporate Committees of the Grand Lodge are:

- (1-a) The Corporate Board of Directors, constituted as provided in Article I of this Constitution and as the Corporate Board of the Grand Lodge as provided in this Constitution and the Regulations of the Grand Lodge.
- (1-b) The Corporate Board composed of the Grand Master as Chairman, the Deputy Grand Master as Vice Chairman, the Senior Grand Warden, the Junior Grand Warden, the Grand Treasurer, and two members appointed by the Grand Master, one of which shall be a Past Grand Master, which Corporate Board shall have power of general supervision over and management of Grand Lodge Funds and property, except Masonic Home property.
- (2) The Masonic Home Endowment and Investment Committee composed of nine Master Masons in good standing in Florida Lodges. The members of the Committee shall be men of experience in the management and investment of funds or men qualified in professions that acquaint them with the duties and responsibilities of management and investment of funds, including but not limited to bankers, public accountants, lawyers, financial counselors, and men of similar training and experience.

Each incoming Grand Master shall make three appointments to this committee for a term of three years each. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the Grand Master for the remainder of the vacant term. Initial implementation shall be by appointment by the Grand Master of three members for three year terms, three members for two year terms, and three members for one year terms. (1999)

No person while a member of this committee, or for a period of two (2) years after serving on this committee, may, directly or indirectly, gain any economic benefit by reason of bidding, providing, or contracting to provide financial services to The Grand Lodge of Florida. Any attempt to circumvent this Regulation will be prima facie evidence of unmasonic conduct and will be punishable as such. (1999)

The Committee shall make recommendations to the Corporate Board in respect to the following matters:

- (a) Selection of Registered Investment Adviser(s) to manage, or Registered Representative's(s') broker-dealer or its clearing firm to act as custodian for such portions of the Masonic Home Endowment Fund as shall be entrusted to such Registered Investment Adviser(s) or Registered Representative's(s') broker-dealer or its clearing firm by written contract/document with the Grand Lodge. (1999)
  - (b) The terms of contract with the Registered Investment Adviser(s) or the Registered Representative's(s') broker-dealer for management and custodianship of the Masonic Home Endowment Fund. (1999)
  - (c) The means, methods, and standards for evaluation of the services of the Registered Investment Adviser(s), the Registered Representative(s), or its broker-dealer managing and investing the Masonic Home Endowment Fund. (1999)
  - (d) The Committee shall comply with the foregoing in respect to other Grand Lodge funds. (1999)
- (3) The Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home shall be composed of ten members. One member shall be appointed by the Grand Master beginning May 28, 2014. The Board shall be divided into sub-committees as shall be prescribed by the Constitution or Regulations of the Grand Lodge and such other sub-committees as shall be deemed appropriate by the Chairman of the Board. The Grand Treasurer and the Grand Secretary shall be the Treasurer and Secretary, respectively, of the Board. The Grand Master shall designate one (1) of the members of the Board to serve as Vice Chairman. (2014)

The initial implementation shall be three of the nine members of the Board shall be appointed by the Grand Master for one year term and one member shall be appointed by the Grand Master as Chairman of the Board. Three shall be appointed by the Grand Master only upon nomination of the Deputy Grand Master for a two year term, and three shall be appointed only upon nomination of the Senior Grand Warden for a three year term. Thereafter the incoming Grand Master shall appoint, only upon nomination of the incoming Senior Grand Warden, three members of the Craft for a three year term. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment of the Grand Master for the remainder of the vacant term. No person shall serve as a member of the Board for more than six consecutive years. (2014)

The members of the Board of Trustees shall be men of experience in the management of or men qualified in professions that acquaint them to the duties and responsibilities of managing and operating all aspects of nursing facilities for the aged, including, but not limited to, accountants, building maintenance, dieticians, doctors, food management, health insurance advisors, inventory management, legal counsel, marketing specialist, nurses, pharmacist, and men of similar training and experience.

The Board shall be divided into such sub-committees as shall be prescribed by the Constitution or Regulations of the Grand Lodge, such as Committee on Admissions and Non-Resident Relief, Long Range Planning/Facility, Masonic Home Budget, Hal W. Adams Hospital Service, and Emergency Relief, Masonic Home Activities and such other sub-committees as shall be deemed appropriate by the Chairman of the Board, which sub-committees shall report to the Board of Trustees the results of their respective investigations with their recommendations. All actions taken by the Board must be approved by a majority thereof.

It shall be the duty and responsibility of the Board of Trustees to determine and fix basic policy for operation of the Masonic Home and Relief Programs; to employ an Administrator to implement, administer, and operate the Masonic Home. No member of the Board of Trustees, except the Chairman, shall give or attempt to give instructions or directions to the Administrator in respect to administration or operation of the Masonic Home. It shall be the duty of the Chairman to insure strict compliance with the provisions of this paragraph. (2011)

The Board of Trustees shall have the care, custody, and control of Masonic Home property, real and personal, and shall maintain and make routine repairs thereto and shall arrange for insurance coverage through the Insurance Committee and the Corporate Board. (1992)

- (4) The Finance and Accounts Committee, of which the Senior Grand Warden shall be Chairman and a Past Grand Master shall be a member. This Committee shall prepare a proposed Budget and simplified financial statement as to financial condition of the Grand Lodge, which proposed Budget and statement shall be delivered to the Corporate Board for consideration and transmittal to the Particular Lodges as shall be prescribed by Regulation or by Resolution of the Corporate Board. (1992)
- (5) The Endowment Procurement Committee shall be composed of the Junior Grand Warden as Chairman and not more than thirty-five (35) members, which Committee shall be divided into such sub-committees as shall be prescribed by Regulation of the Grand Lodge and such other sub-committees as the Chairman of the Committee shall deem appropriate, but there shall be a sub-committee designated Let Your Pennies Make Good Cents, a sub-committee designated Wills and Gifts, and a sub-committee designated Masonic Home-100; each sub-committee to be composed of a Chairman and at least three (3) other members of the Committee. (2015)
- (6) The Committee on Grand Lodge Properties shall be divided into such sub-committees as shall be prescribed by Regulation of the Grand Lodge and such other sub-committees as the Grand Master shall deem appropriate. This Committee shall have the care, custody, and control of all Grand Lodge properties, except the Masonic Home and shall advise the Insurance Committee in respect to appropriate insurance coverage thereof. (1992)

- (7) A panel of Attorneys at law to advise with the Grand Master and Corporate Board on all matters of civil law and to represent the Grand Lodge or any Officers, Committee, Board, or Commission thereof when designated so to do by direction of the Grand Master or the Corporate Board. (1984)
- (8) The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, constituted as provided in Article IX, Section 1, of this Constitution, which shall be divided into such sub-committees as shall be prescribed by Regulations of the Grand Lodge and such other sub-committees as the Grand Master shall deem appropriate. When acting as a Corporate Committee, it shall have the duty and authority to review, report, and make recommendations to the Grand Lodge on all Corporate Matters. (1989)
- (9) The Committee on Perpetual Membership shall be appointed by the Grand Master and shall be composed of a Chairman and not more than ten (10) members. Under the direction of the Grand Master, the Committee shall promote Perpetual Membership in the Particular Lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction. (1991)
- (10) The Insurance Committee shall review all insurance matters, including insurance policies of the Grand Lodge of Florida and residents of the Masonic Home of Florida, and shall make recommendations concerning the same to the Corporate Board. No person while a member of this committee, or for a period of two (2) years after serving on this committee, may bid or contract to provide insurance to the Grand Lodge of Florida. (1992)

**Section 2.** Fraternal Committees-The Fraternal Committees of the Grand Lodge as defined in Article I of the Constitution are:

- (1) The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, which shall be divided into such sub-committees as shall be prescribed herein or by Regulations of Grand Lodge, and such other sub-committees as the Grand Master shall deem appropriate, but there shall be a sub-committee designated Committee on Resolutions, a sub-committee designated Committee on Masonic Digest, a sub-committee designated Committee on Appeals, a sub-committee designated Committee on Lodge Charters, a sub-committee designated Committee on Appendant and Allied Orders, and a sub-committee designated Committee on Foreign Relations.

Sub-committees shall be composed of a Chairman and at least two (2) other members. All Resolutions, except Memorial Resolutions, all penal appeals, all applications for Lodge Charters, all requests for recognition or withdrawal of recognition of organizations whose membership is predicated on Masonic affiliation, all correspondence or reports of recognized foreign Jurisdictions, and all matters of recognition or withdrawal of recognition of foreign Masonic Jurisdictions and all matters of Masonic Law, customs, practices,

policies, and procedures shall be referred to this Committee for report and recommendation thereon. All Past Grand Masters in good standing shall be members of this Committee together with such additional members as may be appointed by the Grand Master.

- (2) The Committee on Work, which may be divided into such sub-committees as shall be prescribed by Regulations of the Grand Lodge and such other sub-committees as the Grand Master shall deem appropriate, but there shall be a sub-committee designated Committee on Actual Past Master Degree. The Committee shall give instructions in the Forms and Ceremonies of the Grand Lodge and conduct appropriate memorial ceremonies and confer the Actual Past Master Degree at each Annual Grand Communication. All matters of Masonic Etiquette, ceremonies, and ritual shall be referred to this committee for report and recommendation thereon. All Resolutions, changes, corrections, or revisions to the sacred written work shall be limited to once every three (3) years. Grand Lodge may waive this provision and requirements by three-fourths ( $\frac{3}{4}$ ) vote. (1990)
- (3) The Committee on Returns and Credentials. This Committee shall examine credentials of and register all members of the Grand Lodge in attendance at each Grand Communication and make report thereon and shall include in such report or indicate therein the Brothers eligible to be placed on the payroll of the Grand Lodge and shall furnish copy of the report to the Grand Secretary and to the Grand Treasurer.
- (4) The Grand Master's Coordinating Committee. This Committee, subject to direction of the Grand Master, shall provide and arrange for presentation to the Grand Lodge by appropriate reports all matters of Grand Lodge business and affairs.
- (5) The Committee on Arrangements, which shall have a sub-committee designated Committee on Distinguished Guests. The Committee, subject to the direction of the Grand Master, shall make all arrangements for facilities, entertainment, and related matters for each Grand Communication and for accommodation and introduction of Distinguished Guests.

- (6) A Committee on Workshops for Lodge Officers composed of a Chairman and ten (10) members. Under direction of the Grand Master, this Committee shall conduct workshops for instruction of Lodge Officers in all matters of Masonic Law and Practice relating to their offices. (1995)
- (7) A Penal Affairs Panel composed of fifteen (15) Master Masons of Florida Lodges to render such service in Penal matters as may be prescribed by Regulation. The appointment, term, duties, and powers of the Panel and the members thereof may be prescribed by Regulation or by the Constitution.
- (8) The Grand Lodge, by Regulation, may create and prescribe duties and powers of a Committee on Museum and History, a Committee on Masonic Education, a Committee on Public Education and Citizenship, a Committee on Youth Activities, a Committee on Public Relations, and Publicity, a Committee on Wardens' Workshop, a Committee on the Child ID Program, and a Flagship Charity Committee. (2016)
- (9) The above Committees named in Section 2, (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), and (8) are hereby declared to be Fraternal Committees as designated in Section 7 of Article I of the Constitution and shall be appointed by the Grand Master and shall be under his exclusive direction and control subject to the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge and budgetary limitations.

**Section 3.** Power to Sit in Recess of Grand Lodge - All Corporate Committees shall have power to sit in the recess of the Grand Lodge. The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence and the Committee on Work shall have power to sit during the recess of the Grand Lodge and other Fraternal Committees and members thereof may sit or perform duties during the recess of Grand Lodge by direction of the Grand Master.

**Section 4.** General Service Panel - Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution to the contrary, the Grand Master and Corporate Board may agree upon and designate a Panel of not more than twelve (12) Master Masons for assignment to aid or assist any Grand Lodge Committee upon showing to Corporate Board of need for such aid and assistance. Members so selected and assigned to assist a Committee shall not be members of or have



vote on such committee. This panel shall not be considered to be a committee, no funds shall be appropriated for the panel and no report need be made in respect to its activities. Funds necessary for use of General Service Panel shall be included in committee appropriation of the committee using members of the panel.

**Section 5.** Appropriation - Appropriation shall be made in the annual Budget for each of the above Committees or Panels by name except General Service Panel.

**Section 6.** Special Committee Limitations - No special committee shall be appointed, designated, or authorized except pursuant to provisions of Section 9(c) of Article I relating to Special Committees.

**Section 7.** Number of Committees - Except as specified above or elsewhere in this Constitution, each committee shall be composed of not fewer than three nor more than eleven members, except the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence which shall have such number of members as may be determined by the Grand Master, subject to provisions of Sub-Section (1) of Section 2 thereof. The Committee on Masonic Education shall be composed of not fewer than three nor more than twelve members. The Committee on Work shall be composed of not fewer than ten nor more than eighteen members, of which one shall be the State Chairman, another may be the Vice Chairman, and at least one must be Spanish speaking. (2021)

**Section 8.** Committee Reports - All committees shall report in writing to the Grand Lodge. Reports of all sub-committees of committees provided for herein shall be reviewed by the full committee and included in and made a part of the full Committee report. (1984) (Art. IX, Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)

**Digest of Masonic Law**

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## COMMITTEES CREATED BY THE CONSTITUTION

### References

THE CORPORATE BOARD  
 Chapter 14, Grand Lodge Revenue and Finances  
 MASONIC HOME ENDOWMENT AND INVESTMENT COMMITTEE  
 Chapter 14, Grand Lodge Revenue and Finances  
 FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE  
 Chapter 14, Grand Lodge Revenue and Finances  
 BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF MASONIC HOME  
 Chapter 48, Masonic Home

## THE ENDOWMENT PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE

### Regulations

**13.01** The Endowment Procurement Committee shall be composed of the Junior Grand Warden as Chairman and not more than thirty-five (35) other members appointed annually by the Grand Master. The duty and function of this committee shall be to provide a coordinated program for solicitation of funds for the Masonic Home Endowment Fund. There shall be various sub-committees including “Let Your Pennies Make Good Cents,” “Wills and Gifts,” and “Masonic Home-100” and others as the Chairman may deem appropriate. (2015)

## COMMITTEE ON MASONIC JURISPRUDENCE GENERAL PROVISIONS

### Regulations

**13.02** The Grand Master is requested to file in the office of the Grand Secretary, at least ten days before the opening day of Annual Grand Communication, copies of his address or report together with all necessary papers, records, and documents relating thereto and to his other official acts and actions. All other Elected Grand Lodge Officers and all Grand Lodge Committees shall file similar reports as to their official acts and recommendations during the year. The Grand Secretary shall lay before the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence said address or report together with all papers, records, and documents relating thereto and to other official acts and actions, implemented or to be implemented by the Grand Master, and all other Elected Grand Lodge Officers and committees and all papers and documents relating to penal appeals, applications for Lodge Charters, relations with foreign jurisdictions, relations with Appendant and Allied Orders, and all matters pertaining to Masonic law, policy, practices, and corporate matters and the committee shall review all such matters and things and make report and recommendations thereon to the Grand Lodge. (1989)

**13.03** All matters involving Masonic law, customs, practices, policies, corporate matters, and procedures shall be referred to the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence for report and recommendation. The committee shall be divided into such sub-committees as shall be prescribed by the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge and such additional sub-committees as the Grand Master shall deem appropriate, but there shall be a sub-committee designated Committee on Resolutions, a sub-committee designated Committee on Masonic Digest, a sub-committee designated Committee on Appeals, a sub-committee designated Committee on Lodge Charters, a sub-committee designated Committee on Appendant and Allied Orders, a sub-committee designated Committee on Foreign Relations, and a sub-committee designated Committee on Corporate Matters, which sub-committees shall be composed of a chairman and at least two other members. (1989)

## SUB-COMMITTEES

### COMMITTEE ON MASONIC DIGEST

#### Regulations

**13.04** Immediately after the adjournment of Grand Lodge, the Committee on Masonic Digest shall prepare a report together with a summary thereof, embracing all changes in our laws enacted at the Grand Communication, and shall furnish said report and summary, along with the final Budget adopted by the Craft to the Grand Secretary who shall distribute it to each Particular Lodge, all Grand Lodge Officers, Past Grand Masters, District Deputy Grand Masters, and appropriate Committees. This summary shall be reviewed by the Elected Lodge Officers and report of the changes made in open Lodge at the next Stated Communication after its receipt. This Committee shall supervise and advise in the preparation of newly enacted legislation to be printed on loose leaf updated pages, of required size, for insertion in the Digest of the Masonic Law, immediately after each Grand Communication. (2021)

**13.05** A Lodge adopting, revising, or amending By-Laws shall forward original and three copies signed by the Worshipful Master and Secretary under the Seal of the Lodge, with date of approval and date of adoption shown thereon to the Grand Secretary who shall forthwith examine the same as to form, regularity of procedure, and compliance with Masonic Law. If the proposal is found to have been regularly submitted, in proper form, and in compliance with Masonic Law, the

Grand Secretary shall retain one copy, and the original and two copies thereof shall be forwarded to the Grand Master for approval or disapproval. Upon approval, the original shall be returned to the Lodge, one copy forwarded to the Grand Secretary for Grand Lodge files, and one copy retained by the Grand Master for his files. If the proposed By-Law is not in proper form or is contrary to Masonic Law or is not properly submitted, Grand Secretary shall return the same to the Lodge for appropriate action.

The Committee on Masonic Digest shall, on request of the Grand Secretary, advise with him in regard to proposed amendments. (1978)

### COMMITTEE ON APPEALS

#### Regulations

**13.06** The Committee on Appeals shall review all appeals to the Grand Lodge and make report and recommendations thereon to the full committee.

### COMMITTEE ON LODGE CHARTERS

#### Regulations

**13.07** The Committee on Lodge Charters shall review all documents and papers relating to application for Lodge Charters and make report and recommendation thereon to the full committee.

### COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN JURISDICTIONS

#### Regulations

**13.08** The Committee on Foreign Relations shall review proceedings of other Grand Jurisdictions and make report thereof as may be appropriate. All matters relating to recognition of or relations with other Grand Jurisdictions and recognition of and avouchment for members of other Grand Jurisdictions shall be referred to this Committee for appropriate action, report, and recommendations thereon. The Committee shall report any departure from the Landmarks or unlawful innovations in the proceedings of any other Grand Jurisdiction to the full committee. The review of other Grand Jurisdictions as compiled by the committee shall be printed in the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge. (1985)

**COMMITTEE ON APPENDANT ORDERS****Regulations**

**13.09** The Committee on Appendant and Allied Orders shall review and make report and recommendation in regard to relations of the Grand Lodge with Masonic Clubs and all other appendant, allied, and affiliated Orders.

The By-Laws of all such orders or organizations requiring approval of the Grand Lodge shall be referred to this Committee for review and forwarding to the Grand Master with recommendation. (1985)

**COMMITTEE ON WORK****Regulations**

**13.10** The Grand Lodge Committee on Work shall hold a minimum of one (1) Grand Lodge School of Instruction each year at each location wherein has been placed a duplicate copy of the Forms and Ceremonies, each school to be conducted by one (1) or more members of the committee. The dates and places of holding such Schools and the member or members to hold and conduct them shall be fixed by the Committee on Work. Said committee shall meet at least once each year and check on the work as taught by its respective members and keep the same uniform. The expense of attending such meetings shall be paid by the Grand Lodge.

It shall be the duty of the Grand Lodge Committee on Work to meet as soon as practicable after their appointment has been announced by the Grand Master, and organize, and make recommendations to the Grand Master for his consideration as District Instructor appointments.

It shall be the duty of the Committee on Work to include in their Schools of Instruction, instruction in the catechism of the lessons of the Three Degrees.

**13.11** (a) The Grand Lodge Committee on Work shall issue card certificates of proficiency to qualified Master Masons, who are members in good standing of regular Lodges, when in the judgment of the said committee, the proficiency of such Masons, in the official Forms and Ceremonies, is such as to meet the standards set up by said committee, and when otherwise qualified.

(b) The Committee on Work shall issue a white card certificate of proficiency to a Master Mason when proficient in the ceremonies of opening and closing the Three Degrees of Freemasonry and in the esoteric work of the Entered Apprentice Degree.

(c) The Committee on Work shall issue a green card certificate of proficiency to a Master Mason when proficient in the ceremonies of opening and closing the Three Degrees of Freemasonry, and in the esoteric work of the Entered Apprentice and the Fellow Craft Degree.

(d) The Committee on Work shall issue a blue card certificate of proficiency to a Master Mason when proficient in the ceremonies of opening and closing the Three Degrees of Freemasonry, and in the esoteric work of the Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason Degrees.

(e) The Committee on Work shall issue to a Master Mason proficient in one or two of the lectures of the Degrees an orange card with blue stripe, on which stripe shall be imprinted and impressed the lecture or lectures in which the holder is proficient. An orange card without the blue stripe shall be issued for proficiency in the lectures of the Three Degrees.

(f) The Committee on Work shall issue a gold card for proficiency together with a certificate suitable for framing to a Master Mason when proficient in all Three Degrees and lectures of Freemasonry.

(g) All proficiency cards except the brown and gold cards shall only be in force for three years unless renewed by the Committee upon examination of such card holder, or unless the holder of such cards has qualified to receive an extra card for proficiency; *provided*, that when any Master Mason is proficient in the esoteric work of all Three Degrees and the lectures thereof and receives a gold card, it shall be good for life, unless revoked by the Grand Lodge. The brown card shall be in force for ten years. (2003)

(h) The Committee on Work shall issue a silver card for proficiency in the Catechism of the Three Degrees in accordance with adopted Forms and Ceremonies. (1979)

(i) The Committee on Work shall issue a brown card for proficiency in all the following portions or parts of the esoteric (monitorial) Forms and Ceremonies: (a) All the Chaplain's parts in the conferring of the Three Degrees, an opening prayer, a closing prayer, the Flag prayer, and the prayers for the 25, 40, and 50 year membership presentation awards; and (b) The three regular Charges at Initiation, Passing, and Raising; and (c) All the parts in one or more Funeral/Memorial Service; and (d) The Presentation of the Lambskin Apron. (1989)

**13.12** The Committee on Work shall examine and issue proficiency cards in accordance with these Regulations. The Committee shall certify the names of all Brethren to whom has been issued a Certificate of Qualification, to the Grand Secretary, who shall record the same and maintain as permanent records of the Grand Lodge.



**GRAND LODGE PROPERTIES****Regulations**

**13.13** (a) The Committee on Grand Lodge Properties shall be divided into such sub-committees as shall be prescribed by Regulations of the Grand Lodge and such other sub-committees as the Grand Master shall deem appropriate. This Committee shall have the care, custody, and control of all Grand Lodge properties, except the Masonic Home and shall advise the Insurance Committee in respect to appropriate insurance coverage thereof. (1991)

(b) It shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary during the month of January, each year, to furnish this Committee and members of the Corporate Board with a complete list of all real estate and other property owned by the Grand Lodge on January first, with the last-assessed value of each item. The Grand Secretary shall make tax returns to the tax assessors in the counties where the Grand Lodge owns property.

The Grand Secretary shall secure and furnish the information to the committee and members of the Corporate Board of any and all assessments and taxes on all property and the dates on which such taxes and assessments are due and prepare vouchers for payment of all taxes and special assessments early enough to take advantage of any discount which may be available.

(c) The Committee on Grand Lodge Properties shall have such minor repairs and alterations made on all properties entrusted to them as may be necessary to keep them in good condition. All expenditures to properly handle properties entrusted to them shall be charged against such properties. When in the opinion of the committee it is advisable to sell any property acquired for the use and benefit of the Grand Lodge or Masonic Home, or when under the terms of a will or other conveyance by which the Grand Lodge acquired title a sale of any property is necessary, the committee shall have authority to sell the same during the recess of the Grand Lodge, and shall take such steps as may be necessary to ensure a sale on favorable terms, except that no sale shall be made without Corporate Board approval. This Committee shall have no authority to negotiate for a sale of the Masonic Home in St. Petersburg, Florida, or the Masonic Offices and contiguous

property in Jacksonville, Florida, except upon authority of the Grand Lodge in Annual or Special Communication, and after due notice to the Particular Lodges at least sixty (60) days in advance of such Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge. (1990)

When in the opinion of the committee, major repairs or alterations in excess of two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) to the Masonic Office Building or contiguous property in Jacksonville are necessary, they shall report their opinions and recommendations to the Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge may approve such major changes as they deem advisable and appropriate, and place in the budget such moneys as may be necessary to make such changes or additions. If, in the opinion of the Committee, repairs are necessary without delay to avoid loss of or serious damage to property before the next Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge, they shall report their opinions and recommendations to the Grand Master and take such action as the Corporate Board may authorize and approve; *provided, however*, that this shall not be authority for the Corporate Board or the Committee to violate Section 3 of Article VIII of the Constitution.

The committee is authorized, but not required, to lease property entrusted to their care, when such letting is desirable either for preservation of the property or for the production of revenue; *provided, however*, that all such leases must be in accord with the provisions in the law of the Grand Lodge in effect at the time, and shall not be for a period of more than five years, without special action of the Grand Lodge in Annual or Special Grand Communication.

There shall be placed in the budget a revolving fund to meet the necessary expenditures in connection with properties entrusted to them and held for disposal.

d) The Grand Secretary shall be Secretary of the committee on Grand Lodge Properties, and attend all meetings of the committee, and keep detailed records of all properties under the supervision of the committee and minutes of all meetings, with copies being sent to the committee and all members of the Corporate Board.

(e) All deeds for authorized sale of any property of the Grand Lodge shall be signed by the Grand Master, attested by the Grand Secretary, and bear the Seal of the Grand Lodge.

(f) A record shall be made of all sales of property with complete descriptions and information, and all records shall be preserved. A complete report shall be made to the Grand Lodge at the next Annual Grand Communication showing the description of properties sold or leased and the amounts received together with detailed processing costs.

(g) The Grand Secretary shall prepare a detailed report of each piece of property sold or leased for the month in which sold or leased, showing the sales price or rent and description of same, together with an itemized statement of the processing cost and mail copies of same to all members of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home, the Corporate Board, the Properties Committee, and all Past Grand Masters.

**13.13.1** The Insurance Committee shall review all insurance matters, including insurance policies of The Grand Lodge of Florida and residents of the Masonic Home of Florida, and shall make recommendations concerning the same to the Corporate Board. No person while a member of this committee, or for a period of two years after serving on this committee, may bid or contract to provide insurance to The Grand Lodge of Florida. (1991)

## COMMITTEE ON RETURNS AND CREDENTIALS

### Constitutional Provisions

Prior to the opening of Grand Lodge, the Grand Master shall appoint a Committee on Returns and Credentials and the Grand Secretary shall deliver to such committee all necessary materials for work of the committee. The Committee on Returns and Credentials shall report as soon as practicable after opening of Grand Lodge. (Art. IV, Sec. 5)

### Regulations

**13.14** The Committee on Returns and Credentials shall arrange for such sub-committees as may be necessary for the purpose

of registering members and visitors prior to the opening of the Grand Lodge. They shall be furnished with a roll of the Lodges so arranged that it can be divided into several parts for use of the sub-committees. The several sub-committees shall sit at the same time and register such representatives of Particular Lodges as shall identify themselves in a satisfactory manner to the committee. The committee shall furnish to each Brother so registered an identification card, which shall bear the name of the Brother to whom issued and the name and number of the Lodge represented by him; these cards to be prepared by the Grand Secretary. No representative of a Particular Lodge shall be placed upon the payroll, until he shall have been registered and provided with identification card, without special action of the Grand Lodge. No Brother shall be registered and given a card, unless the Return for the Lodge represented by him has been received.

13.15 Repealed 1974

## GRAND MASTER'S COORDINATING COMMITTEE

### Regulations

**13.16** It shall be the duty of the Grand Master's Coordinating Committee, subject to approval of the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge, to refer all matters of unfinished business to appropriate Officers or committees for report to the Grand Lodge; to provide and arrange for presentation of all Grand Lodge business to the Grand Lodge by reports of appropriate Officers or committees; to determine the time, order and sequence for presentation to the Grand Lodge and action thereon of all reports, motions, and resolutions and generally be responsible for all matters of Grand Lodge business being properly and timely presented to the Grand Lodge. All Officers, Committees, or individuals desiring to present matters to the Grand Lodge shall clear such matters through this committee before the same are presented to the Grand Lodge for action.

## COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS

### Regulations

**13.17** The Committee on Arrangements shall make arrangements, subject to direction of the Grand Master, for facilities,

entertainment, and related matters for each Grand Communication. There shall be a sub-committee designated Committee on Distinguished Guests which shall provide for accommodation and introduction of Distinguished Guests.

### **COMMITTEES CREATED BY REGULATION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON MUSEUM AND HISTORY**

##### **Regulations**

**13.18** The Committee on Museum and History shall be composed of two sub-committees designated Committee on Museum and Committee on History. The Committee on History shall prepare annually a synopsis of the significant events of the last Annual Grand Communication and of the year following such Grand Communication for report to Grand Lodge at the succeeding Annual Grand Communication. The Committee shall perform such other duties in regard to preparation of historical materials relating to the Grand Lodge as the Grand Master may direct, or the Grand Lodge may order by appropriate Resolution. The Committee on Museum shall arrange for display of appropriate materials and mementos relating to Masonic subjects and history.

#### **COMMITTEE ON MASONIC EDUCATION**

##### **Regulations**

**13.19** A Committee on Masonic Education, to be composed of a Chairman and eleven members of which one must be Spanish speaking, shall be appointed by each Grand Master to serve during his Masonic Year. It shall be the duty of this committee to prepare suitable educational material and to supervise its dissemination under the direction and supervision of the Grand Master. (1998)

The committee shall study and at appropriate times revise the "Lodge System of Masonic Education" promulgated, described, and adopted by the Grand Lodge as shown in 1954 Proceedings at pages 165 through 168 and submit such revision to the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge.

The Committee shall promulgate examination on such Lodge System of Masonic Education and establish standards of required proficiency thereon and with approval of Grand Master or Grand Lodge prescribe such other and further requirements as shall be necessary and proper to ensure compliance with this and other Regulations relating to Masonic Education.

The Grand Master may appoint a well-informed Master Mason or “director of Masonic Education,” whose duties it shall be, under supervision and direction of the Committee and the Grand Master, to aid and assist the Committee and the Lodges in promulgating and implementing the “Lodge System of Masonic Education” and with the approval of the Committee on Finance and Accounts and the Corporate Board may arrange for reimbursement of his expenses.

The Committee shall promulgate a program of Instruction for Lodge Officers and an examination thereon and establish standards of proficiency therein, which program of instruction and examination shall include but not be limited to:

- (1) The Landmarks.
- (2) The Uniform Code of By-Laws with emphasis on:
  - (a) Lodge Jurisdiction, personal and territorial in respect to receiving petitions for the Degrees and in respect to filing and prosecution of charges of unmasonic conduct.
  - (b) Action of the Lodge in respect to Dual, Honorary, and Emeritus membership and necessary action of the Lodge in respect to each such memberships.
  - (c) Procedure for suspension for nonpayment of dues and for reinstatement.
  - (d) Requirements as to Stated and Special Communications, change of time and place of Communication and dispensing with Communications.
  - (f) Duties and powers of Lodge Committees required by By-Laws.
  - (g) Regulations and By-Laws relating to Lodge Finances in respect to:

1. Charity Fund.
  2. Other Lodge funds and duties of each Lodge Officer in regard to collection, custody, and disbursement of such funds, records in regard thereto and reports to Lodge thereon.
    - (h) Procedure for amending By-Laws.
- (3) Procedure in respect to Petitions for:
    - (a) Degrees.
    - (b) Affiliation.
    - (c) Dual membership, including time for and method of investigation, balloting, and recommendation thereof.
  - (4) Masonic Etiquette in respect to but not limited to behavior in and outside the Lodge, funerals, reception, and introduction of visitors, and Grand Lodge Officers and other Masonic dignitaries, the Masonic Altar, apron, the Bible, Flag, and other and similar subjects.
  - (5) Powers, duties, and responsibilities of each Elected and Appointed Lodge Officer particularly in respect to committee duties, reports to the Lodge, and general duties of his office.
  - (6) Such other matters and things as the Committee, the Grand Lodge, or the Grand Master shall deem appropriate.

Under direction of the Grand Master the Committee shall arrange for instruction for Lodge Officers and for examinations for proficiency and for appropriate certificate of such proficiency.

Examination in Instruction for Lodge Officers shall be in such form and manner as the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education, with the approval of the Grand Master, shall prescribe and shall be conducted by the Grand Lodge Committee or any member thereof or by the Lodge Committee on Masonic Education. Proficiency shall be certified by the Grand Lodge Committee or by member thereof or by a majority of the Lodge Committee on Masonic Education or by the Worshipful Master, which certificate shall be filed with the Secretary of the Lodge and recorded in the minutes of the Lodge.

The Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education shall issue a purple card and appropriate certificate to Florida Master Masons demonstrating required proficiency in Instruction for Lodge Officers, which card and certificate shall be in such form as approved by the Grand Master.

Each certificate shall be signed by the Grand Master under Seal of the Grand Lodge. (1979)

### **COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC EDUCATION AND CITIZENSHIP**

#### **Regulations**

**13.20** The Grand Master may appoint a Committee on Public Education and Citizenship. This Committee shall make such studies, prepare such material, and conduct such program of instruction and dissemination of information in regard to public education and citizenship as shall be authorized and directed by the Grand Master.

### **COMMITTEE ON YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

#### **Regulations**

**13.21** The Committee on Youth Activities shall coordinate the work of Grand Lodge in regard to youth activities and promote appropriate activities for official orders of Masonry emphasizing youth education and activities.

### **PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PUBLICITY**

#### **Regulations**

**13.21.1** The Committee on Public Relations and Publicity shall prepare such material and conduct such program of dissemination of information in regard to public relations and publicity as shall be authorized and directed by the Corporate Board. (1993)

### **WARDENS' WORKSHOP**

#### **Regulations**

**13.21.2** The Committee on Wardens' Workshop shall be composed of a Chairman and no more than ten (10) additional members. The members of this committee shall be men of experience in Masonic Education, Management and Organizational Skills, or men qualified in professions that acquaint them with the duties and responsibilities of management and training. Committee members may include but should not be limited to Educators, Managers, Accountants, Lawyers, and men of similar training and experience and shall prepare such material and conduct such program of dissemination of information in regard to leadership training as shall be authorized and directed by the Corporate Board. (2001)

### **THE CHILD ID PROGRAM**

#### **Regulations**

**13.21.3** The Committee on the Child ID Program shall be composed of a Chairman and no more than ten (10) additional members. The expenses of Committee meetings shall be paid from Grand Lodge budgeted funds, however, the expense of supplies shall be funded from a sub-account of the Masonic Charities of Florida, Inc. (2002)



All volunteers who assist with this program, both male and female, will undergo a background check and said background check will be renewable every four (4) years. These background checks will be made a part of the Brother's Masonic History. In the case of a female, youth, or other volunteer, the Grand Lodge will maintain a separate file for these individuals. (2013)

#### **~~FLAGSHIP CHARITY COMMITTEE~~**

##### **Regulations**

~~**13.21.4**—The Flagship Charity (MMRL) Committee shall be composed of a Chairman, Administrator, ten Zone Chairmen, and ten Deputy Chairmen. The Committee shall promulgate and disseminate information relating to the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) by educating the Fraternity and public in general concerning the treatment and discoveries of their medical research. (2011) Repealed at the 187<sup>th</sup> Annual Grand Communication (2016)~~



**COMMITTEE PROCEDURE****Regulations**

**13.22** All motions, Resolutions, Reports, and other proposals for Grand Lodge action shall, prior to such Grand Lodge action, be referred to, acted upon, and recommendation made in regard thereto by an appropriate Grand Lodge Committee, including but not limited to:

- (a) All proposals for legislation, trials and appeals, Charters, relations with other Grand Jurisdictions, relations with Foreign Jurisdictions, Appendant and Allied Orders, Masonic Digest, all Resolutions except Memorial Resolutions, and all matters of Masonic Law, policies, and procedures, shall be referred to the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence and the appropriate sub-committee thereof.
- (b) All proposals involving management, control, budgeting, and expenditure of Grand Lodge funds, except the Masonic Home Endowment Fund, shall be referred to the Committee on Finance and Accounts.
- (c) All proposals relating to management and operation of the Masonic Home shall be referred to the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home.
- (d) All proposals relating to Forms and Ceremonies, ritual, Masonic protocol, and Memorial Resolutions shall be referred to Committee on Work and the appropriate sub-committee thereof.
- (e) All other proposals shall be referred to an appropriate Committee for action and recommendation.
- (f) Grand Lodge may waive the provisions and requirements of this Regulation by three-fourths vote.

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT****Regulations**

**13.23** The Grand Secretary shall notify the members of all Committees of their selection; and it shall be the duty of the Committees on Returns and Credentials, Finance and Accounts, and Masonic Jurisprudence to meet at the office of the Grand Secretary one (1) day or more in advance of the Grand Lodge Session and at such other times as may be necessary to consider matters pertaining to their respective duties. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Grand



Lodge Properties, Trustees of the Masonic Home, Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Master to refer to these Committees all matters to be presented to the Grand Lodge which should properly be considered by them.

### **DUTY OF CHAIRMAN**

#### **Regulations**

**13.24** It shall be the special duty of the Chairman of each and every Grand Lodge Committee to return, or have returned to the Grand Secretary, all papers referred to his Committee.

### **COMMITTEE EXPENSE**

#### **Regulations**

**13.25** Expenses of Grand Lodge Committee members serving during the recess of Grand Lodge may be reimbursed on the following basis:

Transportation:

- (a) Private automobile - When used by one or more Committee members, the owner of the automobile shall be allowed mileage in an amount determined by the Corporate Board.
- (b) Other means of common carrier transportation actual expenses.

Hotel or Motel Bills:

Actual expenses, but not to exceed the amount provided by the Corporate Board.

Meals Away from Home:

Actual expense, but not to exceed the amount provided by the Corporate Board.

All bills for expenses shall be submitted to the Chairman of the Committee for approval and transmission to the Grand Secretary for payment. The Corporate Board shall set the figures for the year at their first meeting after each Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge.

**13.26** The Corporate Board, the Masonic Home Endowment and Investment Committee, the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home, the Finance and Accounts Committee, the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, the Committee on Grand Lodge Properties, the Insurance Committee, the Committee on Returns and Credentials, and the Grand Master's Coordinating Committee may by majority vote of the membership of such board, commission, or committee hold meetings at which members only and the Grand Master shall be permitted to attend. (1991)

**13.27** Membership of Grand Lodge Committees shall be distributed as equally, as feasible, and practicable among each Zone described in Grand Lodge Regulations but this shall not be construed to authorize Committee appointments in excess of those provided for in the Constitution. (2016)

**13.28** In making appointments to Committees, the Grand Master may designate a member of a Committee as State Chairman and other members as Zone Chairman.

**INTERPRETATION OF LAW  
ADOPTED AT 151<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL COMMUNICATION  
WITH 1984, 2010, AND 2018 AMENDMENTS**

(1) **Section 7 of Art. IX** specifically provides that each committee of the Grand Lodge shall be composed of not fewer than three (3) nor more than eleven (11) members, except the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence which shall have such number of members as may be determined by the Grand Master, subject to provisions of Sub-Section (1) of Section 2 thereof. The Committee on Masonic Education shall be composed of not fewer than three nor more than twelve members. The Committee on Work shall be composed of not fewer than ten nor more than eighteen members, of which one shall be the State Chairman, another may be the Vice Chairman, and at least one must be Spanish speaking. (2018)

(2) **Section 9 (c) of Article I** provides that special committees may be appointed in connection with a Grand Lodge project or program not properly assignable to any established Grand Lodge Committee, subject however to Budget appropriation therefore.

This provision limits special committees in two ways:

(a) A special committee should not be appointed in connection with any project or program if that project or program is within the scope or jurisdiction or a part of the duties of an established committee, and

(b) There must be a specific appropriation for the committee in the Budget.

(3) **Section 4 of Art. IX** provides for a General Services Committee of twelve members to perform any service directed by the Grand Master and the Corporate Board. (1984)

Members of this Committee may be appointed to any sub-committee of an established committee but are not members of, nor do they have a vote on, the established committee.

This provision provides a reserve pool of manpower to assist any sub-committee of an established committee, such as Foreign Relations Sub-Committee of the Jurisprudence Committee or to the Distinguished Guests Sub-Committee of the Arrangements

Committee, or any other such sub-committee. Only members of this committee may be assigned to assist established committees.

(4) Although the Grand Master may transfer funds from one sub-account to another sub-account in the same fund (Reg. 14.12 (2) (4) (e)) this does not mean that the Grand Master may create a sub-account for a committee for which there was no appropriation in the Budget. Only the Corporate Board may establish new sub-accounts and then only when necessary for keeping of accurate receipts and disbursements. (Reg. 14.12 (3) (b) (5); Const. Art. XIV, Sec. 5 (4))

(5) A chart of authorized committees and limitations as to number of members of each committee is attached hereto.

(6) Each committee shall have a separate item of appropriation in the Budget. (Sec. 5 of Art. IX, Const.) (1984)

**CORPORATE COMMITTEES CREATED BY CONSTITUTION**

<p><b>Corporate Board</b> Grand Master; Deputy G.M.; Senior G. W. Junior G. W.; Grand Tres. &amp; two appointed Members, of which one is a P.G.M.</p>	<p><b>Endowment Investment Committee</b> Nine Master Masons in Florida Lodges</p>	<p><b>Masonic Home Trustees</b> Chairman and ten appointed members</p>
<p><b>Finance and Accounts</b> Senior Grand Warden and seven appointed members</p>	<p><b>Endowment Procurement</b> Junior Grand Warden and thirty-five appointed members</p>	<p><b>Properties Committee</b> Chairman and ten members</p>
<p><b>Panel of Attorneys at Law</b> Three to eight members</p>	<p><b>Jurisprudence Committee</b> Review report and make recommendations on all corporate matters</p>	
<p><b>Perpetual Membership Committee</b> Chairman and ten members</p>	<p><b>Insurance Committee</b> Review all insurance matters; make recommendations</p>	

**FRATERNAL COMMITTEES**

<p><b>Jurisprudence</b> All Past Grand Masters and members appointed by the Grand Master</p>	<p><b>Committee on Work</b> Chairman and fourteen members</p>	<p><b>Returns and Credentials Committee</b> Chairman and ten members</p>
<p><b>Coordinating Committee</b> Chairman and ten members</p>	<p><b>Arrangements Committee</b> Chairman and seven members</p>	<p><b>Wardens' Workshop</b> Chairmen and ten members</p>
<p><b>Penal Affairs Panel</b> Fifteen members</p>	<p><b>General Services Panel</b> Twelve members for general services</p>	

**CREATED BY REGULATION**

<p><b>Museum and History Committee</b> Chairman and seven members</p>	<p><b>Masonic Education Committee</b> Chairman and eleven members</p>	<p><b>Public Education Committee</b> Chairman and ten members</p>
<p><b>Youth Activities Committee</b> Chairman and ten members</p>	<p><b>Public Relations and Publicity Committee</b> Chairman and ten members</p>	<p><b>Child Identification Committee</b> Chairman and ten members</p>



## CHAPTER 14

### GRAND LODGE REVENUE AND FINANCES

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS

##### Constitutional Provisions

The Particular Lodges under this Jurisdiction shall make Lodge Returns, and shall account for and pay to the Grand Lodge such fees, dues, assessments and revenue at such time as shall be prescribed by Regulations, and until such Returns are made, and dues paid or remitted, no Lodge shall be entitled to representation in the Grand Lodge; *provided*, that members exempted from payment of dues by provisions of this Constitution shall not be included and accounted for in the Returns; *provided further*, that members who have membership in more than one (1) Lodge during the year shall only be accounted for by the Lodge wherein such members first had a membership during the year, except in the case of newly Chartered Lodges. Members whose names appear upon the Returns of the Lodge of which they were former members, and also upon the Returns of newly Chartered Lodges, shall be accounted for by such newly Chartered Lodges only. (1982) (Art. VIII, Sec. 2)

No Officer, Group of Officers, Agency, Board, or Committee of The M.:W.: Grand Lodge, F. & A.M. of Florida, can borrow money or execute any evidence of indebtedness, nor create any debts whatsoever, in the name of the Grand Lodge, nor in the name of any Officer, group of Officers, Agency, Board, or Committee of the said Grand Lodge, unless notice of the amount and purpose thereof is given by the Grand Master, or by his authority, to each Particular Lodge at least sixty (60) days prior to any Grand Communication, and be authorized by a majority vote of Grand Lodge, except that notice to the Particular Lodges shall not be necessary in case of great emergency and necessity resulting from fire, storms, or other acts of God. (Art. VIII, Sec. 3)

The Grand Lodge has the power to assess and collect an annual revenue, adequate to its current demands, and to make such other assessments from time to time, and appropriations, as may be required for its permanent accommodation, the increase of its library, and the preservation and security of its public proceedings and archives; and to do all other matters and things which, in its wisdom, may be

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required and necessary for the general benefit of the Craft in the jurisdiction, not prohibited by this Constitution and the Old Landmarks of Freemasonry. (Art. V, Sec. 6)

**ASSESSMENTS****Regulations**

**14.01** The Grand Lodge will make no assessment upon the Particular Lodges for Grand Lodge purposes, except such as are provided for in the Constitution.

**14.02** No increase in per capita tax or other assessments shall be levied against the members of Particular Lodges without due notice to the Particular Lodges by the Grand Secretary 60 days prior to the next Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge, that such proposed per capita tax or other assessment will then be considered; *provided*, that in case of extreme emergency this Regulation may be waived by vote of the Grand Lodge, by a show of hands.

Any member of the Grand Lodge or any Particular Lodge desiring to propose an increase in per capita tax or other assessment shall file a copy thereof in the Grand Secretary's Office at least 75 days prior to the next Annual Grand Communication.

**14.03** The sum of \$5.00 from the moneys accompanying each petition for the E.A. Degree accepted by the Lodge, shall be set aside and paid to the Grand Secretary at the time of payment of their dues, for future necessary buildings at the Masonic Home, said moneys to be deposited in an appropriate Reserve Account. Each year there shall be added to such account a sum for interest based on average interest earned by investment of all Grand Lodge Reserve Funds.

**14.04** Each Particular Lodge shall pay to the Grand Lodge, in addition to all other dues, assessments, and revenue the sum of five dollars (\$5.00) to be collected from each petitioner for the Degrees as a contribution to the construction, maintenance, and preservation of a National Monument under care, supervision, and direction of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association. (1981)

**14.05** ~~Effective with the annual dues return to Grand Lodge for 2004, a special one time assessment of \$3.00 per dues paying member is hereby assessed against each Particular Lodge for Grand Lodge purposes, projects, and expenses. (2003)~~

The amount of the per capita tax shall be increased from its current annual amount of \$20.00 per year to \$45.00 per year over the next 5 years in \$5.00 increments. (2019) (2019 Proc. 317-318)

**References**

Vote in Grand Lodge on any tax or assessment upon Lodges or members shall be taken in the same manner as voting for Grand Officers. Reg. 12.14

**DATA PROCESSING****Regulations**

**14.06** A Data Processing Lodge Membership and Annual Return Centralized System is hereby established under supervision and direction of and in accordance with rules promulgated by the Corporate Board. The development and implementation of such system and the purpose for which the same shall be used and employed shall be in accordance with appropriate Resolution and Regulation adopted and specific appropriations made therefore by the Grand Lodge in Annual Grand Communication.

**RETURNS ON ASSESSMENTS****Regulations**

**14.07** At the time of making up Lodge Returns hereafter, the Particular Lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction shall be permitted to take credit for, or deduct, Grand Lodge dues and assessments for all those whose names appear in the "Exhibit of Losses" column, as suspended for non-payment of dues, and those who may have died during the year without having paid dues.

When a member suspended for non-payment of dues by a Particular Lodge is reinstated, the Particular Lodge shall account to Grand Lodge for arrearages of such member.

No Lodge shall reinstate a suspended member without collecting or remitting current year's dues, but in case of remission of dues, the Lodge shall account to Grand Lodge for Grand Lodge per capita.

Only the Grand Lodge, or the Grand Master, can remit any portion of arrearages of a suspended member, suspended for non-payment of dues.

**PENALTIES FOR DELAY IN PAYMENT****Regulations**

**14.08** All Grand Lodge dues and assessments shall be paid in full on or before February 15<sup>th</sup> of each year and a penalty of \$50.00 or 5% of the balance past due, whichever is greater, shall be assessed against each Lodge failing so to do, which penal sum shall be paid to the Grand Secretary at the time of payment of delinquent dues and assessments. (2010)

**BEQUESTS AND DEVISES TO ENDOWMENT FUND****Regulations**

**14.09** All bequests and devises made to The Grand Lodge of Florida for the use and benefit of the Masonic Home of Florida, shall be credited and added to the Masonic Home Building Fund for use of and at the discretion of the Board of Trustees unless specific directions otherwise have been made by the donor. (2018)

**GRAND LODGE FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS  
THE CORPORATE BOARD  
(Formerly The Budget Commission)****Constitutional Provisions  
(Refer to Art. XIV)****Section 1.** Budget System Established-

(1) The Funds and finances of the Grand Lodge shall be managed, invested and expended in accordance with an annual Budget adopted at each Annual Grand Communication. The Budget shall be divided into Funds for each major operation, activity, or purposes of Grand Lodge and each of such Funds shall be divided into accounts and sub-accounts for detailed appropriations to accomplish the purpose of the Fund. Grand Lodge shall by Regulations further prescribe the form of the Budget.

(2) There shall be a Budget Manual that shall prescribe in detail the Funds by letter and accounts and sub-accounts of the Budget by number with description as to the purposes, limitations, restrictions, and conditions relating to each of such Funds, accounts, and sub-accounts, and such Budget Manual shall upon its approval by the Grand Lodge be and become a part by reference: of each and every Annual Budget. (1985)

**Section 2.** Corporate Board of Directors-

(1) The Corporate Board of Directors as provided in this Constitution shall be and act as the Budget Commission of the Grand Lodge.

(2) The Corporate Board of Directors shall meet at least once each month at such time and place as determined by the Board, and at call of the Grand Master.

(3) A quorum of the Corporate Board shall be any three (3) members and the Grand Master. All decisions of the Board shall be by majority vote of members present which majority shall and must include the Grand Master. There shall be no proxy voting. (1985)

**Section 3.** Preparation of Budget-Each Officer, Board, Commission, and Committee of the Grand Lodge shall submit a request for appropriation of funds at such time and in such manner and in such form as may be prescribed by Grand Lodge Regulation. The Finance and Accounts Committee shall consider such requests and prepare a tentative Budget with such amendments, additions, and deletions made thereto or therefrom by the Corporate Board, together with a narrative statement of the general financial condition of the Grand Lodge shall be sent to each Particular Lodge at least sixty (60) days prior to the Grand Lodge Annual Communication each year. At the ensuing Grand Communication the proposed Budget shall be reviewed by the Finance and Accounts Committee and the Corporate Board and presented, with suggested changes, for final action by the Grand Lodge but any and all suggested changes shall be specifically recited in detail to the Representatives of the Particular Lodges when the Budget is presented for final adoption. The Grand Lodge by Regulation shall adopt such other provisions as shall be necessary to fully implement the purpose of intent of Commission this Section. (1990)

**Section 4.** Adoption of Budget and Effect Thereof-The proposed Budget shall be submitted to the Grand Lodge at the Annual Grand Communication with such amendments thereto as may be approved by the Grand Lodge, after which such Budget shall be adopted. Upon the adoption of the Budget by the Grand Lodge, the Budget shall control the expenditures for all departments of the Grand Lodge and the itemized estimates of the expenditures shall have the effect of fixed appropriations and shall not be amended, altered, or exceeded except as provided for herein. Transfers from one sub-account to another sub-account within the same Fund in the Budget shall be made upon Executive Order of the Grand Master. No Officer, agent, committee, or board shall make any expenditures in excess of the Budget appropriation except as may be authorized in accordance with the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge. The Grand Secretary shall compile a monthly statement of expenditures of each Budget account and a statement of disbursement of trust funds and mail or deliver a copy to each of the Elective Grand Officers, Past Grand Masters, and Chairmen of all Committees authorized to meet during the recess of the Grand Lodge.

**Section 5.** Duties and Powers of the Corporate Board-The Corporate Board is hereby vested with the following powers, duties, and authority over the finances of the Grand Lodge:

- (1) During the recess of the Grand Lodge, the Corporate Board shall supervise the financial affairs of Grand Lodge and shall administer the same in accordance with the Budget provided for herein and the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge.
- (2) The Corporate Board shall cause to be set up the Budget accounts in the books of the Grand Lodge immediately after the close of each Annual Grand Communication.
- (3) The members of the Corporate Board and any authorized agent of such Corporate Board shall have access to the records of every Officer, agent, committee, and board handling moneys of the Grand Lodge, or having supervision of any Grand Lodge function with reference to finances.
- (4) The Corporate Board shall have authority during the recess of the Grand Lodge to set up such temporary sub-accounts as may be necessary for the keeping of clear and accurate records of all receipts and disbursements for which an account is not already provided.
- (5) The Corporate Board is hereby vested with authority to invest and reinvest current income funds, Budgeted funds, and reserve funds in savings accounts or in obligations of the United States of America, maintaining only sufficient checking account balance in the depositories to meet current demands.
- (6) The Corporate Board shall develop and supervise insurance and retirement programs affecting Grand Lodge properties and employees and make arrangements to implement the same.
- (7) The Corporate Board shall provide for minutes of every meeting to be properly recorded, which shall include copies of each and every order by number, as issued by them, and make written report to the Grand Lodge each year and shall attach a copy of all such minutes.
- (8) The Corporate Board is hereby vested with the authority to do all things necessary and proper to the full exercise of the power and authority provided for herein.

**Section 6.** Emergency Expenditures-When in the recess of Grand Lodge an emergency that could not have reasonably been foreseen or anticipated and which requires immediate expenditure of funds, reserve or otherwise not Budgeted for such emergency, that the Corporate Board may meet in called meeting and by vote of at least three members and the Grand Master, recorded in the minutes of the meeting together with full statement of the material facts as to the emergency, may transfer necessary funds of the Grand Lodge to a special and/or sub-account to meet the needs raised by the emergency. All records and facts relevant to such proceedings shall be reviewed by the Jurisprudence Committee and reported to the Craft thereon. (1985)

**Section 7.** Audit-There shall be an annual audit of the books, records, and accounts of the Grand Lodge. Special audits shall be made of all such books, records, and accounts or any part or portion thereof when ordered or directed by the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master or by the Corporate Board. The Grand Lodge may adopt other and further Regulations concerning the audit as may be appropriate. (1985)

**Section 8.** Masonic Home Endowment Fund-

(a) The Masonic Home Endowment Fund is hereby designated and dedicated as a sacred trust fund, the principal amount whereof may not be expended for any purpose or purposes whatsoever save for investment and reinvestment; the income therefrom to be expended for the uses and purposes of Masonic Charity and for no other purpose whatever save the payment of unexpended balances of such income into the Masonic Home Endowment Fund to further increase the said Fund.

(b) The Corporate Board is hereby empowered and directed to receive and hold all assets now or hereafter belonging to said Masonic Home Endowment Fund and which may have or may hereafter be given, devised or bequeathed to or for the benefit of the Masonic Home; to invest and reinvest from time to time all moneys and assets in the said capital Fund in securities listed on recognized stock exchanges in the United States of America, or in bonds of the United States Government, or in direct obligations of the United States Government, or agencies which are fully guaranteed by the United States Government, or in securities issued by instrumentalities of the United States Government, or in corporate bonds having a rating of "A" or better by some nationally recognized rating institution, or in deposits in federal savings and loan associations of Florida or in banking institutions not to exceed the insurance limit provided by the FDIC. (1999)



(c) The Corporate Board shall employ the services of the Registered Investment Adviser(s) or Registered Representative(s) and shall make investments only on the advice of such Registered Investment Adviser(s) or Registered Representative(s) and by majority approval of the Corporate Board and the concurrence of the Grand Master; and *provided further* that the expressed wish of every donor as to the type or kind of investment shall be followed. The Corporate Board is hereby authorized to retain any property acquired by gift, bequest, or otherwise, for as long as is deemed advisable, even though such property may not qualify under the above and foregoing provisions for investment of capital and/or principal constituting such Fund. The Corporate Board shall receive the income from said Endowment Fund on or before the close of the Grand Lodge Fiscal year and pay over said income annually to the Grand Secretary to be used for such Masonic Charity as the Grand Lodge may direct. (1999)

(d) The Corporate Board shall authorize the Registered Investment Adviser(s) or Registered Representative's(s') broker-dealer or its clearing firm to act as custodian or custodians of said Fund and all capital and/or principal belonging to said Fund may be delivered to said Registered Investment Adviser(s) or Registered Representative's (s') broker-dealer or its clearing firm as custodian or custodians and said Registered Investment Adviser(s) or Registered Representative's(s') broker-dealer or its clearing firm so authorized shall proceed to keep the assets of said Fund in Trust, holding all assets in the name of its nominee and be authorized by reason thereof to execute all stock powers, proxies and other instruments pertaining to said assets and held by such Registered Investment Adviser(s) or Registered Representative's(s') broker-dealer or its clearing firm. No broker-dealer or its clearing firm may hold Grand Lodge Securities or funds in excess of the amount of their respective insurance on accounts. (1999)

(e) The Corporate Board shall authorize the Registered Investment Adviser(s) or Registered Representative(s) selected as financial adviser(s) to make the decision as to the purchase and sales of securities according to prescribed limitations and guidelines approved by the Corporate Board but such guidelines shall conform to the requirements of this Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge relating to investments of the Endowment Fund. (1999)

(f) The Corporate Board shall meet immediately after close of Grand Lodge and shall employ the Registered Investment Adviser(s) or Registered Representative's(s') broker-dealer above provided for and shall meet in regular meeting of at least once every quarter thereafter and at such other times as called by the Grand Master. (1999)



**Section 9.** There is hereby established a Grand Lodge Fund to be designated the Cumulative Depreciation Fund, which Fund and all monies deposited in or allocated to or appropriated for such Fund, shall be used exclusively for replacement of existing facility for administration of Grand Lodge affairs, or Masonic Home affairs, or for place of residence of or care for residents of the Masonic Home.

Any monies deposited, allocated, or appropriated as aforesaid may be invested in same manner as investment of Masonic Home Endowment Fund and all interest and dividends earned by the Cumulative Depreciation Fund shall accrue to and be credited to such Fund.

Any monies deposited, allocated, or appropriated for such Fund shall not be withdrawn, except for investment purposes as aforesaid, nor expended for any other purpose whatsoever except by direct action by secret written ballot of Representatives of Particular Lodges, Elected Grand Lodge Officers, and Past Grand Masters in Annual Grand Communication after sixty (60) days written notice by the Corporate Board to all Particular Lodges, District Deputy Grand Masters then in office, and all Past Grand Masters.

The Grand Lodge shall by Regulation provide for funding of such Cumulative Depreciation Fund and designation thereof by appropriate letter with designation shown in Grand Lodge financial records.

Anything in this Constitution to the contrary notwithstanding this Section 9 of Article XIV of the Constitution may be amended only by two-thirds majority of secret written ballots of Representatives of Particular Lodges, Elected Grand Lodge Officers then in office, and Past Grand Masters in two consecutive Annual Grand Communications after written notice sixty (60) days before each Annual Grand Communication to all Particular Lodges, Elected Grand Lodge Officers, and Past Grand Masters. (1985)

### Regulations

**14.10** No funds of the Grand Lodge shall be paid out by the Grand Treasurer unless the request or demand therefore shall be in full compliance with and meet all requirements of Grand Lodge Regulations and applicable rules or Resolutions of the Corporate Board. (1984)

**14.11** No agent, Agency, Employee, Official, Board, or Committee of the Grand Lodge shall contract or provide for, or make any expenditures for or in the behalf of the Grand Lodge not embraced and provided for in the regular routine and operating expenses, and also within the Budgets adopted by the Grand Lodge at its last prior Annual Grand Communication, without first submitting the proposed expenditure to, and receiving the approval of the Corporate Board. (1983)

**14.12** 1. FUNDS AND ACCOUNTS ESTABLISHED-There is hereby established and created the following Funds and Accounts of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Florida:

- “A” - THE ADMINISTRATIVE FUND OF THE GRAND LODGE  
(Administrative Fund)
- “C” - THE RESERVE FUND OF THE GRAND LODGE  
(Reserve Fund)
- “D” - THE MASONIC HOME AND RELIEF FUND OF THE GRAND  
LODGE  
(Masonic Home Fund)
- “E” - THE MASONIC HOME ENDOWMENT FUND OF THE  
GRAND LODGE  
(Masonic Home Endowment Fund)

- “F” - THE TRUST FUND OF THE GRAND LODGE (Trust Fund) which shall include Special Gift Trust Account, Resident Members Trust Account, Masonic Home Building Fund, and other trust accounts.
- “G” - MASONIC MUSEUM FUND OF THE GRAND LODGE which shall include all contributions given for the use and benefit of the Masonic Museum of Grand Lodge. (1989)
- “H” - GRAND LODGE ADMINISTRATIVE ENDOWMENT FUND OF THE GRAND LODGE OF FLORIDA which shall include all funds designated for the use and benefit of the Administrative Endowment Fund of the Grand Lodge of Florida. (1993)

and ADMINISTRATIVE CURRENT REVENUE ACCOUNT

and a MASONIC HOME CURRENT REVENUE ACCOUNT

Provision shall be made for a record system to accurately account for all receipts and expenditure of the foregoing Funds and Accounts. Records of Trust Funds and Accounts shall reflect source of all moneys in such Funds and Accounts, and details of disbursements of such moneys.

All moneys received by the Grand Lodge shall be deposited in the proper Current Revenue Account except moneys received in payment of bonds, mortgages, notes, and other securities, and moneys distributed for the direct benefit of a resident member, or members, of the Masonic Home, and separate accounts shall be kept of all receipts.

The Superintendent of the Masonic Home shall give a monthly memorandum accounting of the market value of all donations and gifts received by him for the operation of the Home, such as food, clothing, and commodities, and the value of such gifts shall be charged, together with the Budget accounts in arriving at the actual cost of maintaining each resident in the Home. Moneys and items having a cash value received by the Superintendent for a direct benefit of the resident members or a particular member of the Home shall not be construed as items to be deposited in a Current Revenue Account.

Any Resolution pertaining to the finance of Grand Lodge shall be presented to the Finance and Accounts Committee and Corporate Board at least ten (10) days prior to opening day for any Annual (or Special) Grand Communication. The Finance and Accounts Committee or Corporate Board shall submit said Resolutions to the Grand Lodge no later than the close of business on the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) day together with their recommendations thereon. (1984)

2. MANAGEMENT OF FINANCES-There is hereby established the following systems for the control and management of all Funds of the Grand Lodge:

(a) There shall annually be adopted by Grand Lodge a Budget for the operation of the following Funds:

“A” The Administrative Fund, and  
“D” The Masonic Home Fund

and for the allocation to the “E” Masonic Home Endowment Fund of all funds accruing thereto for investment as provided in the Constitution, and all funds of the Grand Lodge not appropriated in such Annual Budget for expenditure in the “A” Administrative Fund and “D” The Masonic Home Fund, nor accruing to the “E” The Masonic Home Endowment Fund, nor properly belonging to the “F” The Trust Fund shall be allocated to “C” The Reserve Fund.

(b) All trust monies received shall be allocated to the Trust Fund and records accurately reflecting the receipts, source, and expenditure of each item shall be faithfully kept.

(c) Each Budget shall conform to the following general directions and requirements: (1984)

(1) A request for appropriation and a statement of contemplated expenditures for the ensuing Masonic Fiscal Year shall be prepared by each Officer, Board, and Committee, having jurisdiction over the service or purchase for which expenditures are made, and such requested appropriation and statement shall be filed with the Grand Secretary, not later than the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January, each year, for consideration of the Grand Lodge Committee on Finance and Accounts. (1989)

(2) The Committee on Finance and Accounts shall meet not later than January 31<sup>st</sup> each year, to review and study the preliminary report and statements of the auditor of the monies available for appropriation by the Grand Lodge, and to review the requests for appropriations, and prepare, summarize, and submit, without delay, a tentative Budget for the operation of the Grand Lodge for the ensuing year. (1989)

- (3) The Committee on Finance and Accounts shall not propose a Budget, nor shall a Budget be approved and adopted, for the operation of the “A” The Administrative Fund or “D” The Masonic Home and Relief Fund, for more than the unexpended balance on hand in the Budget account of each of such funds and the Current Revenue Accounts that has been collected for the purpose of each of such funds, and other funds which may be allocated by the Grand Lodge.
- (4) Monies appropriated for the contingent sub-accounts in the “A” The Administrative Fund and the “D” The Masonic Home and Relief Fund may be transferred to another sub-account within the same fund by Executive Order of the Grand Master.
- (5) The allocation of monies to the different accounts shall be by both name and number, in accordance with the Budget and Bookkeeping and Accounting system names and numbers.
- (6) The Budget shall be balanced; that is, the total of the monies available and the balance on hand in the Budget account at the end of the year shall equal the total of the appropriation for the Budget of the operating fund and funds to be allocated to the Reserve, Trust, and Endowment Funds. No balance in the Current Revenue Accounts shall be carried forward into the next fiscal year. (1984)
- (d) The Corporate Board shall cause a copy of the proposed Budget as prepared by the Committee on Finance and Accounts, with amendments, if any, by the Corporate Board, together with a simplified statement of the financial condition of the Grand Lodge to be mailed to the Lodges not later than 30 days prior to the Grand Lodge Annual Communication, each year, in order that the Lodges and their representatives may have ample time to consider it before the meeting of the Grand Lodge. In event any changes are made in the proposed Budget after it has been submitted to the Lodges and before it is submitted to the Grand Lodge, such changes shall be reported in detail to the Representatives in Session at the Annual Grand Communication, prior to the adoption of the Budget. (2021)

(e) Upon the adoption of a Budget by the Grand Lodge, the Budget shall control the expenditures for all departments of the Grand Lodge, and the itemized estimates of expenditures shall have the effect of fixed appropriations and shall not be amended, altered, or exceeded except as provided for herein. Transfers from one sub-account to another sub-account within the same Fund in the Budget can be made upon Executive Order of the Grand Master. The Secretary to the Corporate Board shall compile a monthly statement of expenditures of each Budget Account and a statement of disbursement of trust funds and mail or deliver one (1) copy thereof to each of the Elective Grand Officers, Past Grand Masters, and the Chairman of all Committees authorized to meet during the recess of the Grand Lodge.

(f) No Officer, Agent, Committee, or Board of the Grand Lodge shall make any expenditures in excess of the Budget appropriation, except as may be authorized in accordance with the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge.

3. CORPORATE BOARD-There shall be a Corporate Board of the Grand Lodge constituted and vested with powers as follows:

(a) The Corporate Board of Directors, constituted as provided in Article I of the Constitution is hereby designated and declared to be the Budget Commission of the Grand Lodge.

(b) The Corporate Board is hereby vested with the following powers and authority over the finances of the Grand Lodge, which shall specifically include the following powers and authority:

(1) During the recess of the Grand Lodge, the Corporate Board shall supervise the financial affairs of Grand Lodge and shall administer the same in accordance with the Budget provided for herein and the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge.

(2) The Grand Secretary shall be Secretary to the Corporate Board; *provided* the Corporate Board may designate some other person as Secretary to the Board.

(3) The Corporate Board shall cause to be set up the Budget Accounts in the books of the Grand Lodge immediately after the close of each Annual Grand Communication.



(4) The members of the Corporate Board and any authorized agent of such Board shall have access to the records of every Officer, Agent, Committee, and Board handling monies of the Grand Lodge, or having supervision of any Grand Lodge function with reference to finances.

(5) The Corporate Board shall have authority during the recess of Grand Lodge to set up such temporary sub-account as may be necessary for the keeping of clear and accurate records of all receipts and disbursements for which an account is not already provided.

(6) The Corporate Board is hereby vested with authority to invest and reinvest monies in the Current Revenue Accounts, the "C" Reserve Fund, and Budgeted funds in savings accounts or in the same type of securities authorized for investment of the Masonic Home Endowment Fund, maintaining only sufficient checking account balance in the depositories to meet the current demands.

(7) The Corporate Board shall provide for minutes of every meeting to be properly recorded, which shall include copies of each and every order, by number as issued by them and make written report to the Grand Lodge each year and shall attach a copy of all such minutes.

(8) The Corporate Board is hereby vested with the authority to do all things necessary and proper to the full exercise of the power and authority provided for herein.

(9) In addition to the foregoing powers, the Corporate Board shall have all powers conferred upon it by any provision of the Constitution or any other Regulation.

(10) All gifts, donations, or bequests of funds, money, or securities for specified purposes shall be accepted only by and with approval of the Corporate Board. Upon acceptance of funds or money for a specified purpose, an account or sub-account thereof shall be set up in the Budget and books of the Grand Lodge. After initial approval by the Corporate Board, additional funds may be expended by Committee, Board, Officer, or Commission having responsibility for the purpose or project for which the gift was given unless otherwise restricted by the Corporate Board.

All such gifts and donations shall be accepted upon condition that if or when the specified purpose of the gift or donation has been accomplished that any remaining funds received for such purpose, shall be used for a similar purpose or project or deposited in the Masonic Home Building Fund for use of and at the discretion of the Board of Trustees. (2018)

(11) The Corporate Board shall insure or, alternatively, shall defend and indemnify the elected Grand Lodge Officers and Members of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home and other members of Constitutional Commissions, Board, or Committees of The Grand Lodge of the State of Florida in regard to any claim arising from acts or omissions in their official capacities, provided the act or omission is insurable under policies approved by or on file in the Office of the Insurance Commission of the State of Florida.

(12) A quorum of the Corporate Board shall be the Grand Master and any three other members of the Board. All actions and decisions of the Commission shall be by majority vote, one of which must be the Grand Master.

#### 4. EMERGENCY EXPENDITURES-

(a) When, in the recess of Grand Lodge, an emergency exists that requires expenditure of funds of a Reserve Account or Accounts or Reserve Funds of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master and any three other members of the Corporate Board may by written order transfer funds from such Reserve Account or Accounts or Reserve Funds of the Grand Lodge to appropriate Budget items for expenditure as may be required by such emergency, said order to be signed by the Grand Master and by other members of the Board agreeing thereto.

(b) When the emergency is such as to require immediate action and time does not permit meeting of the Corporate Board the Grand Master may enter and issue the order for transfer, *provided* however telegraphic authority from any three other members of the Board is attached to the order. Members giving telegraphic authority shall forthwith confirm in writing the telegraphic authority by letter to the Grand Master, which letters shall also be attached to the order of the Grand Master.

(c) For purposes of paragraphs (a) and (b) above an emergency means a sudden and unexpected happening or occurrence that could not reasonably have been anticipated and which requires immediate expenditure of funds to remedy damage or injury to persons or property or to prevent such damage or injury.

(d) In all instances of order for transfer and expenditure of funds under provisions of paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) above the order shall set forth in detail the facts relied upon by the Board in declaring that emergency existed, which order shall be presented to and reviewed by the Jurisprudence Committee and full report made thereon to the Craft at next Grand Communication.

5. AUDIT-(a) There shall be an annual audit of the books, records, and accounts of the Grand Lodge. Special audits shall be made of all such books, records, and accounts or any part or portion of them and for any period of time at direction of the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master or the Corporate Board.

(b) Receipts, expenditures, records, accounts, bills, invoices, funds, and moneys of each and every Fund and Account of the Grand Lodge and all its departments, which shall include, but not be limited to, all records in the office of the Grand Treasurer, the Grand Secretary, the Superintendent of the Masonic Home, and the Custodian or Rental Agent for the Grand Lodge Properties Committee shall be subject to such audit.

(c) The audit shall be for the fiscal year; *provided*, however, that the Corporate Board may order an audit at any time and for any period. The auditor shall begin his audit at such time as decided by the Corporate Board, and report at the time specified by the Corporate Board.

(d) The auditor shall be employed by the Corporate Board and the engagement letter shall be recorded in its Minutes. The auditor shall be a certified public accountant and licensed by the State of Florida.

(e) The auditor shall perform his audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards pronounced by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and include such procedures as he considers necessary in the performance of his task.

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(f) The Grand Secretary shall prepare a statement of assets and liabilities of the Masonic Home Endowment Fund, a Statement of the Trust Funds of the Grand Lodge, and a Statement of the investments, assets, and liabilities of the Grand Lodge covering all departments and submit the same to the auditor for verification and upon verification, such statements shall be published with the report of the auditor.

(g) In addition to expressing his opinion concerning the financial statements of the Grand Lodge, the auditor shall prepare a Management Letter addressed to the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge stating his observations and recommendations concerning the operation of the Grand Lodge, including a review of insurance coverage, bonds, and in general the compliance or failure of compliance with Masonic Law as it relates to the conduct of the fiscal affairs of the Grand Lodge of Florida, which Management Letter shall be filed in the office of the Grand Secretary and be distributed by the Grand Secretary to all members of the Corporate Board, the Past Grand Masters, and to such other persons as the Corporate Board shall direct. (1984)

6. MASONIC HOME ENDOWMENT FUND-(a) The Masonic Home Endowment Fund is hereby designated and dedicated as a sacred trust fund, the principal amount whereof may not be expended for any purpose or purposes whatsoever save for investment and reinvestment, the income therefrom to be expended for the uses and purposes of Masonic charity and for no other purpose whatsoever save the payment of unexpended balances of such income into the Masonic Home Endowment Fund to further increase the said Fund.

(b) The Corporate Board is hereby empowered and directed to receive and hold all assets now or hereafter belonging to said Masonic Home Endowment Fund and which may have or may hereafter be given, devised, or bequeathed to or for the benefit of the Masonic Home; to invest and reinvest from time to time all moneys and assets in the said capital Fund in securities listed on recognized stock exchanges in the United States of America, or in bonds of the United States Government, or in direct obligations of the United States Government, or agencies which are fully guaranteed by the United States Government, or in securities issued by instrumentalities of the United States Government, or in corporate bonds having a rating of "A" or better by some nationally recognized rating institution, or in deposits in federal savings and loan associations in Florida or in banking institutions not to exceed the insurance limit provided by the FDIC. (1999)

(c) The Corporate Board shall employ the services of Registered Investment Adviser(s) or Registered Representative(s) and shall make investments only on the advice of such Registered Investment Adviser(s) or Registered Representative(s) and by majority approval of the Corporate Board and the concurrence of the Grand Master, and *provided further* that the expressed wish of every donor as to the type or kind of investment shall be followed. The Corporate Board is hereby authorized to retain any property acquired by gift, bequest, or otherwise, for as long as is

deemed advisable, even though such property may not qualify under the above and foregoing provisions for investment of capital and/or principal constituting such Fund. The Corporate Board shall receive the income from said Endowment Fund on or before the close of the Grand Lodge Fiscal year and pay over said income annually to the Grand Secretary to be used for such Masonic Charity as the Grand Lodge may direct. (1999)

(d) The Corporate Board shall authorize the Registered Investment Adviser(s) or Registered Representative's(s') broker-dealer or its clearing firm to act as custodian or custodians of said Fund and all capital and/or principal belonging to said Fund may be delivered to said Registered Investment Adviser(s) or Registered Representative's(s') broker-dealer or its clearing firm as custodian or custodians and said Registered Investment Adviser(s) or Registered Representative's(s') broker-dealer or its clearing firm so authorized shall proceed to keep the assets of said Fund in Trust, holding all assets in the name of its nominee and be authorized by reason thereof to execute all stock powers, proxies and other instruments pertaining to said assets and held by such Registered Investment Adviser(s) or Registered Representative's(s') broker-dealer or its clearing firm. No broker-dealer or its clearing firm may hold Grand Lodge Securities or funds in excess of the amount of their respective insurance on accounts. (1999)

(e) The Corporate Board shall authorize the Registered Investment Adviser(s) or Registered Representative(s) selected as financial adviser(s) to make the decision as to the purchase and sales of securities according to prescribed limitations and guidelines approved by the Corporate Board but such guidelines shall conform to the requirements of this Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge relating to investments of the Endowment Fund. (1999)

(f) The Corporate Board shall meet immediately after close of Grand Lodge and shall employ the Registered Investment Adviser(s) or Registered Representative's(s') broker-dealer above provided for and shall meet in regular meeting of at least once every quarter thereafter and at such other times as called by the Grand Master. (1999)

**14.12.1** All funds paid or contributed to the Grand Lodge of Florida or the Grand Master for the purpose of any Grand Master's Project or charity, Grand Master's or other coins, Masonic Youth Association, Inc., or similar endeavors, shall be recorded by the Grand Secretary's Office, deposited in the bank account of the Grand Lodge, if possible, and posted to a separate General Ledger account for that specific activity. The Grand Secretary shall promulgate and the Craft shall follow such rules and forms as he shall deem appropriate for the proper receipt, accounting, and handling of all funds so paid or contributed. Disbursement of the funds shall be made by the Grand Secretary's Office upon written request by the person authorized to direct disbursements. (1991)

**14.13** The Corporate Board shall set up or cause to be set up a system of accounts to be used as a basis for Grand Lodge Budgets and Bookkeeping System and recommend to Grand Lodge such Regulations as shall be necessary to establish such system.

**14.14** Upon the death of a Past Grand Master or Elected Grand Lodge Officer, the Corporate Board may, with the approval of the family, place a suitable marker at the place of burial.

**14.15** The Grand Secretary, with the supervision of the Corporate Board shall establish a "LEDGER ACCOUNT" in the name of the "ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR"; and all costs and charges for the care of Eastern Star Members, in such amounts as provided in the Rules and Regulations adopted by The Grand Lodge of Florida for the government and operation of the Masonic Home and Relief Funds, shall be charged against this Account. The Grand Secretary shall credit this Account with all cash contributed to the operation of the Home and Relief Funds by the O.E.S. or by individuals who give in the name of the O.E.S.; all interest received from that portion of the Masonic Home Endowment Fund contributed by the Order of the Eastern Star to-wit: \$212,565.07; all cash received from sale of items contributed by the Order of the Eastern Star; all earned receipts from Resident Members Trust Fund on account of Eastern Star members who have Trust Funds to their credit, which is a monthly charge in accordance with the Rules and Regulations; all Trust Funds remaining in the Trust Accounts to the credit of an Eastern Star member upon the death of such member; and the following sums to be authorized by the Grand Lodge: \$10,000.00 in 1960, \$7,500.00 in 1961, \$5,000.00 in 1962, and \$2,500.00 in 1963. And no additional member shall be admitted through the Order of the Eastern Star until sufficient funds in the amounts prescribed in the Rules and Regulations are available in the "Order of the Eastern Star Account" to provide for the care and cost of maintaining such additional member or members for twelve (12) months.

The Grand Secretary shall mail a statement of this Ledger Account monthly to the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden, the Worthy Grand Matron, Worthy Grand Patron, the Associate Grand Matron, the Associate Grand Patron, and the Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter, all members of the Board of Trustees, and all Past Grand Masters.

**14.16** There is hereby created a Committee designated the Masonic Home Endowment and Investment Committee, composed of nine Master Masons in good standing.

The Members of the Committee shall be men of experience in the management and investment of funds, or men qualified in professions that acquaint them with the duties and responsibilities of management and investment of funds, including but not limited to bankers, public accountants, lawyers, financial counselors, and men of similar training and experience.

Each incoming Grand Master shall make three appointments to this committee for a term of three years each. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the Grand Master for the remainder of the vacant term. Initial implementation shall be by appointment by the Grand Master of three members for three year terms, three members for two year terms and three members for one year terms. (1999)

No person while a member of this committee, or for a period of two years after serving on this committee, may, directly or indirectly, gain any economic benefit by reason of bidding, providing or contracting to provide financial services to The Grand Lodge of Florida. Any attempt to circumvent this regulation will be prima facie evidence of unmasonic conduct and will be punishable as such. (1999)

The committee shall make recommendations to the Corporate Board in respect to the following matters:

- (a) Selection of Registered Investment Adviser(s) to manage or Registered Representative's(s') broker-dealer or its clearing firm to act as custodian for such portions of the Masonic Home Endowment Fund as shall be entrusted to such Registered Investment Adviser(s) or Registered Representative's(s') broker-dealer or its clearing firm by written contract/document with the Grand Lodge. (1999)
- (b) The terms of contract with the Registered Investment Adviser(s) or the Registered Representative's(s') broker-dealer or its clearing firm for management and custodianship of the Masonic Home Endowment Fund. (1999)
- (c) The means, methods, and standards for evaluation of the services of the Registered Investment Adviser(s), the Registered Representative(s) or its broker-dealer managing and investing the Masonic Home Endowment Fund. (1999)
- (d) The committee shall comply with the foregoing in respect to other Grand Lodge Funds. (1999)



**FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE****Regulations**

**14.17** The Finance and Accounts Committee shall prepare a tentative Budget for presentation to the Corporate Board as provided in the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge and make report and recommendation to the Grand Lodge on all matters pertaining to the financial affairs of the Grand Lodge. Each year the Committee shall review all “F” account funds and other trust funds and report thereon to the Grand Lodge in respect to the purposes or projects for which such funds were given and whether or not such purposes or projects have been accomplished or completed together with recommendations for transfer of such funds to the Masonic Home Building Fund for use of and at the discretion of the Board of Trustees. (2018)

**14.17.1** Wherever the words “The Masonic Home and Relief Fund of the Grand Lodge” or “Masonic Home and Relief Fund” or “Masonic Home Fund” or “Masonic Charities Fund” appear or are used in the Constitution or Regulations of the Grand Lodge or in any paper, instrument, or document the said words shall be construed to mean and include:

(1) The Masonic Home Endowment Fund and interest or profits earned on or derived therefrom.

(2) All funds transferred from Resident Trust Funds and all funds derived from property; real, personal, and mixed, conveyed, donated, bequeathed, or devised, by Residents of the Masonic Home or others pursuant to contract or agreement for care, support, or aid and all funds received as reimbursement for care, support, or aid under program of Masonic Relief and Charity.

(3) All funds paid, deposited, or donated by the Order of Eastern Star for or as security for or appreciation of privileges of the Masonic Home.

(4) All donations to the Masonic Home or to the Grand Lodge or other person or entity for the use of the Masonic Home or its residents.

(5) All funds donated, bequeathed, or otherwise transferred or assigned to the Grand Lodge or the Masonic Home without specification of purpose, or use, which funds shall be forthwith deposited to credit of the Masonic Home Building Fund, for use of and at the discretion of the Board of Trustees. (2018)

- (6) The \$5.00 fees derived from Entered Apprentice Initiation.
- (7) Any and all interest and profits derived directly or indirectly from the above enumerated funds. (1982)

**14.17.2** In preparing the Annual Budget the Committee on Finance and Accounts shall show origin and source of all funds to be appropriated and specifically identify the funds designated as Masonic Home and Relief funds in Regulation 14.17.1. (1982)

**14.17.3** The funds designated and defined in Regulation 14.17.1 as “The Masonic Home and Relief Funds of the Grand Lodge” and “Masonic Home and Relief Fund” and “Masonic Home Fund,” and “Masonic Charity Fund,” shall be used to pay for and defray costs and expenses of the following activities, functions, and purposes:

- (1) Operation of the Masonic Home (Home) in St. Petersburg, Florida, which shall be construed to mean the costs and expenses of operation and maintenance of the physical plant and installations and equipment appertaining thereto and insurance thereon and all costs of care, feeding, clothing, and incidental needs of residents of the Home, including funeral expense and all costs of Relief Programs.

- (2) Expenses of members of the Board of Trustees (Board), including mileage and per diem, in attending meetings of the Board and necessary costs of any member of the Board and employees incurred for travel or other expenses while engaged in business for and authorized by the Board.

- (3) Expense of members of the Board and employees in attending meetings designed to inform or aid in performance of duties relating to the Home when approved and authorized by the Board.

- (4) Costs and expense for legal services in connection with operation of the Home or relating to gifts, donations, bequests, devises for the benefit of the Home, and generally for any legal services, said costs and expenses to be approved by or subject to approval by the Corporate Board.

- (5) Costs and expenses for accounting, bookkeeping, payroll preparation, and similar services; and for purchase and printing of materials necessary therefore.

(6) Costs of employment of fiscal agents, managers and advisors in relation to The Masonic Home Endowment Fund of the Grand Lodge.

(7) Costs and expenses of the Endowment Procurement Committee members in attendance at meetings of the Committee and for procurement of promotional materials for the Endowment Fund.

(8) Establishment and maintenance of programs of Reserve Funds for emergency operation of the Home and a program of continuing and cumulative reserve for depletion and depreciation of physical properties at the Home.

(9) The Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home shall prepare an Annual Budget showing total of Masonic Charity Funds as defined in Regulation 14.17.1 which are available for allocation to the several purposes hereinabove set forth and detailed line items for each appropriation of said funds.

(10) No part of the Masonic Fund as defined in Regulation 14.17.1 shall be used for any purpose except those purposes set forth in this Regulation. (1988)

**14.17.4** (a) The Corporate Board is hereby vested with full power and authority and shall be responsible for establishing a record and accounting system for accurate and efficient record and accounting of and for all the funds and moneys received for any purpose, program, or project of the Grand Lodge and for record and accounting of all investment revenue derived therefrom.

(b) The following named and designated receipts, funds, proceeds, and moneys shall be identified in said record and accounting system as receipts, funds, proceeds, and moneys intended for allocation to the "A" Administrative Fund of the Grand Lodge, and upon receipt thereof shall be credited to and deposited in a bank account designated "Administrative Current Revenue Account" to wit:

- (1) Current Assessments (Per-Capita)
- (2) George Washington National Memorial Association
- (3) Fees
- (4) Computer Services
- (5) Sales of Merchandise and Publications

- (6) Miscellaneous - which shall include receipts related to "A" Administrative Fund purposes and not otherwise designated herein.
- (7) Interest, profits, or other earnings of the "A" Administrative Fund Reserve if so allocated by the Annual Budget.
- (8) Other Funds allotted to the "A" Administrative Fund by Grand Lodge Regulation or action.

(c) The following named and designated receipts, funds, proceeds, and moneys shall be identified in said record and accounting system as receipts, funds, proceeds, and moneys intended for allocation to the "C" Administrative Reserve Fund of the Grand Lodge and upon receipt thereof shall be credited to said "C" Administrative Reserve Fund.

- (1) Administrative Fund Operating Reserve
- (2) Grand Lodge Office Building and Equipment Depreciation Reserve

(d) The following named and designated receipts, funds, proceeds, and moneys shall be identified in said record and accounting system as receipts, funds, proceeds, and moneys intended for allocation to the "C" Masonic Home Fund Reserve and upon receipt thereof shall be credited to said "C" Masonic Home Fund Reserve.

- (1) Masonic Home Fund Operating Reserve
- (2) Masonic Home Building and Equipment Depreciation Reserve
- (3) Masonic Home New Building Reserve (Reg. 14.03)

(e) The following named and designated receipts, funds, proceeds, and moneys shall be identified in said record and accounting system as receipts, funds, proceeds, and moneys intended for allocation to the "D" Masonic Home and Relief Fund of the Grand Lodge and upon receipt thereof shall be credited to and deposited in a bank account designated "Masonic Home Current Revenue Account" to wit:

- (1) Resident Trust Fund Transfers
- (2) Endowment and Investment Income
- (3) Lodge Prorated Payments on Relief
- (4) Order of Eastern Star Deceased Guest Balances

- (5) Order of Eastern Star Operating Fund
- (6) Miscellaneous - which shall include receipts related to the "D" Masonic Home Fund purposes and not otherwise designated herein.
- (7) Interest, profits, or other earnings of the "C" Masonic Home Fund Reserve if so allocated by the Annual Budget.
- (8) Other funds allotted to the "D" The Masonic Home Fund by Grand Lodge Regulation or action.
- (9) All funds designated as Masonic Home or Charity Funds by Regulation 14.17.1.

(f) The following named and designated receipts, funds, proceeds, and moneys shall be identified in said record and accounting system as receipts, funds, proceeds, and moneys intended for allocation to the "F" Administrative Trust Fund of the Grand Lodge and upon receipt thereof shall be credited to said "F" Administrative Trust Fund.

- (1) Administrative Trust Fund

(g) The following named and designated receipts, funds, proceeds, and moneys shall be identified in said record and accounting system as receipts, funds, proceeds, and moneys intended for allocation to the "F" Masonic Home Trust Fund and upon receipt thereof shall be credited to said "F" Masonic Home Trust Fund.

- (1) Resident Members Trust Fund
- (2) Gifts for specified purposes

(h) The Corporate Board may invest any and all of the receipts, proceeds, funds, and moneys in the "Administrative Current Revenue Account" and in the "Masonic Home Current Revenue Account" and for such purposes the following investment accounts are hereby established:

- (1) For investment of the receipts, proceeds, funds, and moneys of the Administrative Current Revenue Account there is hereby established an investment account to be designated "A" Current Revenue which is and shall be restricted as to principal and income.
- (2) For investment of the receipts, proceeds, funds, and moneys of the "D" Masonic Home Current Revenue Account there is hereby established an investment

account to be designated “D” Current Revenue which is and shall be restricted as to principal and income.

(i) The Corporate Board may invest all of the receipts, proceeds, funds, and moneys in the “E” Masonic Home Endowment Fund as provided in the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge, which funds shall be restricted for principal and income.

(j) The Corporate Board may invest the “C” Reserve Fund of the Grand Lodge and for such purposes there is hereby established an investment account designated “C” Administrative Reserve for investment of the receipts, proceeds, funds, and moneys of the “A” Administrative Fund of the Grand Lodge which shall be restricted for principal and income; and there is hereby established an investment account designated “C” Masonic Home Reserve for investment of receipts, proceeds, funds, and moneys in the Reserve accounts established for Reserves of the “D” Masonic Home and Relief Fund of the Grand Lodge which investment accounts shall be restricted for principal and income.

(k) Subject to limitations and conditions hereinafter set forth the Corporate Board may invest the receipts, proceeds, funds, and moneys in the “F” Trust Fund of the Grand Lodge and for such purposes the following Investment Accounts are hereby established:

- (1) For investment of the receipts, proceeds, funds, and moneys received in trust for the “A” Administrative Fund of the Grand Lodge, except trust funds for benefit of the Masonic Home and the purposes, projects, and programs relating thereto and to the residents thereof there is hereby established an account designated “F” Administrative Trust which shall be restricted as to income.
- (2) For investment of the receipts, proceeds, funds, and moneys received in trust for the benefit of the Masonic Home and the purposes, projects, and programs relating thereto and to the residents thereof there is hereby established an investment account designated “F” Masonic Home Trust, which account shall have two sub-accounts to wit:

- (1) Resident Members Trust
- (2) Gifts for specified purposes which sub-accounts shall be restricted as to income.

(l) The moneys in the several accounts in the "C" Administrative Reserve established in paragraph (c) hereof may be commingled for purposes of investments but shall not be commingled with the moneys of any other Fund or account.

When moneys of the several accounts in the "C" Administrative Reserve are commingled for investment as herein authorized the accounts shall share in the gains and losses in such investment or investments in direct proportion to the amount of money and length of time the moneys of each account participated or was involved in the investment.

At the end of the fiscal year of the Grand Lodge the investment revenue of each account shall be allocated to such account or to the "A" Administrative Fund of the Grand Lodge.

(m) The moneys in the several accounts in the "C" Masonic Home Reserve established in paragraph (d) hereof may be commingled for purposes of investment but shall not be commingled with the moneys of any other Fund or account.

When the moneys of the several accounts in the "C" Masonic Home Reserve are commingled for investment as herein authorized the accounts shall share in the gains and losses in such investment or investments in direct proportion to the amount of money and length of time the moneys of each account participated or was involved in the investment.

At the end of the fiscal year of the Grand Lodge the investment revenue of such account shall be allocated to such account or to the "D" Masonic Home and Relief Fund of the Grand Lodge; *provided* however the investment of revenue of the Masonic Home New Building Reserve established by Regulation 14.03 shall be allocated only to such account.

(n) The moneys in the Resident Members Trust sub-account may be commingled for purposes of investment and the investment revenue computed each month and such investment revenue shall be prorated and credited to the account of the Resident Members in the proportion that the moneys of each such Resident Member participated in the investment or investments.

(o) The moneys in the Gifts for Specified Purposes sub-account may be commingled for purpose of investment and the investment revenue may be allocated to such sub-account, to a Masonic Home Reserve Account, or to the “D” Masonic Home and Relief Fund of the Grand Lodge.

(p) Anything herein to the contrary notwithstanding the terms and conditions upon which any gift, donation, devise, or contribution was given and accepted shall be complied with subject to the provisions of Regulation 14.12-3-(b)-10.

(q) At the close of the Grand Lodge fiscal year all receipts, proceeds, funds, and moneys in the “A” Administrative Current Revenue Account and the several investment accounts thereof shall be credited to the account designated “A” Administrative Budgeted Funds Account to be transferred, appropriated, allotted or allocated by the Annual Budget for the purposes for which the “A” Administrative Fund was established; and all receipts, funds, and moneys in the “D” Masonic Home Current Revenue Account and the several investment accounts thereof shall be credited to an account designated “D” Masonic Home Budgeted Funds Account to be transferred, appropriated, allocated, or allotted by the Annual Budget for the purposes for which the “D” Masonic Home and Relief Fund was established.

(r) The Corporate Board may invest the receipts, proceeds, funds, and moneys in the “A” Administrative Budgeted Funds Account and in the “D” Masonic Home Budgeted Funds Account and for such purposes the following Investment Accounts are hereby established:

- (1) For investment of the receipts, proceeds, funds, and moneys in the “A” Administrative Budgeted Funds Account there is hereby established an Investment Account to be designated “A” Budgeted Funds which account shall be restricted as to income.
- (2) For investment of the receipts, proceeds, funds, and moneys in the “D” Masonic Home Budgeted Funds Account there is hereby established an Investment Account to be designated “D” Budgeted Funds which account shall be restricted as to income.

(s) The investments of the “A” and “D” Budgeted Funds Accounts shall be made with due regard for the monthly



Budgetary requirements of the several Funds and the Corporate Board shall prepare and frequently review statement of monthly Budgetary requirements of the several Funds.

(t) The Corporate Board shall insure that the Registered Investment Adviser(s) or Registered Representative's(s') broker-dealer or its clearing firm provide investment records as provided above. (1999)

(u) The term "Investment Income" as used herein shall mean and include interest received on bonds and other securities and dividends received on stocks and shall be construed to mean profit made on sales of stocks, bonds, or other securities. There shall be no diminution of the principal of Investment Funds by reason of the sale of stocks, bonds, or other securities for less than cost thereof. The amount of any loss resulting from the sale of stocks, bonds, or other securities shall be deducted from the total of interest, dividend, and profit made on sales of stocks, bonds, or other securities, as defined above, and the balance thereof shall first be added to an emergency operating reserve fund, the total is not to exceed the previous two years of investment income needed to fund the Budget, the remainder is to be added to principal. It is the declared intent hereof that the principal of Investment Funds shall not be decreased by reason of any loss resulting from purchase and sale of securities. (2019)

**14.17.5** Each year the Committee on Finance and Accounts shall compute or calculate the proper amounts of Masonic Home (Charity) Funds that should be appropriated in the "D" Masonic Home Budget for transfer to the "A" Administrative Fund as appropriate compensation for services to be performed for the benefit of the Home and the cost thereof paid or provided for payment in the "A" Administrative Fund Budget.

The procedure for computing or calculating the proper amount to be budgeted for such transfer shall be as follows:

(1) The amounts appropriated in the "A" Administrative Fund Budget for the following Budget numbers and purposes shall be added together: 400-Salary, Grand Secretary; 401-Salary, Accounting Assistant; 402-Salary, Grand Treasurer; 403-Other Salaries; 404-Telephone and Telegraph; 406-Postage and Shipping; 409-Taxes-FICA; A-410-Taxes-Unemployment Compensation at 100%; one-half of 411-Rental, Data Processing; 423-Computer Supplies; 423-A-Office Supplies; A-428-Computer Consultant and Management; A-429-Computer Software; and A-430-Training Education.

(2) Add the amounts appropriated for the "A" Administrative Fund and for the "D" Masonic Home and Relief Fund (excluding the Construction Funds) together to find the total of the sums appropriated as operating funds for said "A" and "D" Budgets, hereafter called the Total Budget.

(3) Determine the percentage of the Total Budget of the "A" Administrative Fund Budget and the "D" Masonic Home and Relief Budget that is what percentage of the Total Budget consists of moneys appropriated in the "A" Budget and the percentage of the Total Budget that consists of moneys appropriated in the "D" Budget.

(4) Multiply the percentage that the "D" Masonic Home and Relief Fund bears to the Total Budget (percentage obtained in (3) above) by the total cost of the items (appropriations) enumerated in (1) above. The amount obtained by this multiplication is the amount to be Budgeted in the "D" Masonic Home and Relief Fund Budget for transfer to the "A" Administrative Fund Budget for services rendered and to be paid for from the "A" Administrative Fund.

A specified item in the Budget of each Fund should show the amount to be transferred to or from another Budget Fund. (1986)

### References

(2) The Committee on Finance and Accounts shall meet not later than January 31<sup>st</sup>, each year, to review and study the preliminary report and statements of the auditor of the moneys available for appropriation by the Grand Lodge, and to review the requests for appropriations, and prepare, summarize and submit, without delay, a tentative Budget for the operation of the Grand Lodge for the ensuing year.

(3) The Committee on Finance and Accounts shall not propose a Budget, nor shall a Budget be approved and adopted, for the operation of the "A" The Administrative Fund or "D" The Masonic Home and Relief Fund, for more than the unexpended balance on hand in the Budget account of each of such funds and the Current Revenue Accounts that has been collected for the purpose of each of such funds, and other funds may be allocated by the Grand Lodge. Reg. 14.12 (2) (c-2-3)

(d) The Corporate Board shall cause a copy of the proposed Budget as prepared by the Committee on Finance and Accounts, with amendments, if any, by the Corporate Board together with a simplified statement of the financial condition of the Grand Lodge to be mailed to the Lodges not later than 60 days prior to the Grand Lodge Annual Communication, each year, in order that the Lodges and their representatives may have ample time to consider it before the meeting of the Grand Lodge. In event any changes are made in the proposed Budget after it has been submitted to the Lodges and before it is submitted to the Grand Lodge, such changes shall be reported in detail to the representatives in session at the Annual Grand Communication, prior to the adoption of the Budget. Reg. 14.12 (2) (d)

### References

Income from the Masonic Home Endowment Fund may, in the discretion of the Finance and Accounts Committee, be allocated for current Budget requirements or for contingencies in the Masonic Home and Relief Fund Budget. Reg. 14.17.3 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (10)

4. EMERGENCY EXPENDITURES - (a) When, in recess of Grand Lodge, an emergency exists that requires expenditure of funds of a Reserve Account or Accounts or Reserve Funds of the Grand Lodge the Grand Master and any three other members of the Corporate Board may by written order transfer funds from such Reserve Account or Accounts or Reserve Funds of the Grand Lodge as appropriate Budget items for expenditure as may be required by such emergency, said order to be signed by the Grand Master and by other members of the Corporate Board agreeing thereto. 14.12 (4) (a) (1984)

### FEES

#### Regulations

**14.18** A fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) for use of Grand Lodge, shall be charged for Dispensation to confer Degrees short of time, except in case of Army and Navy personnel; or for the purpose of providing material for Degree work at Grand Lodge Sessions, or a Grand Lodge School of Instruction, or official visitations.

### References

As to Grand Lodge Payroll, see Regulation 12.05

As to mileage and per diem for Grand Communications, see Regulation 12.06

#### Rulings and Decisions

Provisions of Section 9(a) of Article I, also Section 4, Paragraph 3, of Article I which specifies the duties of the Grand Treasurer and Section 9(a) of Article I, Section 10 of Article VI of the Constitution and other Regulations that define the duties and responsibilities of the Grand Secretary as they apply to our financial affairs and it is my ruling that the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary are Corporate Officers for the purpose of signing documents for the disbursement of Grand Lodge Funds as required by Section 9(a) of Article I of the Constitution, June 29, 1984, and by the authority of the Grand Master's Supplemental Report appearing in 1984 Proceedings on pages 144 and 145 and adopted by Grand Lodge on page 146, of the 155<sup>th</sup> Annual Grand Communication. June 29, 1984. (1985 Proc. 200)



## CHAPTER 15

### **GRAND LODGE RELATIONS WITH OTHER JURISDICTIONS CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **Regulations**

**15.01** All Inter-Jurisdictional correspondence shall be sent through the office of the Grand Master, except that requests for “Work by Courtesy” to and from other Grand Jurisdictions may be made through the office of the Grand Secretary.

#### **References**

Correspondence relating to waiver of jurisdiction over rejected material of another Grand Jurisdiction must be handled through office of Grand Master. Reg. 31.19

### **ACTS OF OTHER GRAND JURISDICTIONS**

#### **Regulations**

**15.02** The Grand Lodge of Florida shall give full force and effect to the actions of other recognized Grand Jurisdictions not inconsistent with the jurisprudence of this Grand Jurisdiction.

### **REPRESENTATIVES TO AND FROM OTHER GRAND JURISDICTIONS**

#### **Regulations**

**15.03** The Grand Lodge Representatives are appointed by the Grand Master; their commissions are signed by the Grand Master and Grand Secretary, and require the Grand Lodge Seal.

**15.04** No one is eligible to the office of Representative in this Grand Jurisdiction, or from it to others, but members of the Grand Lodge to which the Representative is accredited, and continuous residence and good Masonic standing in his accredited Grand Jurisdiction are requisite to continue in office.

**15.05** When the Representative in Florida of a Sister Grand Lodge takes a dimit from his Lodge and remains willfully unaffiliated for twelve months or more, he thereby vacates that appointment and the Grand Secretary should notify the appointing power under the direction of the Grand Master.

**Digest of Masonic Law**

**CHAPTER 16**

**PARTICULAR LODGES - NAME AND NUMBER;  
CONSOLIDATION**

**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Regulations**

**16.01** Newly Chartered Lodges hereafter shall be numbered chronologically, the newest Lodge taking the next number above the last Lodge Chartered. No Lodge in Florida shall be named after any living man, and no Lodge in Florida shall bear the number "8". (Historical note regarding the "Number 8" inhibition: Orion Lodge No. 8, for the last one hundred years a Georgia Lodge, was Chartered by The Grand Lodge of Florida at Pleasant Grove, Georgia, near the Florida line, in 1839. Two years later, without consent of either Grand Body, the Lodge moved to Decatur, now Bainbridge, Georgia. When this fact came to the attention of The Grand Lodge of Georgia much indignation was expressed and a Resolution was adopted officially declaring Orion Lodge to be a Lodge of Clandestine Masons. Explanations followed and the matter was adjusted in a fraternal spirit of amity and good will. Florida released its claim on Orion Lodge and Georgia received it in full fellowship, and to cement the bond of good will and good fellowship, Florida resolved that no other Florida Lodge should bear the number "8," and as a further gesture of good will, elected the Masters and Wardens of Orion Lodge No. 8 honorary members of The Grand Lodge of Florida in perpetuity. In the same spirit, Georgia resolved that Orion Lodge should continue to work under the Charter granted by The Grand Lodge of Florida, endorsed by The Grand Lodge of Georgia. And so we see the anomaly of a Lodge of Masons working in another Grand Jurisdiction under and by virtue of authority granted by The Grand Lodge of Florida more than 100 years ago.)

**16.02** When the name of a Chartered Lodge has been changed, the new name cannot be inserted in the old Charter. The Charter must be surrendered and a new one obtained, or a properly certified action of the Grand Lodge be appended to the old Charter.

**CONSOLIDATED LODGES**

**Regulations**

**16.03** (a) When two or more contiguous Lodges deem it to their interest and to the interest of Masonry to consolidate and become one Lodge, they do so by proceeding as follows:

A Resolution in writing proposing consolidation and naming the Lodges to be consolidated shall be offered at a Stated Communication of each Lodge concerned, and shall lie over for at least one month in each and every such Lodge.

(b) If the majority of the members present at the next Stated Communication of each and every Lodge concerned, held after said Resolution shall have laid over for a month as herein above specified, vote in favor of the Resolution, the members of each Lodge so voting by a majority vote in favor of such Resolution, shall be furnished a copy of the Resolution. Same to be sent by mail to their last known address with notice that final action will be taken on said Resolution at a Stated Communication of said Lodge or Lodges on a date to be specified in said notice, which said date shall be not less than ten (10) days after the date of the mailing of said notice.

(c) If three-fourths of the members of a Lodge so concerned with such Resolution, at a Stated Communication of said Lodge held on the date specified in the notice hereinabove mentioned, vote in favor of such consolidation, the Secretary of each Lodge so voting favorably shall notify the Grand Master. If the Grand Master approves of said consolidation, he shall give written notice thereof to each Lodge affected and the consolidation of the Lodges so voting in favor of same shall become effective from date of such approval.

(d) The name of the new or consolidated Lodge may be the name and number of either of the Lodges participating in the consolidation, or a combination name derived from the names of the Lodges participating, and shall be selected or agreed upon by a majority vote of the membership of the new or consolidated Lodge at the first Stated Communication of said Lodge held after said consolidation becomes effective. However, the Lodges participating in the consolidation may propose a name and number for the new or consolidated Lodge by including same in said proposed Resolution of consolidation, and in the event said name and number is so specified and said Resolution becomes effective, the name and number so specified in said Resolution shall be the name and number of said new or consolidated Lodge. If the membership of said new or consolidated Lodge does not agree upon a new name and number for said Lodge, or desire to do so, the selection of a name and number for said Lodge may be referred to the Grand Master for his decision.

(e) When said consolidation becomes effective, a new Charter shall be issued reciting the fact of such consolidation and the name and number of said Lodge. No fee shall be payable therefore.

(f) The Charters and Seals of the consolidating Lodges shall be surrendered to the Grand Secretary. The new or consolidated Lodge shall acquire the title to all funds and the property of said consolidating Lodges, and shall assume responsibility for all Grand Lodge dues and assessments and all other debts and liabilities of the consolidating Lodges.

(g) All members of the consolidating Lodges shall upon said consolidation becoming effective automatically become members of the consolidated Lodge, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof.

(h) Nothing herein contained shall vary or affect the right of a member in good standing of any of the Lodges concerned in said consolidation to demand his dimit at any time from his Lodge of original membership prior to the effective date of said consolidation, or from said consolidated Lodge after the date of said consolidation. Any such demand must be made conformably to the requirements of the Laws, Rules, and Regulations of The Grand Lodge of Florida.

(i) The terms of all Officers of the consolidating Lodges shall terminate as of the date when such consolidation is effective, and the Masters and Wardens of such Lodge shall be considered as having served the full term of their respective offices.

(j) At the first Stated Communication of said Consolidated Lodge, the Grand Master, District Deputy Grand Master, or the Master of the oldest Lodge concerned, shall open a Lodge of Master Masons and hold an election for Officers of said consolidated Lodge. The Appointive Officers shall be named, Officers installed, By-Laws proposed, and all other organization details attended to conformably to the Laws and Regulations of this Grand Jurisdiction. The Officers so elected and appointed for said Consolidated Lodge shall serve until the end of the current Masonic year and at the end of said year shall be deemed and considered to have served a full regular term in said offices.

### MERGER OF LODGES

**16.04** When two or more Lodges in a Masonic District deem it in the best interest of said Lodges and of Freemasonry to merge and become one Lodge, they may do so by the following procedures:

(a) A Resolution in writing proposing the merger shall be prepared, which Resolution shall set forth therein the following:

- (1) A recital of the facts and circumstances which are deemed sufficient ground for the proposed merger.



- (2) The names of the Lodges proposing to merge.
- (3) Which Lodge shall retain its Name and Charter, which shall be referred to as the continuing Lodge, and which Lodge or Lodges shall surrender its or their Charter, which Lodges shall be referred to as the merging Lodge or Lodges.
- (4) The proposed plan or program for transfer of the funds and property to and the assumption of liability by the continuing Lodge.
- (5) The proposed plan or program for preserving the records, papers, documents, and similar items of the Lodge or Lodges being merged.
- (6) The proposed schedule for implementing the merger which shall specify in detail the approximate dates of presentation of the proposed Resolution to the several Lodges involved, presentation of the same to Grand Master for approval or disapproval as hereinafter provided and date for final merger.

(b) The foregoing Resolution shall be prepared and signed by a majority of the Elected Officers of each of the Lodges involved and, after due notice to the Craft, shall be presented to all involved Lodges for approval by majority vote of those present at a Stated Communication. It shall then be presented to the Grand Master on or before the proposed date for such presentation specified in the Resolution.

(c) The Grand Master shall review the Resolution and enter such order thereon as he may be advised, either approving or disapproving the Resolution or approving it with modification or with additional provisions, including a new schedule for progress of the proposed merger.

(d) Upon approval by the Grand Master, the Resolution shall be read to the Lodges involved at a Stated Communication and if approved by majority vote of the members present and voting in each Lodge, the Resolution shall be laid over in each of such Lodges for not less than one month nor more than two months, and if upon due notice it is adopted by three-fourths vote of the members present and voting at a Stated Communication of each Lodge involved in the merger, the proceedings for merger shall progress as specified in the order of the Grand Master.

(e) Nothing herein shall be construed to vary or affect the right of a member in good standing and any of the Lodges involved in the merger to demand and receive his dimit or transfer certificate at any time in accordance with the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge.

(f) Upon the merger being fully effective, the members of the merging Lodge or Lodges shall automatically be and become members of the Lodge into which the other Lodges are merged with the same rights and privileges they enjoyed in the merging Lodge or Lodges.

(g) Upon completion of the procedure for merger, the Charter of the merging Lodge or Lodges shall be surrendered to the Grand Lodge and such Charter or Charters shall be deemed recalled and revoked.

(h) A copy of the Resolution and a statement of the proceedings shall be filed with the Grand Secretary at the time of surrender of the Charter or Charters, and then presented to all involved Lodges for approval, by majority vote, at a stated meeting and due notice to the Craft. It shall then be presented to the Grand Master on or before proposed date for such presentation specified in the Resolution. (1991)

## CHAPTER 17

### PARTICULAR LODGES-CHARTERS

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS

##### **Constitutional Provisions**

The Grand Lodge has the power to constitute new Lodges, and grant Charters or Warrants of Constitution for the same, and has the supervision and approval of the By-Laws of the Particular Lodges, and therefore may adopt a Uniform Code of By-Laws for their government, *provided*, that local Regulations for the benefit of the Craft be not interfered with. (Art. V, Sec. 4)

The Grand Lodge has the power to suspend the Charter of any of the Particular Lodges or of arresting or withdrawing the Charter of any of the Particular Lodges for good cause shown; and when a Lodge forfeits or surrenders its Charter, the Grand Lodge succeeds to all its furniture, jewels, funds, books, papers, and other property, and may appoint some proper Officer to take charge of the same for the benefit of the Craft; *provided*, that when the Charter of a Lodge is restored, all its furniture, jewels, books, papers, and other property, shall also be restored. (Art. V, Sec. 5)

##### **References**

See also: U.D. Lodges; Chapter 42

### GRANT OF CHARTER

#### **Regulations**

**17.01** A Charter for the establishment of a Lodge can be granted only by the Grand Lodge in Annual Grand Communication, and the Master and Wardens must be duly installed before they proceed to work.

##### **References**

The Grand Secretary shall keep in a book for that purpose, a record of all Charters hereafter issued. Reg. 9.12

### NEW CHARTERS

##### **References**

When a Lodge changes its name a new Charter must be issued. Reg. 16.02  
When there is a consolidation of Lodges a new Charter shall be issued. Reg. 16.03

### References

A Lodge Charter is constructively in possession and control of the Master. Reg. 20.15

## LOST, STOLEN, OR DESTROYED CHARTERS

### Regulations

**17.02** When a Charter is lost or destroyed, the Grand Master may order a certified copy thereof to be issued in lieu of the original. (As to forfeiture of Charter see Constitution, Article X, Section 22)

### References

Grand Master may grant Dispensation for Lodge to continue work when Charter is lost, stolen, or destroyed. Reg. 6.12 (a)

## SURRENDER OF CHARTER

### Regulations

**17.03** Charters of the Particular Lodges may be surrendered to the Grand Secretary by vote of the Lodge for safekeeping, and a duplicate or certified copy of the Charter issued to the Lodge, when directed by the Grand Master. A fee in the amount of the actual cost thereof shall be paid to the Grand Secretary's Office for its services in this connection for the use of the Grand Lodge. (1985)

**17.04** The Charter of a Lodge may be surrendered in the following manner: Motion to that effect may be made at a Stated Communication of the Lodge. The motion must then lie over for a final action at succeeding Stated Communication. Within two days from the time of the making of the motion, the Secretary shall mail to each and every member a notice that motion has been made for the surrender of the Charter of such Lodge, and that said motion will be voted on at the next Stated Communication of the Lodge, naming the day and hour when said Communication will be held. At such Communication, the motion shall be submitted to the Lodge, and if a majority of the members present vote in favor of the surrender, said surrender shall take place. If for any reason the Master defers voting upon such motion, the members shall be given additional notice of the Stated Communication when said motion will be submitted for a vote of the Lodge.

### Rulings and Decisions

Regulation 17.03 provides procedure for depositing with the Grand Secretary of original Charter and securing duplicate or certified copy for use in the Lodge. In view of

this provision of our law, action by a Lodge to make photostats of original Charter and deposit original Charter in deposit box in local bank would be improper. (1959 Proc. 52, 164)

The Master of a Lodge cannot arbitrarily disband a Lodge and surrender its Charter. Reg. 20.16

### **ARREST OR FORFEITURE OF CHARTER RESTORATION THEREOF**

#### **Constitutional Provisions**

The Master and Wardens of a Lodge cannot be tried by the Lodge; but complaint may be made against them or either of them to the Grand Master by not less than seven members of the Lodge, and he may investigate the matter, and file charges or direct that charges be filed for Grand Lodge Trial as provided by Grand Lodge Regulations. The Grand Master may suspend the accused from office pending trial of the charges. (1985) (Art. X, Sec. 5)

Every Lodge must make full and complete Return of the proceedings annually to the Grand Lodge, with the names of its Officers and members, and a statement of all dues, signed by the Master, and countersigned by the Secretary, under the Seal of the Lodge; and without such Returns made, and payment or remission of all dues, no Lodge shall be entitled to representation in the Grand Lodge. And every Lodge failing to be represented in the Grand Lodge for two consecutive years shall forfeit its Charter; *provided*, that if such defaulting Lodge shall, on or before the next Annual Communication, make full Returns and payment of dues to the Grand Secretary, and satisfactory explanation to the Grand Lodge, or in the recess to the Grand Master, such forfeiture shall be released and the Lodge restored to its regular standing. (Art. X, Sec. 22)

#### **Regulations**

**17.05** When a Lodge is in contempt its Charter may be arrested.

**17.06** When a Lodge fails to make Returns to the Grand Secretary for two consecutive years and two Annual Grand Communications have been convened, the Charter is forfeited, but may be restored for good cause.

**17.07** When a Lodge surrenders its Charter and twelve or more Master Masons petition for the restoration of said Charter, the Grand Lodge or its authority, upon being satisfied from the facts and reasons set forth that the best interests of Masonry will thereby be served, will

grant the prayer of the petitioners, and the authority restoring the Charter will make provisions for officering the Lodge.

**17.08** When the Charter of a defunct Lodge is restored, such restoration reinstates to membership only the petitioners therefore.

**17.09** After a Particular Lodge has remained defunct for five (5) years, the reestablishment of a Particular Lodge in that jurisdiction shall be by petition for U.D. Lodge.

### **Rulings and Decisions**

When John F. Dunn Lodge No. 82 merged with Marion Lodge No. 19 and took the name Marion-Dunn Lodge No. 19, Dunn Lodge No. 82 ceased to exist and the Charter to John F. Dunn Lodge No. 82 had no further validity and the act of the Grand Secretary in endorsing the action of the Grand Lodge on the Dunn Lodge Charter was merely a recital of a historical fact. The Charter of Marion Lodge No. 19 endorsed by the Grand Secretary in 1900 is the valid and existing Charter of Marion-Dunn Lodge No. 19. (1983 Proc. 115)

### **References**

The Grand Master during recess of Grand Lodge may restore a Charter or arrest or suspend a Charter until next Annual Communication. Reg. 6.02

As to Right of Members of Defunct Lodge, see Chapter 43

As to Property of Defunct Lodge, see Chapter 43

## CHAPTER 18

### PARTICULAR LODGES-JURISDICTION

#### Constitutional Provisions

The Particular Lodges are the source and foundation of all Symbolic Masonry, and possess inherent rights and powers, sanctioned by immemorial custom and usage, which never can be changed or altered. (Art. X, Sec. 1)

#### TERRITORIAL

#### Constitutional Provisions

The Grand Lodge, shall, by regulation uniformly applicable to all Lodges prescribe, define, and regulate the jurisdiction of Lodges in regard to accepting and receiving petitions for the Degrees, administering Masonic justice and for all other purposes. (Art. X, Sec. 17).

#### Regulations

**18.01** A Lodge has jurisdiction over the territory surrounding the Lodge and extending in every direction one-half the distance to the nearest Lodge. A Lodge having concurrent jurisdiction with other Lodges shall notify such other Lodges of reception of petitions for the Degrees and for affiliations and of acceptance or rejection of such petitions.

**18.02** For purposes of receiving petitions for the Degrees, Lodges have concurrent jurisdiction as follows:

- (a) All Lodges meeting in the same building or Temple,
- (b) All Lodges in the same city, town or other incorporated area, and
- (c) All Lodges in the same Masonic District.

**18.03** Any two or more Lodges with contiguous territories, without regard to boundaries of Masonic Districts or of cities, towns, or other incorporated areas, may enter into agreement for concurrent jurisdiction for reception of petitions for the Degrees, which agreement shall be in writing approved by adoption of appropriate Resolution at a Stated Communication of each Lodge by majority vote of members present and voting, and shall be effective upon approval by the Grand Master. Such agreement shall not be construed to impair, restrict, or limit the concurrent jurisdiction of a participating Lodge having concurrent jurisdiction with other Lodges under provisions of Regulation 18.02 nor shall such agreement be construed to enlarge the jurisdiction of Lodges not participating in such agreement.

### **Rulings and Decisions**

City of Jacksonville is incorporated area embracing all territory of Duval County and all Lodges therein have concurrent jurisdiction. (1972 Proc. 52, 258)

Regardless of Masonic District lines, Lodges in corporate limits of Jacksonville have concurrent jurisdiction. (1952 Proc. 29)

Where petitioner lives nearer to other Lodges than the one he petitions, it is not necessary to secure waiver of both such Lodges but only to secure waiver of jurisdiction of Lodge having jurisdiction. (1946 Proc. 38)

A Lodge shall not use general Trestleboards or Bulletins to notify other Lodges of rejected petitions for any of the Degrees or affiliation. The notice shall be by sealed first class mail. (1980 Proc. 166)



Lodge Chartered in territory covered by concurrent jurisdictional agreement automatically becomes a party to the jurisdictional agreement. (1965 Proc. 196, 199)

Where a petitioner resides in concurrent jurisdiction of two or more Lodges and petitions a Lodge outside of said concurrent jurisdiction, waiver of jurisdiction is required only from Lodge nearest residence of the petitioner. In the event two or more Lodges meet at a place nearest the residence of the petitioner, waiver should be secured from either of such Lodges. (1966 Proc. 247)

## NEW LODGES

### Constitutional Provisions

The Grand Lodge is clothed with the power of constituting new Lodges upon the Petition of not less than twenty (20) Master Masons. But no Dispensation nor Charter shall issue to a Lodge except upon written consent of the Lodge nearest the place where the new Lodge is to be located and Certificate of the Committee on Work or its duly authorized representative that the Officers and membership of the new Lodge are qualified and capable of conferring the Degrees of Freemasonry.

In the event that two or more Lodges meet at the place nearest the location of the new Lodge, the consent of any one of such Lodges shall be sufficient. (Art. VII, Sec. 1)

### Regulations

**18.04** A new Lodge will not be established within the jurisdiction of a Chartered Lodge against its consent (Constitution, Article VII, Section 1), but the Grand Lodge may recommend a favorable consideration of the subject.

### References

As to Jurisdiction of U.D. Lodges, See Chapter 42.

## PERSONAL

### Regulations

**18.05** When a Lodge lawfully assumes original jurisdiction, it cannot be rudely divested thereof; therefore, no Lodge can lawfully finish work begun by another surviving Lodge without its consent. Jurisdiction may be waived.

**18.06** If an Entered Apprentice of a Florida Lodge removes into another Grand Jurisdiction where a similar rule prevails, or into the jurisdiction of another Lodge in Florida, and wishes to receive



the Fellow Craft Degree where he is, without a desire to transfer his membership or secure his dimit, he should petition his Lodge to request the Lodge in whose jurisdiction he resides to instruct him in the catechism of the Entered Apprentice Degree, and when proficient to confer the Fellow Craft Degree as a courtesy to that Lodge. The same rule applies for advancement to the Master Mason Degree, but one month's time must elapse or intervene between the time of conferring the different Degrees. When the Master Mason Degree is thus conferred the recipient is a member of the Lodge of original jurisdiction. The above rule would not apply to candidates of another Grand Jurisdiction, which did not require that one month's time elapse between the time of conferring the different Degrees, under the law. In such case this Grand Jurisdiction will respect the law of the Sister Grand Jurisdiction. A petitioner who has been elected to receive the Degrees may also receive the Entered Apprentice Degree by courtesy. (1985)

**18.07** The Grand Lodge of Florida claims jurisdiction for its Particular Lodges over the rejected applicants of said Lodges removing to other Grand Jurisdictions, for one year from the date of rejection.

**18.08** There can be no waiver of jurisdiction by a Lodge over a non-Mason who has permanently removed, even recently, to another jurisdiction. The jurisdiction ceases immediately upon a removal intended to be permanent.

### **Rulings and Decisions**

A Lodge jurisdiction over non-Mason ceases instantly when he permanently moves out of its jurisdiction. (1942 Proc. 46)

There can be no waiver of jurisdiction by a Lodge over a non-Mason who has permanently removed, even recently to another jurisdiction. The jurisdiction ceases immediately upon removal intended to be permanent. (1962 Proc. 81, 296)

## **OFFENSES AGAINST MASONIC LAW**

### **References**

Penal Code; Chapter 44

## **WAIVER OF JURISDICTION**

### **References**

Waiver of Jurisdiction; Chapter 34

Balloting on Waiver of Jurisdiction; Chapter 34

Residence Requirements of Candidates; Candidates, Chapter 31



CHAPTER 19  
**PARTICULAR LODGES-OFFICERS**

GENERAL PROVISIONS

**Constitutional Provisions**

The Officers of a Lodge are the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, and Secretary, who must be elected by ballot, and a majority of all the votes cast is necessary to a choice and shall have a current paid dues card for the forthcoming year, or a receipt for the same, prior to installation. The Subordinate Officers are the Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Senior and Junior Stewards, and Tyler, who are appointed by the Worshipful Master, but the Senior Warden has the nomination of the Junior Deacon; and the Worshipful Master may also appoint a Chaplain and a Marshal. (1997) (Art. X, Sec. 2)

**ELIGIBILITY**

**Regulations**

**19.01** In former times no one was eligible to serve a Lodge as its Worshipful Master but the Master, an actual Past Master, a Warden, or Past Warden, but The Grand Lodge of Florida has ruled that a Lodge is the judge of the competency of its own members, and is authorized to elect its Master from the body of the Lodge.

**19.02** Every Officer of a Lodge must be a member thereof, except the Musician and Tyler, and he must be a member of some Lodge. (2005)

**19.03** No Brother shall be elected or appointed to any office while under charge of unmasonic conduct.

**19.03.1** Every Elected Officer shall have a current paid dues card for the forthcoming year, or a receipt for the same, prior to installation. (1997)

**19.03.2** Every Brother who is nominated and elected to the office of Junior Warden, Senior Warden, and Worshipful Master of any Particular Lodge shall have completed and passed Master Mason Exam I, Master Mason Exam II, and Master Mason Exam III before his nomination to that office. (2022)

**19.03.3** Every Brother who is nominated and elected to the office of Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, or Junior Warden of any Particular Lodge shall have completed the Masonic Leadership Training and his completion be recorded on his profile at Grand Lodge before his nomination to that office. This shall be done by the Senior Warden by January 2022 and the Worshipful Master by January 2023 in order to provide time to accomplish compliance with this Regulation. (2022)

**Rulings and Decisions**

Any member of a Lodge in good standing is eligible to be elected to Lodge Offices regardless of where he lives. (1951 Proc. 27)

Offices of Secretary and Treasurer can not be held by one person. (1944 Proc. 34, 100)

Since Article X, Section 2 of the Constitution, specifies who are to be the Officers of a Lodge and no provision is made therein for Assistant Treasurer, permission to elect an Assistant Treasurer is denied. (1959 Proc. 51-52; 164)

The Subordinate Officers, who are the Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Senior Steward, Junior Steward, Chaplain, Marshal, Organist, and Tyler, who are appointed by the Worshipful Master, shall also have a current paid dues card for the forthcoming year, or a receipt for the same, prior to installation. (2011 Proc. 142)

## ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT

### Constitutional Provisions

The election and appointment of the Officers of Lodges shall take place at the first Stated Communication in December of each year and such Officers shall be installed on the anniversary of Saint John the Evangelist, or as soon thereafter as practical, and the Officers so elected and installed shall continue in office for one year and until their successors are duly elected and installed unless for good and sufficient reasons the Most Worshipful Grand Master has granted permission for the resignation and authorized an election to fill the vacancy and such other vacancies created by the election; *provided*, that if, from any cause, there should be no election at the time appointed for the annual election, it shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master to order an election at any time before or on the anniversary of Saint John the Evangelist. (Art. X, Sec. 4)

### Rulings and Decisions

~~Section 2 of Article X of the Constitution requires that Lodge Officers be elected by ballot. An election of the Officers of the Lodge or any of them by a show of hands, acclamation, or any other means other than secret ballot renders the election void and offices will be declared vacant if the improperly Elected Officers have been installed. (1966 Proc. 246)~~

If one written nomination is made for one or more office(s) and no other written nomination has been made for such office(s), a motion can be made from the floor to elect the nominated member by acclamation. Once the motion is seconded, the member(s) may be elected by a majority, show of hands vote by the members present, thereby completing the election process. If more than one member is nominated in writing for any office, a majority vote by written ballot is required to complete the election process for that office. (2016 Proc. 120)

The nomination form shall be read at the next Stated Communication after it is received by the Secretary of the Lodge and handled in the same manner as all other correspondence received by the Lodge Secretary and read again on the night of the Election of Lodge Officers. (2017 Proc. 116)

A member of a Florida Lodge may not hold any two or more Offices at the same time in any Lodge of which he is a member. The intent of this Ruling and Decision is to restrict any member from holding more than one Office at a time whether the Office is elected or appointed. (2017 Proc. 116)

### Regulations

**19.04** Dispensations cannot be issued to Lodges to hold their annual election of Officers prior to their first Stated Communication in December, nor to install their Officers prior to December 27<sup>th</sup>, since both are prohibited by Article X, Section 4, of the Constitution.

### References

Grand Master may grant Dispensation for election of Officers in the following cases:

- (a) When election did not take place as provided in Const. Art. X, Sec. 4.
- (b) When Officer-elect remains permanently beyond the Lodge jurisdiction.
- (c) When elective Officer declines installation and one cannot be elected before December 27.
- (d) To fill vacancies in elective offices. Reg. 6.11

### Regulations

**19.05** The Master-elect of a Lodge, and not the retiring Master, has the sole right to appoint all the Officers who are to serve under him, the Senior Warden nominating the Junior Deacon.

### References

It shall be the duty of the Secretary of each Lodge to certify to the Grand Secretary the names of the newly Elected Officers thereof immediately after election. Reg. 22.03

### Rulings and Decisions

Lodge Officers cannot be elected before first Stated Communication in December but may be elected any time up to December 27, but if election is not held during that period, Dispensation to hold election is necessary. (1942 Proc. 54)

Vacancy in office of Lodge Treasurer may be filled pro tempore by the Worshipful Master, but the Lodge may request Dispensation to fill the vacancy by election. (1959 Proc. 54, 160)

## INSTALLATION

### Constitutional Provisions

The last Master, or any Past Master of a Lodge, can install the Master-elect and he then can install the other Officers, but when the Grand Master or Deputy Grand Master or one of the District Deputy Grand Masters is present, it is his privilege to install the Officers. (Art. X, Sec. 9)

### Regulations

**19.06** It is not required for an Officer re-elected or re-appointed to be re-installed, unless a term has intervened. (2021)

**19.07** The Master and Wardens-elect may decline installation, but they cannot resign after being installed unless for good and sufficient reasons the Most Worshipful Grand Master has granted permission for his resignation. (1997)

**19.08** The Officers-elect of a Lodge may be installed at a Called Communication, when duly called for that purpose.

**19.09** Public installation of Officers may hereafter be held by the Lodges in their territorial jurisdictions without Dispensation.

**19.10** The Worshipful Master, any Constitutional Acting Master, or any Past Master may install a Master-elect, but the Master-elect must be installed prior to installation of the other Officers.

**19.11** When a Brother has been duly elected to an office in a Lodge, installation cannot be refused upon the ground of an alleged pecuniary liability to the Lodge, unless charges be preferred.

**19.11.1** A regularly elected and installed Worshipful Master shall be accorded Grand Honors at the time of installation. No Grand Honors shall be accorded the Worshipful Master during public ceremonies of installation but when the Lodge resumes labor after guests and friends have retired from the Lodge Room private Grand Honors shall be accorded the newly installed Worshipful Master.

### References

A regularly elected Master is entitled to Grand Honors at time of his installation. Reg. 5.04

### Rulings and Decisions

Any Elected Officer of a Lodge has a clear right to refuse installation and when such refusal is made, the proper procedure is to request Dispensation to hold a special election to fill the office. (1954 Proc. 70)

Public installation of Officers may be held without Dispensation. (1942 Proc. 55)

It is permissible to use aprons, jewels, and other Lodge paraphernalia in public installation ceremonies. (1954 Proc. 70)

No business or ceremony of any kind is permitted at public meetings other than Installation of Officers. (1952 Proc. 32)

Installation of Officers on December 16 is irregular and proceedings shall abate. (1942 Proc. 55)

It is not the intent of our laws to permit the installation of any Lodge Officer by proxy. (1954 Proc. 59)

Worshipful Master may be installed at home or in hospital when confined thereto because of illness on regular date for installation if the Lodge so desires. (1960 Proc. 124)

Only a Master Mason may take an active part in the Installation Ceremony of the Elected or Appointed Lodge Officers. It shall be the installing Marshal's duty to invest the Officers to be installed with the insignia of his office. (2012 Proc. 143-144)



**TERM, RESIGNATION, SUSPENSION, VACANCIES,  
AND SUCCESSION IN OFFICE****Constitutional Provisions**

The Master and Wardens of a Lodge cannot resign during the year for which they are elected and installed unless for good and sufficient reasons the Most Worshipful Grand Master has granted permission for his resignation. If by death, removal from the jurisdiction, or other cause, the Master becomes incapable to perform the duties of his office, the Senior Warden succeeds to all powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Master, and the Senior Warden's place in the West must be filled by pro tempore appointment, from time to time; and if from any of the like causes the Master and Senior Warden should both be rendered incapable of performing the duties of Master of the Lodge, then the Junior Warden succeeds to all the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Master, and the South must be filled, from time to time, by pro tempore appointment. But the Junior Warden cannot succeed to the seat in the West, when vacant, by absence of the Senior Warden. (1997) (Art. X, Sec. 11)

The election and appointment of the Officers of Lodges shall take place at the first Stated Communication in December of each year and such Officers shall be installed on the anniversary of Saint John the Evangelist, or as soon thereafter as practical, and the Officers so elected and installed shall continue in office for one year and until their successors are duly elected and installed unless for good and sufficient reasons the Most Worshipful Grand Master has granted permission for the resignation and authorized an election to fill the vacancy and such other vacancies created by the election; *provided*, that if, from any cause there should be no election at the time appointed for the annual election, it shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master to order an election at any time before or on the anniversary of Saint John the Evangelist. (1997) (Art. X, Sec. 4)

The Master and Wardens of a Lodge cannot be tried by the Lodge; but complaint may be made against them or either of them to the Grand Master by not less than seven members of the Lodge, and he may investigate the matter, and file charges or direct that charges be filed for Grand Lodge Trial as provided by Grand Lodge Regulations. The Grand Master may suspend the accused from office pending trial of the charges. (1985) (Art. X, Sec. 5)

**Regulations**

**19.12** A Particular Lodge does not have jurisdiction to conduct trial of its Worshipful Master and Wardens in office but charges may be filed against any of them as provided in Regulation 44.77. If the Grand Master shall determine that the charges are in proper form and state an offense against Masonic Law and enters order for Trial Commission as provided in Regulation 44.77, he may in his discretion, suspend the accused from office pending trial and disposition of the charges.

A Particular Lodge has penal jurisdiction over all of its other Officers.  
(1982)

**19.13** Art. X, Sec. 21 of the Constitution, provides that any member of a Lodge can dimit, but Art. X, Sec. 11 makes a distinction between members and Masters and Wardens by inhibiting the resignation of Masters and Wardens during their term of office, and as dimitting has the same force as resigning, so far as giving up office is concerned, it logically follows that Masters and Wardens cannot dimit.

**19.14** The term of office begins with installation and terminates only by regular succession, death, Constitutional removal from office, or Constitutional suspension or expulsion from the Lodge, permanent removal from the Lodge jurisdiction, and forfeiture of Charter.

Any Officer of the Lodge except the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, and Junior Warden may resign with the consent of the Lodge. Appointive Officers of the Lodge may be removed from office by the Worshipful Master for good cause after notice to the Officer and the consent or approval of the Lodge.

**19.15** Permanent removal from the jurisdiction vacates any office, but does not forfeit membership.

**19.16** The offices of Master, Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and District Deputy Grand Master are clearly incompatible with each other and therefore, no two of them can be held by an individual at one and the same time. If a Brother holding any of said offices accepts either of the others, such acceptance is a surrender of the office so held, and it at once becomes vacant.

**19.17** The continuous absence of the Master of a Lodge from its jurisdiction is not sufficient ground for his removal from office. In his absence, the Senior and Junior Wardens, in succession, become Master pro tem, and succeed to the duties of the office.

**19.18** The Master of a Chartered Lodge cannot be a petitioner of a Lodge U.D.

**19.19** The Master and Wardens of a Particular Lodge cannot resign during the year for which they are elected and installed unless for good and sufficient reasons the Most Worshipful Grand Master has granted permission for his resignation. If by death, removal from the jurisdiction of the Lodge, or other causes, the Master becomes incapable to perform the duties of the office, the Senior Warden and in succession the Junior Warden succeeds to all the powers, duties and responsibilities of the Master, and the Senior Warden's place or the Junior Warden's place must be filled by pro tempore appointment from time to time. The Junior Warden cannot succeed to the seat in the West when vacant by the absence of the Senior Warden. Under Article VI, Section 4 of the Constitution, the Grand Master may allow the Lodge to elect a Worshipful Master and fill any vacancies caused thereby if deemed for the good of Masonry. (1997)

**19.20** Vacancies in elective offices (except Worshipful Master), can be permanently filled only by Dispensation, but the Master may make pro tempore appointments from time to time.

**19.21** When a vacancy occurs in the office of Senior or Junior Warden, the station may be filled pro tempore from time to time, or the Grand Master may be asked to grant a Dispensation to elect a successor for the unexpired term.

**19.22** The offices of Master and Grand Master are never vacant, for succession being instant, there is no interim.

### References

Terms of all Officers terminate if Lodges consolidate. Reg. 16.03

### Rulings and Decisions

Temporary absence of Senior Warden from Jurisdiction does not affect his status as Senior Warden. (1944 Proc. 34)

Vacancy in office of Lodge Treasurer may be filled pro tempore by Worshipful Master until next annual election but, by Dispensation, Lodge may hold election to fill such vacancy. (1943 Proc. 77)

Master of Lodge is without authority to remove Junior Warden and likewise without authority to submit question of removal of Junior Warden from office to the members of the Lodge. (1955 Proc. 131)

When the Master of a Lodge regularly elected and installed removes himself permanently from the jurisdiction of the Lodge prior to expiration of his term, and thus vacates the office of Master, he is nevertheless entitled to recognition as and privileges

of a Past Master and may receive Past Master's Degree at Grand Lodge. (1961 Proc. 162, 168, 319)

Senior Warden who succeeds to powers and duties of Master when office of Master is vacated, does not succeed to office of Worshipful Master and is not entitled to receive Past Master's Degree nor receive honors and privileges of Past Master. (1961 Proc. 162, 168, 320)

**(Removed as obsolete.)** (1997)

In all applications for Dispensation to hold election to fill vacancy created by permanent removal of Lodge Officer from Lodge Jurisdiction, the Lodge should, by appropriate letter or certificate signed by the Master and Secretary over the Seal of the Lodge, certify to the Grand Master the facts that created the vacancy. (1970 Proc. 58, 284-285)

**DISCIPLINE**

**References**

The Master cannot be tried by his Lodge during his Mastership. Const. Art. X, Sec. 5, above; Reg. 19.12

**Regulations**

**19.23** All Officers of a Particular Lodge, except the Worshipful Master and the Wardens, are subject to discipline by the Lodge. Grand Lodge has exclusive original jurisdiction of the Worshipful Master and Wardens while in office.

**POWERS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

**References**

- Worshipful Master, Chapter 20
- Wardens, Chapter 21
- Treasurer and Secretary, Chapter 22
- Subordinate Officers, Chapter 23

Digest of Masonic Law

CHAPTER 20

**WORSHIPFUL MASTER**

**As to Eligibility, Election, Installation, Term, Resignation,  
Removal, Vacancies, Succession in Office, and Discipline of  
Master, See Chapter 19**

POWERS AND DUTIES

**LODGE BUSINESS AND WORK**

**Constitutional Provisions**

The Master is supreme in his Lodge and must be held to worship. No appeal can be taken from his decision, nor call for the previous question, nor motion to adjourn, can be entertained. (Art. X, Sec. 6)

Besides the duties inculcated by the unwritten law, and the installation ceremonies, which every Mason should understand, remember, and faithfully perform, there are duties required by the Constitution, of the Worshipful Master, the Wardens, the Treasurer, and Secretary which cannot be neglected without being liable to Masonic censure. (Art. X, Sec. 8)

**Regulations**

**20.01** The Master is supreme in the Lodge, from whose decision an appeal cannot be taken to the Lodge. (Art. X, Sec. 6)

**20.02** The Worshipful Master must be held to worship by the Brethren and be implicitly obeyed in every legitimate official order.

**20.03** The Worshipful Master is limited in his official authority only by his installation vows and Charges, the Constitution, Resolutions, and Edicts of the Grand Lodge, the Rules and Regulations of his Lodge, and the ancient established usages and customs of the Fraternity.

**20.04** The Master's expressed "will and pleasure" is absolute law in his Lodge; yet he should preside, not haughtily, but with dignity, courtesy, and affability.

**20.05** The Worshipful Master guides and controls all the work and business of the Lodge, opens, closes, dispenses, calls off, and calls on at his pleasure.

**20.06** The Master has absolute and supreme control over the work of the Lodge, and when there are two or more applicants for the same Degree elected and waiting at the same time, it is his discretion to direct which shall have precedence.

**20.07** The Worshipful Master cannot order the removal of a disorderly Brother from the Lodge, but may instantly "cease labor" until harmony be restored.

**20.08** It is the prerogative and duty of the Worshipful Master to postpone the transaction of any Lodge business when, from small attendance of the members, or other good reason, the interests of the Craft require it; but, ordinarily, the business should not be delayed solely on account of small attendance.

**20.09** In all matters of extraordinary import there should be a full attendance of the members of the Lodge before final action, and the Worshipful Master should not permit such matters to be hurriedly disposed of by a minority of its members.

**20.10** When any Lodge proceedings are found to be irregular, they shall abate, by order of the Master; but such abatement does not bar any subsequent regular proceedings upon the same subject.

**20.11** If any Brother deems Lodge proceedings irregular, he should in the first instance call them to the attention of the Master, whose duty it is to order irregular proceedings to abate. An application should not be made to the Grand Master until the Master has first had an opportunity to rule upon the question.

**20.12** Smoking in a Lodge Room is prohibited while the Great Lights are open on the Altar.

**20.13** The Master cannot delegate his authority to a Past Master to preside in his absence, for the Senior Warden, or in his absence, the Junior Warden, presides.

**20.14** A Warden, vacating his position as such, or any other Brother, may confer a Degree and give the lecture, or do any part of the work of the Lodge in the presence and at the request of the Master. In this, the Master does not, and cannot, vacate or transfer his authority; but he can always act through any Brother whose assistance or skill he may desire, and the acts thus performed in his presence, and by his authority, are his acts.

### **Rulings and Decisions**

Worshipful Master is not required to follow order of business recited in By-Laws since conduct of Lodge business lies within sound discretion of Worshipful Master. (1946 Proc. 36)

Man claiming to have been suspended N.P.D. twenty (20) years ago applying for and being reinstated when in fact he had been expelled U.M.C. may be stricken from the rolls by order of the Worshipful Master. (1952 Proc. 33)

The Worshipful Master may then change the order of election if deemed appropriate. (1986 Proc. 75)

To follow the "Clean Air Act" any tobacco products, including "E" cigarettes or any other vapor device that emits any substance into the air, are prohibited to be used in the Lodge Room. (2017 Proc. 115)

## APPOINTIVE POWERS

### References

Master appoints Subordinate Officers of Lodge. Const. Art. X, Sec. 2; Chapter 19

## AVOUCHMENT

### References

Master is judge of sufficiency of avouchment. Regs. 40.10, 40.11

## BALLOTING

### References

Master shall order ballot re-spread if first ballot is irregular. Reg. 35.15

### Rulings and Decisions

Worshipful Master has no power to call ballot dark after receiving objection when ballot was clear when spread. (1950 Proc. 72)

## CANDIDATES

### References

Master shall arrest progress if objection arises. Reg. 37.11

Master may defer consideration of petition for Degrees. Reg. 33.03

## LODGE CHARTER

### Regulations

**20.15** The Charter of a Lodge is always constructively in the possession and control of the Master, and should be securely kept in the Lodge; but its temporary absence therefrom will not vitiate the proceedings.

**20.16** It is not in the power of the Worshipful Master to arbitrarily disband a Lodge and surrender its Charter.

### References

The Master may decline to produce Charter to visitor demanding sight of it. Reg. 40.05

### Rulings and Decisions

It is not necessary that the Lodge Charter be physically present at an Outdoor Degree, but it may be represented in the person of the Worshipful Master. (2008 Proc. 107)

## COMMITTEES

### Constitutional Provisions

The Master and Wardens of each Particular Lodge are a standing Committee on Masonic Education their respective Lodge jurisdictions. (2015) (Const. Art. X, Sec. 25)

### Regulations

**20.17** It is competent for the Worshipful Master to attend and direct the deliberations of all the Lodge Committees.

**20.18** If a Committee, or any member thereof, neglects to perform the required duties, the Worshipful Master should promptly discharge him or them so neglecting, and make a new appointment.



### **Rulings and Decisions**

Worshipful Master has absolute authority to appoint all committees except when provided differently by By-Laws. (1951 Proc. 27)

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **References**

The Master may command attendance at any time. Reg. 25.02, 25.07

#### **DIMITS**

#### **References**

Master shall instruct Secretary to issue dimit to applicant therefore if entitled to it. Reg. 41.01  
Dimit shall be signed by Master, countersigned by Secretary, and bear Lodge Seal. Reg. 41.08  
Master cannot dimit. Reg. 19.13

### **PROPERTY OF LODGE**

#### **References**

The Master and Wardens shall not sell, convey, or mortgage Lodge property except by action of the Lodge in Stated Communication after due notice. Reg. 25.05

### **REPRESENTATIVE TO GRAND LODGE**

#### **References**

The Master and Wardens or their proxies are representatives of their Lodge to Grand Lodge. Const. Art. X, Sec. 7; Regs. 29.01, 29.03, 29.04, 29.05

### **PAST MASTER'S DEGREE**

#### **Regulations**

**20.19** A Worshipful Master elected and installed should obtain the Past Master's Degree at the earliest practical period, but the want of it does not bar his right to preside.

### **U.D. LODGES**

#### **References**

The Master of a Chartered Lodge cannot be a petitioner for U.D. Lodge. Reg. 19.18

### **Rulings and Decisions**

Neither the Master nor the Wardens of a Chartered Lodge can become Charter members of a new Lodge during their year in office. (1954 Proc. 61)

### **REVIEW OF ACTS AND DECISIONS**

#### **References**

Any act or decision of the Master may be reviewed by Grand Lodge or by the Grand Master in recess. Reg. 25.46

If proceedings be deemed irregular the matter should be called to the Master's attention and no review thereof should be sought until the Master has had opportunity to rule thereon. Reg. 20.11

**Digest of Masonic Law**

**CHAPTER 21**

**WARDENS**

**As to Eligibility, Election, Installation, Term, Resignation,  
Removal, Vacancies, Succession in Office, and Discipline of  
Wardens, See Chapter 19**

**POWERS AND DUTIES**

**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Constitutional Provisions**

Besides the duties inculcated by the unwritten law and the installation ceremonies, which every Mason should understand, remember, and faithfully perform, there are duties required by the Constitution, of the Worshipful Master, the Wardens, the Treasurer, and Secretary which cannot be neglected without being liable to Masonic censure. (Art. X, Sec. 8)

**Rulings and Decisions**

Temporary absence of Senior Warden from jurisdiction does not affect his status as Senior Warden. (1944 Proc. 34)

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**References**

In the absence of the Master the Senior Warden presides. Reg. 20.13  
Warden highest in authority may call a Communication if Master is absent from Lodge jurisdiction. Reg. 25.08  
Senior Warden, presiding in absence of Master, may call any Brother to the East to do work of Lodge. Reg. 38.22

**PROPERTY OF LODGE**

**References**

The Master and Wardens shall not sell, convey, or mortgage Lodge property except by action of the Lodge in Stated Communication after due notice. Reg. 25.05

**REPRESENTATIVES TO GRAND LODGE**

**References**

The Master and Wardens or their proxies are representatives of their Lodge to Grand Lodge. Const. Art. X, Sec. 7; Regs. 29.01; 29.03; 29.04; 29.05

**DIMITS**

**References**

Wardens of a Lodge cannot dimit. Reg. 19.13

**COMMITTEES**

**References**

The Master and Wardens are a standing Committee on Masonic Education. Const. Art. X, Sec. 25; Chapter 20

## CHAPTER 22

### TREASURER AND SECRETARY

#### As to Eligibility, Election, Installation, Term, Resignation, Removal, Vacancies in Office, Succession in Office, and Discipline of Treasurer and Secretary, See Chapter 19

#### POWERS AND DUTIES

##### Constitutional Provisions

Besides the duties inculcated by the unwritten law and the installation ceremonies, which every Mason should understand, remember, and faithfully perform, there are duties required by the Constitution, of the Worshipful Master, the Wardens, Treasurer, and Secretary which can not be neglected without being liable to Masonic censure. (Art. X, Sec. 8)

#### BOND

##### Regulations

**22.01** The Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, and Secretary of all Particular Lodges, U.D. Lodges, and the Lodge of Research shall be bonded in the amount of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) each. The Corporate Board shall arrange for and purchase the bond. The Grand Secretary shall furnish the surety company information in respect to Lodges and Officers and other information that may be requested by the surety company. Cost of said bond shall be paid from appropriate funds of the Grand Lodge. (1980)

##### Rulings and Decisions

Offices of Secretary and of Treasurer cannot be held by one person. (1944 Proc. 34, 100)

#### DUTIES

##### Regulations

**22.02** The Treasurer is the custodian of the funds of the Lodge, even when only held in trust; therefore, the Secretary should promptly turn over to the Treasurer all moneys received by him for fees.

**22.03** It shall be the duty of the Secretary of each Lodge to certify to the Grand Secretary the names of the newly elected Officers thereof immediately after their election.

**22.04** The Secretaries of Particular Lodges are prohibited from furnishing lists or parts of lists of the members of their Lodges for any purpose, unless with the approval of the Grand Master; *provided* the Secretaries of the Particular Lodges, upon direction of the Worshipful Master, may provide to an appropriate committee names, telephone numbers for texting purposes, and email addresses of the members of the Lodge for courtesy calls, texts, or emails to establish the status of their health and welfare, or to attend meetings or other Lodge activities; also, *provided* that Secretaries may provide to the Worshipful Master, upon his request, a list of all members including their names, addresses, telephone numbers for texting purposes, and email addresses. It shall be construed as unmasonic conduct for solicitation of the members to be made for any private or commercial activity. (2019)

**22.05** The Grand Secretary and the Secretaries of the Particular Lodges, shall provide to appropriate officers of appendant, allied, or affiliated orders and organizations lists of names of persons that for any reason have been removed from the Lodge roll of members and the reason for such removal and such other lists of members as may be approved by the Grand Master. (2021)

If any appendant, allied, or affiliated order or organization wherein membership is predicated upon Masonic membership or relationship to a Mason shall willfully carry on its roll of members a Mason not in good standing in a Particular Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction, or a Grand Jurisdiction recognized by The Grand Lodge of Florida, the same shall constitute grounds for investigation by the Grand Master and report to the Grand Lodge for consideration as to continued recognition of such appendant, allied, or affiliated order or organization.

**22.06** The Secretary of each Particular Lodge shall mail to each member of the Lodge a statement of dues and assessments due to the Lodge between October 15 and December 1, on notices furnished by the Grand Lodge or on printed notices approved by the Grand Secretary as to form and wording, or sent through the Grand Lodge database via USPS on printed notices or electronic delivery to those members requesting an electronic copy. In all cases of printed or electronic delivery via database, all notices shall be approved by the Grand Secretary as to form and wording and shall include voluntary contributions of two cents a day to the Masonic Home Endowment Fund - \$7.30. (2018)

**22.07** Each Particular Lodge shall file return of funds collected for the “Let Your Pennies Make Good Cents” program on forms presented by the Grand Lodge for the following periods. The first period of each year shall begin January 1, extend through months of January, February, and March; the second period of each year shall begin April 1 and extend through the months of April, May, and June; the third period of each year shall begin July 1 and extend through months of July, August, and September; and the fourth and closing period of each year shall begin October 1 of each year and extend through months of October, November, and December.

The Grand Secretary shall mail period return forms in duplicate to the Particular Lodges at least thirty (30) days before end of each period and other forms shall be mailed at least thirty (30) days before expiration of the period of time to which such forms relate.

The Particular Lodges shall file period returns and closing period return within fifteen (15) days after end of such periods and file year summary return at same time as filing closing period return. (1984)

**22.08** When a Particular Lodge is required by any State or Federal law to comply with or make any report or return to any State or Federal agency, the Secretary of the Lodge shall furnish a copy of such report or return to the Grand Secretary at least thirty (30) days prior to the final date of filing of such report or return to the State or Federal agency. If any Particular Lodge is within the class required to file any such report and return but is exempted therefrom, the Secretary of the Lodge shall furnish to the Grand Secretary evidence supporting such exemption, which evidence shall be filed with the Grand Secretary at least thirty (30) days before the final date for filing of the report or return.

The Worshipful Master of each Lodge shall be responsible for enforcement of this Regulation and failure of the Worshipful Master or the Secretary to comply with the provisions of this Regulation shall subject them and each of them to Masonic Discipline.

**22.09** The Lodge is the judge of eligibility of a petitioner for the Degrees and of an applicant for affiliation, and the Secretary of the Lodge shall accept for presentation to the Lodge each, every, and all properly completed petitions for the Degrees, and each, every, and all properly completed applications for affiliation without regard to the Secretary's opinion as to eligibility of the petitioner or applicant.

### Rulings and Decisions

Repealed (1996)

Permission may be granted by Grand Master to a print roster of names without addresses for distribution to members of Lodge. (1952 Proc. 34)

Repealed (1996)

Secretaries of Lodges are not permitted to furnish lists of members to Scottish Rite Bodies. Scottish Rite officials should consult with the Grand Secretary as to status of any member in question. (1941 Proc. 79)

The Secretary of the Lodge is the custodian of the records of the Lodge and should retain custody and control of a petition when it is received by the Lodge during the period of investigation. (1954 Proc. 63)

The Secretary is the custodian of all Lodge records and is responsible for the safekeeping thereof, and if in his judgment the storage or a portion of the records of the Lodge in a fireproof vault in the local bank is necessary and advisable, he has authority so to do with the approval of the Lodge. The Lodge may properly pay the cost of such storage upon the recommendation of the Secretary. (1959 Proc. 53, 164)

It is proper for Lodge to furnish list of membership with names and addresses to an appropriate committee for use in soliciting contributions from the membership to pay for property purchased for Lodge purposes. (1961 Proc. 317)

Regulation 22.06 regarding mailing out statements for dues does not apply to Memorial Lodges. (1962 Proc. 82, 296)

It would be improper for the Grand Master to authorize Lodge Secretaries to furnish lists of Lodge members and their addresses for use in soliciting membership in a Masonic Widows Fund. (1964 Proc. 66, 268)

Permission was properly denied Lodge to turn over lists of names and addresses of members to an unspecified company for purposes of having addressograph plates made. (1966 Proc. 246)

Considering Rulings and Decisions on page 197, Digest of Masonic Law and our present Regulations, it is my Ruling that the Secretary is the sole custodian of all Lodge records and that none other than the Secretary have "unobstructed" access and control of said records. However, it will be the responsibility of the Secretary to furnish or provide access to Lodge records to ONLY the Worshipful Master upon request. Access shall be in the presence of the Secretary or his personal representative, i.e.: the District Deputy Grand Master, a Past District Deputy Grand Master, or a Past Master of his Lodge. Proper instructions will be provided by the Secretary for accountability in case of incapacity of the Secretary or during his absence from the jurisdiction, but under conditions as stated above. Security and safekeeping of the records will be determined by the Secretary. (1985 Proc. 92)

The membership number used to average donations to determine the individual membership contribution of Particular Lodges shall be the total Lodge membership as shown on Annual Returns, including emeritus, life, fifty year, and dual members. (1986 Proc. 72)

### **References**

The Secretary shall promptly turn over to the Treasurer all moneys received by him for fees. Reg. 22.02

The Secretary shall issue dimits upon order of the Master. Reg. 41.01

The Secretary shall countersign dimits. Reg. 41.08

The Secretary shall not put file mark on dimit until accepted. Reg. 41.30

The Secretary shall present petitions of candidates to the Lodge at next Stated Communication after received by him unless deferred by the Master. Reg. 33.03

### **LODGE MINUTES**

#### **References**

As to minutes of the Lodges, see Regs. 25.28; 25.29; 25.30; 25.31; and 25.32

### **FEES**

#### **References**

As to Refunds of Fees for the Degrees, see Chapter 32

### **Rulings and Decisions**

The purpose of the L.Y.P.M.G.C. program is to increase the Masonic Home Endowment Fund; so therefore, only contributions that are made to the Endowment Fund can be credited to a Lodge's total contribution in computing the L.Y.P.M.G.C. Awards. (1984 Proc. 116)

## CHAPTER 23

### SUBORDINATE LODGE OFFICERS

#### **As to Eligibility, Appointment, Installation, Term, Resignation, Removal, Vacancies in Office, Succession in Office, or Discipline of Subordinate Officers, See Chapter 19**

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS

##### **Constitutional Provisions**

The Subordinate Officers of a Lodge are the Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Senior and Junior Stewards, and Tyler, who are appointed by the Worshipful Master, but the Senior Warden has the nomination of the Junior Deacon; and the Worshipful Master may also appoint a Chaplain and a Marshal. (Art. X, Sec. 2)

#### CHAPLAIN

##### **Regulations**

**23.01** The proper position of a Lodge Chaplain is to the left and in front of the Worshipful Master, corresponding to that of the Grand Marshal, in the Grand Lodge.

##### **Rulings and Decisions**

It should be the prerogative and discretion of the Worshipful Master the custom of the Lodge, as to the place where the Chaplain should offer prayer, except during Degree work. When putting on Degree work, it would be time consuming to have the Chaplain go to the Altar after each Degree and also opening and closing the Lodge. (1962 Proc. 83, 296)

CHAPTER 24  
**PARTICULAR LODGES - BY-LAWS**

GENERAL PROVISIONS

**Constitutional Provisions**

Every Particular Lodge has a right to adopt its own By-Laws in conformity to Grand Lodge Regulations, and subject to the supervision of the Grand Lodge. (Art. X, Sec. 10)

The Grand Lodge has the \*\*\* supervision and approval of the By-Laws of the Particular Lodges, and therefore may adopt a Uniform Code of By-Laws for their government; *provided*, that local Regulations for the benefit of the Craft be not interfered with. (Art. V, Sec. 4)

**Regulations**

**24.01** By-Laws are of no validity until approved by the Grand Master, subject to review by the Grand Lodge.

**24.02** A Lodge cannot suspend its By-Laws, or any section of them.

**24.03** Cemetery arrangements and similar matters may be provided by Resolution, and therefore need not be incorporated in the Lodge By-Laws. (1985)

**MATTERS TO BE FIXED IN BY-LAWS**

**DUES AND ASSESSMENTS**

**References**

Dues and assessment must be fixed by By-Laws to be enforceable. Const. Art. X, Sec. 18; Regs. 27.01, 27.02, 27.03, 27.04, and 27.05

Dues of those unable to pay because of infirmities or misfortune may be remitted. Const. Art. X, Sec. 13; Regs. 26.08 and 26.09

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**References**

See Reg. 25.02

**AFFILIATION FEE**

**References**

If affiliation fee is charged it must be fixed by By-Law. Reg. 41.33

A By-Law fixing affiliation fee according to number of years applicant has held his dimit is void. Reg. 41.35

**AMENDMENTS**

**24.04** A Lodge adopting, revising, or amending By-Laws shall forward an original signed by the Worshipful Master and Secretary under the Seal of the Lodge, with



date of approval and date of adoption shown thereon to the Grand Secretary who shall forthwith examine the same as to form, regularity of procedure, and compliance with Masonic Law. If the proposal is found to have been regularly submitted, in proper form, and in compliance with Masonic Law, the Grand Secretary shall retain one copy, and the original and two copies thereof shall be forwarded to the Grand Master for approval or disapproval. Upon approval, the original shall be returned to the Lodge, one copy forwarded to the Grand Secretary for Grand Lodge files, and one copy retained by the Grand Master for his files. If the proposed By-Law is not in proper form or is contrary to Masonic Law or is not properly submitted, the Grand Secretary shall return the same to the Lodge for appropriate action. (2017)

The Committee on Masonic Digest shall, on request of the Grand Secretary, advise with him in regard to proposed amendments.

**UNIFORM CODE OF BY-LAWS  
PARTICULAR LODGES  
GRAND JURISDICTION OF FLORIDA**

**24.05** The following Uniform Code of By-Laws is adopted. The Uniform Code shall become effective immediately upon its adoption. Lodges shall incorporate the provisions of the Uniform Code into their By-Laws without change, variation, or modification; inserting the matter hereafter set forth. In submitting By-Laws for approval Lodges will not include in their proposals the provisions of the Uniform Code but will submit only those additional or supplemental By-Laws they wish to adopt.

Particular Lodges in adopting By-Laws shall adopt the provisions of the Uniform Code without change or variation with authority, however, to insert the following matters:

- (A) In Section 1.01 fill in date of Charter, Name, Number, and location of the Lodge.
- (B) Section 3.02 relating to dual membership is optional with each particular Lodge.
- (C) In Section 3.03(b) the fee for life membership may be fixed at any amount not less than \$400.00.
- (D) In Section 4.01 the amount of dues shall be inserted.
- (E) In Section 5.01 the dates and time of Communications of the Lodge shall be inserted.
- (F) In Section 9.01 the fees for the Degrees shall be inserted.
- (G) In Section 9.02 the fee for affiliation shall be inserted, or if no fee is charged the word "none."

- (H) Lodges wishing to make additional provisions may do so under appropriate section numbers, but such provisions shall not conflict with this Uniform Code, the Regulations of Grand Lodge, nor the Constitution thereof, nor with other recognized Masonic Law.

#### **AUTHORITY**

- 1.01 Charter

#### **JURISDICTION**

- 2.01 Territorial  
2.02 Personal  
2.03 Other Provisions (optional)

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

- 3.01 General  
3.02 Dual (optional)  
3.02.1 Plural Membership (optional)  
3.03 Life (optional)  
3.03.1 Perpetual Membership  
3.04 Honorary  
3.04.1 Honorary Perpetual  
3.04.2 Perpetual Friend Account  
3.04.3 Honorary to Plural Perpetual  
3.05 Emeritus  
3.06 Roll of Members  
3.07 E.A. and F.C. Members  
3.08 Other Provisions (optional)

#### **DUES, SUSPENSION, AND REINSTATEMENT**

- 4.01 Dues  
4.02 Suspension  
4.03 Reinstatement  
4.04 Other Provisions (optional)

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

- 5.01 Stated Communications  
5.02 Dispensing with Stated Communication  
5.03 Change of Hour of Stated Communication  
5.04 Called Communications  
5.05 Notice  
5.06 Business at Called Communications  
5.07 Quorum  
5.08 Festivals  
5.09 Other Provisions (optional)

**OFFICERS**

- 6.01 Officers
- 6.02 Chaplain and Marshal
- 6.03 Duties
- 6.04 Secretary
- 6.05 Treasurer
- 6.06 Reports
- 6.07 Other Provisions (optional)

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

- 7.01 Time of Election
- 7.02 Manner and Method of Election
- 7.03 Other Provisions (optional)

**BUSINESS OF THE LODGE**

- 8.01 Master's Authority
- 8.02 Reconsideration of Vote or Decision
- 8.03 Other Provisions (optional)

**FEES**

- 9.01 Fees for the Degrees
- 9.02 Fee for Affiliation
- 9.03 Other Provisions (optional)

**COMMITTEES**

- 10.01 Committees of the Lodge
- 10.02 Finance Committee
- 10.03 Vigilance Committee
- 10.04 Petitions Committee
- 10.05 Committee on Masonic Education
- 10.06 Board of Relief
- 10.07 Investigation Committee
- 10.08 Committee on Charity
- 10.09 Committee on Lodge Property
- 10.10 Neglect of Committee Duty
- 10.11 Attendance and Direction of Worshipful Master
- 10.12 Other Committees - (optional)

**CHARITY**

- 11.01 Charity Fund
- 11.02 Continued Charity
- 11.03 Other Provisions (optional)

**DISCIPLINE**

- 12.01 Discipline and Procedure

**LODGE FUNDS**

- 13.01 Use of Funds
- 13.02 Custody of the Treasurer
- 13.03 Disbursements
- 13.04 Other Provisions (optional)

**LODGE PROPERTY**

- 14.01 Sale or Conveyance
- 14.02 Construction, Repairs, Financing
- 14.03 Other Provisions (optional)

**AUTHORITY OF GRAND LODGE**

- 15.01 By-Laws Under Authority of Grand Lodge
- 15.02 Grand Lodge Laws Part of By-Laws
- 15.03 Grand Lodge Law Supreme

**AMENDMENTS**

- 16.01 Amendments

**AUTHORITY**

**1.01** Charter.-This Lodge exists by virtue of a Charter, dated \_\_\_\_\_ and named \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_, from The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Florida, and is located \* \_\_\_\_\_ in the county of \_\_\_\_\_ in this state.

(NOTE: \*Fill in the most accurate description of the location as follows:

(a) Street address (if any) in the (City or Town) of (Name) \_\_\_\_\_, or if in a rural area in the (Fractional) of Section \_\_\_\_\_ Township \_\_\_\_\_, Range \_\_\_\_\_ on road (Name or number) \_\_\_\_\_ (Distance) miles (Direction) of (Nearest Town). (2022)

**JURISDICTION**

**2.01** Territorial Jurisdiction.-The territorial jurisdiction of this Lodge shall be determined as provided by the Constitution and Regulations of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Florida.

**2.02** Personal Jurisdiction.-This Lodge preserves the inherent right of exclusive, original jurisdiction over all its members wherever they may reside and over all Masons, to whatever Lodge they may belong, and over all dimitted Masons living within its jurisdiction subject only to the original and concurrent jurisdiction of The Grand Lodge of Florida.

**2.03** Other Provisions.- (Optional)

### MEMBERSHIP

**3.01** General.-All Master Masons whose names are now upon the roll of members, and who shall hereafter petition and receive the Third Degree in, or affiliate with, this Lodge, shall be members thereof.

**3.02** Dual.-Any member in good standing of a Particular Lodge in a Grand Jurisdiction with which The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Florida sustains fraternal relations, and the laws of which do not prohibit dual membership, may petition this Lodge for affiliation without dimitting from his home Lodge; in such petitions all facts and circumstances upon which such petition is based, and the reasons for the dual membership thereby sought, shall be fully stated; upon the reception of such petition it shall take the usual course with respect to investigation and voting, and be subject to the same requirements as to vouchers as a regular petition based upon a regular dimit; *provided* if such petition for affiliation be voted upon favorably such petitioner shall thereupon become a member of this Lodge, vested with all the rights and privileges of membership and be subject to the discipline of the Lodge; *provided further*, that upon the suspension, or expulsion, of such member by the Lodge of which he was a member prior to applying for dual membership as above provided for, such member shall be automatically suspended or expelled from this Lodge; *provided further*, that in the event that a member receiving the privileges of dual membership in this Lodge, shall take his dimit from his Lodge of original membership, it shall be his duty to place such dimit and his full membership in this Lodge; and upon his failure to do so, and satisfactory evidence having been presented to this Lodge of such failure, it shall be the duty of this Lodge to suspend such member from membership. (Optional) (1997)

**3.02.1** Plural Membership.-A member in good standing of a Particular Lodge in Florida may petition this Lodge for affiliation without dimitting from his home Lodge; regardless of any action that his home Lodge may or may not have taken with respect to accepting Plural Members. In such petition all facts and circumstances upon which such petition is based, and the reasons for the plural membership thereby sought, shall be fully stated; upon the reception of such petition it shall take the usual course with respect to investigation and voting, and be subject to the same requirements as to vouchers, as a regular petition based upon a regular dimit. If such petition for affiliation be voted upon favorably, such petitioner shall thereupon become a member of this Lodge, vested with all the rights and privileges of membership, and be subject to the discipline of the Lodge, except, that such member shall not be eligible to be elected or appointed an Officer in more than one Particular Lodge at one and the same time; and *provided further*, that upon suspension, or expulsion, of such member by any Lodge of which he is a member, such member shall be automatically suspended or expelled from this Lodge; *provided further*, that in the event that a member receiving the privileges of plural membership shall take his dimit from his Lodge of original membership, it shall be his duty to place such dimit, and his full membership, in a Particular Lodge in this

Grand Jurisdiction in which he shall have received the privileges of plural membership; and upon his failure to do so, and satisfactory evidence having been presented to this Lodge of such failure, it shall be the duty of this Lodge to suspend such member from membership. (Optional) (2004)

### 3.03 Life.-

(a) Life memberships shall be of three classes:

(1) Life membership conferred by the Lodge upon payment of a fixed fee therefore which life membership shall exempt the recipient from payment of Grand Lodge Annual Revenue.

(2) Life membership conferred by the Lodge without payment of fee therefore which exempts recipient thereof from payment of Grand Lodge Annual Revenue, and

(3) Life membership conferred by the Lodge which does not exempt the recipient thereof from payment of Grand Lodge Annual Revenue, and

(b) No life membership conferred for payment of fixed fee therefore and which shall exempt the recipient thereof from payment of Grand Lodge Annual Revenue may be conferred for a fee of less than \*\$ \_\_\_\_\_ dollars, which fee, in whatever amount fixed, shall be deposited or invested as hereinafter set forth.

(NOTE: \*Insert amount, which must be not less than \$400.00.)

(c) No life membership which exempts recipient thereof from payment of Grand Lodge Annual Revenue may be conferred by the Lodge without payment of fee therefore except upon the condition that the Lodge immediately set aside from its own funds for deposit or investment as hereinafter provided a minimum sum of two hundred (\$200.00) dollars except where the amount already in reserve funds is sufficient to equal two hundred (\$200.00) dollars per life membership at all times.

(d) All funds derived from fees for life memberships and all funds set aside by the Lodge upon conferring life membership without payment of fee therefore shall be invested in bonds of the United States of America or deposited in savings accounts in institutions where such savings accounts are insured or in such other securities or stocks as shall be approved by the Grand Lodge, the interest derived from such deposit or investment to be deposited in the General Fund of the Lodge.

(e) Upon the death, expulsion, dimit, or disappearance of a life member as provided in Regulation 26.06 the Lodge may withdraw the deposit provided for such life member or dispose of the government bonds purchased with the proceeds thereof and return said funds to the general funds of the Lodge.

(f) This Lodge may confer life memberships which do not exempt the recipient thereof from payment of Grand Lodge Annual Revenue without requiring any payment therefore by the life member or without making any deposit or investment by the Lodge.

(g) Each life membership of this Lodge shall be issued an annual card evidencing such life membership.

(h) No life membership conferred by this Lodge shall exempt such Lodge from payment of Grand Lodge Annual Revenue. (Optional)

**3.03.1** Perpetual.-Perpetual Memberships are authorized by Particular Lodges subject to the following terms and conditions:

(a) Any member or Plural Member in good standing and possessing a current dues card in a Particular Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction may become a Perpetual Member of his Lodge pursuant to the provisions of this section. (2003)

(b) The member desiring a Perpetual Membership shall apply to the Secretary of his Lodge for such a membership on forms prescribed by the Grand Lodge and shall tender therewith a minimum sum of twenty (20) times the annual dues of his Lodge at the time of the application, but in no event less than twenty (20) times the minimum dues prescribed in Regulation 24.05, Section 4.01 of the Uniform Code of By-Laws. The Lodge Secretary shall complete his part of the application and shall forward the same, together with the full fee due, to the Grand Secretary. The date of the application shall be the date the Grand Secretary certified he received the application.

(c) The application shall be signed by the applicant and have the certification of the Lodge Secretary. The application shall not become effective until the applicant's record has been certified by the Grand Secretary. The application shall contain thereon the computations upon which the Perpetual Membership fee is predicated. If the Grand Secretary determines that the minimum fee tendered by the applicant is in excess of that required, he shall have the power to correct the application and the Lodge Secretary's computations of the fee, accept the application as corrected and refund any excess fee to the applicant through the Particular Lodge Secretary. If the fee tendered is insufficient, the Grand Secretary shall return the application and fee to the constituent Lodge Secretary for correction and resubmittal. A copy of the completed and accepted Perpetual Membership application and a Certificate of Perpetual Membership shall be furnished to the applicant and his Lodge by the Grand Secretary. These provisions shall be construed so as to permit the Grand Secretary to use computerized records.

(d) After the Perpetual Membership application and fee have been received and accepted by the Grand Secretary, the Perpetual Membership fee shall not be refundable except under circumstances determined by the Grand Secretary to be mistakes of fact rendering the applicant ineligible for Perpetual Membership as of the date of the application.

(e) After the applicant's Perpetual Membership has been accepted by the Grand Secretary, the Perpetual Membership shall be paid over to the Grand Treasurer as required in Article VI, Section 10 of the Constitution. The funds shall be placed collectively in restricted Perpetual Membership accounts. These funds shall be accounted for on an individual Lodge basis, listing the amount a person paid into the fund for both Lodge dues and Grand Lodge per capita and any assessments in effect. The funds shall be accounted for separately, by the Grand Treasurer, from all other Grand Lodge funds. The funds shall be audited annually as required in Article XIV, Section 7.

(f) A perpetual member shall owe no further dues to the Lodge of which he is a perpetual member. A dues card shall be issued by the Grand Secretary who shall denote Perpetual Membership thereon. (Reg. 26.11) (2017)

(g) The Perpetual Membership fee, less any amount required to supplement net income to pay the constituent Lodge the first year's dues and per capita, shall be considered principal and shall never be spent. Net profit or loss from the sale of securities shall mean the profit or loss realized from the sale of securities. Earned Income shall mean the interest and dividends received reduced by any net loss realized from the sale of securities. The net profit from the sale of securities plus earned income shall be allocated to a sub-account for each member's account. Net income shall mean earned income plus 60% of the net profit from the sale of securities, less administrative costs. The net income, but not less than five percent (5%) of the fair market value of all assets in the Perpetual Membership Fund, shall be paid proportionately annually to each constituent Lodge for each perpetual member at the time of per capita billing. The amount paid shall first be deducted from the sub-account, as to each member, and, if that is insufficient, then from any existing separate "Capital Gains" account. Allocations shall be based on the principal in each member's account, plus the sub-account of each member as of the beginning of each year, all as shall be equitably determined by the Grand Secretary. (2001)

(h) The Grand Secretary shall, at the time of the annual net income distribution, submit a statement to the Lodge for an amount covering the proportionate per capita and assessment in effect at the time the member joined the plan. The Lodge shall, during the member's lifetime and thereafter, pay to the Grand Lodge the amount designated by the Grand Secretary's per capita statement. (2001)

(i) The obtaining of a Perpetual Membership in one Lodge by a dual member shall have no effect on his membership in the other Lodge to which he belongs. Dual Perpetual Memberships are permitted.

(j) A perpetual member may affiliate under Chapter 41 of the Digest of Masonic Law. If the affiliation is within this Grand Jurisdiction the entire Perpetual Membership he originally paid shall be transferred to the account of the Lodge to which he affiliates. If the affiliation is outside this Grand Jurisdiction the entire Perpetual Membership fee shall remain with the Lodge of which he was a perpetual member.

(k) Any Certificate of Good Standing issued under Regulation 41.13 of the Digest of Masonic Law to a perpetual member shall be endorsed thereon the fact that the holder is a perpetual member and the amount of the Perpetual Membership fee which shall be transferred to the Particular Lodge in Florida with which he affiliates.

(l) If a perpetual member shall be suspended, expelled, or withdraws and is subsequently restored to good standing, or re-affiliates from out of State, his Perpetual Membership shall be deemed to be also restored.

(m) If a Lodge consolidates, surrenders its Charter or has its Charter arrested, the funds credited to that Lodge in the Perpetual Membership fund shall follow the members according to the relevant Sections of the Constitution and Laws and Uniform Code dealing with consolidations, surrendering, and arrests of Charters.



(n) A Memorial Perpetual Membership may be purchased by any person for a deceased Entered Apprentice Mason, Fellow Craft Mason, or Master Mason of a Florida Lodge by following the same procedures as outlined in this section. The minimum fee shall be \$200.00 (two hundred dollars). The total amount of net income derived therefrom shall be paid annually, seventy-five (75) percent to the Lodge through which the application was processed and twenty-five (25) percent to The Grand Lodge of Florida on the first \$500 (five hundred dollars) of principal. All net income earned on principal over \$500 (five hundred dollars) shall be returned to the Lodge. Net income derived therefrom shall be returned to the Lodge at the time of the per capita billing. (2001)

(o) A Brother, at any future time, may add any amount to his Perpetual Membership fee through his local Lodge Secretary.

(p) Applications for Perpetual Membership shall be on forms prescribed by the Grand Lodge and the Grand Secretary shall provide all forms required for the implementation of this section.

(q) Where perpetual members have not been heard from for more than seven (7) years, the Worshipful Master shall direct the Secretary to report the names of such missing Brethren to the Grand Lodge on the membership report form as being deceased. Their names shall then be transferred to the rolls of deceased Perpetual Membership, but, this action shall have no effect on the amount of money paid the Lodge and Grand Lodge for that perpetual member as set forth in sub-sections (g) and (h).

(r) There shall be no cost to the Constituent Lodge for administration of this program by the Grand Lodge. (1988)

(s) An Honorary Perpetual Membership may be purchased by any person in honor of a living or deceased Master Mason by following the procedures provided for by Regulations concerning Honorary Memberships and as outlined in this section. The minimum fee for an Honorary Perpetual Membership shall be two hundred dollars (\$200). The total amount of net income derived therefrom shall be paid annually, seventy-five (75) percent to the Lodge through which the application was processed and twenty-five (25) percent to The Grand Lodge of Florida on the first \$500 (five hundred dollars) of principal. All net income earned on principal over \$500 (five hundred dollars) shall be returned to the Lodge. Net income derived therefrom shall be returned to the Lodge at the time of the per capita billing. (2001)

(t) A Perpetual Membership may be purchased by a 50-year Master Mason who meets the provisions of Regulation 26.12(d) by following the same procedures as outlined in this section. The minimum fee shall be \$200.00 (two hundred dollars) the total amount of net income derived therefrom shall be paid annually, seventy-five (75) percent to the Lodge of which he is a member and twenty-five (25) percent to the Grand Lodge on the first \$500.00 (five hundred dollars) of principal. All net income earned on principal over \$500.00 (five hundred dollars) shall be returned to the Lodge at the time of per capita billing. (2001)

#### References

As to the Perpetual Membership Installment Plan, see Reg. 26.05.2.

**3.04** Honorary.-Distinguished and revered Masons may be made honorary members of this Lodge by unanimous ball ballot at a Stated Communication after having been proposed for membership by Resolution at some previous Stated Communication. Such membership imposes no duties or responsibilities and confers no rights or privileges except the right of visitation and speaking from the floor. Honorary memberships may be revoked by majority vote at any Stated Communication.

**3.04.1** Honorary Perpetual.-Distinguished and revered living or deceased Masons of this or another Grand Jurisdictions recognized by The Grand Lodge of Florida may be made Honorary Perpetual Members of this Lodge by unanimous ball ballot at a Stated Communication after having been proposed for membership at some previous Communication. Honorary Perpetual Memberships may be revoked by majority vote at any Stated Communication in which case all funds credited to his account shall be transferred to The Masonic Home Endowment Fund.

The minimum fee for an Honorary Perpetual Membership shall be two hundred dollars (\$200.00) and must conform to Regulation 3.03.1 of the Uniform Code of By-Laws. The total amount of net income derived therefrom shall be paid annually, seventy-five (75) percent to the Lodge through which the application was processed and twenty-five (25) percent to The Grand Lodge of Florida on the first \$500 (five hundred dollars) of principal. All net income earned on principal over \$500 (five hundred dollars) shall be returned to the Lodge. Net income derived therefrom shall be returned to the Lodge at the time of the per capita billing. (2001)

**3.04.2** Each Particular Lodge shall have an account within the Perpetual Membership Fund titled the "Perpetual Friend Account." The minimum donation that may be made to this account in the name of a single person or entity is \$200.00. The Grand Secretary shall issue a suitable certificate for each person or entity so donating. (1999)

The total amount of net income derived from this account shall be paid annually, seventy-five (75) percent to the Lodge and twenty-five (25) percent to The Grand Lodge of Florida on the first \$500 (five hundred dollars) of principal. All net income earned on principal over \$500 (five hundred dollars) shall be returned to the Lodge. Net income derived therefrom shall be returned to the Lodge at the time of the per capita billing. (2001)

**3.04.3** All monies paid for an Honorary Perpetual Membership of a Brother in a Particular Lodge may be credited toward the purchase by that Brother of a Perpetual Membership in that Particular Lodge. (2003)

**3.05 Emeritus.**-Each year upon written recommendation of its elective Officers a Lodge may, by majority vote, place upon the Emeritus List and remit the dues for such year to those members who from bodily infirmities or misfortune have become unable to pay dues, and in order for the Lodge to be exempt from payment to Grand Lodge of annual revenue on such emeritus members, the Worshipful Master and Secretary must certify on the annual return that each and every member of the Emeritus List is unable to pay dues because of bodily infirmities or misfortune; *provided however*, that any member of this Lodge who is a resident guest of the Masonic Home under the Life Care Plan shall automatically be placed upon the Emeritus List. (2018)

**3.06 Signing Roll of Members.**-Every member is required to sign the Roll of Members with his own hand.

**3.07 Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Members.**-Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts, though not entitled to the rights, privileges, and benefits of membership, are subject to discipline.

**3.08 Other Provisions.**-(Optional)

#### **DUES AND SUSPENSION FOR NON-PAYMENT THEREOF AND REINSTATEMENT**

**4.01 Dues.**-Every member of this Lodge shall pay to the Secretary, for the use of the Lodge, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ per annum plus the Grand Lodge Per-Capita Assessment, which sum shall be due and payable in advance on or before the first day of each Masonic Year, which Masonic Year shall begin on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of December of each year and end on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of December of the following year, except life members, honorary members, and those members whose dues are remitted in accordance with Masonic Law. (2014)

**4.02 Suspension for Non-Payment of Dues.**-Every member of a Lodge who is six (6) months or more in arrears for dues shall be notified thereof by the Secretary, and in case of failure or refusal to come forward and pay his dues, or give satisfactory excuse, within three (3) months after such notification, may be suspended at the discretion of the Lodge.

Three (3) months after such notices have been served, if the dues still remain unpaid, the Secretary shall issue a summons or notice to the

delinquent to be present at a Stated Communication of the Lodge, to answer the charges of delinquency or neglect, and show cause why he should not be suspended.

Such notice or summons shall be served at least ten (10) days before the Communication appointed for the hearing. The Secretary's account shall be sufficient charge. If the Brother does not appear after service of notice, default shall be entered and a hearing shall proceed in his absence. At the hearing, the Secretary shall have prepared a list of such delinquent members in advance, as to such list; the Secretary shall read the names of each and every member contained in such list, after which the Worshipful Master may propound the following questions, addressing the same to the entire list of delinquents collectively:

*Is the Brother six (6) months or more in arrears for dues?*

*Has he been duly notified of his indebtedness to his Lodge?*

If the answers to said questions be in the affirmative, the Worshipful Master shall proceed by propounding the following question:

*Has he given satisfactory excuse for non-payment?*

If this answer is in the negative, vote may be taken as to the names contained in such list collectively, and if the vote be to suspend, such members shall stand suspended.

Any member of the Lodge may request a separate vote on any particular name or names, and if so requested, said separate vote shall be taken, or the Worshipful Master may order such separate vote in his discretion. Collective vote may be taken as above provided, on the remaining names of said delinquent list, as to whom separate votes are not requested. (Amended 1962 Proc. 298)

**4.03 Reinstatement.**-A member suspended for non-payment of dues can be reinstated only after a petition for reinstatement has been properly submitted which shall take the same course as a petition for the Degrees; *provided*, any such petition which is rejected may be renewed by a new petition at the end of three (3) months from date of such rejection. A favorable vote of three-fourths of the members present by ball ballot or written secret vote shall be necessary to reinstate a suspended member.

**4.04 Other Provisions.**-(Optional)

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**5.01** Stated Communications.-The Stated Communications of this Lodge shall be held at its hall on the \_\_\_\_\_ in each month at o'clock, \_\_\_\_ m., provided that such Stated Communication may be suspended during the months of July, August, and September of each year by special action of the Lodge, and, *provided further*, that the place of meeting for any single or particular Stated Communication may be changed by special action of the Lodge when the occasion shall require it, *provided* that such change of meeting place is approved in writing by the District Deputy Grand Master of the Masonic District in which this Lodge is situated and that written notice of such change of meeting place is given to the membership of the Lodge, and, *provided further*, that no business shall be transacted at such Communication held in such different place except that specifically mentioned in the notice to the membership.

**5.02** Dispensing with Stated Communications.-By special action of the Lodge at a Stated Communication the next succeeding Stated Communication may be dispensed with, *provided, however*, this Lodge shall hold at least one Stated Communication in each month.

**5.03** Change of Hour of Stated Communication.-By special action of this Lodge at any Stated Communication the hour of meeting of the next succeeding Stated Communication may be changed, *provided*, written notice of such special action of the Lodge changing such hour of meeting shall be given immediately to the membership.

**5.04** Called Communication.-Communications may be called by the Worshipful Master, or in his absence from the Jurisdiction by the Warden next in line, at any time and at any place within the jurisdiction of the Lodge. Notice of the Called Communication to be held at regular meeting place of the Lodge may be given by announcement of such Communication at the Stated Communication preceding the date of such Called Communication or by written notice to the membership.

**5.05** Notice.-Notice of Called Communications to be held at a place other than regular meeting place of this Lodge shall be by written notice to all the membership.

**5.06** Business at Special Communications.-No business shall be transacted at any Called Communication except such business as is permitted to be transacted in Called Communications and named in

the call of such Communication. Certain business shall not be transacted at any Called Communication, to-wit:

- (a) Receiving petitions for Initiation or affiliation or balloting, except by permission of the Grand Master.
- (b) Reversing action of a Stated Communication.
- (c) Filing charges for unmasonic conduct.
- (d) Masonic trials.
- (e) Petitions for reinstatement and action thereon in all cases of suspension or expulsion for unmasonic conduct.
- (f) Any action acquiring or disposing of real estate.

**5.07 Quorum.**-The quorum of a Master Mason Lodge is three, a Fellow Craft Lodge, five, and an Entered Apprentice Lodge, seven. In the case of a Master Mason Lodge, three members of the Lodge are necessary to constitute a quorum, exclusive of the Tyler, who must be a member of some Lodge; if three members of the Lodge are present, the quorum necessary to open an E.A. or F.C. Lodge may be supplied with visitors, as the two latter Lodges are never opened, except for "Work and Instruction."

**5.08 Festivals.**-The annual June and December Festivals shall be observed as convenience and sound discretion may dictate, in accordance with established usages.

#### **5.09 Other Provisions.**-(Optional)

### **OFFICERS**

**6.01 Officers.**-The Officers are: a Master, whose title is Worshipful; a Senior Warden; a Junior Warden; a Treasurer; a Secretary; a Senior Deacon; a Junior Deacon; two Stewards and a Tyler; the first five of whom shall be elected by separate ballot, at the first Stated Communication in December in each and every year. The Master shall appoint the other Officers, but the Senior Warden may nominate the Junior Deacon; *provided*, that when, from any cause, the election is not held at the time above specified, the Master may order an election at any time thereafter, on or before December 27, but not afterwards, except by Dispensation from proper authority.

**6.02 Chaplain and Marshal.**-The Worshipful Master, if he so desires, may appoint a Chaplain and a Marshal.

**6.03 Duties.**-The duties of the Officers, jointly and severally, shall be such as are prescribed by the Constitution, Resolutions, and Edicts of The Grand Lodge of Florida, and the ancient established usages and customs of the Masonic Fraternity.

**6.04 Secretary.**-The Secretary shall keep full and accurate records of all proceedings of the Lodge, preserve all books and records of the Lodge, shall be ex-officio Librarian of the Lodge, and shall have custody of the Lodge Seal subject to the direction and control of the Worshipful Master.

**6.05 Treasurer.**-The Treasurer shall have custody of all Lodge funds, and shall keep full and accurate records of the receipt and disbursement thereof.

**6.06 Reports.**-The Treasurer and Secretary shall each present full written annual reports of the state of the Lodge finances as they appertain to their offices respectively, which shall be placed on file and noted in the records, and shall also report quarterly, when required to do so.

**6.07 Other Provisions.**-(Optional)

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**7.01 Time of Election.**-The election and appointment of the Officers of this Lodge shall take place at the first Stated Communication in December of each year and such Officers shall be installed on the anniversary of Saint John the Evangelist, or as soon thereafter as practical, and the Officers so elected and installed shall continue in office for one year and until their successors are duly elected and installed; *provided*, that if, from any cause, there should be no election at the time appointed for the annual election, it shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master to order an election at any time before or on the anniversary of Saint John the Evangelist, but not thereafter except by Dispensation from proper authority.

**7.02 Manner and Method of Election.**-In the election of Officers, nominations shall be made in writing to the Lodge Secretary no later than the opening of the first Stated Communication in November and no other nominations will be accepted thereafter. The nominee shall also make a statement in writing stating that he will accept the position if elected no later than the opening of the first Stated Communication in November and no other acceptance letters will be accepted thereafter. Discussions regarding nominees for office may take place among Brethren, but not in open Lodge. A majority of all votes cast, respectively, shall determine. In each succeeding ballot for the same office, when more than two (2) members are voted for, the name or names of the Brother or Brethren having the lowest number of votes, shall, by order of the Master, be dropped; and all votes cast in derogation of said order shall not be counted. (2017)

Time of Elections shall be held in accordance to By-Law Section 7.01 of Regulation 24.05 of the Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida, Uniform Code of By-Laws. (2017)

**7.03 Other Provisions.**-(Optional)

### **BUSINESS OF THE LODGE**

**8.01 Master's Authority.**-All appropriate business of general character shall be transacted in the Master Mason Lodge, under the special and absolute direction of the Master.

**8.02** Reconsideration of Vote or Decision.-The vote or decision at a Stated Communication of the Lodge cannot be rescinded, altered, or amended at a Called Communication of the Lodge, nor at any subsequent Stated Communication unless the membership of the Lodge is given due notice of such proposed reconsideration.

**8.03** Other Provisions.-(Optional)

### **FEES FOR THE DEGREES AND AFFILIATION**

**9.01** Fees for the Degrees.-The fee for the Background Investigation shall be \$\_\_\_\_; for Initiation shall be \$\_\_\_\_; for Passing \$\_\_\_\_; and for Raising \$\_\_\_\_. In every case the fee shall be paid to the Secretary in advance, except the fee for the criminal background investigation which may be paid to the Grand Lodge or any processing company selected and approved by the Grand Lodge, without which no petition or application shall be read or announced, and in every case of rejection the fee shall be promptly returned from the treasury, upon the Master's order; however, the fee for the criminal background investigation shall be retained by the Lodge, the Grand Lodge, or the processing company selected and approved by the Grand Lodge. (2018)

**9.02** Fee for Affiliation.-The fee for the Background Check shall be \$\_\_\_\_; the fee for Affiliation with this Lodge shall be \$\_\_\_\_. (2009)

**9.03** Other Provisions.-(Optional).

### **COMMITTEES**

**10.01** Committees of the Lodge.-There shall be the following standing Committees: Finance, Vigilance, Petitions, Masonic Education, Board of Relief, Charity, and Lodge Property. (2010)

**10.02** Finance Committee.-The Finance Committee shall consist of the Senior Warden and up to six (6) members, including a Past Master of the Lodge, appointed by the Master, whose duty it shall be to examine and report upon all matters relating or appertaining to the financial concerns of the Lodge, which may be placed in their hands by the Lodge or any member thereof, or other person. They shall also examine carefully and fully, and report upon in writing within thirty (30) days after the close of the Masonic year, all the books, accounts, records, and vouchers of the Treasurer and Secretary, or cause all of the same to be done by some competent person recommended by the Committee and approved by the Lodge. (2003)

**10.03** Vigilance Committee.-The Committee on Vigilance shall be composed of the Junior Warden and two (2) members of the Lodge appointed by the Master, whose duty it is to exercise a watchful superintendence over the moral conduct of the Craft at all times, except during working hours of the Lodge; to correct all irregularities, so far as they can in keeping with the dignity, nature, and principles of the Fraternity, and to report, by charges, or otherwise, all matters necessary and proper for the vindication of Masonic Law and virtue.



**10.04** Petitions Committee.-The Petitions Committee shall be composed of not less than three nor more than seven members, whose duty it shall be to cause each applicant for the Degrees before his petition has been received by the Lodge, to appear personally before the Committee to be interviewed and give such information as may be requested. The Committee shall make its report to the Worshipful Master, after which the petition shall take its usual course.

**10.05** Committee on Masonic Education.-The Committee on Masonic Education shall be composed of not fewer than five members of knowledge, dedication, and tact, of which at least one shall be a Past Master and Chairman appointed by the Worshipful Master, who shall be responsible for reporting to the Master on the Candidate's progress through the Three Symbolic Degrees and Masonic Education Program as prescribed by Regulations 37.12 and 37.18.

The Committee on Masonic Education shall have a Sub-Committee for the Masonic Education of Candidates and shall be called the "Lodge Mentor's Committee."

1. This Committee shall be composed of Past Masters, very knowledgeable Brothers, or Brothers willing to invest the necessary time to become knowledgeable about all aspects of Freemasonry, with the same requirements for dedication and tact.
2. The Lodge Mentor **shall not** be the Catechism Instructor.
3. A Lodge Mentor is required to be knowledgeable in the following: Masonic history, tradition, decorum, conduct, Masonic Law, Lodge history, community history in regards to his own Lodge, and American history concerning Masonry.
4. The mentoring of Candidates shall be conducted according to the GL-200 Instruction Booklet in The Lodge System of Masonic Education.
5. This Committee shall report to the Chairman of the Committee on Masonic Education on the Candidate's progress through the Three Symbolic Degrees and Masonic Education. (2010)

**10.06** Board of Relief.-The Worshipful Master and Wardens shall constitute the Board of Relief and jointly shall draw upon the Charity Fund, from time to time, as urgent fraternal necessity and propriety may require. The board shall render to the Lodge quarterly reports of all disbursements, but in their discretion they may omit the name of any recipient thereof unless such recipient is the object of continued charity. The Board must be scrupulously careful that no worthy cry of distress reaches their ears in vain and no deserving needy hands seek their aid without response, if within their power to grant without causing material injury to the Lodge.

**10.07** Investigation Committees.-Upon the Lodge receiving a petition for the Degrees, or for affiliation, or for reinstatement, or for dual membership, or for plural membership, the Worshipful Master shall appoint a Committee of three members of the Lodge to inquire into the character and standing of the petitioner. Each member of the Committee shall investigate independently and submit his report in writing to the Lodge or authorize some Brother to report for him if unable to be present in person. The Committee may make a unanimous report or a divided report; *provided*, if only two members of the Committee report, the Worshipful Master, in his discretion, may proceed with the ballot if no objection is made thereto. Upon the filing of a report and acceptance thereof by the Worshipful Master and the Lodge, the Committee is automatically discharged. (2001)

**10.08** Committee on Charity.-The Committee on Charity shall, under the direction of the Worshipful Master arrange:

1. That a portion of every Stated Meeting be set aside for a lecture, talk, or discussion of some Masonic or Community Charity or charitable endeavor and members of the Lodge urged to contribute to such charities.
2. Publication in the Lodge bulletin or Trestleboard, if one is published, an announcement of the programs above referred to.
3. That the Lodge offer its facilities at cost or below cost to groups or organizations who support, sponsor, or perform charitable services.
4. That the Lodge contribute to some, one or more community charity or charitable endeavors on a regular and frequent basis.
5. To advise with the Board of Relief in regard to fraternal need and assistance.



**10.09** Committee on Lodge Property.-The Committee on Lodge Property shall be composed of not less than three (3) nor more than five (5) members appointed by the Worshipful Master whose duties it shall be to:

1. Promulgate and propose to the Lodge written Rules for government of use of the Lodge property.
2. Arrange schedules of meetings of other groups using Lodge property to avoid conflicts.
3. Make recommendations to the Lodge for improvements, repairs, additions, and renovations of Lodge property and for maintenance of Lodge Temple and grounds.
4. Under direction of the Worshipful Master and the Lodge, negotiate for agreements between the Lodge and other organizations using Lodge Property.
5. Enforce or report to proper Masonic authorities for enforcement of all Lodge and Grand Lodge Rules and Regulations.

**10.10** Neglect of Committee Duty.-If a Committee or any member thereof neglect to perform the required duties, the Worshipful Master may discharge him or them and make a new appointment.

**10.11** Attendance and Direction of Worshipful Master.-The Worshipful Master may attend and direct the deliberations of all Lodge Committees.

**10.12** Other Committees.-(Optional)

### CHARITY

**11.01** Charity Fund.-There shall be a separate and distinct charity fund raised and sustained by voluntary contributions of the Brethren, to which attention should be called by the Worshipful Master at every Stated Communication of the Lodge. The Treasurer shall keep a separate account of this fund under the direct supervision of the Board of Relief, and he shall make a report thereon to the Lodge at the close of each Masonic year and at such other times as the Lodge or the Worshipful Master may direct.

**11.02** Continued Charity.-Objects of continued charity must be considered by the Lodge.

**11.03** Other Provisions.-(Optional)

### DISCIPLINE

**12.01** Discipline and Procedure.-Every violation of the Moral Code, as comprehensively embraced in the Ten Commandments, and recorded in the Holy Book of Law, every violation of the established Laws of Masonry, written or unwritten, by any member, will subject the offender to punishment by reprimand, suspension, or expulsion, as the Lodge may determine.

### LODGE FUNDS

**13.01** Use of Funds.-Lodge funds may be used for any purpose not unmasonic, when ordered by the Lodge.

**13.02** Custody of the Treasurer.-The Treasurer is the custodian of the funds of the Lodge, even when only held in trust, and all persons having any such funds shall deliver the same unto the custody of the Treasurer at the earliest possible time.

**13.03** Disbursement.-The Treasurer shall keep the Lodge funds at all times, subject to the immediate control of the Lodge, and shall pay out none but return fees and charity funds, except by Lodge action, and the Master's written order, which in every instance, must constitute his voucher, *provided* that Lodge action is not required for the payment of Grand Lodge Annual Revenue and fees.

**13.04** Other Provisions.-(Optional)

### LODGE PROPERTY

**14.01** Sale or Conveyance.-The Master and Wardens of Lodges shall not sell, convey, dispose of, or mortgage property of their respective Lodges, except by special action of the Lodge, by written or ball ballot with three-fourths favorable vote, at a Stated Communication, after due notice to the Lodge membership of such

contemplated action. All necessary documents, instruments, and papers relating to any such transaction required to be signed in behalf of the Lodge shall be executed in the name of such Lodge by the Worshipful Master under the Seal of such Lodge and attested by the Secretary of the Lodge. (2021)

**14.02** Before proceeding with the construction of any new building or repairing, remodeling, or making additions to any old building, or the purchase of any property where the same involves incurring indebtedness by a Particular Lodge, or before proceeding with financing any loan or refinancing any debt, Particular Lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction are required to submit plans and specifications of any building to be purchased, erected, repaired, or remodeled, and complete financial statement and plan for financing the indebtedness to be incurred, to the Grand Lodge Properties Committee for review and then to the Grand Master for final action. The approval of plans for financing shall in nowise obligate the Grand Lodge for any indebtedness incurred by a Particular Lodge. All plans, specifications, statements, and other documents must be submitted in duplicate.

**14.03** Other Provisions.-(Optional)

**AUTHORITY OF GRAND LODGE**

**15.01** By-Laws Under Grand Lodge Authority.-These By-Laws are adopted under authority of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Florida and nothing herein shall be construed in anywise to conflict with the Constitution or Regulations of such Grand Lodge, but shall be construed in harmony therewith and to fully effectuate the intent and purpose of such Constitution and Regulations.

**15.02** Grand Lodge Law Part of These By-Laws.-The terms and provisions of the Constitution and of the Regulations of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Florida are hereby specifically referred to and made a part of these By-Laws by reference and in all matters not dealt with herein the Constitution and Regulations of Grand Lodge shall control and govern this Lodge.

**15.03** Constitution and Regulations of Grand Lodge Supreme Law.-The Constitution and Regulations of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida as the same now are or may hereafter be changed, altered, or amended shall be the supreme law of this Lodge and any By-Law or any part or portion thereof in conflict therewith shall be null and void.

**AMENDMENTS****16.01** Amendments.-

(1) These By-Laws may be amended only as follows, viz: The proposition must be made in writing at a Stated Communication, and if approved by a majority vote, shall lie over to the next Stated Communication, of which the membership shall be given written notice; and if three-fourths of all the members of the Lodge then present vote in favor thereof, it is adopted, and will go into effect after approval of the Grand Lodge or its authority. Proposed By-Laws or amendments, after adoption by the Lodge, shall be submitted for approval in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 24.04.

(2) Any proposed amendment to these By-Laws shall be submitted to the Grand Lodge or its authority, as follows:

An original of such By-Laws or revision signed by the Worshipful Master and Secretary under the Seal of the Lodge, with date of approval and date of adoption shown thereon, shall be forwarded to the Grand Secretary. (2021)

**Rulings and Decisions**

By-Law of a Lodge cannot disavow and disclaim jurisdiction over Masons sojourning within jurisdiction of the Lodge although such Masons may be members of other Lodges. (1956 Proc. 198)

By-Law of a Lodge relating to jurisdiction of Lodge must recognize original and concurrent jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge. (1956 Proc. 198)

Lodge By-Laws cannot prescribe penalty for offense against Masonic Law. In each case the penalty shall be fixed by vote of the Lodge as provided by Regulation 44.50. (1956 Proc. 198)

By-Laws of a Lodge cannot prescribe mandatory "Order of Business" since the business of a Lodge must be transacted under absolute direction of the Master. (1956 Proc. 198)

(a) By-Laws of all Particular Lodges in conflict or inconsistent with the Uniform Code were repealed by action of the Grand Lodge in adopting the Uniform Code of By-Laws.

(b) The Uniform Code of By-Laws became the By-Laws of all Particular Lodges upon its adoption by Grand Lodge and each Lodge should insert information relative to fees, dues, etc., in the blanks in the Uniform Code; and, with the blanks in the Uniform Code thus filled in, the Uniform Code became the By-Laws of the Particular Lodges, together with such By-Laws of the Lodge as had been regularly adopted and were not in conflict or inconsistent with the provisions of the Uniform Code.

(c) The adoption of Section 5.01 of the By-Laws in blank did not have the effect of leaving any Lodge without a regular meeting time. The Uniform Code contemplated that each Particular Lodge would fill in the blanks in the Uniform Code with the information contained in their old By-Laws and that the Uniform Code, with such insertions, became the By-Laws of each Particular Lodge. (1959 Proc. 56, 164)

The Uniform Code of By-Laws may be translated into Spanish, published, and copies furnished to Spanish speaking members of the Lodge, but the official By-Laws in the custody of the Secretary of the Lodge shall be in the English language and constitute the controlling law of the Lodge, and all amendments to the Uniform Code of By-Laws shall be submitted in the English language but the Lodge may also translate such amendments into the Spanish language for use of Spanish speaking members of the Lodge. (1964 Proc. 65-66, 268)

By-Law 10.06 is not in conflict with By-Laws 13.02 and 13.03 of Uniform Code of By-Laws which require all Lodge funds to be in custody of Lodge Treasurer including the Charity Fund. (1970 Proc. 55, 284)

If a member wants to purchase a Perpetual Membership he shall pay twenty (20) times the annual dues of his Lodge that is in effect on December 28<sup>th</sup> of that year. (1994 Proc. 101) (moved from pg. 243b)

The Lodge's By-Laws are binding upon a Perpetual Member and that enforcement for collection and/or penalty for non-payment of special assessments is the same as for basic dues. (2002 Proc. 101)

Honorary Perpetual Memberships require two separate actions: (1) the ballot for the Honorary Membership and (2) the purchase of the Perpetual Membership, which does not require a ballot. (2008 Proc. 106)

A Plural Member suspended or expelled for any cause from his Lodge of Original Membership shall automatically be suspended or expelled from all Florida Lodges in which he is affiliated. (2008 Proc. 106-107)

A Plural Member expelled or suspended for any cause other than non-payment of dues shall be automatically expelled or suspended from all Florida Lodges in which he is a member. (2008 Proc. 106-107)

A Plural Member suspended for non-payment of dues from a Lodge with which he is affiliated shall be automatically suspended from all Lodges with which he is affiliated but not from his Lodge of Original Membership. (2008 Proc. 106-107)

All Petitions requiring an investigation and a ball ballot, with the exception of a Petition for Plural Membership or a membership transfer from one Florida Lodge to another, require a Background Check. (2009 Proc. 121)

Any Lodge wishing to have an advance night for any purpose may do so at a Called Communication of the Lodge when called for that purpose. Or the Lodge may hold a practice night at the Lodge when wishing to demonstrate the proficiency of its Officers before advancing to the next highest Office. (2013 Proc. 131-132)

The terminology "twenty (20) times the annual dues of his Lodge at the time of application" shall be the amount as stated in the By-Laws effective the day the Grand Master signed the By-Law Amendment due on or before December 28<sup>th</sup> for the ensuing year. In making this Ruling and Decision I refer to the fact that dues are payable in advance on or before December 28<sup>th</sup> of each year so the rate referred to for dues would be the amount due on December 28<sup>th</sup> of the year the By-Law Amendment is signed by the Grand Master. (2014 Proc. 123)



If one written nomination is made for one or more office(s) and no other written nomination has been made for such office(s), a motion can be made from the floor to elect the nominated member by Acclamation. Once the motion is seconded, the member(s) may be elected by a majority, show of hands vote by the members present, thereby completing the election process. If more than one (1) member is nominated in writing for any office, a majority vote by written ballot is required to complete the election process for that office. (2016 Proc. 120)

The term "annual dues" with reference to the purchase of a Perpetual Membership is defined as the total amount of dues owed to the Lodge PLUS the Grand Lodge per-capita assessment. If only the Lodge portion of the annual dues were considered in purchasing a Perpetual Membership, a short fall to the income distributed to the Lodge would be created. (2016 Proc. 120-121)

The nomination form shall be read at the next Stated Communication after it is received by the Secretary of the Lodge and handled in the same manner as all other correspondence received by the Lodge Secretary and read again on the night of the Election of Lodge Officers. (2017 Proc. 116)

A member of a Florida Lodge may not hold any two or more Offices at the same time in any Lodge of which he is a member. The intent of this Ruling and Decision is to restrict any member from holding more than one Office at a time whether the Office is elected or appointed. (2017 Proc. 116)

A suspended Mason is referred to in the Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida as a suspended Brother or Mason and it is not the intention of the Perpetual Membership Friend Account to honor Masons, rather to honor non-Masonic friends. To honor a Mason that has been suspended from our Fraternity would be contrary to the Ancient Charges of Freemasonry. Therefore, no suspended Brother or Mason may become a Perpetual Friend. (2023 Proc \_\_\_\_\_)



## CHAPTER 25

### **PARTICULAR LODGES**

#### **COMMUNICATIONS AND BUSINESS**

##### **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

###### **Constitutional Provisions**

Every Lodge must have one Stated monthly Communication at which every Brother should punctually attend, but the Lodge may dispense with the Stated Communications in the months of July, August, and September. The Worshipful Master has the power to order Called Communications of the Lodge at any time, by causing sufficient number of members to be served with timely notice thereof. (Art. X, Sec. 3)

The work and business of the Lodge must be transacted in a Master Mason Lodge, except the work and lectures in conferring the Degree of Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft; but those Degrees should be opened when there is no work to be done, for the instruction of the young Masons, and all Degrees should be closed at the close of every Communication. (Art. X, Sec. 12)

###### **Rulings and Decisions**

A Lodge is a body corporate with a Seal and can borrow money and transact business of the Lodge by its proper Officers. (1951 Proc. 26)

##### **DEFINITION**

###### **Regulations**

**25.01** The lawful assembling of Masons in Lodge capacity is called "Communication."

##### **STATED COMMUNICATIONS**

###### **BUSINESS THAT MUST BE DONE ONLY IN STATED COMMUNICATIONS**

###### **Regulations**

**25.02** The place, date, and hour of Communications of Particular Lodges shall be fixed in the By-Laws of each Lodge but each Lodge, whether provision therefore is made in the By-Laws of such Lodges or not, may dispense with Stated Communications or change the place and hour of meeting thereof in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 1 of the Article on "Communications" in the Uniform Code of By-Laws set forth in Regulation 24.05, *provided* that permanent change of meeting place of the Lodge

may be made only under Dispensation of the Grand Master under the provisions of sub-paragraph (b) of Regulation 6.12.

Called Communications may be called by the Worshipful Master, or in his absence from the jurisdiction of the Lodge by the Warden next in line, at any time and at any place within the jurisdiction of the Lodge. Notice of Called Communication to be held at regular meeting place of the Lodge may be given by announcement of such Called Communication at the Stated Communication preceding the date of such Called Communication or by written notice to the membership.

Notice of Called Communication to be held at a place other than the regular meeting place of the Lodge shall be by written notice to all the membership. No business shall be transacted at any Called Communication except such business as is permitted to be transacted in Called Communications and named in the call of such Communication.

Certain business shall not be transacted at any Called Communication, to wit:

- (a) Receiving petitions for Initiation or affiliation, or balloting, except by permission of the Grand Master under Regulation 6.10.
- (b) Reversing action of a Stated Communication.
- (c) Filing Charges for unmasonic conduct.
- (d) Masonic Trials.
- (e) Petitions for reinstatement and action thereon in all cases of suspension or expulsion for unmasonic conduct.
- (f) Any action acquiring or disposing of real estate.

## RECONSIDERATION OF VOTE

### Constitutional Provisions

The vote or decision at a Stated Communication of the Lodge cannot be rescinded, altered, or amended at a Called Communication of the Lodge, nor at any subsequent Stated Communication, unless the membership of the Lodge is given due notice of such proposed reconsideration. (Art. X, Sec. 29)

### Regulations

**25.03** A vote taken at any Communication can only be changed at a Stated Communication, with due notice to the membership of the reconsideration.

**LODGE FUNDS****Regulations**

**25.04** Memorials of the dead and all other matters pertaining to a Masonic funeral, except the appropriation of Lodge funds, may be attended to at a Communication of a Lodge called for the occasion.

**References**

Chapter 27

**LODGE PROPERTY****Regulations**

**25.05** A Particular Lodge shall not sell, convey, dispose of, mortgage, or enter into any transaction relating to Lodge property except by special action of the Lodge by written or ball ballot with three-fourths favorable vote at a Stated Communication after due notice to the Lodge members of such contemplated action. All necessary documents, instruments, and papers relating to any such transaction required to be signed on behalf of the Lodge shall be executed in the name of such Lodge by the Worshipful Master under the Seal of such Lodge and attested by the Secretary of the Lodge. (2021)

**ELECTION OF HONORARY MEMBERS****Regulations**

**25.06** The Grand Lodge will not object to a Particular Lodge conferring honorary membership upon a distinguished and revered Mason, which must be by unanimous ball ballot at a Stated Communication of the Lodge, after having been proposed, by Resolution at some prior Stated Communication. Such honorary membership imposes no duties or responsibilities, and confers no rights or privileges, except the right of visitation and speaking from the floor. Honorary membership may be revoked by majority vote at any Stated Communication. If the vote on a Resolution for honorary membership is dark, said Resolution becomes null and void, and the process must begin again (Same as 26.10). (2013)

**BALLOTING****References**

All balloting must be done in a Master Mason Lodge and at Stated Communications, except by Dispensation. Reg. 35.01  
Waiver of Jurisdiction must be by unanimous ball ballot at Stated Communications. Reg. 34.02

**CALLED COMMUNICATIONS****POWER TO CALL COMMUNICATIONS AND NOTICE****Regulations**

**25.07** The Worshipful Master has the right to command the attendance of the Officers and members of his Lodge at any time by summons, whether so requested by the Lodge or not. A prudent Master will use discretion as to what is for the best interest of the Craft, and not abuse the power reposed in him.

**25.08** A Warden cannot call a Communication unless the Master be absent from the Lodge Jurisdiction, and then the Warden highest in official rank is the Acting Master.

**25.09** Notice must be given to all the members, so far as practicable, of every Called Communication.

**25.10** A summons to attend a Lodge meeting should be in writing or printed, signed by the Secretary, and under the Seal of the Lodge, unless given by the Worshipful Master in open Lodge.

**25.11** A printed facsimile of the Seal of a Particular Lodge and a printed facsimile of the signature of the Secretary of a Particular Lodge, on a summons to the members of the Lodge, shall be deemed as complying with the Regulation that a summons must bear the Seal of the Lodge and the signature of the Secretary.

**25.12** The Worshipful Master, in his discretion, may call and open a Called Communication of the Lodge for the sole and only purpose of conducting funeral ceremonies and thereafter, until the Worshipful Master shall close such Special Communication, members of the Lodge may be summonsed, attend, meet, move in funeral procession, and conduct funeral ceremonies in Lodge formation without opening and closing of the Lodge. The Lodge shall in all other respects adhere to Masonic Law applicable to conduct of Masonic funerals. The Secretary shall keep minutes of each funeral ceremony, which minutes shall be read and acted upon at the next ensuing Stated Communication of the Lodge.

**BUSINESS AND WORK THAT MAY BE DONE AT CALLED COMMUNICATIONS****Regulations**

**25.13** Any business of the Lodge not otherwise restricted by the Constitution and Regulations, may be transacted at a Called Communication, when it has been expressly stated in the call, and due notice thereof given to all the members, so far as practicable.

**25.14** Memorials of the dead and all other matters pertaining to a Masonic funeral, except the appropriation of Lodge funds, may be attended to at a Communication of a Lodge called for the occasion.

**25.15** The Officers-elect of a Lodge may be installed at a Called Communication, when duly called for that purpose.

**25.16** When a Communication is called for the sole purpose of conferring a specific Degree, it is not necessary to open the Lodge in any other Degree.

### **Rulings and Decisions**

Only a Master Mason may take an active part in the Installation Ceremony of the Elected or Appointed Lodge Officers. It shall be the installing Marshal's duty to invest the Officers to be installed with the insignia of his office. (2012 Proc. 143-144)

## **REGULATIONS GOVERNING ALL COMMUNICATIONS**

### **QUORUM**

#### **Regulations**

**25.17** The quorum of a Master Mason Lodge is three, a Fellow Craft Lodge, five, and an Entered Apprentice Lodge, seven. In the case of a Master Mason Lodge, three members of the Lodge are necessary to constitute a quorum, exclusive of the Tyler, who must be a member of some Lodge. If three members of the Lodge are present, the quorum necessary to open an E.A. or F.C. Lodge may be supplied with visitors, as the two latter Lodges are never opened, except for "Work and Instruction."

#### **References**

The District Deputy Grand Master may approve in writing change of meeting place for any Stated Communication. Reg. 10.08

It is a Landmark of Freemasonry that every regular Lodge must be tyled while at labor. (Const. Art. XIII, Sec. 2)

## **PRESIDING OFFICER**

### **Constitutional Provisions**

When all of the three principal Officers of a Particular Lodge are absent, the Lodge may be opened and presided over by the District Deputy Grand Master or by the Junior Past Master present. (Art. X, Sec. 31)

#### **References**

As to Powers of Worshipful Master to preside, See Chapter 20

#### **Regulations**

**25.18** When all of the three principal Officers of a Particular Lodge are absent, the Lodge may be opened and presided over by the District Deputy Grand Master, or by the Junior Past Master present.

**TIME****Regulations**

**25.19** A Lodge cannot lawfully meet or work on Sunday, except for funerals, or to attend Divine Service, or for very urgent charity. But the members of Lodges shall not be summoned to attend Divine Service at any time, nor attend in Masonic regalia.

**25.20** A Lodge has authority to transact any regular business or work on the occasion of the celebration of the Saint John's Day festivals.

**25.21** When Saint John's Day occurs on Sunday, the day following will be the official substitute.

**25.22** A Lodge cannot be called from labor to refreshment to meet on a certain day in the near future to do any work that can be done at a Called Communication, because it is in conflict with Article X, Section 12, of the Constitution.

**References**

Second Stated Communication of particular month may be suspended by action of Lodge. Reg. 24.05, By-Law 5.02

**Rulings and Decisions**

A Lodge which has recessed for June, July, and August may be called back to resume Labor on Stated meeting night if all the members are duly notified. (1941 Proc. 76)

When Saint John's Day falls on Sunday, the day following is the regular date and no other day can be substituted for it. (1943 Proc. 82)

A Lodge which has recessed for the months of July, August, and September can be called back into Communication on a Stated meeting night during such months, upon due notice to the membership, and such meeting shall be considered a "Stated Communication." (1964 Proc. 65, 268)

Communication called by Worshipful Master during summer recess on regular meeting night after due notice to membership, is a Stated Communication and any business permitted at Stated Communications may be transacted. (1965 Proc. 196, 198)

**OPENING AND CLOSING****Regulations**

**25.23** Every "Communication" of the Lodge should be opened and closed with prayer.

**SMOKING****Regulations**

**25.24** Smoking in a Lodge Room is prohibited while Great Lights are open on the Altar.

**Rulings and Decisions**

To follow the "Clean Air Act" any tobacco products, including "E" cigarettes or any other vapor device that emits any substance into the air, are prohibited to be used in the Lodge Room. (2017 Proc. 115)



## FLAG

### Regulations

**25.25** Every Particular Lodge must display the Flag of the United States of America in the Lodge Room at all Communications of the Lodge, but without ceremony, but this Regulation shall not be construed to prohibit a recital of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

## LODGE PROCEEDINGS AND MINUTES

### Regulations

**25.26** Parliamentary terms and usages have no place in the Masonic Fraternity; therefore, protests, motions to adjourn, calls for the previous question, etc., cannot be entertained. Neither can substitutes for amendments to an original motion be allowed without the consent of the original mover.

**25.27** The Master may “dispense with” and “resume labor” in any Degree at pleasure to facilitate the business and work of the Communication, but he should never call the Lodge to “refreshment” except for actual refreshment or rest from labor.

**25.28** The minutes of the Lodge at every Communication must be read for correction and approval before the closing of the Lodge, unless dispensed with by the Worshipful Master, but the minutes of the previous Communication or Communications shall be read for final adoption at the next Stated Communication.

**25.29** The minutes of Called Communications can only be adopted at Stated Communication.

**25.30** The minutes of a Lodge, when practicable, should embrace the names of all present, members and visitors.

**25.31** The minutes, after having been read and finally adopted, cannot be altered or expunged at a subsequent Communication. If any error has been stated, it should be corrected by making another entry at some subsequent Communication.

**25.32** Lodge minutes may be kept in a loose leaf book but when 250 pages have been filled they shall be taken out and permanently bound. (1952 Proc. 161)

### References

As to powers of Master over work and business of Lodge, see Worshipful Master, Chapter 20

As to Balloting, see Chapter 35

As to Degree Work, see Candidates, Chapter 31, and Ritual and Ceremonies, Chapter 38

As to Visitation and Avouchment, see Chapter 40

As to holding Communications in Ground Floor Rooms, see Reg. 6.12(c)

### Rulings and Decisions

It is proper to record as “members present” name of E.A. present when E.A. Lodge opens. (1946 Proc. 33)

Lodge Minutes of the previous Stated or Called Communication must be read aloud in open Lodge in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 25.28 of the Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida. (2020 Proc. 84)

## LODGE BUSINESS AND PROCEDURE

### GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### Constitutional Provisions

Every Particular Lodge must be furnished with a Seal and appropriate Jewels, Furniture, and Working Tools, and all official documents must be verified by the Secretary, under the Seal of the Lodge. (Art. X, Sec. 23)

### OTHER JURISDICTIONS

#### Regulations

**25.33** The Lodges in Florida must respect the jurisdiction of Lodges in other Grand Jurisdictions.

### ACTIONS FORBIDDEN

#### Regulations

**25.34** It is not proper for a Masonic Lodge to endorse an applicant for political office.

**25.35** Lodges must not contribute from their treasuries to Masonic or alleged Masonic objects in foreign jurisdictions, as for example, the building of a Temple at Jerusalem, unless such objects have been approved by the Grand Lodge, or by the Grand Master.

### Rulings and Decisions

~~All rulings against Lodges participating in community projects and activities relating to charity, education, recreation, and welfare are repealed and rescinded, except those rulings prohibiting sponsoring games of chance. (1962 Proc. 264, 265)~~

It is not a violation of Masonic Law for a Lodge bulletin to include a listing of Eastern Star meetings and it is up to the Lodge to decide their policy in this regard. (1954 Proc. 63)

~~It is improper for a Lodge or Lodges to place containers at doors of a public building and to accept contributions collected in that manner for the purpose of raising money to pay expenses of a speaker at a public meeting to be held during Education Month. (1964 Proc. 64, 268)~~

~~Lodges are prohibited from conducting or sponsoring games of chance. (1968 Proc. 57, 212)~~

~~Grand Master's action in denying request of holding company of the property of a Particular Lodge to conduct bingo games was proper and in accordance with Masonic Law. (1969 Proc. 58, 212)~~

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

### Regulations

**25.36** Particular Lodges may participate in community activities relating to the public school system, recognized charitable endeavors, community welfare, and recreation, in keeping with the established principles and objectives of Freemasonry, and such participation may be in cooperation with the other community organizations, but any Lodge participating in such activity shall immediately furnish the Grand Master with a full report thereon, and shall cease and desist therefrom on his order.

**25.37** Particular Lodges, may, with the approval of the Grand Master, sponsor programs and projects for charitable, recreational, welfare, and educational purposes and for such purposes may singly or with other Particular Lodges, form corporations, associations or other organizations in furtherance of such programs and projects. Before engaging in such programs and projects, a full report must be made to and the same approved by the Grand Master, and when a Lodge or Lodges propose to form any corporation, association, or other organization in furtherance of such project or program, proposed Charter, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations, and other pertinent documents shall be submitted to and the approval thereof obtained from the Grand Master. The name of any such corporation may indicate the general purpose, and that it is sponsored by Masonic authority. No such corporation, association, or organization shall incur any indebtedness except for current operating expenses limited to one thousand dollars without express approval of the Grand Master. The approval of the Grand Master of any such corporation, association, or other organization and of any indebtedness to be incurred thereby shall in no wise bind or obligate the Grand Lodge for the payment of any indebtedness of such corporation, association, or organization. The Grand Master may appoint an appropriate advisory committee to assist him in reviewing all matters submitted to him under this Regulation.

### Rulings and Decisions

If Lodge membership is properly informed, it is proper for the Lodge to contribute money for scholarship to deserving student of local junior college. (1962 Proc. 81, 296)

A Lodge may sponsor a community Christmas tree for local children, with expenses paid from General Fund of the Lodge, provided Lodge is properly informed on the matter. (1962 Proc. 82, 296)

## APPEALS FOR AID

### Regulations

**25.38** Particular Lodges and individual Masons subject to the jurisdiction of The Grand Lodge of Florida cannot issue an appeal for aid under any circumstances without first having obtained the approval of the Grand Master, which approval must be written or printed on the appeal.

### Rulings and Decisions

An appeal for financial assistance may be made to members of own Lodge but not to others. (1942 Proc. 45)

It is not improper for a Brother to solicit funds for Memorial Hospital in open Lodge since solicitation is for charitable purposes. (1946 Proc. 37)

Neither a Lodge, nor any member thereof, is permitted to issue a written appeal for any kind of material assistance except in case of the Lodge appealing to its own membership. (1954 Proc. 63)

Lodge may not issue general appeals for building funds, but may solicit such funds from its own membership, and may place container in Lodge hall for contributions to building fund. (1965 Proc. 198)

## VOTING AND BALLOTING

### Regulations

**25.39** All voting, in both Grand and Particular Lodges, not requiring ball or written ballot, shall be by "show of hands."

**25.40** On all questions properly submitted to vote of the Lodge by a show of hands, a majority vote of the members present and voting is decisive, and the Worshipful Master should announce the results accordingly.

**25.41** None but members of the Lodge have a right to ballot, and no member present can be excused from balloting on any question before the Lodge, except by a vote of the Lodge, upon good cause shown; nor can a member be permitted to retire from the Lodge to avoid casting his ballot. (Same as 26.18 and 35.07)

### References

See Balloting, Chapter 35

## A.L. DATE TO BE USED IN RECORDS

### Regulations

**25.42** The A.L. date shall always be used in Masonic records and A.D. may also be used in connection therewith.

**SEAL****Regulations**

**25.43** Every Lodge is required to have an appropriate Seal, but a scrawl may be submitted therefore until it can be procured.

**NOTICES****Regulations**

**25.44** It is difficult to prescribe a definite period of time in which a great variety of notices must be given, but in every case reasonable notice is requisite, when such notice can be effected at all.

**25.45** When a party entitled to notice resides beyond the jurisdiction of the Lodge, a written or printed notice forwarded by mail, properly sealed, and correctly addressed to the party, is sufficient.

**MASTER'S AUTHORITY****References**

As to Master's authority over Lodge Business and Procedure, see Worshipful Master, Chapter 20

**ALL ACTS ARE REVIEWABLE BY GRAND LODGE****Regulations**

**25.46** Any act or decision of a Lodge or Master may be reviewed by the Grand Lodge, or in the recess of the Grand Lodge, by the Grand Master, subject to the action of the Grand Lodge.

**LODGE FUNDS****Regulations**

**25.47** Lodge funds may be used for charity, public installation, entertainments, refreshments, and for any purpose not unmasonic, when ordered by the Lodge.

**25.48** The Grand Lodge by appropriate Resolution adopted April 26, A.L. 5972, A.D. 1972, and reported 1972 Proceedings 284 and 285 defined and declared Freemasonry to be a nonsectarian religious, educational, and charitable organization founded upon, possessed of, and adhering to the principles, precepts, tenets, and beliefs that characterize such organization.

The character of Freemasonry as a fraternal organization possessed of the characteristics above recited shall be exemplified and demonstrated by devoting a part or portions of time of every Stated Communication to a program for lecture, speech, talk, discussion, or visual demonstration in regard to a Masonic or Community Charity or an appropriate religious subject or an educational subject. When possible, notice of such program shall be given by announcement in Stated Communication or by publication in the Lodge Bulletin or Trestleboard. (Added 1979)

## CHAPTER 26

### MEMBERSHIP, RIGHTS, STATUS, AND DUTIES

#### MEMBERSHIP

#### DUAL MEMBERSHIP

##### Constitutional Provisions

Any upright Mason, on presentation of satisfactory evidence of his having paid all dues against him, and having regularly withdrawn from a Lodge from which he was last a member, may present a petition in writing, which must be vouched for by two members of the Lodge, at a Stated Communication, and which must lie over at least one month for the Brethren to make due inquiry into the character and standing of the petitioner; *provided*, that any Particular Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction may adopt a By-Law (subject to approval of the Grand Master), permitting a member in good standing of a Particular Lodge of a Grand Jurisdiction with which this Grand Lodge sustains fraternal relations to petition such Particular Lodge for affiliation without dimitting from his home Lodge; in such petition all facts and circumstances upon which such petition is based, and the reasons for the dual membership thereby sought, shall be fully stated; upon the reception of such petition it shall take the usual course with respect to investigation and voting, and be subject to the same requirements as to vouchers, as a regular petition based upon a regular dimit; *provided*, that such petition for dual membership shall not be received from a Mason from a Grand Jurisdiction whose laws prohibit its members from becoming dual members.

If such petition for affiliation be voted upon favorably, such petitioner shall thereupon become a member of such Particular Lodge, vested with all the rights and privileges of membership, and be subject to the discipline of the Lodge, *provided further*, that upon the suspension, or expulsion, of such member by the Lodge of which he was a member prior to applying for dual membership as above provided for, such member shall be automatically suspended or expelled from the Particular Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction with which he shall have affiliated; *provided further*, that in the event that a member receiving the privileges of dual membership in this Grand Jurisdiction shall take his dimit from his Lodge of original membership, it shall be his duty to place such dimit, and his full membership, in the Particular Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction in which he shall have received the privileges of dual membership and upon his failure to do so, and satisfactory evidence having been presented to the Particular Lodge of such failure, it shall be the duty of such Particular Lodge to suspend such member from membership; *provided further*, that the Grand Master of this Grand Jurisdiction may draft and promulgate such Regulations as he may find necessary and expedient

for the purpose of carrying the provisions of this Section into effect, which Regulations shall be subject to the approval of the Grand Lodge, and subject to amendment and alteration from time to time, as in the case of other Regulations. (2005) (Art. X, Sec. 15(a))

Any Particular Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction may adopt a By-Law (subject to approval of the Grand Master) permitting a member in good standing of another Particular Lodge in Florida to petition such Particular Lodge for affiliation without dimitting from his home Lodge, regardless of any action that his home Lodge may or may not have taken with respect to accepting plural members. In such petition all facts and circumstances upon which such petition is based, and the reasons for the plural membership thereby sought, shall be fully stated. Upon the reception of such petition it shall take the usual course with respect to investigation and voting, and be subject to the same requirements as to vouchers, as a regular petition based upon a regular dimit. If such petition for affiliation be voted upon favorably, such petitioner shall thereupon become a member of such Particular Lodge, vested with all the rights and privileges of membership, and be subject to the discipline of the Lodge, except, that such member shall not be eligible to be elected or appointed an Officer in more than one Particular Lodge at one and the same time; and *provided further*, that upon suspension, or expulsion, of such member by any Lodge of which he was a member prior to applying for plural membership as above provided for, such member shall be automatically suspended or expelled from any other Particular Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction with which he shall have affiliated; *provided further*, that in the event that a member receiving the privileges of plural membership shall take his dimit from his Lodge of original membership, it shall be his duty to place such dimit, and his full membership, in a Particular Lodge in the Grand Jurisdiction in which he shall have received the privileges of plural membership; and upon his failure to do so, and satisfactory evidence having been presented to the Particular Lodge of such failure, it shall be the duty of such Particular Lodge to suspend such member from membership; *provided further*, that the Grand Master of this Grand Jurisdiction may draft and promulgate such Regulations as he may determine, which Regulations shall be subject to the approval of the Grand Lodge, and subject to amendment and alteration from time to time, as in the case of other Regulations. (2004) (Art. X, Sec. 15(b))



### Regulations

**26.01** Repealed.

**26.02** Lodges with provision in their By-Laws for dual membership shall report all changes in status of such dual members at times and on forms provided by the Grand Secretary for such purpose.

**26.03** Before signing a petition for membership in a Lodge in a foreign jurisdiction, a member of a Lodge in Florida shall secure his dimit from the Florida Lodge, and he remains a member of the Florida Lodge until he is regularly dimitted. (2001)

**26.04** If a Dual Member dimits from his home Lodge and takes regular membership in a Florida Lodge during a year in which his dual membership dues have been paid to the Florida Lodge, the dues paid as a dual member shall be credited on his dues as a regular member.

A dual member in a Florida Lodge may withdraw from membership by requesting a withdrawal certificate. On the annual returns, the Lodge would show the member as having been issued a "Withdrawal Certificate." (1988)

**26.04.1** Lodges with a provision in their By-Laws for plural membership shall report all changes in status of plural members at times and on forms provided by the Grand Secretary for such purpose. (2001)

**26.04.2** If a plural member dimits from his home Lodge and takes regular membership in a Florida Lodge during the year in which his plural membership dues have been paid to the Florida Lodge, the dues paid as a plural member shall be credited on his dues as a regular member. A plural member in a Florida Lodge may withdraw from membership by requesting a withdrawal certificate. On the Annual Returns, the Lodge would show the member as having been issued a "Withdrawal Certificate." (2001)

### Rulings and Decisions

Members of a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction are permitted to petition for dual membership in Lodges of another Grand Jurisdiction where such dual membership is permitted. (1947 Proc. 34)

When a dual member takes his dimit from his Lodge of original membership and places it in the Lodge of dual membership, he automatically becomes a full member of the latter Lodge without need of filing a petition or being balloted upon. (1964 Proc. 73)

A Brother whose home Lodge is Providence Lodge No. 711, A. F. & A. M., Chicago, Illinois, was formerly a dual member of Elmer O. Smith Lodge No. 307, F. & A. M., Pinellas Park. He was suspended for non-payment of dues on December 27, 1980. While he paid required back dues, he failed to petition for reinstatement, and on August 17, 1981 became a dual member of Star Lodge No. 78. Because of failure to reinstate and subsequently resigning from or securing permission of Elmer O. Smith Lodge to withdraw from dual membership being contrary to established procedure in this jurisdiction and the Regulations thereof. Dual membership of this Brother in Star Lodge is null and void.

Dual member of Florida Lodge is not eligible for life membership in the Lodge. (1977 Proc. 120)

## LIFE MEMBERS

### Regulations

**26.05** Lodges may incorporate in their By-Laws provisions for life members subject to the following requirements:

- A. Life memberships shall be of three classes:
  - (1) Life membership conferred by the Lodge upon payment of a fixed fee therefore which life membership shall only exempt the recipient from payment of Grand Lodge Annual Revenue.
  - (2) Life membership conferred by the Lodge without payment of fee therefore which exempts recipient from payment of Grand Lodge Annual Revenue, and
  - (3) Life membership conferred by the Lodge which does not exempt the recipient thereof from payment of Grand Lodge Annual Revenue, and
- B. No life membership conferred for payment of fixed fee therefore and which shall exempt the recipient thereof from payment of Grand Lodge Annual Revenue may be conferred for a fee of less than four hundred (\$400.00) dollars, which fee, in whatever amount fixed, shall be deposited or invested as hereinafter set forth.
- C. No life membership which exempts recipient thereof from payment of Grand Lodge Annual Revenue may be conferred by the Lodge without payment of fee therefore except on the condition that the Lodge immediately set aside from its own funds for deposit or investment as hereinafter provided a minimum sum of two hundred (\$200.00) dollars except where the amount already in reserve funds is sufficient to equal two hundred (\$200.00) dollars per life membership at all times.
- D. All funds derived from fees for life memberships and all funds set aside by the Lodge upon conferring life membership without payment of fee therefore shall be invested in bonds of the United States of America or deposited in Savings Accounts in institutions where such savings accounts are insured or in

such other securities or stocks as shall be approved by the Grand Lodge, the interest derived from such deposit or investment to be deposited in the general fund of the Lodge.

- E. Upon the death, expulsion, dimit, or disappearance of a life member as provided in Regulation 26.06, the Lodge may withdraw the deposit provided for such life member or dispose of the government bonds purchased with the proceeds thereof and return said funds to the general funds of the Lodge.
- F. Lodges may confer life memberships which do not exempt the recipient thereof from payment of Grand Lodge Annual Revenue without requiring any payment therefore by the life member or without making any deposit or investment by the Lodge.
- G. Each life member of a Lodge shall be issued a card evidencing such life membership. (2017)
- H. No life membership conferred by a Lodge shall exempt such Lodge from payment of Grand Lodge Annual Revenue.
- I. This Regulation shall be effective on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of May, A.L. 5956, A.D. 1956, but shall not affect any life membership vested on such date.

**26.05.1** Perpetual Memberships are authorized by Particular Lodges subject to the following terms and conditions:

(a) Any member or plural member in good standing and possessing a current dues card in a Particular Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction may become a perpetual member of his Lodge pursuant to the provisions of this Section. (2003)

(b) The member desiring a Perpetual Membership shall apply to the Secretary of his Lodge for such a membership on forms prescribed by the Grand Lodge and shall tender therewith a minimum sum of twenty (20) times the annual dues of his Lodge at the time of the application, but in no event less than twenty (20) times the minimum dues prescribed in Regulation 24.05, Section 4.01 of the Uniform Code of By-Laws. The Lodge Secretary shall complete his part of the application and shall forward the same, together with the full fee due, to the Grand Secretary. The date of the application shall be the date the Grand Secretary certified he received the application.

(c) The application shall be signed by the applicant and have the certification of the Lodge Secretary. The application shall not become effective until the applicant's record has been certified by the Grand Secretary. The application shall contain thereon the computations upon which the Perpetual Membership fee is predicated. If the Grand Secretary determines that the minimum fee tendered by the applicant is in excess of that required, he shall have the power to correct the application and the Lodge Secretary's computations of the fee, accept the application as corrected and refund any excess fee to the applicant through the Particular Lodge Secretary. If the fee tendered is insufficient, the Grand Secretary shall return the application and fee to the constituent Lodge Secretary for correction and resubmittal.

A copy of the completed and accepted Perpetual Membership application and a Certificate of Perpetual Membership shall be furnished to the applicant and his Lodge by the Grand Secretary. These provisions shall be construed so as to permit the Grand Secretary to use computerized records.

(d) After the Perpetual Membership application and fee have been received and accepted by the Grand Secretary, the Perpetual Membership fee shall not be refundable except under circumstances determined by the Grand Secretary to be mistakes of fact rendering the applicant ineligible for Perpetual Membership as of the date of the application.

(e) After the applicant's Perpetual Membership has been accepted by the Grand Secretary, the Perpetual Membership shall be paid over to the Grand Treasurer as required in Article VI, Section 10 of the Constitution. The funds shall be placed collectively in restricted Perpetual Membership accounts. These funds shall be accounted for on an individual Lodge basis, listing the amount a person paid into the fund for both Lodge dues and Grand Lodge per capita and any assessments in effect. The funds shall be accounted for separately, by the Grand Treasurer, from all other Grand Lodge funds. The funds shall be audited annually as required in Article XIV, Section 7.

(f) A perpetual member shall owe no further dues to the Lodge of which he is a perpetual member. A dues card shall be issued by the Grand Secretary who shall denote Perpetual Membership thereon. (Reg. 26.11) (2017)

(g) The Perpetual Membership fee, less any amount required to supplement net income to pay the constituent Lodge the first year's dues and per capita, shall be considered principal and shall never be spent. Net profit or loss from the sale of securities shall mean the profit or loss realized from the sale of securities. Earned Income shall mean interest and dividends received reduced by any net loss realized from the sale of securities. The net profit from the sale of securities plus earned income shall be allocated to a sub-account for each member's account. Net income shall mean earned income plus 60% of the net profit from the sale of securities, less administrative costs. The net income, but not less than five percent (5%) of the fair market value of all assets in the Perpetual Membership Fund shall be paid proportionately annually to each constituent Lodge for each perpetual member at the time of per capita billing. The amount paid shall first be deducted from the sub-account, as to each member, and, if that is insufficient, then from any existing separate "Capital Gains" account. Allocations shall be based on the principal in each member's account, plus the sub-account of each member as of the beginning of each year, all as shall be equitably determined by the Grand Secretary. (2001)

(h) The Grand Secretary shall, at the time of the annual net income distribution, submit a statement to the Lodge for an amount covering the proportionate per capita and assessment in, effect at the time the member joined the plan. The Lodge shall during the member's lifetime and thereafter, pay to the Grand Lodge the amount designated by the Grand Secretary's per capita statement. (2001)

(i) The obtaining of a Perpetual Membership in one Lodge by a dual member shall have no effect on his membership in the other Lodge to which he belongs. Dual Perpetual Memberships are permitted.

(j) A perpetual member may affiliate under Chapter 41 of the Digest of Masonic Law. If the affiliation is within this Grand Jurisdiction the entire Perpetual

Membership he originally paid shall be transferred to the account of the Lodge to which he affiliates. If the affiliation is outside this Grand Jurisdiction the entire Perpetual Membership fee shall remain with the Lodge of which he was a perpetual member.

(k) Any Certificate of Good Standing issued under Regulation 41.13 of the Digest of Masonic Law to a perpetual member shall be endorsed thereon the fact that the holder is a perpetual member and the amount of the Perpetual Membership fee which shall be transferred to the Particular Lodge in Florida with which he affiliates.

(l) If a perpetual member shall be suspended, expelled, or withdraws and is subsequently restored to good standing, or re-affiliates from out of State, his Perpetual Membership shall be deemed to be also restored.

(m) If a Lodge consolidates, surrenders its Charter, or has its Charter arrested, the funds credited to that Lodge in the Perpetual Membership fund shall follow the members according to the relevant Sections of the Constitution and Laws and Uniform Code dealing with consolidations, surrendering and arrests of Charters.

(n) A Memorial Perpetual Membership may be purchased by any person for a deceased Entered Apprentice Mason, Fellow Craft Mason, or Master Mason of a Florida Lodge by following the same procedures as outlined in this section. The minimum fee shall be \$200.00 (two hundred dollars). The total amount of net income derived therefrom shall be paid annually, seventy-five (75) percent to the Lodge through which the application was processed and twenty-five (25) percent to The Grand Lodge of Florida on the first \$500 (five hundred dollars) of principal. All net income earned on principal over \$500 (five hundred dollars) shall be returned to the Lodge. Net income derived therefrom shall be returned to the Lodge at the time of the per capita billing. (2001)

(o) A Perpetual Membership may be purchased by a 50 year Master Mason who meets the provisions of Article 26.12 (d) by following the same procedures as outlined in this section. The minimum fee shall be \$200.00 (two hundred dollars). The total amount of net income derived therefrom shall be paid annually, seventy-five (75) percent to the Lodge of which he is a member and twenty-five (25) percent to the Grand Lodge on the first \$500.00 (five hundred dollars) of principal. All net income earned on principal over \$500.00 (five hundred dollars) shall be returned to the Lodge at the time of per capita billing. (2001)

(p) A Brother, at any future time, may add any amount to his Perpetual Membership fee through his Lodge Secretary.

(q) Applications for Perpetual Membership shall be on forms prescribed by the Grand Lodge and the Grand Secretary shall provide all forms required for the implementation of this section.

(r) Where perpetual members have not been heard from for more than seven (7) years, the Worshipful Master shall direct the Secretary to report the names of such missing Brethren to the Grand Lodge on the membership report form as being deceased. Their names shall then be transferred to the rolls of deceased Perpetual Membership, but, this action shall have no effect on the amount of money paid the Lodge and Grand Lodge for that perpetual member as set forth in sub-sections (g) and (h).

(s) There shall be no cost to the Constituent Lodge for administration of this program by the Grand Lodge. (1998)

**26.05.2** A Perpetual Membership may be purchased by using an installment plan to the Grand Lodge subject to the following terms:

(a) By making an initial payment of \$200.00 accompanied with the appropriate Perpetual Membership Application as prescribed in Regulation 26.05.01, at which time the member will choose the payment schedule he desires - Monthly, Quarterly, Semi-Annually, and Annually.

(b) Net income earned on each account will be credited into each member's account. (2001)

(c) Payment in full must be received within five (5) years from the initial payment. If payment in full is not made within five (5) years the applicant may:

1. Request refund of all payments paid into the account. All earned net income would be returned to the Perpetual Membership fund to be redistributed. (2001)

2. Continue in the plan by establishing a new payment plan only upon the discretion of the Grand Secretary.

(d) If the member dies before payment in full is received the account would revert to a Memorial Perpetual Membership in the member's name.

(e) If the member is suspended, expelled, resigns, or affiliates out of State, all principal paid into the account will be returned upon request of the member. All net income earned would be returned to the Perpetual Membership Fund to be redistributed. If request for refund is not made, net income would accumulate into the account until the full fee is attained. (2001)

(f) If the member transfers or affiliates to a Particular Lodge within the State of Florida, the account would follow the member's membership.

(g) Until Perpetual Membership is paid in full, yearly dues and assessments would have to be paid in a prompt manner at the current annual dues and assessments in effect. (1990)

**26.06** In case a Brother who has been a life member of a Particular Lodge, and for whom the Lodge has paid Grand Lodge dues, has been absent from the jurisdiction of the Lodge and has not been heard from for seven years or more, and members of the Lodge have reason to think he is no longer living, the Lodge, by Resolution, may direct that his name be dropped from the list of membership and the Grand Secretary be notified of this action, after which time the Lodge shall not be liable for Grand Lodge dues for such member.

**26.07** If a Lodge reinstates a suspended Mason, and at the same meeting that he was reinstated makes him an Emeritus Member, the Lodge must pay the Grand Lodge dues for him for the year in which the action is taken.

**26.08** Emeritus Members are such as are exempt from the payment of dues by Article X, Section 13 of the Constitution, and must be reported as such in the Returns. They are not barred of any privilege.

**26.09** The terms and conditions under which members of Particular Lodges may be placed upon the Emeritus List under the authority of Article X, Section 13 of the Constitution are as follows: Each year upon proper investigation and written recommendation of its elective Officers, a Lodge may, by majority vote, place upon the Emeritus List and remit dues for such year to those members who from bodily infirmities or misfortune have become unable to pay dues, and in order for the Lodge to be exempt from the payment to the Grand Lodge of the Grand Lodge Annual Revenue on such Emeritus Members, the Worshipful Master and Secretary must certify on the Lodge Return that every Emeritus Member is unable to pay dues in accord with this Regulation. Any Brother who is a resident guest of the Masonic Home under the Life Care Plan and who is not otherwise exempt from dues and per capita shall automatically be placed on the Emeritus List of the Lodge of which he is a member. (2017)

### **Rulings and Decisions**

None but a Lodge's own member can be carried on its roll as an Emeritus Member. (1942 Proc. 49)

Members may not be placed on an Emeritus List unless they are indigent. Placing of Brothers on an Emeritus List is not proper manner to recognize long membership and service to the Lodge. (1941 Proc. 82)

If a member wants to purchase a Perpetual Membership he shall pay twenty (20) times the annual dues of his Lodge that is in effect on December 28<sup>th</sup> of that year. (1994 Proc. 101)

~~The Rules and Regulations of the Grand Lodge of Florida make no provisions for a Dual Member of a Florida Lodge to be eligible for admission into the Masonic Home or to receive Non-Resident Relief. To be placed on the Emeritus List, a member must be indigent. Therefore, it would be improper to place a Dual Member on the Emeritus List. (1984 Proc. 115) (Repealed 2005 Proc. 284-286)~~

The basis for determining the 5% return to the Lodges shall be the fully appreciated value of the Perpetual Membership Fund. (2000 Proc. 98)

The terminology "twenty (20) times the annual dues of his Lodge at the time of application" shall be the amount as stated in the By-Laws effective the day the Grand Master signed the By-Law Amendment due on or before December 28<sup>th</sup> for the ensuing year. In making this Ruling and Decision I refer to the fact that dues are payable in advance on or before December 28<sup>th</sup> of each year so the rate referred to for dues would be the amount due on December 28<sup>th</sup> of the year the By-Law Amendment is signed by the Grand Master. (2014 Proc. 123)

The term "annual dues" with reference to the purchase of a Perpetual Membership is defined as the total amount of dues owed to the Lodge PLUS the Grand Lodge per-capita assessment. If only the Lodge portion of the annual dues were considered in purchasing a Perpetual Membership a short fall to the income distributed to the Lodge would be created (2016 Proc. 120-121)

## **HONORARY MEMBERS**

### **Regulations**

**26.10** The Grand Lodge will not object to a Particular Lodge conferring honorary membership upon a distinguished and revered Mason, which must be by unanimous ball ballot at a Stated Communication of the Lodge, after having been

proposed, by Resolution, at some prior Stated Communication. Such honorary membership imposes no duties or responsibilities, and confers no rights or privileges, except the right of visitation and speaking from the floor. Honorary membership may be revoked by a majority vote at a Stated Communication. If the vote on a Resolution for honorary membership is dark, said Resolution becomes null and void, and the process must begin again (same as 25.06). (2013)

**26.10.1** The Grand Lodge will not object to a Particular Lodge conferring an Honorary Perpetual Membership on a distinguished and revered living or deceased Mason of this or another Grand Jurisdiction recognized by the Grand Lodge of Florida, which must be by unanimous ball ballot at a Stated Communication. An Honorary Perpetual Membership may be revoked by a majority vote at a Stated Communication in which case all funds credited to his account shall be transferred to The Masonic Home Endowment Fund.

The minimum fee for an Honorary Perpetual Membership shall be two hundred dollars (\$200.00) and must conform to Regulation 26.05.1(n). The total amount of net income derived therefrom shall be paid annually, seventy-five (75) percent to the Lodge through which the application was processed and twenty-five (25) percent to The Grand Lodge of Florida on the first \$500 (five hundred dollars) of principal. All net income earned on principal over \$500 (five hundred dollars) shall be returned to the Lodge. Net income derived therefrom shall be returned to the Lodge at the time of the per capita billing. (2001)

**26.10.2** Each Particular Lodge shall have an account within the Perpetual Membership Fund titled the "Perpetual Friend Account." The minimum donation that may be made to this account in the name of a single person or entity is \$200.00. The Grand Secretary shall issue a suitable certificate for each person or entity so donating. (1999)

The total amount of net income derived from this account shall be paid annually, seventy-five (75) percent to the Lodge and twenty-five (25) percent to The Grand Lodge of Florida on the first \$500 (five hundred dollars) of principal. All net income earned on principal over \$500 (five hundred dollars) shall be returned to the Lodge. Net income derived therefrom shall be returned to the Lodge at the time of per capita billing. (2001)

**26.10.3** All monies paid for an Honorary Perpetual Membership of a Brother in a Particular Lodge may be credited toward the purchase by that Brother of a Perpetual Membership in that Particular Lodge. (2003)

### **Rulings and Decisions**

Any assessments authorized by the Lodge's By-Laws are binding upon a Perpetual Member and that enforcement for collection and/or penalty for non-payment of special assessment is the same as for basic dues. (2002 Proc. 101)

Honorary Perpetual Memberships require two separate actions: (1) the ballot for Honorary Membership and (2) the purchase of Perpetual Membership, which does not require a ballot. (2008 Proc. 106)

A suspended Mason is referred to in the Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida as a suspended Brother or Mason and it is not the intention of the Perpetual Membership Friend Account to honor Masons, rather to honor non-Masonic friends. To honor a Mason that has been suspended from our Fraternity would be contrary to the Ancient Charges of Freemasonry. Therefore, no suspended Brother or Mason may become a Perpetual Friend. (2023 Proc \_\_\_\_\_)



**CARDS AND CERTIFICATES OF MEMBERSHIP****Regulations**

**26.11** In order to comply with the requirements of Jurisdictions, requiring documentary evidence as a prerequisite for examination of visitors, in addition to tests already prescribed, this Grand Lodge shall furnish to the Particular Lodges or the member of a Particular Lodge a card receipt for dues, to be issued under the Seal of the Lodge or a printed facsimile or graphic of the Seal of the Lodge and the Grand Lodge, having upon the reverse a Certificate attested by the signature or a printed signature of the Grand Secretary under the authority of the Grand Lodge that the Lodge issuing the card is a regular Lodge holding a Charter from The Grand Lodge of Florida. The wording and issuance of the card receipts to be under Rules prescribed by the Grand Secretary, with approval of the Grand Master. The cost to the Lodges shall be the amount prescribed by the Corporate Board. (2017)

**26.12** (a) A Master Mason member in good standing in a Florida Lodge upon whom the Master Mason Degree was conferred in a Florida Lodge or in a Lodge of a Grand Jurisdiction recognized by The Grand Lodge of Florida in a calendar year fifty (50) or more years prior to the current calendar year, and whose Masonic Service (herein "Good Time") equals an aggregate of fifty (50) or more years in good standing, shall be entitled to receive and there shall be presented to him an appropriate pin and certificate in recognition of such fact, which pin and certificate shall be presented with appropriate ceremony which, if conducted in Lodge Communication shall include Grand Honors. Good Time shall be calculated as the actual number of days, beginning from the member's Master Mason conferral date, up to the current calendar date, minus any period(s) of days that member was suspended for non-payment of dues (NPD), Masonic discipline (UMC), or expulsion. Further, any period(s) of days that member was on Emeritus status shall not be deducted from Good Time calculation; any period(s) of days that member was under an Unaffiliated Dimit status shall not be deducted from Good Time calculation, *provided*, that such Dimit not exceed the prescribed one year period (Chapter 41 Ruling & Decisions, 1943 Proc. 48). (2016)

(b) A Master Mason member in good standing in a Florida Lodge upon whom the Master Mason Degree was conferred fifty-five (55), sixty (60), sixty-five (65) or more years prior to the current calendar year under conditions set forth in (a) above shall be given such recognition as the Grand Master may deem appropriate and other and further recognition may likewise be given and accorded a member that received the Master Mason Degree seventy-five (75) or more years prior to the current calendar year. (1990)

(c) If a Florida Lodge receives request through the Office of the Grand Secretary to present a pin, certificate, or similar award to a member from another Grand Jurisdiction for service or membership of fifty (50) years or more or in commemoration of an event that transpired fifty (50) years or more prior to the presentation the presentation shall be accompanied by Grand Honors unless such other Grand Jurisdiction shall specifically direct or request to the contrary.

(d) Any Master Mason member of a Florida Lodge who receives the recognition provided for in (a) or (b) above and who has been a member in good standing for a period of twenty-five (25) years or more in a Florida Lodge or Lodges shall thereafter be exempt from payment of Lodge dues and assessments and his Lodge shall be exempt from payment of Grand Lodge dues, assessments, and revenues on account of his membership.

(e) A Master Mason member of a Florida Lodge upon whom was conferred the Master Mason Degree twenty-five (25) or more years prior to the current calendar year, Masonic Service or Good Time as provided in 26.12(a), equals an aggregate of twenty-five (25) or more years in good standing, and who shall be entitled to and there shall be presented to him with appropriate ceremony a pin and certificate in recognition of such fact. (2016)

A Master Mason member of a Florida Lodge upon whom was conferred the Master Mason Degree forty (40) or more years prior to the current calendar year, and whose Masonic Service or Good Time as provided for in 26.12(a), equals an aggregate of forty (40) or more years in good standing, and who shall be entitled to and there shall be presented to him with appropriate ceremony a pin and certificate in recognition of such fact. (2016)

(f) The Grand Secretary shall make and keep such records as may be necessary to determine when a member is eligible to receive recognition as above provided and shall without necessity request therefore transmit to the Lodge involved all necessary pins, certificates, and other materials necessary to fully effectuate the intent of this Regulation.

In addition to the above materials, the Grand Secretary shall send proper notice to a Lodge when a member thereof is to be exempt from dues and the Lodge from payment of Grand Lodge dues, as assessments and revenues. (1984)

### **Rulings and Decisions**

Where a Brother dimits from a Lodge and within one year affiliates with another Lodge and pays dues for each Masonic Year for twenty-five years and is otherwise qualified, the Brother is entitled to a Twenty-Five Year Certificate and Pin, and where a Brother dimits from a Lodge and within one year affiliates with another Lodge and pays dues for each Masonic Year for fifty years and is otherwise qualified, the Brother is entitled to a Fifty-Year Certificate and Pin. (1972 Proc. 393)

Awards for 25 and 50 year memberships may be presented in public meeting or at any other appropriate time and place. (1975 Proc. 68)

**DUTIES**

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

**Regulations**

**26.13** Freemasonry professes to promote virtue, with which vice, of whatever shape or magnitude, is antagonistic. It is, therefore, incumbent upon every true Mason to conform and take counsel with his Brethren concerning any and all matters properly involving fraternal discipline.

**26.14** It is the duty of every Mason, at all times and under all circumstances, to demean himself as an upright man and Mason, not only that he may continually enjoy the satisfaction of a good conscience, but that the world at large may perceive, in the conduct of every member, living and conclusive evidence of the purity and good effect of the Ancient Fraternity, whereby a good and wholesome influence may be exerted upon society at large.

**26.15** In the Lodge every Brother should observe the utmost fraternal decorum, perform with zeal, fidelity, and cheerfulness every legitimate duty, and not retire from the Communication, whether at labor, recess, or refreshment, without proper permission.

**26.16** It is truly Masonic, and highly commendable, for Brethren, between whom estranging differences exist, to refer their differences to a committee of Brethren for settlement, each agreeing to abide the award, and for which purpose charges pending may be withdrawn.

**26.17** It is the duty of every Master Mason to become proficient in the work and lectures of the Three Degrees in Freemasonry as soon as possible after being Raised, and it is urgently recommended that the Masters of Particular Lodges endeavor to promote this end.

**26.18** None but members of the Lodge have a right to a ballot, and no member present can be excused from balloting on any question before the Lodge, except by a vote of the Lodge, upon good cause shown; nor can a member be permitted to retire from the Lodge to avoid casting his ballot.

**26.19** Signing the By-Laws is not necessary, but every member of the Lodge should sign the roll of members with his own hand.

**26.20** Solicitation of business or political support for self or other person or persons at a Lodge meeting or on any other Masonic occasion is prohibited. A Particular Lodge, however, may sell advertising space in a Masonic bulletin to members of said Lodge providing that such advertising does not pertain to the sale of alcoholic beverages or violate the principle of Masonic teachings. Said advertising space shall be sold at a uniform rate, shall not exceed the size of an ordinary business card and the accumulated advertising space shall not exceed fifty percent (50%) of the total bulletin space. (1984)

**EMERITUS MEMBERS****Constitutional Provisions**

No Lodge in this Jurisdiction shall confer the Three Degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason, for a less sum than one hundred dollars, of which a minimum fee of fifty dollars shall be required for Initiation in addition to the fee for a criminal background investigation must accompany the petition or be paid electronically to any processing company selected and approved by the Grand Lodge. The fee received for Initiation shall be returned to the petitioner if rejected, however, the fee received for the criminal background investigation shall be retained by the Lodge, the Grand Lodge, or any processing company selected and approved by the Grand Lodge. The fee for Passing or Raising must be paid to the Secretary before the Degree is conferred; *provided*, that any Lodge may remit monthly or annual dues to members of the Lodge, who from bodily infirmities or misfortune, have become unable to pay them. (2018) (Art. X, Sec. 13)

**26.21** No Mason or Masons subject to the jurisdiction of The Grand Lodge of Florida shall, by written or printed critical or controversial communications of any kind, circularize the Officers and members of any Particular Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction.

It is the intent, spirit, and purpose of this Regulation to prevent the dissemination and circulation of critical and controversial communications between or concerning Masons in this Grand Jurisdiction. It is not the intent, spirit, or purpose to prohibit or interfere with official communications by Officers and members of the Grand Lodge, and by Officers and members of Particular Lodges, and by District Masonic Officers, necessarily carried on between Grand Communications for the orderly and regular conduct of the affairs of Masonry in this Grand Jurisdiction, and such communications are specifically exempted from the provisions of this Regulation. Likewise, non-controversial Masonic bulletins and publications are specifically exempted.

Between Annual Grand Communications of the Grand Lodge, the enforcement of this Regulation is placed in the hands of the Grand Master and he shall have the power to issue such admonitions, reprimands, Executive Orders, and Edicts, as he may be advised, necessary to carry out the spirit, intent, and purpose of this Regulation. All of his acts and doings in the enforcement and administration of this Regulation shall be reported at the next Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge with his report for review by the Grand Lodge.

### **Rulings and Decisions**

It is contrary to Masonic Law and practice for a member to attempt to sell Masonic Bibles or solicit business at any Lodge meeting or on any Masonic occasion. (1954 Proc. 62)

It is mandatory for each Lodge to have a "Roll of Members" book and every member of the Lodge should sign the roll of members in his own hand. This book and requirement should not be confused with a "Visitors and Membership" book which should be signed by members and visitors alike prior to attending Lodge. (1983 Proc. 115)

**STATUS**  
**REMOVAL TO ANOTHER JURISDICTION**

**Regulations**

**26.22** Permanent removal from the jurisdiction vacates any office, but does not forfeit membership.

**RIGHTS**  
**MASONIC CHARITY**  
**MEMBERS AND THEIR WIDOWS AND ORPHANS**

**Constitutional Provisions**

On the death of a Master Mason in good standing in his Lodge, leaving a widow and orphan, or a widow, or an orphan, or orphans, it is the duty of the Secretary of the Lodge to grant to such widow and orphans, or to the widow or to the orphan or orphans of such deceased Master Mason, a Certificate of the fact under the Seal of the Lodge; and on the presentation of such Certificate to the Grand Secretary, it shall be his duty to grant to the said widow and orphans an appropriate Grand Lodge Certificate of Respect without charge or fee. (Art. X, Sec. 26)

**Regulations**

**26.23** Worthy widows and orphans of Master Masons who died in good standing are entitled to certificates provided for in the Constitution. Widows of worthy Master Masons who died in good standing are also entitled to an official widow's pin, certificate, and wallet card, all of which shall be available through the Grand Secretary's Office.

**26.24** The widow of a Master Mason, who marries a non-Mason, loses by such marriage any claim for Masonic relief in the capacity of a widow of a Master Mason.

**26.25** When a Mason is undergoing punishment under sentences of legal tribunal, his Lodge may contribute pecuniarily to his relief, if it is so decided after a careful examination into the facts. The decision of a legal tribunal is not, in itself, sufficient evidence of unworthiness, but it should prompt the Lodge to make a careful and searching investigation.

**26.26** No Masonic rights, privileges, or benefits can be extended to anyone while under sentence of suspension or expulsion.

**Rulings and Decisions**

A suspended Brother of a Lodge cannot be admitted to the Masonic Home in St. Petersburg. (1948 Proc. 52)

Based on the historical and judicial findings recognized as authorities in Freemasonry when it comes to established law with deep roots in Masonic tradition, usages, and customs from the 1800's, that an expelled Mason shall not, under any circumstances, be allowed to be present, participate, or engage in any Masonic public or private event. As expulsion is equal to a Masonic death. (2023 Proc. \_\_\_\_\_)

A Brother otherwise eligible for Masonic relief does not lose right to such Masonic relief merely because he transfers his membership from one Florida Lodge to another Florida Lodge, provided he does not remain unaffiliated for such time that he fails to pay dues each year. (1959 Proc. 61, 164)

A Mason's eligibility for Masonic relief is determined under the Law, Rules and Regulations of this Grand Jurisdiction in force and effect at the time of his affiliation or the beginning of his membership. A Brother 64 years of age at the time of his affiliation in 1947 is eligible for Masonic relief since the Regulations limiting relief by age limits was not adopted and did not become effective until May 1, 1952. (1959 Proc. 61, 164)

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Regulations

**26.27** A member of a Lodge may have his name changed upon its records by furnishing the Secretary two (2) certified copies of a court order whereby he was given authority to make such change of his name. The Secretary shall retain one (1) copy for the Lodge files and forward a copy to the Grand Secretary with required membership change of status information. (1985)

**26.28** The Grand Master or the Grand Lodge may accept the resignation or withdrawal from Freemasonry of any member of a Particular Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction without leave of reinstatement. The Grand Secretary shall search the records of the Brother who wishes to resign and inform the Grand Master of his findings. Copies of resignations that are Penal related or that are made when unmasonic Conduct charges are pending shall be furnished to the Chairman of the Penal Affairs Panel. Acceptance of the resignation shall terminate Masonic Membership but shall not release such former member from the obligation of secrecy. "Without leave of reinstatement" means the former member forfeits all right and privilege to petition for reinstatement but does not prevent petition by a Particular Lodge for his reinstatement upon such terms and conditions as shall be or may be determined by the Grand Lodge.

(a) A period of two years must have elapsed from the date the resignation became effective before a request for restoration will be considered by a Lodge.

(b) The Petitioner would have to file his request and state his reasons desiring reinstatement in writing to the Secretary of his Lodge and certify that he has complied with his "obligation of secrecy" during the period that his resignation became effective to the date of his request.

(c) After due notice to the membership of the Lodge at a Stated Meeting, the Secretary would read the request, a motion shall be made and seconded to proceed with the request or not to proceed with the request. A vote to proceed with the request would require a unanimous vote of those present, by either Ball or Written Ballot. If the vote is not to proceed with the request, the former member may appeal to the Grand Master who, in his discretion, may issue a Grand Lodge Certificate. (1989)

(d) If the Lodge votes to proceed with the request, the Worshipful Master over the Seal of the Lodge and signed by the Secretary shall write the Grand Master for his permission to proceed. No action in respect to reinstatement shall be taken by a Particular Lodge without express written permission and consent of the Grand Lodge or its authority.

(e) If the Grand Master approves the request of the Lodge by Dispensation, the Lodge may receive the petition for reinstatement. After the petition is received by the Lodge it will lay over for thirty (30) days during which time the membership must have due notice. If such petition is rejected, it cannot be put to a vote again until after one year from the date of such rejection.

(f) If the Lodge voted to accept the petitioner back into membership, the Grand Master may give his approval at this time and the petitioner would be restored to membership in the Lodge. Should the Grand Master refuse the request to receive the petition or refuse to restore the membership after the Lodge's approval, the Lodge may appeal to the Grand Lodge.

(g) When a Brother has resigned from Freemasonry, it will take the unanimous consent of the Lodge and the consent of the Grand Master before he may be restored to membership in the Lodge. (1985)

### References

As to Dues and Assessments, see Chapter 27  
 As to Rights of Visitation, see Chapter 40  
 As to Funerals, see Regs. 38.32 - 38.42  
 As to Rights and Duties in Balloting, see Chapter 35  
 As to Rights to Dimit, see Chapter 41  
 As to Rights of Members of Defunct Lodges, see Chapter 43  
 As to Membership in Other Orders, see Chapter 4  
 As to Restoration of Full Civil Rights, see Reg. 31.03

### Rulings and Decisions

Member of Lodge desiring to have his name changed on Masonic records must furnish court order evidencing legal change of name. (1967 Proc. 75, 211)

Just as a candidate for Freemasonry must be a man, so it follows that to remain a Mason, he must not become a woman or portray himself as a woman. This portrayal may be by gender change, name change, identification, attire, or accouterment. (2008 Proc. 106)





Digest of Masonic Law

CHAPTER 27

**FINANCES; DUES, SUSPENSION FOR NON-PAYMENT  
THEREOF, AND REINSTATEMENT  
DUES**

**Constitutional Provisions**

Every member of a Lodge must pay to the Secretary of the Lodge such monthly or annual dues as may be prescribed by the By-Laws of the Lodge. (Art. X, Sec. 18)

**Regulations**

**27.01** It is competent for Particular Lodges by By-Laws duly adopted to make such uniform and reasonable assessments of annual or monthly dues upon the members as are necessary for the well-being of the Fraternity. (See Const. Art. X, Sec. 18)

**27.02** A Lodge has the power, under the Constitution, to enforce the collection of any assessment authorized by its By-Laws, but none other.

**27.03** A Particular Lodge, may, by By-Law duly adopted, change its dues or assessments, but no such By-Law shall be retroactive or put a Brother in default who has paid his annual dues under a valid By-Law in force at the time of such payment.

**27.04** The payment of dues to the Particular Lodges is governed by the By-Laws. If they are made payable in advance, they are due at the date when made payable, and those who do not pay at the designated time are in arrears. The Grand Lodge requires dues for an entire year, even though the member may have belonged to the Particular Lodge for only a small fraction of the year, and the Particular Lodge may adopt a similar policy by its By-Laws. If it fails to do this, it will still be liable to the Grand Lodge for the annual dues for its entire membership except in cases where a Brother has had membership, in more than one Florida Lodge during the year. (See Constitution, Article X, Section 20) But members of Particular Lodges in Florida who are in the Armed Forces of the United States of America, and receiving less than \$50.00 per month in salary, shall while the United States is engaged in war, be exempt from Grand Lodge per capita assessment; *provided*, that the Particular Lodges of which they are members take similar action, notifying the Grand Secretary of such action.

### References

Dues may be made annually or monthly, according to the express terms of the Constitution. (Constitution, Article X, Section 18)

### Regulations

**27.05** Article X, Section 18 of the Constitution is construed as advisory and not mandatory, and a By-Law requiring Lodge dues to be payable quarterly is not contrary to the intent of the provisions of Article X, Section 18.

**27.06** If a Lodge reinstates a suspended Mason, and at the same meeting that he was reinstated makes him an Emeritus Member, the Lodge must pay the Grand Lodge dues for him for the year in which the action is taken.

**27.07** A member paying his dues in full and applying for a dimit prior to December 27<sup>th</sup> is not chargeable with dues for the following year, for want of Lodge action, as action should be taken by the Lodge on or before December 27<sup>th</sup>.

### References

As to other assessments by Grand Lodge, See Chapter 14

As to dues of dual member who dimit, See Reg. 26.04

Dues of Emeritus Members may be remitted. Const. Art. X, Sec. 13; Regs. 26.08, 26.09

### Rulings and Decisions

Lodges are not required to pay for those members who have not paid their assessment. (1952 Proc. 31)

It is proper to accept dues from a member who is under charges in a court of law. (1948 Proc. 48)

A Brother who withdraws from Lodge by dimit is required to pay all current dues before issuance of dimit and if Brother in that same year affiliates with another Florida Lodge, he is not required to pay dues to the Lodge with which he affiliates because Masonic Law does not contemplate a Brother paying dues more than one time each year. (1959 Proc. 60, 164)

## SUSPENSION FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES

### Constitutional Provisions

Every member of a Lodge who is six months or more in arrears for dues shall be notified thereof by the Secretary, and in case of failure or refusal to come forward and pay his dues, or give satisfactory excuse, within three months after such notification, may be suspended at the discretion of the Lodge. (Art. X, Sec. 20)

### Regulations

**27.08** A Lodge By-Law providing for automatic suspension for non-payment of dues is not in accord with Article X, Section 20 of the Constitution, and is void. All suspensions for non-payment of dues must be by direct Lodge action, but may be made effective at a certain future date, not later than December 27<sup>th</sup> of that year, unless paid meanwhile; *provided*, the Constitutional requirements involved are complied with.

### References

See By-Law 4.02 of Uniform Code of By-Laws, Regulation 24.05 for procedure for suspension for non-payment of dues.

### Regulations

**27.09** At the time of making up Lodge Returns hereafter, the Particular Lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction shall be permitted to take credit for, or deduct, Grand Lodge dues and assessments for all those whose names appear in the "Exhibit of Losses" column, as suspended for non-payment of dues, and those who may have died during the year without having paid dues.

When a member suspended for non-payment of dues by a Particular Lodge is reinstated, the Particular Lodge shall account to Grand Lodge for arrearages of such member.

No Lodge shall reinstate a suspended member without collecting or remitting current year's dues, but in case of remission of dues, the Lodge shall account to Grand Lodge for Grand Lodge per capita.

Only the Grand Lodge, or the Grand Master, can remit any portion of arrearages of a suspended member suspended for non-payment of dues.

**27.10** No Masonic rights, privileges, or benefits can be extended to any one while under sentence of suspension or expulsion.

**27.11** A Particular Lodge may, in suspending one or more Brothers for non-payment of dues, provide that such suspension shall become effective at certain future date, unless the dues are in the meantime paid.

**27.12** Dues are not chargeable during suspension for any cause.

### Rulings and Decisions

The Master of a Lodge does not have authority to order suspension of members for non-payment of dues. The action for suspension must be by direct Lodge action. (1954 Proc. 65)

Action of a Particular Lodge suspending members without due notice is null and void. (1980 Proc. 166)

Regulation 27.08 provides that no suspension shall be made after December 27<sup>th</sup>, but, the Regulation contains a provision, which always overrides anything before it, and that must be complied with. Even if there was no such provision, the requirements of the Constitution would prevail over the provisions of the Regulation. If a Brother has been suspended December 27<sup>th</sup> without proper notice, the suspension would be illegal. If a Brother was suspended after December 27<sup>th</sup> because proper notice had not been given to him six months prior to that date, then that suspension is valid, in accordance with the Constitution, and also is in compliance with the requirements of the Regulation. (1984 Proc. 116)

Based on the historical and judicial findings recognized as authorities in Freemasonry when it comes to established law with deep roots in Masonic tradition, usages, and customs from the 1800's, that an expelled Mason shall not, under any circumstances, be allowed to be present, participate, or engage in any Masonic public or private event. As expulsion is equal to a Masonic death. (2023 Proc. \_\_\_\_)



## REINSTATEMENT

### Regulations

**27.13** A Member suspended for non-payment of dues can be reinstated only after petition has been properly submitted, which shall take the same course as a petition for the Degrees; *provided*, any such petition which is rejected may be renewed by a new petition after three months from date of such rejection. A favorable vote of three-fourths of the members present by ball ballot or secret written vote shall be necessary to reinstate a member suspended for non-payment of dues.

**27.14** In handling a petition for reinstatement for N.P.D., a Lodge may collect or remit all dues, including current dues, or any part thereof, but any per capita due Grand Lodge must be paid to Grand Lodge.

**27.15** A Mason suspended for non-payment of dues by a Lodge which afterward becomes dormant or defunct, can be restored by the Grand Master upon the recommendation of some regular Lodge, and the payment of all arrearages to the Grand Secretary, who shall issue a Certificate upon which the restored Brother can apply for membership in any regular Lodge, but the payment of arrears of dues may be remitted by the Grand Lodge, or Grand Master in recess, in meritorious cases, upon the recommendation of the Lodge in which the Brother desiring restoration seeks affiliation. (See Reg. 9.13)

### Rulings and Decisions

Lodge may reinstate members suspended for N.P.D. without payment of current year's dues unless such action is prohibited by Lodge By-Laws. (1942 Proc. 55)

It is optional with the Lodge whether or not to collect back dues or current dues from a suspended Brother seeking reinstatement but per capita due Grand Lodge must be paid by the Lodge. (1943 Proc. 74)

Money for back dues tendered with petition for reinstatement belongs to Lodge even if petition is rejected, but may be returned as donation by a vote of the Lodge. Money tendered for current year's dues must be returned if petition is rejected. (1942 Proc. 46)

If amount tendered with petition and reinstatement is only for the amount of arrearage at time of suspension, it should be retained by the Lodge even if applicant is rejected. Any sum tendered for current dues must be returned if petitioner is rejected. (1944 Proc. 33)

On reinstatement of suspended Brother for N.P.D., nothing is paid to Grand Lodge except per capita due when suspended. (1944 Proc. 36)

Brother suspended in 1933 and moving into jurisdiction of another Lodge in 1934 and seeking reinstatement must apply to Lodge of which he was a member and seek reinstatement on terms provided in the By-Laws of that Lodge. (1947 Proc. 32)

On petition for reinstatement from suspension for N.P.D., by now defunct Kansas Lodge, correct procedure is for petitioner to clear with Grand Lodge of Kansas, paying all amounts due and taking receipt therefore and attaching same to petition for affiliation. Grand Master will then restore from suspension and permit Lodge to act on receiving petition. (1946 Proc. 37)

Members seventy (70) years old suspended twelve (12) years before applying for reinstatement may be reinstated at discretion of Lodge after thorough investigation. (1947 Proc. 31)

When Lodge is negligent in failing to investigate the condition of a Brother on Emeritus List, and suspends him for non-payment of dues for succeeding years, it may, by appropriate Resolution, reciting its oversight and negligence, reinstate the Brother and remit to Grand Lodge the dues for such member. (1961 Proc. 162, 319)

A Lodge should accept petition for reinstatement of a member 65 years of age who has been suspended for non-payment of dues in 1932, but reinstatement of petitioner is matter of discretion of the Lodge. (1964 Proc. 65, 268)

## LODGE FUNDS

### Regulations

**27.16** Lodge funds may be used for charity, public installation, entertainments, refreshments, and for any purpose not un-masonic, when ordered by the Lodge.

**27.17** Lodges must not contribute from their treasuries to Masonic or alleged Masonic objects in foreign jurisdictions, as for example, the building of a Temple at Jerusalem, unless such objects have been approved by the Grand Lodge or by the Grand Master.

### References

The Treasurer is the custodian of the funds of the Lodge, even when only held in trust, therefore, the Secretary should promptly turn over to the Treasurer all moneys received by him for fees. Reg. 22.02

### Rulings and Decisions

Un-masonic is defined as anything that Masonry is not part of. (1947 Proc. 31)

A Lodge may contribute from its funds to Memorial Hospital. (1946 Proc. 37)

Lodge may use its funds to award prize to outstanding high school senior boy but Lodges are cautioned against expenditures not strictly Masonic. (1944 Proc. 36, 100)

Lodge may contribute to erection of hospital in the community. (1944 Proc. 31)

Lodge may donate funds to Community Christmas Tree. (1942 Proc. 53)

Lodge By-Laws requiring notice to members of contemplated expenditures of over \$250 does not require notice to members to purchase bonds as investment. (1944 Proc. 36)

Lodge charity funds contributed primarily for the assistance of worthy needy Brother Masons and their families cannot be donated to other organizations, even though such organizations might do a certain amount of charity work. (1954 Proc. 68)



CHAPTER 28

**LODGE PROPERTY, LODGE BUILDING,  
AND LODGE ROOM**

GENERAL PROVISIONS

**Regulations**

**28.01** WHEREAS, each Particular Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction is by Act of Legislature incorporated as a separate and independent body, politic, and corporate, and as such has all corporate powers, including the right to acquire, own, hold, and convey real and personal property under its Masonic name as set out in its Charter.

THEREFORE, all Particular Lodges within this Grand Jurisdiction are instructed that title to any property hereafter acquired by such Particular Lodge, either by gift, purchase, or other means, shall be held in the name of such Particular Lodge as set out in its Masonic Charter or in the name of a Masonic Center Association. All Particular Lodges are prohibited hereafter from placing the title to any of their Masonic buildings in any name other than their own unless they are organized for co-ownership in the form of a Masonic Center Association. All property ownership transactions involving a Masonic Center Association must be pre-approved by the Grand Master. (2017)

**Rulings and Decisions**

Regulation 28.01 prohibits Masonic Lodges from forming non-profit or other corporation for purpose of building and holding title to Lodge temple. (1968 Proc. 57, 212)

**Regulations**

**28.02** A Particular Lodge shall not sell, convey, dispose of, mortgage, or enter into any transaction relating to Lodge property except by special action of the Lodge by written or ball ballot with three-fourths favorable vote at a Stated Communication after due notice to the Lodge members of such contemplated action. All necessary documents, instruments, and papers relating to any such transaction required to be signed on behalf of the Lodge shall be executed in the name of such Lodge by the Worshipful Master under the Seal of such Lodge and attested by the Secretary of the Lodge. (2021)

**28.03** Before proceeding with the construction of any new building or repairing, remodeling, or making additions to any old building, or the purchase of any property where the same involves incurring indebtedness by a Particular Lodge, or before proceeding with financing any loan or refinancing any debt, Particular Lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction are required to submit plans and specifications of any building to be purchased, repaired, or remodeled, and complete financial statement and plan for financing the indebtedness to be incurred, to the Grand Lodge Properties Committee for consideration; and if the Committee approves the proposal, the Committee shall send it to the Grand Master for final action, the above information to be furnished on forms prescribed by the Properties Committee with the approval of the Grand Master. The approval of plans for financing shall in no wise obligate the Grand Lodge for any indebtedness incurred by a Particular Lodge. All plans, specifications, statements, and other documents must be submitted in duplicate if required by the Committee.

(Form for furnishing information printed in full 1959 Proc. 100-103)

**28.04** The “Banquet Hall” or any other rooms in the Masonic Building not used as a Lodge Room proper may be used for entertainments by the Lodge at which dancing may be permitted, and if some of the members have relatives or personal friends who have no Masonic connection, such friends may be invited to attend and participate in the entertainment. Dances shall not be permitted in the Lodge Room, except by or for recognized youth groups, which dances shall be conducted under the supervision of the Officers of the Lodge or their duly authorized representatives; and all paraphernalia of the Lodge shall be removed from the Lodge Room during such dances.

**28.05** No Lodge shall permit its Lodge Room to be used for a political meeting.

**28.06** A Particular Lodge shall not allow or permit its Lodge Room, “Banquet Hall,” or any other room used for Masonic purposes or by Masons for a Particular Lodge or Grand Lodge to be used for the sale or dispensing or serving of alcoholic beverages, except as provided for in Regulation 28.06.1, nor for conducting thereon of games of chance, lotteries, or any other form of gambling, with the exception of fundraiser drawings and raffles, nor for any illegal or immoral purposes. These prohibitions shall apply to all Table Lodges but the use of wine for Ceremonial purposes by Allied and Appendant Bodies shall not be prohibited. (2018)

**28.06.1** Any non-Masonic, legitimate and moral commercial or retail business that leases or rents Lodge property or portions thereof other than the Lodge Room, or any other room used for Masonic purposes or by Masons for a Particular Lodge or Grand Lodge may sell or dispense alcoholic beverages; *provided* such business has acquired all the proper credentials, licenses, certificates, insurance, and any other documents required, in accordance with all the local, County, State, and Federal Laws; and *provided further* such lease or rental agreement shall include language which will indemnify a Particular Lodge or Grand Lodge against any legal actions taken by the lessee or its customers, patrons, or any other person or persons directly or indirectly involved with the lessee’s business (due to its selling or dispensing alcoholic beverages). (2018)

A Particular Lodge may allow or permit the “Banquet Hall” to be used for non-Masonic, legitimate and moral commercial or retail business purposes where a fee for lease or rent for such usage may or may not be collected and alcoholic beverages may be permitted only in the “Banquet Hall” and nowhere else inside the building or outside on the Lodge property at the time of such activity; *provided* such businesses, including exclusive booking agents and professional event planners or individual have acquired all the proper credentials, licenses, certificates, insurance, and any other documents required, in accordance with all the Local, County, State, and Federal Laws; and *provided further* a lease, rental, or usage agreement shall include language which will indemnify a Particular Lodge and Grand Lodge against any legal actions taken by the lessee or its customers, patrons, guests, or any other person or persons directly or indirectly involved with the lessee’s business or purpose (due to its selling or dispensing alcoholic beverages); and *provided further* that the Particular Lodge or other Masonic Allied and Appendant Bodies are not meeting in the Lodge Room for any reason including instruction; and *provided further* the event shall be monitored under the supervision of an Officer or Officers of the Particular Lodge and/or their duly authorized representative(s) for compliance of these stipulations. (2018)

**28.07** Any Lodge may engage in activities which solicits or accepts funds from any persons and permit its property to be used for any such purpose; *provided* however nothing herein shall prevent lease of such property or portions thereof for legitimate commercial or business purposes; *further provided* however such activity shall not involve any use for purposes prohibited by Masonic Law; and *provided further* that in the claim for exemption of Lodge property from taxation such activities shall be fully reported to the appropriate taxing authorities. (2009)

A Lodge may sponsor charitable fundraising events and solicit charitable contributions from Masons and non-Masons for specifically named charities, in compliance with all governmental regulations. Copies of all registration and reporting forms must be filed with the Grand Secretary’s Office on a timely basis. All charitable funds received from specifically named charitable events must be kept in a separate bank account, separately accounted for, and never mixed with a Lodge’s general fund. (1995)

It shall be the duty of the Committee on Lodge Property to promulgate written rules governing use of Lodge property in accordance with this and other Regulations and Lodge By-Laws relating to use of Lodge property and upon approval by the Lodge to enforce the same. (1979)

**28.07.1** All Particular Lodges of the Grand Jurisdiction of Florida shall be allowed to hold fundraising events and solicit the public for such events, on or off of Lodge property and comply with the Laws, Rules, and Regulations of Grand Lodge and under the qualifications and rules of the Florida Department of Agriculture’s Solicitation Act and all other laws. (2009)

### References

All business respecting acquiring or disposing of real estate must be taken at Stated Communications. Regs. 28.02; 25.05

As to custody and sale of property of defunct Lodges, see Chapter 43

As to conduct of members in Lodge Room during Communications, see Chapter 25

As to Lodge Rooms on ground floor, see Reg. 6.12(c)

As to the sale and serving of alcoholic or intoxicating beverages on Lodge property, refer to Reg. 44.05, and to the Ruling and Decision on page 318

### Rulings and Decisions

Lodge requires no authorization from Grand Lodge or Grand Master to purchase lot for Temple site for cash. (1941 Proc. 76)

~~Title to any building or property acquired by the Lodge must be vested in the name of the Lodge. (1954 Proc. 67)~~

A Lodge cannot enter into a joint venture with other civic and fraternal organizations for purpose of erecting a building. (1953 Proc. 49)

There can be no joint ownership of property between a Lodge and church or other organization. (1962 Proc. 81)

~~There can be no joint ownership of Lodge property nor can it be in the name of a nonprofit corporation. (1952 Proc. 32)~~

A Lodge will not be permitted to own property jointly with O.E.S. but the Lodge may own property and grant O.E.S. long-term lease. (1952 Proc. 35)

A Lodge can rent its hall or other of its facilities to other orders or organizations. (1948 Proc. 51)

It is within the authority of the Lodge to rent its hall to a church. (1948 Proc. 52)

It is contrary to Masonic Law for a Lodge to join with the Eastern Star in the erection of a building under joint ownership. (1954 Proc. 62)

When a Lodge leases any of its property, the lease should provide for the right of the Lodge to cancel the lease in the event the property is used for any illegal purpose or for any purpose contrary to Masonic Law. (1954 Proc. 72)

There being no Grand Lodge Regulation against county, state, or national elections being held in the kitchen part of a Lodge building, it is permissible to hold such elections therein. (1952 Proc. 82, 296)

It is proper for a Lodge to rent a room in a Grotto Temple for use as Lodge Room although the Grotto uses the same room on occasions for dances, provided all paraphernalia of the Lodge is removed after each Lodge meeting. (1959 Proc. 59-60, 164)

The serving of any intoxicating beverage in ~~Masonic Temples or Lodge Rooms or at Masonic Banquets~~ is forbidden by Masonic Law. (1969 Proc. 58, 212) (Partially Repealed 2013 Proc. 358 and 2018 Proc. 328)

Lodge property cannot be sold or disposed of except by action of the Lodge after notice to the membership and all members wishing to vote must be personally present. Absentee voting is improper. See Regs. 25.05, 25.38, 26.18, and 35.07 (1970 Proc. 55, 284)

It is improper to have a telephone in a Lodge Room. Telephone in anteroom is proper and sufficient. (1972 Proc. 53-259)

Lodge cannot accept gift of real estate for Lodge building on condition that donor have free access and use of Lodge building and long term lease regarding use of Lodge building would also be improper. (1973 Proc. 60, 344)

It is not proper for a Particular Lodge to permit the Order of Eastern Star to make a permanent installation of the Eastern Star emblem in the floor of its Lodge Room. (1974 Proc. 354)

In respect to interpretation of Regulation 28.06 as it may apply to playing cards on Lodge premises we advised the Grand Master:

- (1) ~~That Regulation 28.06, prohibits gambling and games of chance of every kind and by any devise. (Repealed 2013 Proc. 345-347)~~
- (2) That occasional games of cards that do not involve gambling or playing for stakes is not violative of Regulation 28.06.
- (3) Excessive and frequent playing of cards on Lodge premises might be construed to change the character of the premises to a property used predominantly for recreational purposes and jeopardize tax exempt status of the property.
- (4) Officers of the Lodge should be diligent and make every effort to be sure that gambling is not permitted, with the exception of fundraiser drawings and raffles. (2013 Proc. 345-347)
- (5) No card playing should be allowed in the Lodge Room. (1983 Proc. 357)

**Refer to Regulation 28.06 concerning games of chance.**

It is proper for a Lodge to permit the Chamber of Commerce to use the building for meeting purpose, but must abide by all the Rules and Regulations governing Masonic Lodges including intoxicating beverages. ~~and games of chance.~~ (1986 Proc. 71) (Partially Repealed 2013 Proc. 345-347)

The use of wine by Churches or religious organizations in the sacraments while using Lodge property shall not be prohibited. (2000 Proc. 97-98)

Particular Lodges and Clubs (which term shall include but not be limited to Masters and Wardens Associations, etc.) shall be permitted to conduct fundraising drawings and/or raffles provided all city, town, county, state, and federal laws are complied with, particularly, the 2013 amendments to Florida Statutes, Section 849.0935, which make it illegal to award cash prizes for drawings and/or raffles (included but not limited to 50/50 drawings). In the event the sale of tickets for the drawing and/or raffle is limited to the sponsoring Lodge or Club's membership, it is exempt from the registration requirements of Florida's Charitable Solicitation Law, Chapter 496, Florida Statutes. It must be noted that the fair market value of all winnings from any form of raffles and/or drawings (which are defined as "Gambling" by the Internal Revenue Service Code), is deemed income and fully taxable. The Particular Lodge or Club shall be responsible for becoming familiar with all Internal Revenue Service Code provisions relating to withholding and reporting requirements. Additionally, all Lodges and Clubs are required to familiarize themselves with Form GL 220, Particular Lodge Solicitation Procedures and Guidelines. (2014 Proc. 122)

**Refer to Regulation 44.05 and Ruling and Decision on page 318 concerning the sale or serving of alcohol or intoxicating beverages on Lodge property.**

## CHAPTER 29

### LODGE REPRESENTATIVES TO GRAND LODGE

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS

##### **Constitutional Provisions**

The Master and Wardens, or their duly appointed proxies, are the representatives of their Lodge in the Grand Lodge. (Art. X, Sec. 7)

It is the duty of each Worshipful Master of the Particular Lodges in this jurisdiction to make a report of the Proceedings of the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge to his Lodge, as soon as practicable after said Communication has been closed, and to impress upon all the members of his Lodge the duty of familiarizing themselves with this Constitution and the Old Charges of the Free and Accepted Masons. (Art. X, Sec. 28)

##### **Regulations**

**29.01** It is the duty of the Master and Wardens, or at least one of them, of each Chartered Lodge, to attend every Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, but when unable to do so in person it is each of their prerogatives to appoint proxies, confined to the membership of their respective Lodges, to represent them. Such appointments should be in writing and attested by the Secretary and Lodge Seal. However, when the Grand Lodge is satisfied that the proper officers of a Particular Lodge, being absent, intended to appoint a certain Brother their proxy, he may be admitted without formal credentials.

**29.02** All proxies must be handed to the Committee on Returns and Credentials at or before the calling of the roll of Grand Lodge on the first day of the session; otherwise, no proxy will be received until recognized by the Grand Lodge.

**29.03** When a Master has given his proxy to a member of his Lodge to represent him during a Communication of the Grand Lodge, and the proxy has been recognized as the representative, the Master has the right to withdraw it and assume the duties himself only by action of the Grand Lodge.

**29.04** Every Chartered Lodge is entitled to representation in the Grand Lodge; but no Brother representing a Lodge can draw mileage and per diem, or either, unless the Grand Lodge dues and assessments have been paid, remitted, or further time given.

**29.05** The Officer in attendance upon the Grand Lodge is entitled to receive the mileage and per diem in preference to the proxy of an Officer higher in rank.

**29.06** Officers appointed to serve newly Chartered Lodges will not be allowed compensation or mileage for attending the Grand Communication at which their Lodges were Chartered, unless they have been working more than a year. (Const. Art. II, Sec. 2)

### References

The Grand Master cannot appoint a Brother to represent a Lodge in Grand Lodge. Reg. 6.05  
Representatives shall not be placed on payroll if Lodge return is not filed five (5) days before Annual Communication. Reg. 30.03  
As to mileage and per diem of representatives, See Reg. 12.06  
As to Grand Lodge payroll, See Reg. 12.05, 12.06  
A Lodge, by majority vote, may give instructions to its representatives to Grand Lodge. Anderson's Constitution, Reg. X, Chapter 1  
It is an ancient precept of Freemasonry that every Mason may instruct his representatives to the general meetings of the Craft. Const. Art. XIII, Sec. 3

Digest of Masonic Law

CHAPTER 30

**LODGE REPORTS AND RETURNS TO GRAND LODGE**

GENERAL PROVISIONS

**Constitutional Provisions**

The Particular Lodges under this Jurisdiction shall make Lodge Returns, and shall account for and pay to the Grand Lodge such fees, dues, assessments, and revenue at such time as shall be prescribed by Regulations, and until such Returns are made, and dues paid or remitted, no Lodge shall be entitled to representation in the Grand Lodge; *provided*, that members exempted from payment of dues by provisions of this Constitution shall not be included and accounted for in the Returns; *provided further*, that members who have membership in more than one (1) Lodge during the year shall only be accounted for by the Lodge wherein such members first had a membership during the year, except in the case of newly Chartered Lodges. Members whose names appear upon the Returns of the Lodge of which they were former members, and also upon the Returns of newly Chartered Lodges, shall be accounted for by such newly Chartered Lodges only. (Art. VIII, Sec. 2)

Every Lodge must make full and complete Returns of the proceedings annually to the Grand Lodge, with the names of its Officers and members, and a statement of all dues, signed by the Master, and countersigned by the Secretary, under the Seal of the Lodge; and without such Returns made, and payment or remission of all dues, no Lodge shall be entitled to representation in the Grand Lodge. And every Lodge failing to be represented in the Grand Lodge for two consecutive years shall forfeit its Charter; *provided*, that if such defaulting Lodge shall, on or before the next Annual Communication, make full Returns and payment of dues to the Grand Secretary, and satisfactory explanation to the Grand Lodge, or in the recess to the Grand Master, such forfeiture shall be released and the Lodge restored to its regular standing. (Art. X, Sec. 22)

**Regulations**

**30.01** All Grand Lodge dues and assessments shall be paid in full on or before February 15<sup>th</sup> of each year and a penalty of \$50.00 or 5% of the balance past due; whichever is greater, shall be assessed against each Lodge failing so to do, which penal sum shall be paid to the Grand Secretary at the time of payment of delinquent dues and assessments. (2010)



**30.02** A Data Processing Lodge Membership and Annual Return Centralized System is hereby established under supervision and direction of and in accordance with Rules promulgated by the Corporate Board. The development and implementation of such system and the purpose for which the same shall be used and employed shall be in accordance with appropriate Resolution and Regulation adopted and specific appropriations made therefore by the Grand Lodge in Annual Grand Communication.

**30.03** When a Lodge shall fail to have its Annual Return in the hands of the Grand Secretary at least five days before the Annual Communication of this Grand Lodge, it is to be reported absent, and the representative thereof shall not be placed upon the payroll, except by a vote of the Grand Lodge after satisfactory reason has been given for the delay.

**30.04** At the time of making up Lodge Returns hereafter, the Particular Lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction shall be permitted to take credit for, or deduct, Grand Lodge dues and assessments for all those whose names appear in the "Exhibit of Losses" column, as suspended for non-payment of dues, and those who may have died during the year without having paid dues.

When a member suspended for non-payment of dues by a Particular Lodge is reinstated, the Particular Lodge shall account to Grand Lodge for arrearages of such member.

No Lodge shall reinstate a suspended member without collecting or remitting current year's dues, but in case of remission of dues, the Lodge shall account to Grand Lodge for Grand Lodge per capita.

Only the Grand Lodge, or the Grand Master, can remit any portion of arrearages of a suspended member, suspended for non-payment of dues.

**30.05** Emeritus Members are such as are exempt from the payment of dues by Article X, Section 13 of the Constitution, and must be reported as such in the returns. They are not barred of any privilege.

**30.06** In case of Brothers who have been carried upon the roll of a Lodge, as members exempt from payment of dues, and who have not been heard from for more than seven years and members of the Lodge having reason to believe that they are no longer living, the Lodge, by Resolution, may direct the Secretary to enter upon the roll, "absent and not heard from for seven years," and the names of such members shall be dropped from the list of active members, and the Grand Lodge notified of this action in annual returns.

**References**

Forms for Lodge Returns shall be furnished by the Grand Secretary. Regs. 9.10; 9.11; 26.02  
When Lodge fails for two consecutive years to file Return the Lodge Charter is forfeited. Reg. 17.06  
Newly Elected Officers of a Lodge shall be immediately reported to Grand Secretary. Reg. 22.03

## CHAPTER 31

### CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREES

**As to Fees for the Degrees, see Chapter 32**  
**As to Petition for the Degrees, see Chapter 33**

### QUALIFICATIONS

#### GENERAL

#### Constitutional Provisions

Every candidate for Freemasonry must be a man, free born, of lawful age, being under the tongue of good repute, and well recommended, and, unless Dispensation is granted by the Grand Master, having no maim or defect of body that may render him incapable of learning the art or of being advanced to the several Degrees. (1992) (Art. XIII, Sec. 2(g))

#### Regulations

**31.01** Every candidate for Freemasonry must be a man, free born, of lawful age, being under the tongue of good repute, and well recommended, and, unless Dispensation is granted by the Grand Master, having no maim or defect of body that may render him incapable of learning the art or of being advanced to the several Degrees. (1991)

**31.02** It is a safe rule in these days, though its antiquity may be greatly doubted, that a candidate should be able to read and write.

**31.03** A Lodge may not receive a petition for the Degrees of Freemasonry from any person who has been convicted of a felony and who has not been restored to full civil rights.

**31.03.1** A Lodge may not ballot on a petition until the Investigation Committee (formally referred to as the “Character Committee”) has reviewed a criminal background investigation. (2009)

#### Rulings and Decisions

This Grand Jurisdiction imposes no citizenship restriction on candidates for the Degrees in Freemasonry. (1942 Proc. 43)

Lodge may receive petition from applicant who is not yet a citizen of the United States. (1953 Proc. 48)

E.A. Brother Initiated forty-nine (49) years ago and now desirous of finishing his Degrees at age of seventy (70) must be treated as a non-Mason. (1952 Proc. 34)

Member of defunct clandestine Lodge is ineligible for affiliation with Florida Lodge, but may receive Degrees in usual course after renunciation if Lodge so elects. (1952 Proc. 45)

Justifiable homicide in defense of mother is not a bar to petitioning for Degrees of Masonry. (1946 Proc. 38)

A Lodge cannot require a petitioner to submit a recent photograph. (1947 Proc. 33)

The laws and decisions of the State of Florida provide that absent of fraud a man has the right to choose a name under which he will be known and designated and if petitioner has, without fraud, adopted a name other than his real name and held himself out by such name to the public for a long period of time, such name is his legal name although no court action was taken to legally adopt such name, and petitioner, if accepted by the Lodge, may have the Degrees of Freemasonry conferred upon him under the name which he has chosen and by which he is known. (1959 Proc. 52, 164)

Lodge may receive petition for Degrees of man convicted of felony provided Lodge has evidence of restoration of petitioner's civil rights. (1965 Proc. 196, 200)

Petitioner disclosed conviction of aggravated assault but Lodge received petition, balloted favorably thereon and conferred Entered Apprentice Degree. Progress of candidate should be suspended since crime of aggravated assault is felony under state law and action of Lodge was contrary to Regulation 31.03. Upon proof that candidate has been restored civil rights progress of candidate may be resumed. (1973 Proc. 63, 344)

A petition for the Degrees or visitation of an otherwise duly qualified visiting Mason may not be objected to by a member of a Particular Lodge if the objection is based upon the grounds of race, creed, or color. (1993 Proc. 123)

Just as a candidate for Freemasonry must be a man, so it follows that to remain a Mason, he must not become a woman or portray himself as a woman. This portrayal may be by gender change, name change, identification, attire, or accouterment. (2008 Proc. 106)

A dark ballot cast based solely on a Candidate's race, creed, or country of origin shall be found CLEAR, and the Candidate shall be Initiated, Passed, and Raised WITHOUT OBJECTION unless a valid objection is forthcoming. (2008 Proc. 107-108)

All Petitions requiring an investigation and a ball ballot, with the exception of a Petition for Plural Membership or a membership transfer from one Florida Lodge to another, require a Background Check. (2009 Proc. 121)

"Full" civil rights means without exception. For a man who has lost his civil rights and then had them restored, the restoration must include all civil rights. This restoration, therefore, must include "the right to bear arms." (2009 Proc. 120)

**PHYSICAL****Regulation**

**31.04** The Lodge, under the supervision and direction of the Grand Master, is the judge of the physical qualifications of a petitioner to receive the Degrees of Freemasonry.

If at any time prior to receiving the Entered Apprentice Degree, there is any indication that a petitioner has or suffers some physical disability or handicap which could cause him to be physically disqualified to receive the Degrees, the proceedings shall abate and the Worshipful Master shall appoint a fact-finding committee of three (3) members of the Lodge, one (1) of whom shall be a Past Master of the Lodge, to investigate the matter of physical disability or handicap of the petitioner, and make written report to the Lodge thereof as soon as practicable, which report shall include information necessary for the Lodge to determine the eligibility of the petitioner to receive the Degrees. Upon receipt of the report of the committee, the Lodge shall vote by secret written ballot, and shall determine whether or not the petitioner is physically qualified to receive the Degrees. If the Lodge, by majority vote, determines that the petitioner is physically qualified, the Worshipful Master and Secretary shall forthwith request that the Grand Master approve the action of the Lodge and grant Dispensation for the Lodge to continue the proceedings.

If the Grand Master approves the request of the Lodge by Dispensation, the Lodge may continue the proceedings. If the petitioner is or has been elected to receive the Degrees in Freemasonry, the same shall be conferred upon him and the petitioner shall comply with the requirements of the Degrees only to the extent of his physical abilities to do so.

If the Lodge, by majority vote, does not determine that the petitioner is physically qualified or the Grand Master refuses his Dispensation for the Lodge to proceed, his fee shall be returned and he shall be notified that he was not rejected, but physically disqualified to receive the Degrees in Freemasonry. (1991)



### Rulings and Decisions

Slight physical deformity does not bar petitioner for Initiation and Lodge is judge of physical qualifications of petitioner. (1942 Proc. 47)

A Lodge is the sole judge of applicant's physical qualifications where no maim is involved. (1954 Proc. 74)

It would be highly improper to confer the Degrees of Freemasonry upon a substitute for a candidate because the candidate is personally incapable of conforming literally to the requirements of the several Degrees. (1959 Proc. 53, 164)

### Regulations

**31.05** If a candidate has received the Entered Apprentice Degree and, prior to receiving the Masters Degree, it shall appear that he does not meet the physical qualifications, the Lodge shall nevertheless, continue the proceedings in a manner as near as possible to the prescribed requirements. (1991)

### AGE

#### Regulations

**31.06** A Lodge may receive a petition for the Degrees before the candidate is full 18 years of age, but the ballot must not be spread, or the E.A. Degree conferred, before the 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. (2008)

### References

Lodge may waive jurisdiction over man under age. Reg. 34.04

#### Rulings and Decisions

Petitioner, age 68, sound of mind, slightly deaf, but otherwise in good health should not be considered in dotage because of age alone. (1946 Proc. 34)

Lodge is sole judge of qualifications of 73 year old applicant. (1952 Proc. 31)

Lodge may receive petition of man close to 70 years of age but petitioner will not be eligible for Masonic charity. (1953 Proc. 46)

### RESIDENCE

#### Constitutional Provisions

The Grand Lodge, shall, by Regulation uniformly applicable to all Lodges prescribe, define, and regulate the jurisdiction of Lodges in regard to accepting and receiving petitions for the Degrees, administrating Masonic justice, and for all other purposes. (Art. X, Sec. 17)

#### Regulations

**31.07** Art. X, Sec. 24 of the Constitution has no reference to

applicants over whom a Lodge has once properly assumed jurisdiction and elected to receive the E.A. Degree.

**31.08** Every applicant for the benefits of Masonry must have resided twelve months within the state and six months within the jurisdiction of the Lodge to which he applies; except active duty military personnel who have resided in the state and within the jurisdiction of the Lodge for ninety (90) days. (2012)

**31.09** A Lodge shall determine the qualifications of every petitioner as to residence on the basis of two factors:

1. Actual physical presence of the petitioner in the State for twelve (12) months, and within the jurisdiction of the Lodge for six (6) months; except active duty military personnel who have resided in the State and within the jurisdiction of the Lodge for ninety (90) days, and, (2012)

2. The intent of the petitioner to remain in such jurisdiction permanently.

These factors are to be considered without regard to the fact that petitioner may be in the military service or pursues an occupation which requires frequent absences from the jurisdiction of the Lodge.

Residence is established by actual physical presence of the petitioner in the state for twelve (12) months and in the jurisdiction of the Lodge for six (6) months, coupled with an intent on the part of the petitioner to make such place his permanent home or is on active duty in the military and is stationed in the state and the jurisdiction of the Lodge for a minimum of ninety (90) days. (2012)

In order to establish residence by such physical presence accompanied by such intent, a person must be of lawful age. The best evidence of a man's intent as to his residence is what he says relative to such intent but other evidentiary factors should be considered, such as purchase of a home, claim of homestead exemption, registration for voting, the signing of legal papers as a resident, and other similar matters, none of which are conclusive as to such intent, but all of which shall be considered in determining the matter of intent. Temporary absence from such place of residence on business or for reasons of health does not prevent a petitioner establishing residence in the jurisdiction of the Lodge, if he returns to such jurisdiction as his home and intends that such place shall be his permanent home or residence.

**31.10** Temporary residence of petitioner does not give the Lodge jurisdiction.

The tests to be applied in determining the residence of petitioner are:

1. Has he resided within the state for twelve (12) months and within the jurisdiction of the Lodge for six (6) months; unless he is on active duty in the United States Military and has he resided in the state and jurisdiction of the Lodge for ninety (90) days, and, (2012)



2. Has the petitioner remained in the State of Florida, and in the jurisdiction of the Lodge for such periods of time with the intent that such place shall be his permanent residence.

If these questions can be answered in the affirmative, petitioner is a resident within the jurisdiction of the Lodge and the Lodge may accept his petition.

**31.11** Students residing temporarily within the territorial jurisdiction of a Lodge who have not acquired a Masonic residence, in accordance with our Laws, within such jurisdiction, are not eligible to petition for Initiation.

**31.12** When a Lodge lawfully assumes original jurisdiction, it cannot be rudely divested thereof; therefore, no Lodge can lawfully finish work begun by another surviving Lodge without its consent. Jurisdiction may be waived over a candidate elected to receive the Degrees, but not over E.A.'s and F.C.'s who may request a dimit or Transfer Certificate per Regulation 41.01. (1985)

**31.13** When a petition is presented for the Degrees, if there should be any question of jurisdiction, a committee should be appointed to investigate and report before the petition is received by the Lodge.

**31.14** Pending the settlement of a dispute between two Lodges as to territorial jurisdiction over a petitioner who has received the Entered Apprentice Degree in one of them, the progress of the candidate must be arrested until the jurisdictional question shall be finally determined.

**31.15** A Lodge may receive the petition for the Degrees of a person who has been rejected by another Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction more than six months previous to his petition, if at the time he resides out of the jurisdiction of the rejecting Lodge, and has continuously resided for the last six months in the jurisdiction of the Lodge to which he petitions, and the last twelve months in this Grand Jurisdiction; but inquiry should be made of the rejecting Lodge if it knows any reason why the applicant should not now be made a Mason. (1995)

### References

When a candidate moves from jurisdiction of Lodge after his petition has been received, the Lodge retains jurisdiction. Reg. 33.07

The Lodges in Florida must respect the jurisdiction of Lodges in other Grand Jurisdictions. Reg. 25.33

### Rulings and Decisions

Lodge does not lose jurisdiction by absence of man for period of eighteen (18) months due to work for government in Washington. He may receive E.A. Degree in Florida Lodge and other two in Washington. (1941 Proc. 78)

The term "in good standing" refers to Master Masons and not to Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Masons. A Transfer Certificate may only be issued to a Master Mason "in good standing." A Transfer Certificate may not be issued to Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Masons inasmuch as said Brothers are not subject to Lodge dues and may only be suspended as a result of charges of unmasonic conduct being filed against them, being found guilty, and the penalty imposed by the Lodge or Grand Lodge being suspension or expulsion. Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Masons may be issued EA/FC Dimits (Form GL-611) as long as their progress has not been arrested, in accordance to Regulation 37.07 of the Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida. (2019 Proc. 114)

Man who moves from Jacksonville to Waycross on January 2, 1951, and back to Jacksonville March 19, 1951, should be considered as temporarily out of jurisdiction and Jacksonville Lodge could accept petition. (1952 Proc. 29)

~~Temporary residence in Lodge jurisdiction while in military service does not divest Lodge of petitioner's original residence of jurisdiction and Lodge in which petitioner was temporarily residing during military service could not receive petition. (1942 Proc. 50) (Repealed 2012)~~

Florida Lodge has jurisdiction over man who formerly resided in jurisdiction of Lodge and is now in the armed forces but claimed home within the jurisdiction of the Florida Lodge. (1952 Proc. 29)

Petition of applicant being at sea most of majority years but claiming to be a resident of Florida since 1918 may be received after petitioner has permanently resided in jurisdiction of Lodge for six (6) months. (1947 Proc. 33)

Investigator for F.B.I. who has no permanent home can not be balloted on short of twelve (12) months residence. (1946 Proc. 33)

~~Sailor who became of age while in Navy with no permanent address since discharge must reside in Florida twelve (12) months and in jurisdiction of Lodge six (6) months before petition can be accepted. (1947 Proc. 32) (Repealed 2012)~~

~~Petitioner born in Florida was minor when he enlisted in Army must reside in jurisdiction of Lodge six (6) months before petition can be received. (1947 Proc. 34) (Repealed 2012)~~

Applicant must reside in jurisdiction of Lodge for six (6) months before petition can be received. (1946 Proc. 34)

Lodge has no jurisdiction over merchant seaman living in all parts of the country at different times. (1952 Proc. 33)

Petition received from man having no fixed residence is irregular. Proceedings should abate and fee returned to petitioner, advising him that he was not rejected but that Lodge action was irregular in receiving his petition. (1943 Proc. 75)

Employee of State Road Department living in Lodge jurisdiction only four (4) months after having worked year in another community in the state is not in class of one whose vocation is such that he can not establish a fixed residence and, therefore, must live in jurisdiction of Lodge for six (6) months until his petition can be received. (1942 Proc. 48)

Where petitioner lives nearer to other Lodges than the one he petitions, it is not necessary to secure waiver of both such Lodges but only to secure waiver of jurisdiction of Lodge having jurisdiction. (1946 Proc. 38)

A man formerly in jurisdiction of Florida Lodge but now in Oklahoma but unable on account of traveling job to establish residence of jurisdiction in Oklahoma is eligible to petition Florida Lodge. (1952 Proc. 32)

Lodge jurisdiction over a non-Mason ceases instantly when he permanently moves out of its jurisdiction. (1942 Proc. 46)

Lodge retains jurisdiction of candidate who files petition before moving from jurisdiction. Lodge should act on petition in usual way and candidate as approved is entitled to receive the Degrees in or by request of that Lodge. (1950 Proc. 69)

~~A service man who is a bona fide resident in jurisdiction of Lodge is eligible to petition for the Degrees. Ownership of home and registration for voting are evidence, but not required evidence of residence. (1956 Proc. 48) (Repealed 2012)~~

Residence is determined on the basis of two factors, (1) actual physical presence in a community, and (2) an intent on the part of a person to remain in the community permanently. In order to establish legal residence by such physical presence accompanied by such intent, a person must be of lawful age because a minor does not have the power to establish residence separate from his parents. Physical presence of a petitioner for the required period of one year in the State and six months in the

jurisdiction of the Lodge is of course easily determined, but it is the element of intent that is sometimes troublesome. The best evidence of a man's intent as to residence is what he says relative to his intent, but other evidentiary factors may be considered such as purchase of home, claim of homestead exemption, registration for voting, the signing of legal papers as a resident of a particular place, and other matters, none of which are conclusive but all of which should be considered in determining the matter of intent. (1959 Proc. 59, 164)

Applicant for Degrees must meet residence requirements or waiver of jurisdiction must be obtained from Lodge having jurisdiction. (1967 Proc. 75, 211)

Jurisdiction of Lodge over non-Mason is not lost because of temporary residence in jurisdiction of some other Lodge and if applicant petitions a Lodge other than Lodge having jurisdiction, waiver of jurisdiction must be obtained from Lodge having jurisdiction. (1967 Proc. 75, 211)

When a petitioner who is rejected by Lodge in concurrent jurisdiction with other Lodges and subsequently moves out of said concurrent jurisdiction and establishes residence in jurisdiction of another Lodge for more than one year and thereafter returns to and establishes residence in the concurrent jurisdiction of the Lodge originally rejecting him, such petitioner has the status of a new citizen and any Lodge in the concurrent jurisdiction of the Lodge originally rejecting him may receive his petition without necessity of waiver of jurisdiction. (See Rulings and Decisions on Page 159, Digest 1963) (Page 174 Digest 1969) (1968 Proc. 56-57, 212)

### **PREVIOUS REJECTION**

#### **References**

As to effect of previous rejection, see Chapter 36

### **WAIVER OF JURISDICTION**

#### **References**

See Chapter 34

### **RELIGIOUS BELIEF**

#### **Constitutional Provisions**

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida hereby recognizes, as being Landmarks of Freemasonry, the following:

- (a) A belief in the existence of one ever living and true God.
- (b) A belief in the immortality of the human soul and a resurrection thereof to a Future Life. (Excerpt Art. XIII, Sec. 2)

#### **Regulations**

**31.16** Belief in God is the only religious prerequisite of a candidate for Initiation into Masonry, but a Mason is bound by his tenure to obey the moral law.

**31.17** Since Communism does not have faith in Deity and is contrary to all the principles and purposes of Freemasonry, it is unlawful for any Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction to accept the petition for or confer any of the Degrees of Freemasonry upon a Communist or upon anyone actively supporting the purposes thereof.

## CANDIDATES FROM OTHER JURISDICTIONS

### Regulations

**31.18** Any person belonging to a Foreign Grand Jurisdiction not in fraternal relations with The Grand Lodge of Florida, who desires to become a member of a Florida Lodge, must first renounce his allegiance to such Foreign Grand Jurisdiction and take the same course as any other non-Mason.

**31.19** If any Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction receives a petition for the Degrees which shows that the petitioner has been rejected in a Sister Grand Jurisdiction, then such petition must be submitted to the Grand Master for his attention and action before any action can be taken by the Lodge.

### References

As to Balloting on Candidates, see Chapter 35

As to Fees for the Degrees and Refunds Thereof, see Chapter 32

As to Background Checks, see Reg. 31.03.1

### Rulings and Decisions

Member of unrecognized Lodge must be treated as a non-Mason and must renounce former jurisdiction. (1941 Proc. 80)

Lodge may accept certificate of dismissal from another Grand Jurisdiction presented by E.A. Brother as dimit. (1947 Proc. 32)

When request for waiver of jurisdiction over rejected material is declined by another Grand Jurisdiction, petition should be returned to petitioner without any Lodge action. (1955 Proc. 133)

A man made a Mason in a Grand Jurisdiction not recognized by The Grand Lodge of Florida may petition a Florida Lodge for the Degrees of Freemasonry, and if he makes full and complete renunciation of his allegiance to the unrecognized jurisdiction in which he was made a Mason, the Lodge may accept the petition and upon favorable ballot the applicant may be Initiated, Passed, and Raised as if he had never been made a Mason in the unrecognized jurisdiction. (1959 Proc. 58, 164)

A member of a clandestine Lodge may become a member of a Florida Lodge by renouncing in writing his clandestine membership and applying to Florida Lodge for membership as a non-Mason and being accepted for membership by the Florida Lodge. (1960 Proc. 120)

Rejected candidates from the Grand Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania cannot be accepted by Florida Lodge without waiver of jurisdiction because Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania asserts perpetual jurisdiction over all rejected material. (1960 Proc. 130)

Member of Lodge of Grand Jurisdiction not recognized by Grand Lodge of Florida who desires to petition Florida Lodge shall first renounce his allegiance to such unrecognized Grand Jurisdiction and after such renunciation petition for Degrees takes usual course. (1967 Proc. 75, 211)

Florida Lodge upon obtaining, through office of Grand Secretary, waiver of jurisdiction from Lodge of foreign Grand Jurisdiction having jurisdiction of applicant may proceed to receive petition and, on favorable vote, confer Degrees on applicant without regard to time of residence in Florida. (1967 Proc. 330)

Digest of Masonic Law

CHAPTER 32

**FEEES FOR THE DEGREES AND REFUNDS THEREOF**

AMOUNT AND PAYMENT

**Constitutional Provisions**

No Lodge in this Jurisdiction shall confer the Three Degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason for a less sum than one hundred dollars, of which a minimum fee of fifty dollars shall be required for Initiation in addition to the fee for a criminal background investigation must accompany the petition or be paid electronically to any processing company selected and approved by the Grand Lodge. The fee received for Initiation shall be returned to the petitioner if rejected, however, the fee received for the criminal background investigation shall be retained by the Lodge, the Grand Lodge, or any processing company selected and approved by the Grand Lodge. The fee for Passing or Raising must be paid to the Secretary before the Degree is conferred; *provided*, that any Lodge may remit monthly or annual dues to members of the Lodge, who from bodily infirmities or misfortune, have become unable to pay them. (2018) (Art. X, Sec. 13)

**Regulations**

**32.01** A Lodge cannot by By-Law or otherwise require a candidate for the Degrees to present, with his petition therefore, advance fees for the F.C. and M.M. Degrees, and any existing By-Law conflicting therewith is void.

**32.02** A petition having been received, and favorably acted upon, the fee becomes the property of the Lodge and can only be returned as a donation or gift, but such action would in no way change the relation of the candidate to the Lodge or the jurisdiction of the Lodge over him.

**32.03** When a petition is refused, or a candidate rejected, the fee must be returned. Any fee paid for the purpose of a criminal background investigation of the candidate shall not be required to be refunded. (2009)

**32.04** When a worthy man petitions a Lodge for the Degrees and is elected; and before the Degrees are conferred he has a severe illness which would result in the impairment of his memory and mental faculties, the Lodge should not confer the Degrees, and if, after waiting a reasonable time for a cure to be established, the mental condition is not cleared, it would be just and proper to return the fee.

**32.05** When, after a candidate has been duly elected to receive the Entered Apprentice Degree, objection arises against conferring the Degree upon him, the Master shall cause an order arresting the progress of the candidate to be spread upon the minutes, which shall have the same force and effect as rejection at the ballot box, and the fee accompanying the petition shall be returned.

**32.06** When an applicant for the Degrees dies before the ballot is taken, the proceedings abate, and the fee shall be handed to his family or legal representatives, and if he dies after rejection and before the fee shall have been returned to him, the same rule applies.

### **Rulings and Decisions**

When fees were \$30 for Three Degrees when applicant petitioned for the Degrees but before F.C. was conferred, the fees were increased, the applicant shall be required to pay only the fees in effect at the time he presented his petition. (1946 Proc. 35)

Where the domicile Lodge refused to waive its perpetual jurisdiction over the petitioner, all proceedings must be abated and the fee returned to the applicant. (1948 Proc. 52)

A petitioner elected to receive the Degrees shall pay the fee for each Degree which existed at the time he was elected unless by reason of his delay a second ballot is required under the provisions of Regulation 37.02, in which event, he shall pay the fees which existed at the time of the subsequent ballot. (1954 Proc. 62)

Digest of Masonic Law

CHAPTER 33

**PETITION FOR THE DEGREES AND  
PROCEEDINGS THEREON**

THE PETITION

**Constitutional Provisions**

Every candidate for Initiation should read and approve the By-Laws of the Lodge, and must present his petition in writing vouched for by two members of the Lodge at a Stated Communication, which must lie over at least one month for the Brethren to make due inquiry into the character and standing of the candidate and review a criminal background investigative report of the candidate. And a petition thus presented cannot be withdrawn, but must be acted upon, and if rejected, cannot again be presented within six months. But rejections for Passing and Raising, and for membership, shall not be required to lie over six months, but may be renewed at any subsequent Stated Communication of the Lodge. (2009) (Art. X, Sec. 14)

**Regulations**

**33.01** The word “month” in Article X, Section 14 of the Constitution, means from a Stated Communication of a Lodge to a corresponding Communication in the next succeeding calendar month.

**33.02** Particular Lodges which may desire to print their own form of Petition for the Degrees must first submit the prepared form or copy to the Grand Secretary for his approval as to form and wording. In addition to the Petition, a statement of consent by the petitioner to have a criminal background investigation ordered by the Lodge, the Grand Lodge, or the approved processing company selected by the Grand Lodge in addition to an understanding that the Brethren will be making due inquiry into the character and standing of the petitioner. It shall be the responsibility of the Lodge Secretary, the Grand Lodge, or the petitioner to order the criminal background investigative report through the processing company selected and approved by the Grand Lodge via electronic forms. No copies of the criminal background report through the processing company selected and approved by the Grand Lodge via electronic forms. No copies of the criminal background report shall be made nor shall its contents be revealed by or other than to the members of the Investigation Committee. The complete criminal background investigative report shall be returned to the petitioner regardless of whether the petitioner is accepted or rejected and a receipt obtained by the Lodge and made a part of the Lodge record. (2018)

**33.03** The Secretary shall present to the Lodge at its next Stated Communication all petitions for the Degrees received by him, unless deferred by the Worshipful Master for good cause. After the Lodge receives a petition and the statement consenting to the criminal background investigation report, they become a permanent record of the Lodge and should be filed by the Secretary after the Committee reports. A petition, after being received by the Lodge, cannot be withdrawn, even by unanimous consent of the Lodge, except in case of death or severe accident, that would render the applicant ineligible to receive the Degree in such cases. The Worshipful Master should order abatement of the proceedings in regard to such petitions so received by the Lodge. (2009)



**33.04** If a Lodge for any cause refuses to receive a petition for the Degrees, it may be again presented at any Stated Communication of the Lodge. It is not a case of rejection, and a delay for six months is not necessary. (1995)

**Digest of Masonic Law**

**33.05** When a petition is refused, or a candidate rejected, the fee must be returned. Any fee received for the purposes of a criminal background investigation shall not be required to be returned. (2009)

**33.06** If any Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction receives a petition for the Degrees which shows that the petitioner has been rejected in a Sister Grand Jurisdiction, then such petition must be submitted to the Grand Master for his attention and action before any action can be taken by the Lodge.

**33.07** When a candidate for the Degrees removes after his petition is received by the Lodge, said candidate remains the material of and under the jurisdiction of the Lodge that received his petition. The Lodge shall act on the petition in the usual way and if elected, the candidate is entitled to receive the Degrees in or by request of that Lodge.

### References

For qualifications of petitioner, see Candidates, Chapter 31  
 For jurisdiction of Lodge over petitioner, see Chapter 18  
 A petition may be received and ballot taken thereon short of Constitutional time under Dispensation of the Grand Master. Reg. 6.10(a)  
 A petition for Degrees may not be received at a Called Communication. Reg. 25.02(a)  
 Lodge cannot accept petition from a Communist. Reg. 31.17

### Rulings and Decisions

A petition for Initiation can not be withdrawn after it is received by the Lodge but must go to ballot. (1942 Proc. 57)

Once a petition is received by a Lodge it cannot be withdrawn even by a unanimous vote of the Lodge. (1949 Proc. 49)

Where petitioner requests permission to withdraw petition because of his wife's religious objection and requests notice given by letter stating the reason, the petition must go to ballot and Lodge is judge of method of notification. (1946 Proc. 36)

A petition for Degrees can not be withdrawn without ballot even though Committee reported petitioner was not mentally capable of being made a Mason. (1944 Proc. 35)

Petition for Degrees should not be referred to Committee before being accepted by the Lodge. (1946 Proc. 35)

The Secretary of the Lodge is the custodian of the records of the Lodge and should retain custody and control of a petition when it is received by the Lodge even during the period of investigation. (1954 Proc. 63)

The petition for the Degrees which does not have the required three references is void and all proceedings in connection therewith should be abated, and the petition and fee, if any, should be returned to the petitioner. (1954 Proc. 68)

Waiting time on ballot on petition for Degrees begins on date petition is received by the Lodge and not date it was handed to Chairman of Petitions Committee. (1965 Proc. 196, 198)

A petition for the Degrees or visitation of an otherwise duly qualified visiting Mason may not be objected to by a member of a Particular Lodge if the objection is based upon the grounds of race, creed, or color. (1993 Proc. 123)

A dark ballot cast based solely on a Candidate's race, creed, or country of origin shall be found CLEAR, and the Candidate shall be Initiated, Passed, and Raised WITHOUT OBJECTION unless a valid objection is forthcoming. (2008 Proc. 107-108)

### COMMITTEE Regulations

**33.08** The Worshipful Master of each Particular Lodge shall appoint a committee of not less than three and not more than seven members to be known as the Petitions Committee, the duties of which shall be to cause each applicant for the Degrees before his petition has been received by the Lodge to appear personally before the committee and to be interviewed and give such information to the Committee as may be requested. The Committee shall then make its report to the Worshipful Master after which the petition shall follow the usual Masonic procedure.

**33.09** Applications for the Degrees of Freemasonry of applicants, both members of the armed services and civilians, who have moved to this state from a Foreign Grand Jurisdiction and who have been in the state only long enough to come under the terms of the Regulations of this Grand Lodge concerning residential qualifications, shall be investigated by the Particular Lodges by inquiry addressed to the Lodge nearest to the former home of such applicant in such Foreign Jurisdiction; and the petition shall not go to ballot until the investigation is completed and report made to the Lodge.

**33.10** A ballot spread, inadvertently or otherwise, upon any petition for Initiation before the Investigating Committee reports, is null and void and proceedings abate. Each member of the Committee should investigate independently, and may submit his report in writing or authorize some Brother to report for him, if unable to be present in person. The Committee may submit a unanimous report, or it may submit a divided report, but whether unanimous or divided, the Committee is automatically discharged when it reports, and the petition reported on must go to ballot, but the time of spreading the ballot is the Worshipful Master's responsibility, and a motion to spread the ballot is out of order. The Committee, or any member thereof shall not, after having made its report, disclose any information which was received by the Lodge concerning the criminal background investigation. (2009)

**33.11** The Lodge is the judge of eligibility of a petitioner for the Degrees and of an applicant for affiliation, and the Secretary of the Lodge shall accept for presentation to the Lodge each, every, and all properly completed petitions for the Degrees, and each, every, and all properly completed applications for affiliation without regard to the Secretary's opinion as to eligibility of the petitioner or applicant.

### References

Master may attend meeting of Committee and direct the work. Reg. 20.17  
Master should discharge member of Committee who neglects duties. Reg. 20.18  
As to Background Checks, see Reg. 31.03.1

### Rulings and Decisions

It is Master's prerogative to call for ballot on petition when the majority of the Committee reports. (1947 Proc. 33)

When a Committee on petition disagrees and refuses to sign report, the Committee should be discharged and a new Committee appointed. (1947 Proc. 33)

If Lodge is satisfied with investigation, ballot must be spread. (1952 Proc. 31)

When a petition for the Degrees of Freemasonry is presented to the Lodge for ballot, the Secretary should at all times inform the Craft as to whether the Committee report on the candidate is favorable or unfavorable. (1961 Proc. 162, 168, 318)

Where Petitions Committee was not able to interview petitioner but petition was voted on upon receipt of Investigating Committee Report, the Report of Petitions Committee could be waived and proceeding is not irregular. (1965 Proc. 196, 200)

A Mason, whether of a given or sister Lodge, has the duty to disclose to a Petitions or Investigating Committee, whatever pertinent knowledge, other than gossip or hearsay, he has of a petitioning candidate. (1975 Proc. 64)

Digest of Masonic Law

CHAPTER 34

WAIVER OF JURISDICTION

NECESSITY FOR WAIVER OVER CANDIDATE

Constitutional Provisions

No Lodge has the right to receive a petition of any person for the Degree of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, or Master Mason, residing out of its jurisdiction, without the express consent of the Lodge in whose jurisdiction such person resides, certified by its Secretary with the Lodge Seal. (Art. X, Sec. 24)

Regulations

**34.01** Waiver of jurisdiction is the relinquishment by a Lodge of the jurisdiction possessed by it over a subject, transferring the same to some other Lodge for the purpose specified.

**34.02** A Lodge cannot waive jurisdiction on a non-Mason or any one over whom it has assumed jurisdiction, except by unanimous ball ballot at a Stated Communication.

**34.03** When a request is made to a Lodge for a waiver of jurisdiction on a petitioner known by the Lodge to be unsuitable material, the request should be refused.

**34.04** It is permissible for a Lodge to waive jurisdiction over a young man who had not attained 18 years of age, in order that the Lodge to whom jurisdiction may be waived could receive the petition and act upon it immediately after his eighteenth birthday. (2008)

**34.05** There can be no waiver of jurisdiction by a Lodge over a non-Mason who has permanently moved, even recently, to another jurisdiction. The jurisdiction ceases immediately upon a removal intended to be permanent.

**34.06** A Lodge cannot waive its jurisdiction over a non-Mason on the ground that some of the Brethren have conscientious doubts in regard to his physical qualifications. If he is physically disqualified in one Lodge, he is in all the rest. Every member of a Lodge has the right to express his doubts, in such cases, at the ballot box, as jurisdiction cannot be waived, except by unanimous ball ballot.

**34.07** (Repealed).

**34.08** When a petition is presented for the Degrees, if there should be any question of jurisdiction, a committee should be appointed to investigate and report before the petition is received by the Lodge.

### References

Correspondence relating to waiver of jurisdiction over petitioner rejected in another Grand Jurisdiction within five (5) years must be handled through office of Grand Secretary. Reg. 36. 05  
As to jurisdiction of Particular Lodges, see Chapter 18

### Rulings and Decisions

Waiver of jurisdiction from Lodges of other Grand Jurisdictions must clear through respective offices of Grand Secretaries affected. (1942 Proc. 50)

Where petitioner lives nearer to other Lodges than the one he petitions, it is not necessary to secure waiver of both such Lodges but only to secure waiver of jurisdiction of Lodge having jurisdiction. (1946 Proc. 38)

Lodge is sole judge as to whether it will waive jurisdiction on its material or not. Neither Grand Master nor Grand Lodge can interfere with this right. (1943 Proc. 78)

Lodge may grant waiver of jurisdiction although "permanent objection" to petitioner had been entered twenty (20) years ago. (1964 Proc. 32)

Waiver of jurisdiction requires unanimous ball ballot at Stated Communication. (1942 Proc. 51)

No Investigating Committee is necessary on requests for waiver of jurisdiction. (1947 Proc. 31)

Rejected material still living in jurisdiction of Lodge has indicated desire to petition another Lodge. Lodge of his choice can not ask for waiver of jurisdiction until they accept petition of the rejected material. (1947 Proc. 33)

The refusal of a Lodge to grant waiver of jurisdiction to another Lodge does not constitute a rejection of the petitioner, consequently, the Secretary receiving a petition for the second time can, without delay, apply again for waiver of jurisdiction and the Lodge receiving the request can act upon it at their next Stated Communication. (1954 Proc. 64-65)

Proper Procedure for petitioner living in jurisdiction of one Lodge and wishing to become member of another Florida Lodge is to present petition to the Lodge of which he wishes to become a member and the Lodge so petitioned may request waiver of jurisdiction from the Lodge in which the petitioner resides, and if granted, the petition proceeds as provided in the Regulations. Chapter 34 sets out the correct procedure. (1959 Proc. 61-62, 164)

Lodge which requests and receives waiver of jurisdiction over a petitioner and rejects such petitioner must, upon receipt of subsequent petition from same petitioner, request and receive another waiver of jurisdiction before proceeding to ballot on such petition. (1964 Proc. 68, 268)

Where petitioner resides in concurrent jurisdiction of two or more Lodges and petitions a Lodge outside of said concurrent jurisdiction, waiver of jurisdiction is required only from Lodge nearest residence of the petitioner. In the event two or more Lodges meet at a place nearest the residence of the petitioner, waiver should be secured from either of such Lodges. (1966 Proc. 247)



## CHAPTER 35

### BALLOTING

#### FOR THE DEGREES, AFFILIATION, AND REINSTATEMENT

##### Constitutional Provisions

Balloting for Initiation, Passing, Raising, and membership must be unanimous; but when only one black ball appears, the ballot should be spread again to guard against mistakes; but if a black ball appears on the second ballot it is final, as it shall be when two or more black balls appear on the first ballot. Not more than one Degree shall be conferred on the same candidate at the same Stated Communication, unless under a Dispensation from the Grand Master. (Art. X, Sec. 16)

##### Regulations

**35.01** All balloting must be done in a Master Mason Lodge, and at Stated Communications; except by special permission of the Grand Lodge or its authority.

**35.02** Balloting in the Particular Lodges by use of the ballot box shall be effected by the use of white balls and black cubes. There must be sufficient white balls and black cubes in the ballot box to allow every member present and qualified to vote to cast the ballot of his choice. The bottom and sides of the ballot box shall be lined with felt or other soft material to deaden sound.

**35.03** The ballot is inviolably secret; therefore, no Brother can be questioned as to how he voted. But the Masonic franchise should be exercised in good faith and upon pure Masonic principles; therefore, any wrongful exercise or abuse thereof will subject the offender to rigid discipline.

**35.04** The secrecy of the ballot should never be violated. If a Mason ascertains by accident, or otherwise, how a particular Brother has voted, he has no right to divulge it. As a general rule it is reprehensible for a Brother to proclaim how he voted.

**35.05** If a Brother uses his privilege improperly when a ballot is taken, and proclaims his acts, so that the Lodge can take cognizance of it, charges should be preferred. But as a general rule the Brother must be tried at the bar of his own conscience.

**35.06** No publicity must be given the case of a rejected petitioner for any of the Degrees or for affiliation, by the Fraternity or any member thereof, under any circumstances.

**35.07** None but members of the Lodge have a right to ballot, and no member present can be excused from balloting on any question

before the Lodge, except by a vote of the Lodge, upon good cause shown; nor can a member be permitted to retire from the Lodge to avoid casting his ballot.

**35.08** Separate collective ballot may be taken upon petitions for the Degrees, upon petitions for affiliation, and upon request for waiver of jurisdiction, but not more than five (5) petitions for the Degrees, nor more than five (5) petitions for affiliation, nor more than five (5) requests for waiver of jurisdiction shall be included in each collective ballot, and each collective ballot shall relate only to petitions for the Degrees, or to petitions for affiliation, or to requests for waiver of jurisdiction, and not to any combination of such petitions and requests. When one (1) or more black balls appear in a collective ballot, a separate ballot shall be taken on each petition or request and in the event of a single black cube in such separate ballot, such separate ballot shall be spread again in accordance with requirements of Section 16, Article X of the Constitution.

**35.09** A ballot must be clear to elect for affiliation or the Degrees, and be spread a second time when but one negative vote appears.

**35.10** When a ballot is taken on a petition of a candidate to receive the Symbolic Degrees of Masonry, and become a member of any Particular Lodge in this Jurisdiction, if the ballot is clear the petitioner shall be declared elected to receive the Three Degrees; *provided*, that when a petitioner has been regularly elected to receive the Three Degrees and fails to present himself for the E.A. Degree within six months after election, or fails to qualify for advancement, or to present himself for advancement within six months after having received the preceding Degree, the Lodge shall cause investigation of the petitioner to be made and shall again spread the ballot, but without a new petition, and if the ballot is clear the Degree for which the petitioner is then next in line may then be conferred, assuming he has passed a satisfactory examination in the preceding Degree, if any.

**35.11** If, upon examination of the ballot, the Master finds but a single black ball cast, he shall order a second ballot. Under no other circumstances shall a second ballot be permitted, and when the ballot has once been declared by the Master, it can not be reconsidered; further, it shall be destroyed by him after it has been declared.

**35.12** A negative vote cannot be withdrawn, and thereby leave a constructive clear ballot, for no Degree can be conferred until after an actual clear ballot.

**35.13** On any ballot taken upon a petition for affiliation, dual

membership or the granting of honorary membership, the Brother on whom the ballot is to be taken shall retire from the Lodge Room during the taking and determination of the result of such ballot.

### Rulings and Decisions

Where the Worshipful Master, through error, declares a petitioner rejected without spreading the ballot a second time when only one negative vote appeared in the first ballot, such action was error, and due and timely notice should be given to the membership and the petition should be balloted upon again in the correct manner. (1954 Proc. 73)

In answer to the question of multiple ballot boxes, recommended two or more as necessity might demand. (1950 Proc. 65)

The Grand Master may grant permission for a re-ballot on petition providing membership of Lodge is notified when balloting will take place. (1953 Proc. 48)

Where petitioner requests permission to withdraw petition because of his wife's religious objection and requests notice given by letter stating the reason, the petition must go to ballot and Lodge is judge of method of notification. (1946 Proc. 36)

Where collective ballot is taken on petition and ballot is dark, such dark ballot does not constitute first ballot on any of the individual petitions and if in the subsequent vote on a petition previously voted on in the collective ballot one black ball appears, it is required that such ballot on the individual petition be re-spread. In other words, each individual petition is to be voted on after collective dark ballot the same as if the collective ballot had never been spread. (1959 Proc. 59, 164)

When a Brother has been Initiated an Entered Apprentice and fails to become proficient within six months, a new investigation and ballot must be had, without necessity, however, of a new petition. Since the Brother is an Entered Apprentice Mason he is entitled to continue instruction in the Degree pending the re-investigation and ballot before progressing to the Fellow Craft Degree. (1959 Proc. 54-55, 164)

When a black cube appears in each of two consecutive ballots on petition for the Degrees the second ballot is final and constitutes rejection of petitioner. (1968 Proc. 57, 212)

Under Regulation 35.08 collective ballot may be taken upon petitions for the Degrees, for affiliation, and for waiver of jurisdiction, but each of these kinds or classes of petitions must be subject of a separate collective ballot, that is, a separate collective ballot must be taken for petitions for the Degrees, a separate collective ballot for petitions for affiliation, and a separate collective ballot for petitions for reinstatement. (1964 Proc. 66, 268) (Note: Regulation 35.08 as amended in 1967 does not permit collective ballot on petition for reinstatement)

When one black cube appears on ballot for reinstatement after sentence of indefinite suspension, the ballot shall be re-spread, and if one or more black cubes appear on second ballot, the petition shall be declared finally rejected. (1964 Proc. 67, 268)

Where one black cube appeared on first ballot on petition and no second ballot was taken, ballot was irregular and proceedings should be abated and petition again balloted upon after due notice to membership. (1965 Proc. 196, 198)

The provisions of Regulations 35.10 and 37.02 relating to failure of petitioner to present himself for E.A. Degree within six months are applicable also to Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Masons who fail to present themselves within six months after receiving the preceding Degree. (1967 Proc. 74, 210)

A collective ballot can be used for the purpose of balloting on petitions for dual membership and for transfer by affiliation. (1994 Proc. 101)

## IRREGULAR OR VOID BALLOT

### Regulations

**35.14** A ballot spread, inadvertently or otherwise, upon any petition for Initiation before the Investigating Committee reports, is null and void and proceedings abate. Each member of the Committee should investigate independently, and may submit his report in writing or authorize some Brother to report for him, if unable to be present in person. The Committee may submit a unanimous report, or it may submit a divided report, but whether unanimous or divided, the Committee is automatically discharged when it reports, and the petition reported on must go to ballot, but the time of spreading the ballot is the Worshipful Master's responsibility, and a motion to spread the ballot is out of order.

**35.15** When through mechanical error or otherwise more ballots are cast then there are members of the Particular Lodge present, this fact shall render the ballot irregular, and it shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master to declare the ballot void and re-spread the ballot.

### Rulings and Decisions

When the ballot is spread on petition for Degrees and one (1) negative ballot appears and no second ballot is taken but ballot is spread at second meeting and ballot found to be clear, the proceedings are irregular and both ballots are void and Lodge should proceed to re-ballot in usual form. (1944 Proc. 33)

Ballot on petition for Degrees taken when only (1) Member of Committee had reported is void. Subsequent ballot after full Committee report is valid ballot. (1944 Proc. 31)

Vote on petition for affiliation before Constitutional time is irregular and proceedings should abate. (1943 Proc. 75)

At a Stated Meeting on December 23, 1982, the Ballot was spread on a petition for Affiliation. There were 49 Members present and the ballot being clear, the Brother was declared elected to membership. However, at a later date, the Worshipful Master was informed that one member present on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1982, did not ballot. Therefore, he set the election aside. I rule that since the proper declaration was asked and no one objected that this Brother did not ballot, the ballot stands and the Brother was elected to membership on December 23, 1982, and the Lodge so notify him. (1984 Proc. 115)

## DARK BALLOT; REOPENING

### References

Grand Master may grant Dispensation to reopen a dark ballot. Reg. 6.10(c)

### Rulings and Decisions

Dark ballot may be reopened when dark vote was cast through misunderstanding. (1943 Proc. 78)

Dark ballot after unfavorable Committee report will be reopened upon the discovery by Committee that they had investigated wrong person but same may further investigate and ballot by the Lodge will be authorized. (1944 Proc. 32)

When ballot on waiver of jurisdiction was dark because of insufficient information and subsequent investigation showed nothing against character of applicant, Grand Master may authorize proceedings to abate and reopen ballot. (1946 Proc. 33)

A dark ballot on second ballot will not be reopened even if thirteen (13) votes cast and only twelve (12) members of Lodge present there being (2) black balls on second ballot and one (1) black ball on first ballot. (1944 Proc. 28)

## RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

### Regulations

**35.16** Every member has the absolute right to vote as he pleases, being governed by his own views of what is right. It is only in this way that an element of discord can be kept out of the Lodge, whatever the standing of the applicant may be.

**35.17** A clear ballot taken and closed while a member wishing to vote is temporarily absent from the Lodge Room on business of the Lodge, is null and void, and a refusal to reopen such ballot at his request is in error.

**35.18** If the Worshipful Master should be satisfied that the candidate for the Degrees is likely to be an element of discord in his Lodge, or that he is objectionable to an absent Brother, who intends to oppose his admission, he should not permit any undue advantage to be taken of the accidental or temporary absence of such Brother, or of the Lodge being thinly attended, but should postpone the ballot until a reasonable opportunity is given for a full ballot.

## DEGREE CONFERRED BEFORE BALLOT

### Regulations

**35.19** If a Brother has received the Master Mason Degree, without previous separate ballot, under a misapprehension of the law of balloting on the part of the Lodge, the Lodge only is responsible for the error and the Brother is a regular Master Mason.

## MISCELLANEOUS BALLOTING

### References

As to ballot on candidate for advancement after delay of six (6) months, see Reg. 37.02  
 As to ballot on honorary membership, see Reg. 26. 10  
 As to ballot on waiver of jurisdiction, see Reg. 34.02  
 As to balloting on reinstatement, see Regs. 27.13; 35.08  
 As to collective ballot, see Reg. 35.08

### Rulings and Decisions

When a Lodge requested a Lodge in another Jurisdiction to confer E.A. Degree by courtesy and all Degrees were conferred without vote, candidate was E.A. member of Lodge he petitioned and unaffiliated Mason as to other two Degrees. (1944 Proc. 33)

F.C. Brother receiving M.M. Degree by courtesy before being elected to Lodge is F.C. Brother of electing Lodge and unaffiliated M.M. Electing Lodge may proceed to ballot and elect to M.M. Degree. (1947 Proc. 33)

Digest of Masonic Law

CHAPTER 36

**REJECTION OF CANDIDATES AND  
EFFECT THEREOF**

GENERAL PROVISIONS

**Regulations**

**36.01** A rejected candidate for the Degrees must wait six months before he can petition to the same or any other Lodge, except by Dispensation of the Grand Master upon application of the Lodge, and which Dispensation should not be granted but for unquestionably good reason. (1995)

**36.02** A Lodge of concurrent jurisdiction may, after expiration of six months after rejection, receive petition for the Degrees of a rejected candidate of another Lodge of the concurrent jurisdiction and no waiver of jurisdiction by the rejecting Lodge shall be necessary or required, but due inquiry shall be made of the rejecting Lodge. (1995)

**36.03** A Lodge may receive the petition for Initiation of a person who has been rejected by another Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction more than six months previous to his petition, if at the time he resides out of the jurisdiction of the rejecting Lodge, and has continuously resided for the last six months in the jurisdiction of the Lodge to which he petitions, and the last twelve months in this Grand Jurisdiction; but inquiry should be made of the rejecting Lodge if it knows any reason why the applicant should not now be made a Mason. (1995)

**36.04** No publicity must be given the case of a rejected petitioner for any of the Degrees or for affiliation, by the Fraternity or any member thereof, under any circumstances.

**36.05** If any Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction receives a petition for the Degrees which shows that the petitioner has been rejected in a Sister Grand Jurisdiction, then such petition must be submitted to the Grand Master for his attention and action before any action can be taken by the Lodge.

**References**

Petition showing rejection in another Grand Jurisdiction cannot be acted upon by Lodge until submitted to Grand Master. Reg. 31.19

**RETAINING JURISDICTION**

## OBJECTIONS

### References

Objection has same effect as rejection. Reg. 37.07

As to refunds of fees in case of rejection, see Fees for the Degrees, Chapter 32

### Rulings and Decisions

The refusal of a Lodge to grant waiver of jurisdiction to another Lodge does not constitute a rejection of the petitioner, consequently, the Secretary receiving a petition for the second time can, without delay, apply again for waiver of jurisdiction and the Lodge receiving the request can act upon it at their next Stated Communication. (1954 Proc. 64-65)

A Lodge shall not use general Trestleboards or Bulletins to notify other Lodges of rejected petitions for any of the Degrees or affiliation. The notice shall be by sealed first class mail. (1980 Proc. 166)

Digest of Masonic Law

CHAPTER 37

INITIATION AND ADVANCEMENT

INITIATION

Regulations

**37.01** The E.A. Degree may be conferred upon one, two, three, four, or five candidates at the same time, except that portion of the second section which immediately precedes the lecture, should be conferred on candidates separately. In conferring the E.A. Degree when there are more than five candidates, the Lodge may confer the Degree upon groups of five or less at the same Communication.

**37.02** When a ballot is taken on a petition of a candidate to receive the Symbolic Degrees of Masonry, and become a member of any Particular Lodge in this Jurisdiction, if the ballot is clear the petitioner shall be declared elected to receive the Three Degrees; *provided*, that when a petitioner has been regularly elected to receive the Three Degrees and fails to present himself for the E.A. Degree within six months after election, or fails to qualify for advancement, or to present himself for advancement within six months after having received the preceding Degree, the Lodge shall cause investigation of the petitioner to be made and shall again spread the ballot, but without a new petition, and if the ballot is clear, the Degree for which the petitioner is then next in line may then be conferred, assuming he has passed a satisfactory examination in the preceding Degree, if any.

**37.03** Articles of jewelry that cannot be removed from the person of the candidate shall not be considered in the matter of his preparation to receive any of the Degrees.

**37.04** Mere affirmations are not to be accepted in taking solemn Masonic obligations.

Rulings and Decisions

It is improper to present a Monitor to an E.A. (1946 Proc. 34)

When a candidate fails to present himself within six months for the Degree for which he is eligible and the ballot is rejected, there is no required waiting time before the ballot may again be spread. (1954 Proc. 174)

Where progress of candidate was arrested by order of Worshipful Master and such order was later rescinded, delay in progress was not fault of candidate and ballot for next Degree is not required. (1965 Proc. 196, 199)

The provisions of Regulations 35.10 and 37.02 relating to failure of petitioner to present himself for E.A. Degree within six months are applicable also to Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Masons who fail to present themselves within six months after receiving the preceding Degree. (1967 Proc. 74, 211)

In conferring the Entered Apprentice Degree when there are more than five candidates, the Lodge may confer the Degree upon groups of five or less at the same Communication. However, there will be no more than five candidates at the Altar at any one time to receive the obligation. (2012 Proc. 141)

The Lodge may confer the E.A. Degree upon a group of candidates no more than 5, through the obligation. At the conclusion of the obligation the Lodge will have the candidates take a seat in the North side of the Lodge, bring in the next group of candidates to be received into the Lodge Room at the conclusion of the obligation. And when all groups have concluded with the obligation the Lodge will join the groups into one and proceed with the Degree. (2012 Proc. 141)

The Grand Lodges of the United States use the Holy Bible as the Volume of Sacred Law on their Altars (Mentor's Manual, 3.14.) Therefore, the Holy Bible with the Square and Compasses displayed is the only Volume of Sacred Law authorized to be displayed upon the Altar during Lodge, except that a candidate



may seal his obligation upon the Volume of Sacred Law of his choice, e.g., a Muslim on the Koran or a Jew on the Torah. These other Volumes of Sacred Law may be present only during the Obligation and are to be removed immediately after the candidate has sealed his Obligation. At no time shall the Holy Bible, with the Square and Compasses displayed upon the Holy Bible, be absent from the Altar. (2008 Proc. 105)

## ADVANCEMENT

### Regulations

**37.05** A Lodge of competent jurisdiction otherwise, may, upon a proper Certificate from the Grand Secretary, lawfully finish work begun by a Lodge which has become defunct, and advance an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft Mason.

**37.06** One month must intervene between the conferring of any two Degrees, except in actual and meritorious emergency, which requires Dispensation from the Grand Master. The term "month" as used here shall be construed in harmony with the construction placed upon it by Regulation 33.01.

### References

Grand Master may grant Dispensation to confer Degrees short of time. Reg. 6.10(b)  
Grand Master may grant Dispensation to confer more than one Degree on candidate at same Communication. Reg. 6.10(d)

### Rulings and Decisions

E.A. Initiated twenty-six (26) years ago in another Jurisdiction after careful investigation and waiver of jurisdiction or dimit, may petition Florida Lodge for F.C. Degree. (1943 Proc. 74)

E.A. Initiated in another Jurisdiction twenty-five (25) years ago must secure dimit or equivalent before petitioning for advancement in Florida Lodge. (1944 Proc. 30)

It is not necessary to have a Dispensation to pass seven E.A. Brothers to F.C. Degrees. (1947 Proc. 34)

It is not permissible to raise twin brothers at the same time with two (2) separate Degree Teams. (1947 Proc. 32)

When a Florida Lodge requests a Lodge of another Grand Jurisdiction to confer Degrees by courtesy, and through error the Degrees are conferred without required intervening time of one month, the conferring of such Degrees is binding upon the Florida Lodge and the candidate is a Mason of the Florida Lodge in accordance with Degrees conferred upon him by courtesy. (1964 Proc. 64, 268)

## OBJECTION AND ARREST OF PROGRESS

### Constitutional Provisions

Every candidate for Initiation should read and approve the By-Laws of the Lodge, and must present his petition in writing vouched for by two members of the Lodge at a Stated Communication, which must lie over at least one month for the Brethren to make due inquiry into the character and standing of the candidate and review a criminal background investigative report of the candidate. And a petition thus presented cannot be withdrawn, but must be acted upon, and if rejected, cannot again be presented within six months. But rejections for Passing and Raising,

and for membership, shall not be required to lie over six months but may be renewed again at any subsequent Stated Communication of the Lodge. (2009) (Art. X, Sec. 14)

### Regulations

**37.07** The progress of a candidate may be arrested at any time for good cause shown, even in the midst of conferring any Degree. However, after a candidate has received the Entered Apprentice Degree he should not be stopped for light reasons and the Worshipful Master, on his own motion or at the request of any member shall require the Brother making the objection to state his reasons therefore that the Lodge may consider such reasons and decide whether or not they are sufficient. The Lodge may, however, refer the matter to a committee which shall report whether or not the objections are well-founded and whether or not they should be made known in the body of the Lodge, which report shall be subject to the action of the Lodge. The Lodge shall determine by a majority vote on ball ballot whether the objection be of sufficient merit to justify the arrest of the progress of the candidate and shall determine whether the arrest of such progress shall be: (1) in accordance with Regulation 36.01 or (2) for a period sufficient to permit investigation before final action by the Lodge, or the Lodge may proceed pursuant to Regulation 44.15.

**37.08** Objection to the advancement of either an Entered Apprentice or a Fellow Craft can be made verbally or in writing.

**37.09** Pending the settlement of a dispute between two Lodges as to territorial jurisdiction over a petitioner who has received the Entered Apprentice Degree in one of them, the progress of the candidate must be arrested until the jurisdictional question shall be finally determined.

**37.10** When a Brother presents his petition for advancement he must abide the result of the ballot without appeal; but when a charge is preferred to a Lodge against a Brother for the purpose of arresting his advancement, the Mason preferring such a charge and refusing to give specifications, shall be himself liable to discipline.

**37.11** When, after a candidate has been duly elected to receive the Entered Apprentice Degree, objection arises against conferring the Degree upon him, the Master shall cause an order arresting the progress of the candidate to be spread upon the minutes, which shall have the same force and effect as rejection at the ballot box, and the fee accompanying the petition shall be returned.

### Rulings and Decisions

Objection to candidate by Mason not a member of the Lodge to which application for membership has been made has no effect. (1944 Proc. 28)

A Brother Mason who is not a member of a Florida Lodge does not have right of objection to candidates accepted for the Degrees by a Florida Lodge. (1950 Proc. 54, 164)

Objection to progress of candidate can only be made by a member of the Lodge to which candidate has been elected to receive the Degrees. (1959 Proc. 62, 164)

Member of Lodge stated to Worshipful Master that he objected to candidate receiving E.A. Degree but gave no reason. Candidate was rejected. (1944 Proc. 29)

After candidate has been elected and received E.A. Degree, member of committee reported new information that candidate was unfit to be made a Mason. Progress should be arrested, a committee appointed, and Lodge, by majority vote, determine worthiness of candidate. 37.07 provides the procedure in the case of the arrest of the progress of a candidate. (1948 Proc. 52)

Regulations 37.02 and Section 14 of Article X of the Constitution apply to Entered Apprentice Brother who fails to present himself for Fellow Craft Degree within six months. Petition for advancement may be presented at any Stated Communication of the Lodge, and if ballot is unfavorable may be reviewed at any subsequent Stated Communication of the Lodge. Regulation 37.07 applies only to oral objection made to advancement. (1973 Proc. 58, 344)

The proper procedure is for the Worshipful Master to immediately arrest the progress of an Entered Apprentice who confessed to stealing money from employer, and appoint a committee to investigate. Upon report of committee, ballot should again be spread. (1962 Proc. 82, 296)

When a dispute as to jurisdiction arises in regard to an Entered Apprentice Brother who has passed his proficiency test and presented himself for further Degrees, and the dispute requires six months or more for settlement, Regulations 37.02 and 37.09 do not require a ballot on further progress of the Entered Apprentice Brother if the Entered Apprentice Brother has done all required of him and the delay was due only to the dispute over jurisdiction. (1959 Proc. 51, 164)

Member of Lodge who desires to stop the progress of a candidate by objection must do so personally. Objection may not be made by member in attendance at Lodge Communication for or in behalf of an absent Brother. An objection stated by a proxy has no validity whatever. (1964 Proc. 65, 268)

Entered Apprentice Mason Initiated after valid objection by member of the Lodge is Entered Apprentice Mason of the Lodge into which he was Initiated, but objection of member remains as continuing objection to the further progress of such Entered Apprentice until objection is withdrawn or objector dies or ceases to be a member of the Lodge. (1965 Proc. 196, 199-200)

The term "in good standing" refers to Master Masons and not to Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Masons. A Transfer Certificate may only be issued to a Master Mason "in good standing." A Transfer Certificate may not be issued to Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Masons inasmuch as said Brothers are not subject to Lodge dues and may only be suspended as a result of charges of unmasonic conduct being filed against them, being found guilty, and the penalty imposed by the Lodge or Grand Lodge being suspension or expulsion. Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Masons may be issued EA/FC Dimits (Form GL-611) as long as their progress has not been arrested, in accordance to Regulation 37.07 of the Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida. (2019 Proc. 114)

**PROFICIENCY****Regulations**

**37.12** No candidate shall receive the Fellow Craft or Master Mason Degree unless and until he shall have passed a satisfactory examination in open Lodge upon the catechism of the preceding Degree. No Degree shall be conferred until the candidate has received instruction in the "Lodge System of Masonic Education" as prescribed in Regulation 37.18. (1979)

**37.13** A candidate should be examined in open Lodge, opened in the highest Degree to which he has been advanced. No person should be admitted to a Lodge open in the Master Mason Degree, except those who have received that Degree.

**37.14** The golden rule which should govern the advancement of applicants to the Second and Third Degrees, is "suitable proficiency" to be demonstrated on examination in open Lodge, and which nothing but a most extraordinary and meritorious case of emergency should ever waive.

**37.15** In voting on the proficiency of a candidate, a majority vote governs. Examination and voting on proficiency of an Entered Apprentice Brother shall be conducted in an Entered Apprentice Lodge; examination and voting on proficiency of a Fellow Craft Brother shall be conducted in a Lodge of Fellow Craft Masons, and examination and voting on proficiency of a Master Mason shall be conducted in a Lodge of Master Masons. The Brother or Brothers being examined as to proficiency shall be excused from the Lodge room while the vote on their proficiency is being taken.

**37.16** (a) The Grand Lodge Committee on Work shall issue card certificates of proficiency to qualified Master Masons, who are members in good standing of regular Lodges, when in the judgment of the committee the proficiency of such Masons, in the official Form and Ceremonies, is such as to meet the standards set up by said Committee, and when otherwise qualified.

(b) The Committee on Work shall issue a white card certificate of proficiency to a Master Mason when proficient in the ceremonies of opening and closing the Three Degrees of Freemasonry and in the esoteric work of the Entered Apprentice Degree.

(c) The Committee on Work shall issue a green card certificate of proficiency to a Master Mason when proficient in the ceremonies of opening and closing the Three Degrees of Freemasonry and in the esoteric work of the Entered Apprentice Degree and the Fellow Craft Degree.

(d) The Committee on Work shall issue a blue card certificate of proficiency to a Master Mason when proficient in the ceremonies of opening and closing the Three Degrees of Freemasonry, and the esoteric work of the Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason Degree including the questions and answers of the Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason Catechisms. (2010)

(e) The Committee on Work shall issue to a Master Mason proficient in one (1) or two (2) of the lectures of the Degrees on an orange card with blue stripe, on which stripe shall be imprinted and impressed the lecture or lectures in which the holder is proficient. An orange card without the blue stripe shall be issued for proficiency in the lectures of the Three Degrees.

(f) The Committee on Work shall issue a gold card of proficiency together with a certificate suitable for framing to a Master Mason when proficient in all Three Degrees and lectures of Freemasonry.

(g) All proficiency cards except the brown and gold cards shall only be in force for three (3) years unless renewed by the committee upon examination of such and holder, or unless the holder of such cards has qualified to receive an extra card for proficiency; *provided*, that when any Master Mason is proficient in the esoteric work of all Three Degrees and the lectures thereof and receives a gold card, it shall be good for life, unless revoked by the Grand Lodge. The brown card shall be in force for ten (10) years. (2003)

(h) The Committee on Work shall issue a silver card for proficiency in the Catechism of the Three Degrees in accordance with adopted Forms and Ceremonies. (1979)

(i) The Committee on Work shall issue a brown card for proficiency in all the following portions or parts of the esoteric (monitorial) Forms and Ceremonies: (a) All the Chaplain's parts in the conferring of the Three Degrees, an opening prayer, a closing prayer, the Flag prayer, and the prayers for the 25, 40, and 50 year membership presentation awards; and (b) The three regular Charges at Initiation, Passing, and Raising; and (c) All the parts in one or more Funeral/Memorial service; and (d) The Presentation of the Lambskin Apron. (1989)

**37.17** The Committee on Work shall examine and issue proficiency cards in accordance with these Regulations. The committee shall certify the names of all Brethren to whom has been issued a Certificate of Qualification to the Grand Secretary, who shall record the same and maintain as permanent records of the Grand Lodge.

## EDUCATION INSTRUCTION

### Regulations

**37.18** The Grand Lodge has promulgated a "Lodge System of Masonic Education" which is described in 1954 Proceedings on pages 165 through 168. A candidate receiving the Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, or Master Mason Degree shall receive the instruction prescribed to be given either before or after the conferring of each such Degree. Prior to the conferring of a Degree, the Worshipful Master or a majority of the Lodge Committee on Masonic Education shall certify to the Lodge Secretary that the candidate has received the prescribed instruction, which certification shall be recorded in the Lodge minutes. (1991)

The Worshipful Master and the Lodge Secretary shall be directly and personally responsible to the Grand Master and to the Grand Lodge for full compliance with this Regulation. (1979)

### Rulings and Decisions

A Candidate for advancement must be examined as to his proficiency in the preceding Degree in open Lodge at either a Called or Stated Communication. (1948 Proc. 58)

Proficiency test of E. A. & F. C. Degrees must be conducted in open Lodge. (1947 Proc. 32)

The Lodge may decide whether or not to present a Lambskin Apron to a Brother Raised in another Lodge and dimitting to present Lodge and taking examination. (1946 Proc. 84)

Voting on the proficiency of a candidate is a part of the work of the Degree and must be taken immediately following the examination and in the same Degree in which the Lodge is then open for the examination. If the vote is upon proficiency in the Entered Apprentice Degree, all Entered Apprentice Masons present are entitled to vote, and if the vote is upon proficiency in the Fellow Craft Degree, all Fellow Craft Masons present are entitled to vote. (1954 Proc. 66)

When a Brother has been Initiated an Entered Apprentice and fails to become proficient within six months, a new investigation and ballot must be had, without the necessity, however, of a new petition. Since the Brother is an Entered Apprentice Mason he is entitled to continue instruction in that Degree pending the reinvestigation and ballot before progressing to the Fellow Craft Degree. (1959 Proc. 54-55, 164)





CHAPTER 38  
**RITUAL AND CEREMONIES**  
FORMS AND CEREMONIES  
**Constitutional Provisions**

All ritualistic ceremonies, forms, services, and esoteric work of the Grand Lodge and all Subordinate, Particular, or Individual Lodges, hereinafter referred to as “Forms and Ceremonies” as transcribed and written and adopted in Annual Grand Communication, April 26, A.L. 5967, A.D. 1967, and on file in the Office of the Grand Secretary, together with such changes, amendments, and deletions as from time to time may be duly authorized and made, is declared to be the true, authentic, and genuine Forms and Ceremonies of the Grand Jurisdiction of Florida, and are the only Forms and Ceremonies authorized for use in such Grand Jurisdiction, and no other Forms or Ceremonies shall be used by the Grand Lodge or any of the Subordinate, Particular, or Individual Lodges of said Grand Jurisdiction. (Art. XV, Sec. 1)

There shall be one (1) original and up to thirty-five (35) duplicate copies of the Forms and Ceremonies described herein. There shall also be one Spanish Translation and three (3) duplicate copies of the Spanish Translation of the Forms and Ceremonies. There shall also be on (1) digitized copy of the original and Spanish Translation of the Forms and Ceremonies. (2019)

The digitized copy shall be used for the purposes of updating, printing corrections, or replacement copies of the bound volumes of the Forms and Ceremonies as necessary and approved. The digitized copy shall only be accessed on a computer or printing device that, as applicable, 1) has received all operating system updates and 2) is running an updated version of virus protection software and 3) is not connected to any network (including the internet) either physically or wirelessly or through any other connection means and 4) does not have any form of removable media attached except the media containing the digitized copy. (2019)

The original shall be permanently bound in not more than three volumes and shall not be used unless such use is specifically authorized by appropriate Resolution of Grand Lodge, which Resolution shall specify in detail the use to be made of such original and the terms and conditions governing such use. (1992)

The duplicate copies of the Forms and Ceremonies shall be permanently bound in such number of volumes as the Grand Master may from time to time direct by Edict, and may be moved to a committee room in the Grand Lodge Building, but shall not be removed to any other building or place except by direction of the Grand Master and only after the Lodge in the requesting District has signed a satisfactory contract and agreement with The Grand Lodge of Florida and agreed to pay the cost incurred in the reproduction of the duplicate copies and provides a safe to house the “Books.” The duplicate copy of the “Forms and Ceremonies” retained at the Grand Lodge Building will be used as the “Master” for producing those duplicates. (2009)

There shall also be a First Letter Cipher of the Forms and Ceremonies, which shall be available to all Master Masons in Good Standing in a Particular Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction. This Cipher shall contain the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Three Degrees, the Degree Work of the Three Degrees, the Lectures of the Three Degrees, and the Catechisms of the Three Degrees. There shall also be two untitled and uncredited booklets containing the First Letter Cipher of the Catechisms of the Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Degrees, which shall be available for use by the Particular Lodges of Florida to assist the candidates. (1997)

There shall also be a Grand Lodge Officers First Letter Cipher Code Book. Copies of this Grand Lodge Officers Code Book shall be prepared at no cost to the Grand Lodge; printed on 8½ X 11 inch sheets, mounted in a cover folder and kept with the Aprons of the Elected and Appointed Grand Lodge Officers having speaking parts for their use during the year. A master copy of said Grand Lodge Officers Code Book shall be prepared and held by the Grand Secretary in order to provide further replacement copies if necessary. (2001)

The Grand Lodge by Regulation may further regulate the use of such duplicate copies and Ciphers. (1995) (Art. XV, Sec. 2)

The original and duplicate copies of the Forms and Ceremonies described herein shall be kept in a safety deposit box permanently anchored in the vault in the Grand Lodge building, which safety deposit box shall be provided with lock which can only be opened by operation of two different keys, one of which keys shall be in the custody of the Grand Master except as hereinafter provided and the other of such keys in the custody of the Grand Secretary.

The safety deposit box herein above referred to shall not be opened except by the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary in the presence of at least one Past Grand Master and a member of the Committee on Work; *provided, however*, the Grand Master may be represented by the Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, or Junior Grand Warden when he shall so direct in writing.

In the event of illness, incapacity, or unavoidable absence of the Grand Secretary, the Grand Master may designate, in writing, an additional Past Grand Master to act for the Grand Secretary. A record shall be provided and kept on file in said safety deposit box showing each time that said safety deposit box is opened, what was removed therefrom, the use made thereof of the original or duplicate copy, the persons present at the time of opening of said safety deposit box and the time of return of anything removed therefrom. (Art. XV, Sec. 3)

At no time and under no circumstances and by no person shall any copy be made of the secret work adopted by the Grand Lodge, nor any notes or memorandum made or prepared therefrom, nor any changes, amendments, or deletions made thereto or therefrom, unless authorized by Grand Lodge in Annual Grand Communication, and then only after sixty (60) days notice to the Particular Lodges of any proposed change, modification, abridgement, amendment, or repeal hereof.

At no time and under no circumstances and by no person shall any copy be made of the Ciphers authorized by Grand Lodge, nor any notes or memorandum made or prepared therefrom, nor any changes, amendments, or deletions made thereto or therefrom, unless authorized by the Grand Lodge. (1995) (Art. XV, Sec. 4)

The provisions hereof shall not be changed, modified, abridged, amended, or repealed by any manner or means whatsoever except by direct action of the Grand Lodge in Annual Grand Communication after not less than sixty (60) days notice to all Particular Lodges of any proposed change, modification, abridgement, amendment, or repeal hereof. (Art. XV, Sec. 5)

### **Rulings and Decisions**

Article XV, Section 3, requires that the Grand Master, the Grand Secretary, at least one other elective Grand Lodge Officer, and at least one Past Grand Master be personally present at the opening and closing of the vault wherein is kept the written Forms and Ceremonies. (1971 Proc. 301-302)

## **FLORIDA MONITOR**

### **Regulations**

**38.01** The latest approved "Florida Monitor" and "Cipher," together with the approved excerpts therefrom are the official Monitors and Cipher for use of the Lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction. (1996)

**38.02** The Committee on Work shall proofread the reprinting of Florida Monitors and approved excerpts therefrom.

### **Rulings and Decisions**

It is improper to present a Monitor to an E.A. (1946 Proc. 34)

## **RULINGS OF GRAND LODGE**

### **Regulations**

**38.03** The Particular Lodges are required to conform to every known Edict of the Grand Lodge concerning the Work, and to yield implicit obedience to all ritualistic decisions and requirements of the Grand Lodge, which their representatives should be neither slow nor derelict in fully and accurately communicating to the Brethren whom they represent.

## **FORMS AND CEREMONIES**

### **Regulations**

**38.04** (a) All ritualistic ceremonies, forms, services, and esoteric work of the Grand Lodge and all Subordinate, Particular, or Individual Lodges, hereinafter referred to as "Forms and Ceremonies" as transcribed and written and adopted in Annual Grand Communication, April 26, A.L. 5967, A.D. 1967, and on file in the Office of the Grand Secretary, together with such changes, amendments, and deletions as from time to time may be duly authorized and made, is declared to be the true, authentic, and genuine Forms and Ceremonies of the Grand Jurisdiction of Florida, and are the only Forms and Ceremonies authorized for use in such Grand Jurisdiction, and no other Forms or Ceremonies shall be used by the Grand Lodge or any of the Subordinate, Particular, or Individual Lodges of said Grand Jurisdiction.

(b) There shall be one (1) original and up to thirty-five (35) duplicate copies of the Forms and Ceremonies described herein. There shall also be one Spanish Translation and three (3) duplicate copies of the Spanish Translation of the Forms and Ceremonies. There shall also be on (1) digitized copy of the original and Spanish Translation of the Forms and Ceremonies. (2019)

The digitized copy shall be used for the purposes of updating, printing corrections, or replacement copies of the bound volumes of the Forms and Ceremonies as necessary and approved. The digitized copy shall only be accessed on a computer or printing device that, as applicable, 1) has received all operating system updates and 2) is running an updated version of virus protection software and 3) is not connected to any network (including the internet) either physically or wirelessly or through any other connection means and 4) does not have any form of removable media attached except the media containing the digitized copy. (2019)

The duplicate copies of the Forms and Ceremonies shall be permanently bound in such number of volumes as the Grand Master may from time to time direct by Edict, and may be moved to a committee room in the Grand Lodge Building, but shall not be removed to any other building or place except by direction of the Grand Master and only after the Lodge in the requesting District has signed a satisfactory contract and agreement with The Grand Lodge of Florida and agreed to pay the cost incurred in the reproduction of the duplicate copies and provides a safe to house the "Books." The duplicate copy of the "Forms and Ceremonies" retained at the Grand Lodge Building will be used as the "Master" for producing those duplicates. (2009)

(c) The original and duplicate copies of the Forms and Ceremonies described herein shall be kept in a safety deposit box permanently anchored in the vault in the Grand Lodge Building, which safety deposit box shall be provided with lock which can only be opened by operation of two different keys, one of which keys shall be in the custody of the Grand Master except as hereinafter provided and the other of such keys in the custody of the Grand Secretary. These keys shall be delivered to the successors in Office of Grand Master and Grand Secretary.

The safety deposit box hereinabove referred to shall not be opened except by the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary in the presence of at least one Past Grand Master and a member of the Committee on Work; *provided, however*, the Grand Master may be represented by the Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, or Junior Grand Warden when he shall so direct in writing.

In the event of illness, incapacity, or unavoidable absence of the Grand Secretary, the Grand Master may designate, in writing, an additional Past Grand Master to act for the Grand Secretary. A record shall be provided and kept on file in said safety deposit box showing each time that said safety deposit box is opened, what was removed therefrom, the use made thereof of the original or duplicate copy, the persons present at the time of opening of said safety deposit box and the time of return of anything removed therefrom.

(d) At no time and under no circumstances and by no person shall any copy be made of the secret work adopted by the Grand Lodge, nor any notes or memorandum made or prepared therefrom, nor any changes, amendments, or deletions made thereto or therefrom, unless authorized by Grand Lodge in Annual Grand Communication, and then only after sixty (60) days notice to the Particular Lodges in advance of said Annual Grand Communication that a proposed change, amendment, or deletion will be presented.

(e) The provisions hereof shall not be changed, modified, abridged, amended, or repealed by any manner or means whatsoever except by direct action of the Grand Lodge in Annual Grand Communication after not less than sixty (60) days notice to all Particular Lodges of any proposed change, modification, abridgement, amendment, or repeal hereof.

(f) There shall also be a First Letter Cipher of the Forms and Ceremonies, which shall be available to all Master Masons in good standing in a Particular Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction. This First Letter Cipher shall contain the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Three Degrees, the Degree Work of the Three Degrees, the Lectures of the Three Degrees, and the Catechisms of the Three Degrees. There shall also be two untitled and uncredited booklets containing the First Letter Cipher of the Catechisms of the Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Degrees, which shall be available for use by the Particular Lodges of Florida to assist the candidates. At no time and under no circumstances and by no person shall any copy be made of the Ciphers authorized by Grand Lodge, nor any notes or memorandum made or prepared therefrom, nor any changes, amendments, or deletions made thereto or therefrom, unless authorized by the Grand Lodge. (1995)

There shall also be a Grand Lodge Officers First Letter Cipher Code Book. Copies of this Grand Lodge Officers Code Book shall be prepared at no cost to the Grand Lodge; printed on 8½ X 11 inch sheets, mounted in a cover folder and kept with the Aprons of the Elected and Appointed Grand Lodge Officers having speaking parts for their use during the year. A master copy of said Grand Lodge Officers Code Book shall be prepared and held by the Grand Secretary in order to provide future replacement copies if necessary. (2001)

### **Rulings and Decisions**

The official work adopted by the Grand Lodge in 1967 Annual Grand Communication cannot be changed in any manner except by action of the Grand Lodge in accordance with Regulation 38.04. (1968 Proc. 57, 212)

The Florida Masonic Code Book and the Grand Lodge Officers First Letter Cipher Code Book shall not be used or opened during Grand Lodge Session or any Called or Stated Communication of a Particular Lodge. The Florida Masonic Code Book or Grand Lodge Officers First Letter Cipher Code Book may be used for the instruction of a Brother and during a Grand Lodge or Particular Lodge practice. (2012 Proc. 142-143)

The merged Handbook of Floorwork Procedures shall not be used or opened during any Called or Stated Communication of a Particular Lodge inasmuch as it contains the same information as the Florida Masonic Code Book. The merged Handbook of Floorwork Procedures may be used for the instruction of a Brother during a Particular Lodge Practice. The violation of this Ruling and Decision shall be subject for Masonic discipline. (2023 Proc. \_\_\_\_)

**EXCERPTS OF RESOLUTIONS****Resolution For Opening Safes Containing Duplicate Copies of Work**

“For purpose of opening the safe, vault, or strong box in a Temple, the Grand Master shall designate a member of the Committee on Work to whom shall be delivered one of the keys or combinations and either an Elected Grand Lodge Officer, a District Deputy Grand Master, a District Instructor, or a Past Grand Master, to whom shall be delivered the other key or combination. Under no circumstances shall both keys or combinations be delivered to or be in the possession of any one individual except the Grand Master or Grand Secretary.

None of the safes, vaults, or strong boxes shall be opened except upon written order of the Grand Master, which order shall specify the date or dates for opening thereof and the date or dates for closing thereof, which order shall specify the person or persons for delivery of the keys or combinations as provided in above paragraph hereof and directions for return of said keys or combinations to the custody or control of the Grand Master.

The duplicate copy of Forms and Ceremonies be transferred from the vault in which is located the original Forms and Ceremonies and transferred to the safe or strong box in the Office of the Grand Secretary and after said transfer that the same may be removed and used in the same manner and under the same procedures and safeguards as set forth in Resolving Clauses in the previous section of this Resolution.” (1982 Proc. 431)

“The Grand Master may appoint additional designees for opening duplicate copies from a list of Brothers submitted to him by the Committee on Work. Such Brothers shall be Past Zone Chairmen of the Committee on Work, Past District Instructors, or Past District Deputy Grand Masters, selected from the District or Districts containing duplicate copies of the “Forms and Ceremonies.” The permission procedure will be as currently required by Regulations.” (2010 Proc. 350-351)

“The Grand Master may, at his discretion, issue one (1) Directive for his term in office to allow the State Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Committee on Work to authorize the opening of the safes for the removal of the books for work and instruction or Ritual Competition provided that the Grand Master be notified by electronic or U.S. Mail not less than seven (7) days in advance of each such opening. A compilation of these Open Books will be included in the annual report of the Committee on Work. All other requirements of this Chapter will be adhered to.” (2014 Proc. 343-345)

**Resolution on a Merged Floorwork/Ritual Book**

“The merged Work, as prepared by the Committee on Work, including the corrections to the irregularities, grammar, and punctuation be adopted, printed, and distributed by the Grand Secretary’s Office.

The Cipher be revised to accurately reflect these corrections, ensuring that the Cipher is an accurate reflection of the Merged Work as adopted. (2018 Proc. 343-344)

**Resolution Regarding the Creation and Management of a Back Up for the Digital Copy of the “Forms and Ceremonies”**

“A secondary digitized copy be made and stored on a separate device from the primary storage devices for the purpose of having a secured backup in case of primary device failure.

The secondary digitized copy be stored in a separate secured location as prescribed in Article XV, Section 3, of the Constitution.

Access to the secured location for the secondary digitized copy be prescribed by Article XV, Section 3, Paragraphs 2 and 3, in the Constitution.” (2019 Proc. 330)

**Resolution on the Encryption of the Digital Copies of the Forms and Ceremonies and the Creation and Management of Encryption Keys**

“The digitized copy of the Work, as prepared by the Committee on Work, including the Forms and Ceremonies and the Merged Word be encrypted on the digital media device using security industry recommended encryption methods and practices.

The Encryption Keys should be held in secret and confidence by key stewards comprised of the Grand Master, the Grand Secretary, and the Chairman of the Committee on Work only.

The Encryptions Keys should be changed annually or when any of the key stewards are changed.” (2019 Proc. 328)

**Resolution on the Usage of Coffin in the Second Section of the Master Mason Degree**

“A coffin shall not be used in conferring or exemplifying the Second Section of the Master Mason Degree neither shall one be displayed in the Lodge Room. A tracing Board or Lithograph of a coffin will be allowed for the Master Mason Lecture only. (2019 Proc. 325)

**Resolution for Adding Installation Procedures to Merged Book**

“The “Procedure for Open Installation” as prepared by the Committee on Work by merging the written wording and directions from the “Florida Masonic Monitor” with the floorwork as included in the “Handbook of Forms and Ceremonies Procedures” be included in future printings of the “Handbook of Forms and Ceremonies Procedures” in place of the “Installation of Lodge Officers” that is currently on pages 121 through 126.

The “Procedure for Closed Installation” as prepared by the Committee on Work be adopted as Official Work and included in future printings of the “Handbook of Forms and Ceremonies Procedures” immediately following the “Procedure for Open Installation.” (2021 Proc. 361)

**Resolution to Allow Allied and Appendant Bodies to  
Assist with Open Installations**

“The Committee on Work will add wording to the Ritual for Open Installations stating when and where our Allied and Appendant Bodies will be able to participate in our Open Installations. This participation will only be allowed prior to the Installing Officer starting the section where he is explaining our Fraternity to the non-Masons and will be restricted to the area west of the Altar.

Any of these participants that are in a uniform that includes some form of a hat will be allowed to wear their hats and cover when they stand to participate in the ceremony and will uncover when they are finished and take their seats.” 2021 Proc. 362)

**CORNERSTONES**

**Regulations**

**38.05** The ceremonies of laying cornerstones shall be under the direct control and supervision of the Grand Master.

**38.06** When an application is made to the Grand Master for laying the cornerstone of a building, it should be accompanied by a statement of the plan of the edifice, the purpose for which it is to be used, or to which it is to be devoted, and such further information as he shall call for so as to enable him to determine whether the building to be constructed will meet the requirements of our Ancient Law and usages relating to this ceremony. If the building will meet such requirements, the Grand Master will fix the time for performing the ceremony.

**38.07** The question of whether or not a building is too far advanced for the laying of a cornerstone by The Grand Lodge of Florida is left to the discretion of the Grand Master.

**38.08** The ceremonies of laying cornerstones shall be under the direct control and supervision of the Grand Master. (Same as 38.04)

**38.09** For the purpose of laying a cornerstone the Grand Master may call to his assistance a Particular Lodge or Lodges; in either case he will, if present, preside. In his absence, his Special Deputy will preside unless the Deputy Grand Master be present, who will take precedence over the Special Deputy. Other Grand Officers present will take their respective stations and places, unless requested to serve elsewhere. The minutes of all such Emergent Communications shall be furnished to the Grand Secretary in addition to the Grand Master’s record.

**38.10** The official inscription to be placed on cornerstones laid by The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Florida shall be as hereinafter set forth, *provided*, the Grand Master may by Dispensation permit a different calendar date for the A.D. date:



A. L. \_\_\_\_\_

A. D. \_\_\_\_\_

(Name of Lodge or Public Building)  
 (Square and Compass)  
 (Letter "G" Emblem)

THIS CORNERSTONE LAID

BY

THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE

OF

FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

OF FLORIDA

**38.10.1** When any building owned by the Grand Lodge or a Particular Lodge shall be sold or demolished or abandoned, all Masonic insignia, plaques, cornerstones, and all other indicia of Masonic ownership or use shall be removed and appropriately preserved as directed by the Grand Master or Grand Lodge.

When any public building having a Masonic cornerstone is sold, demolished, or abandoned, appropriate effort shall be made for removal and preservation of such cornerstone as shall be directed by the Grand Master or Grand Lodge.

### **Rulings and Decisions**

Cornerstone of Lodge or public building may have inscribed thereon the name of such Lodge or public building. (1967 Proc. 75, 211)

When a cornerstone is removed, it is not necessary to repeat cornerstone ceremony but should be kept as near its present position as possible and not be covered. (1950 Proc. 53)

### **DEGREE WORK UNDER AUSPICES OF GRAND LODGE**

#### **Regulations**

**38.11** The Grand Lodge will entertain no petition for Initiation into Masonry, or for any Degree.

### **OFFICIAL VISITS**

#### **Regulations**

**38.12** The Particular Lodges are required to receive the Official Visits of the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden, the Junior Grand Warden, the Past Grand Masters, and District Deputy Grand Masters (in their own Districts) with Grand Honors, respect, and obedience. The Grand Treasurer, the Grand Secretary, Past Deputy Grand Masters, and Past Grand Wardens may be received as a courtesy. A regularly elected Worshipful Master is entitled to Grand Honors at time of installation. (None others, except those provided for by Regulation, are entitled to be received with Grand Honors. See Monitor.) (2002)

**Rulings and Decisions**

Action of Grand Master in requiring written apology for discourtesies to District Deputy Grand Master on occasion of Official Visit was proper and in accord with requirements of Masonic Law. (1969 Proc. 58, 212)

**DEGREE WORK****Regulations**

**38.13** Articles of jewelry that cannot be removed from the person of a candidate shall not be considered in the matter of his preparation to receive any of the Degrees.

**38.14** Mere affirmations are not to be accepted in taking solemn Masonic obligations. (Same as 37.04)

**38.15** The presentation of the apron as part of the ritualistic work of the Entered Apprentice Degree is purely symbolic, and the short form set forth in the Florida Monitor shall be used. The presentation of a lambskin apron to keep permanently is optional with the Lodge, but if a lambskin apron is to be presented it shall be done in the long form set forth in the Florida Monitor after the Brother has passed satisfactory examination upon the catechism of all Three Degrees. The presentation of an apron may be made in a public ceremony at the option of the Lodge. (2003)

**38.16** The Worshipful Master shall not permit a section of any Degree to be postponed until a future Communication of the Lodge. Any Degree started in a Communication must be completed, which shall include a lecture of the Degree, if possible.

**38.17** Every Particular Lodge of Florida is charged with the responsibility of the conferring of Degrees and no Lodge can assign this responsibility to a Degree Team. The Worshipful Master shall remain in charge of all work, even though he has requested a Degree Team to confer a Degree.

**38.18** The Worshipful Master may permit any proficient Brother Mason to confer the Degrees, in his presence, in the Lodge; but the Worshipful Master, or acting Worshipful Master, who confers the Degrees, or permits the same, or any portion thereof, should not permit the same to be conferred in any Lodge in an improper manner.

## PRESENTATION OF LAMBSKIN APRON

### References

(The Committee on Work recommends and Grand Lodge approves the use of a genuine lambskin apron in the conferring of the Entered Apprentice Degree, and formal presentation after satisfactory examination in the Master Mason Degree.) (1959 Proc. 179)

### Rulings and Decisions

M.M.'s should wear their aprons as M.M.'s during work in the E.A. Degree. (1944 Proc. 31)

A Florida Lodge cannot properly permit the use of any outside ritual by out of state Degree Teams. (1942 Proc. 43)

It is not permissible to Raise twin brothers at the same time with two separate Degree Teams. (1947 Proc. 32)

No Dispensation is necessary for a Lodge to confer the Master Mason Degree on six candidates during the same evening. (1954 Proc. 69)

If a Lodge is so fortunate as to have a Brother capable of delivering the Charges of the Three Degrees from memory, it is most proper for him to do so; otherwise, if such is not the case, the Charges should be read. (1962 Proc. 83, 296)

The Degrees shall not be conferred by anyone who can not speak and understand the English language, except Spanish speaking Lodges may confer the Degrees upon Spanish speaking candidates. (1969 Proc. 219)

Any Degrees started in a Called or Stated Communication shall include a lecture. Therefore, it is the Worshipful Master's responsibility to ensure that a Brother proficient in delivering the lecture for the scheduled Degree has been requested to be present. Only under EMERGENCY situations shall a Degree be closed without the lecture being delivered. (2012 Proc. 143)

## DEGREE TEAMS

**38.19** The Grand Master may, in the exercise of great caution, permit the organization of Masonic Degree Teams under the following conditions:

(a) All members of Degree Teams must be Master Masons, in good standing.

(b) They may have such Officers as may be necessary for the harmonious handling of all matters pertaining to such teams.

(c) No controversial question shall be discussed in meetings of the members of Degree Teams.

(d) There shall be no special fees or dues for membership of Degree Teams. They may be financed by voluntary contributions.

(e) Any particular type of dress for Degree Teams shall be optional including a headpiece when it is a part of a costume of the era of the legend of the Third Degree; *provided, however*, that all present shall wear aprons and the Worshipful Master or acting Worshipful Master shall be covered.

(f) All Laws and Regulations of the Grand Lodge shall be observed.

(g) No Degree Team shall undertake any function other than Degree work or conducting Masonic funerals.

(h) The work in all Three Degrees shall conform to the Official Florida work without change or addition; all requirements of the Regulations of Grand Lodge must be complied with.

(i) The general purpose of Degree Teams shall be to promote good fellowship among Freemasons and assist in observance of the official Florida Degree work.

(j) The Worshipful Master of the Lodge in which the Degree is conferred shall remain in charge of all work even though he has requested a Degree Team to confer the Degree.

(k) Any function of a Degree Team shall be under the jurisdiction of a Particular Lodge and its Worshipful Master shall be responsible for their conduct.

## MASTER'S AUTHORITY

### Regulations

**38.20** The Master has absolute and supreme control over the work of the Lodge, and when there are two or more applicants for the same Degree elected and waiting at the same time, it is his discretion to direct which shall have precedence. (Same as 20.06)

**38.21** The Worshipful Master guides and controls all the work and business of the Lodge; opens, closes, dispenses, calls off, and calls on, at his pleasure.

### Rulings and Decisions

If the Master so instructs, it is proper to salute the West on entering or retiring from Lodge while at Labor. (1946 Proc. 37)

The Worshipful Master of the Lodge guides and controls all the work, and it is not necessary to have a Dispensation for him to direct that a candidate likely to suffer injury in the conferring of the Degrees, be handled in such way as to avoid injury. (1954 Proc. 67)

It is not in order for the Worshipful Master to require the membership to repeat the obligations with the candidates or to repeat prayers with the Chaplain. (1954 Proc. 67)

## WARDEN'S AUTHORITY

### Regulations

**38.22** A Senior Warden or Junior Warden presiding, in the absence of the Master, may call any Past Master or any competent Brother to the East to do the work of the Lodge, but he is not required to do so. (1985)

**38.23** A Warden, vacating his position as such, or any other Brother, may confer a Degree and give the lecture, or do any part of the work of the Lodge in the presence and at the request of the Master. In this, the Master does not, and cannot, vacate or transfer his authority; but he can always act through any Brother whose assistance or skill he may desire, and the acts thus performed in his presence, and by his authority, are his acts.

## OPENING AND CLOSING FOR DEGREE WORK

### Regulations

**38.24** Each Degree must be opened and closed with its own appropriate ceremony; hence, the opening of a Master Mason Lodge does not open the E.A. or F.C. Lodge.

**38.25** When a Communication is called for the sole purpose of conferring a specific Degree, it is not necessary to open the Lodge in any other Degree.

## FURNITURE OF LODGE

### Constitutional Provisions

Every Particular Lodge must be furnished with a Seal and appropriate Jewels, Furniture, and Working Tools\*\*\*. (Excerpt; Art. X, Sec. 23)

(c) The Volume of the Sacred Law, open upon the Altar, is an indispensable furnishing of every regular Lodge while at labor. (Excerpt; Art. XIII, Sec. 2)

### Regulations

**38.26** Every Particular Lodge must display the Flag of the United States of America in the Lodge Room at all Communications of the Lodge, but without ceremony, but this Regulation shall not be construed to prohibit a recital of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**38.27** It is recommended that each Particular Lodge provide itself with a Masonic banner of blue, having on it the name and number of the Lodge, and the place of its location, together with the words "F. & A. M. of Florida."

### Rulings and Decisions

The United States Flag shall be displayed at every Lodge Communication but without ceremony. (1942 Proc. 51)

Use of Bible containing extraneous matter is not proper. The First Grand Light in Masonry is the unadorned Holy Bible. (1941 Proc. 82)

It is proper to incorporate the lights behind the Master's and Wardens' stations by appropriate symbols for those stations, if the symbols can be easily removed when other organizations are using the same hall. (1962 Proc. 81, 296)

It is improper to provide a room in the East enclosed with glass in which the Secretary could and would sit during the Lodge Communications. (1962 Proc. 81, 296)

## WRITTEN INFORMATION

### Regulations

**38.28** Any member of a Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction who uses or refers to any written or printed books, manuscripts, or papers purporting to disclose or expose the secret work of Freemasonry, except the authorized written work of this Grand Jurisdiction when lawfully authorized so to do, shall be subject to discipline.

### Rulings and Decisions

A cipher procured by E.A. Brother innocently should be destroyed. (1946 Proc. 37)

## SIDE DEGREES

### Regulations

**38.29** What are termed Side Degrees are not under the protection of this Grand Lodge, though some of them, when consistent, may be useful.

## PUBLIC PROCESSIONS AND DIVINE SERVICES

### Constitutional Provisions

Every Particular Lodge has the right and it is the duty of its members when summoned by the Worshipful Master to turn out in public procession on the anniversaries of Saints John and in funeral

procession of a Master Mason, or laying a cornerstone, but on all extraordinary Masonic occasions (except attendance on Divine Service for which no Dispensation is necessary), a Dispensation should be obtained from the Grand Master. (Art. X, Sec. 27)

#### **Regulations**

**38.30** Dispensations may be granted for public processions on extraordinary occasions. A Worshipful Master may summon the members of his Lodge to turn out in public procession without Dispensation on the anniversaries of the Saints John, for Masonic funerals, or to attend with the Grand Master or his Special Deputy in the ceremony of laying a cornerstone. A Lodge may meet and attend Divine Services, but not in Masonic regalia and the members shall not be summoned for the occasion. (See Article X, Section 27, Constitution)

**38.31** A Lodge cannot lawfully meet or work on Sunday, except for funerals, or to attend Divine Service, or for very urgent charity. But the members of Lodges shall not be summoned to attend Divine Service at any time, nor attend in Masonic regalia.

#### **Rulings and Decisions**

No Dispensation is required to open Lodge and attend Divine Service in a body without Masonic regalia. (1942 Proc. 43)

It is not proper to wear Masonic regalia when attending Divine Services. (1946 Proc. 34)

It is not proper for Lodge membership to attend Church services clothed as Masons. (1941 Proc. 86)

With written consent and approval of the Grand Master, Lodge Officers may wear regalia, jewels, and emblems of office on public occasions when representing the Fraternity. (1975 Proc. 66)

### **FUNERALS**

#### **Regulations**

**38.32** White gloves and aprons are badges of Symbolic Masonry. White or regularly recognized Masonic aprons shall be worn in the Lodge where it can be seen at all times, by all present, when working in the Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, or Master Mason Degree. White gloves should be worn in the Lodge on special occasions and in funeral and all other processions. Every Lodge is required to keep an ample supply of clean white gloves and aprons on hand at all times.

**38.33** It is competent for a Lodge to inter, with the funeral ceremonies, the remains of a deceased, visiting, or sojourning Brother in good standing, telegraphic information and request from his Lodge is sufficient evidence and authority, but the testimony of non-Masons, however creditable, is insufficient

for that purpose; *provided*, that a Lodge, in an emergency situation, on the presentation of a current dues card issued by his Lodge may conduct Masonic funeral services, (emergency meaning the Lodge is unable to contact his Grand Lodge or home Lodge on weekends and holidays.)

**38.34** A Lodge is not bound to inter, with Masonic Honors, the remains of a member of another Lodge, even at its request, when his conduct within its jurisdiction has been reprehensible.

**38.35** It is proper for a Lodge to inter with Masonic Honors the remains of a deceased Brother in good standing at the time of his death, who has committed suicide, when the Brethren are satisfied that no wicked motive prompted the act, and not otherwise.

**38.36** A Lodge may, at its discretion, inter with the funeral ceremonies the remains of a deceased unaffiliated Mason whose petition for affiliation has been rejected within one year prior to his death, or when his petition is pending or under any circumstances not in conflict with Masonic Law, and usage, or the true spirit of Freemasonry.

**38.37** A bereaved Lodge is at liberty to invite other Lodges to participate in the funeral service. They should not in such case, be themselves opened; but their members attend as visitors to the Communication of the bereaved Lodge. In the procession, however, the invited Lodge may make their own formation with their own Officers, the officiating Master being in complete charge of the procession and of the ceremony.

**38.38** Funeral processions must be formed in the Master Mason Lodge, in which Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts are not admitted.

**38.39** The family of a deceased Brother Mason may select the pallbearers from among Brother Masons or family friends. The family may request the services at the grave to be closed with the benediction by the attending minister, even though he be a non-Mason, which benediction shall be given when called for by the Worshipful Master after the Lodge ceremony has been completed.

**38.40** In all public processions, the Lodge moves and acts in Lodge capacity. It must not, therefore, be called to refreshment, but form and proceed regularly as a Lodge to do its outdoor work.

**38.41** A Mason residing twelve months or more under the jurisdiction of any Particular Lodge, willfully unaffiliated, shall not be entitled to any of the rights, privileges or benefits of Masonry,



including the right to visit Lodge; nor shall the funeral rites be paid to his memory in death, nor shall the Fraternity have any charge or responsibility as to his family.

**38.42** The Worshipful Master, in his discretion, may call and open a Called Communication of the Lodge for the sole and only purpose of conducting funeral ceremonies and thereafter, until the Worshipful Master shall close such Special Communication, members of the Lodge may be summoned, attend, meet, move in funeral procession, and conduct funeral ceremonies in Lodge formation without opening and closing of the Lodge. The Lodge shall in all other respects adhere to Masonic Law applicable to conduct of Masonic funerals. The Secretary shall keep minutes of each funeral ceremony, which minutes shall be read and acted upon at the next ensuing Stated Communication of the Lodge.

### **Rulings and Decisions**

It is not proper to allow aprons to be worn at a funeral conducted by Appendant Order. Aprons may be worn only when Lodge conducts funeral. (1947 Proc. 32)

A Mason suspended for N.P.D. or otherwise who dies while under such term of sentence can not be buried with Masonic rites. (1942 Proc. 57-58)

Lodge requesting courtesy funeral service by Lodge of another Jurisdiction must pay expenses incurred by Lodge performing services when requested to do so. (1941 Proc. 88)

It is proper for a Lodge to conduct graveside funeral service for interment of ashes of deceased Brother, as these ashes constitute the remains of the Brother. (1954 Proc. 67)

It is proper for a Lodge to conduct graveside funeral services for interment of ashes of deceased Brother whose remains were cremated. (1959 Proc. 57, 164)

A Mason who is delinquent in his Lodge dues but has not been suspended from the Lodge for such delinquency is eligible for Masonic funeral. (1964 Proc. 65, 268)

## **LODGE OF SORROW**

### **Regulations**

**38.43** A "Lodge of Sorrow" may be held by a Particular Lodge in the Lodge Room or be held in a church or public hall, or in the presence of friends in the Lodge Room, but should not be substituted for the funeral service at the time of interment, or at an early date thereafter.

### **Rulings and Decisions**

A Lodge of Sorrow may be held in Lodge without Dispensation, but if held in public, a Dispensation is required. (1942 Proc. 47)

A Lodge of Sorrow Ceremony may not be used in lieu of a funeral ceremony. (1946 Proc. 39)

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**38.44** According to proper Masonic usage and custom, no Brother Mason shall wear his hat, or any kind of head covering, in the Lodge, except the Worshipful Master, Acting Worshipful Master, or Grand Master.

**38.45** Upon request of the Worshipful Master a Past Grand Master may close any Lodge in ample form prescribed by the Committee on Work. (2008)

**Rulings and Decisions**

It would be improper for members of a Degree Team to wear caps in Lodge meeting. (1961 Proc. 162, 168, 318)

It is proper for Low Twelve Club to display an open Bible on Altar but not proper to display Three Great Lights. (1967 Proc. 57, 211)

In conducting funeral ceremonies, the Master shall remove his hat for the opening prayer and remain uncovered until after the Benediction. (1981 Proc. 130, 374)

The wearing of a small skullcap by a Jewish Brother while in open Lodge does not violate Regulation 38.44 and should be permitted. (2000 Proc. 97)

## CHAPTER 39

### **COURTESY WORK** **GENERAL PROVISIONS** **Regulations**

**39.01** A candidate of one of our Lodges for any Degree cannot be permitted to take it by courtesy in a Lodge under the jurisdiction of any Grand Lodge not recognized by The Grand Lodge of Florida.

**39.02** In supplying material for Degree work at a District Convention held by a District Deputy Grand Master, the proper course for Lodges, other than that in which the convention is held, is to request that Lodge to do the work for them by courtesy.

**39.03** If an Entered Apprentice of a Florida Lodge removes into another Grand Jurisdiction where a similar rule prevails, or into the jurisdiction of another Lodge in Florida, and wishes to receive the Fellow Craft Degree where he is, without a desire to transfer his membership or secure his dimit, he should petition his Lodge to request the Lodge in whose jurisdiction he resides to instruct him in the catechism of the Entered Apprentice Degree, and when proficient to confer the Fellow Craft Degree as a courtesy to that Lodge. The same rule applies for advancement to the Master Mason Degree, but one month's time must elapse or intervene between the time of receiving the different Degrees. When the Master Mason Degree is thus conferred the recipient is a member of the Lodge of original jurisdiction. The above rule would not apply to candidates of another Grand Jurisdiction which did not require that one month's time elapse between the time of conferring the different Degrees, under their law. In such case this Grand Jurisdiction will respect the law of the Sister Grand Jurisdiction. The petitioner who has been elected to receive the Degrees may also receive the Entered Apprentice Degree by courtesy. (1985)

**39.04** A Lodge in Florida doing work by courtesy for a Lodge of another Grand Jurisdiction does not ballot upon the candidate's petition to receive the Degree, although the Lodge of original jurisdiction by the law under which it works, ballots but once for the Three Degrees. The Lodge doing the work by courtesy should be satisfied as to the proficiency of the candidate, which may be determined by show of hands or ball ballot, a majority controlling.

**39.05** The same right of objection, on moral grounds, to conferring a Degree by courtesy, exists in the members of the Lodge to which the request is made, as exists in the members of the Lodge making the request.

### References

Requests for courtesy work to and from other Grand Jurisdictions should be made through the office of the Grand Secretary. Reg. 15.01

### Rulings and Decisions

No fees may be charged by Florida Lodge for courtesy work. (1942 Proc. 44)

The Lodge requested to confer work through courtesy votes by show of hands; and a majority vote of the members present is sufficient. (1948 Proc. 51)

Florida Lodge is authorized to confer Degrees by courtesy on maimed F. C. from another Grand Jurisdiction, the qualifications of the candidate being matter by Lodge requesting courtesy work. (1942 Proc. 46)

Since California does not do courtesy work for any other Jurisdiction, a Lodge may request courtesy work of Jurisdiction adjoining California or retain fees until such time as candidate is in Jurisdiction that will do courtesy work. (1953 Proc. 49)

F. C. Brother receiving M. M. Degree by courtesy before being elected to Lodge is F. C. Brother of electing Lodge and unaffiliated M. M. Electing Lodge may proceed to ballot and elect to M. M. Degree. (1947 Proc. 33)

When a candidate of a Florida Lodge receives work by courtesy in another Grand Jurisdiction that makes a charge for coaching courtesy candidates, the candidate should pay the fee for such coaching. (1959 Proc. 53, 164)

An Entered Apprentice Brother who receives the Fellow Craft and Master Mason Degrees in a Lodge of a Sister Jurisdiction by courtesy, without payment of fees for Fellow Craft and Master Mason Degrees (due to failure of the Lodge of the Sister Jurisdiction conferring the work to notify the Florida Lodge in time to collect the fees for such degrees) is an Entered Apprentice Brother of the Florida Lodge and an unaffiliated Mason as to the Fellow Craft and Master Mason Degrees. (1961 Proc. 162, 168, 320)

When a Florida Lodge requests a Lodge of another Grand Jurisdiction to confer Degrees by courtesy, and through error Degrees are conferred without required intervening time of one month, the conferring of such Degrees is binding upon the Florida Lodge and candidate is a Mason of the Florida Lodge in accordance with Degrees conferred upon him by courtesy. (1964 Proc. 64, 268)

Worshipful Master of a Florida Lodge could request another Worshipful Master of a Florida Lodge to do courtesy work on one or more candidates belonging to his Lodge without any Lodge action, and it would be the will and pleasure of that Worshipful Master to either accept or reject the request. However, no fees may be charged by a Florida Lodge for courtesy work. (1984 Proc. 115, 116)

## CHAPTER 40

### VISITATION AND AVOUCHMENT

#### VISITATION

##### **Constitutional Provisions**

It is a Landmark of Freemasonry that every visitor seeking admission to the Lodge must be examined and prove himself, unless duly and properly avouched for. (Excerpt Art. XIII, Sec. 2(e))

##### **Regulations**

**40.01** A Worthy Master Mason possesses no absolute right of visiting a Lodge, but he has an inherent right to apply, and the Lodge has the discretion to admit or refuse him admission.

**40.02** Visiting Brethren can be admitted only with the unanimous consent of the Lodge.

**40.03** Any of the following causes are valid against the admission of a visitor, to-wit:

(a) The Lodge may be engaged in the examination of some private matter which they do not wish to publish to the Masonic world.

(b) The applicant may be an element of discord to the Lodge he wishes to visit.

(c) A member objects, but insists that his objections are such as cannot be properly stated.

**40.04** In all cases of doubt, Lodges should require of visitors, before examination, some documentary evidence of good Masonic standing, under the Seal of some regular Masonic body.

**40.05** A visiting Brother, before submitting to an examination, has a right to demand sight of the Lodge's Charter, but is not required to do so if satisfied of the regularity of the Lodge by other means. The Worshipful Master may decline to produce the Charter of the Lodge, if the circumstances are such that it is not feasible, in which case the visitor may choose between retiring or submit to examination without sight of the Charter. The right of the visitor to see the Charter must not be arbitrarily denied.

**40.06** A man who knowingly visits a clandestine Lodge cannot be permitted to also visit a Regular Lodge in Florida.

**40.07** A Brother objecting to the admission of a visitor in his Lodge is not required to prefer charges, nor can he do so in his own Lodge, unless the sojourning Brother be under the territorial jurisdiction of the Lodge.

**40.08** An objection may be predicated upon the statement of non-Masons, but should be received with great caution.

**40.09** Every Lodge is required to keep a visitor's book and to require each visitor to sign his name therein, with the locality, name, and number of his Lodge.

## AVOUCHMENT

### Regulations

**40.10** Any Brother present may vouch for any visitor, but the Master may inquire and judge of the information upon which the vouching rests, and decide as to its validity.

**40.11** Whether or not it is necessary for a voucher to have sat in a Lodge with a visitor, is left with the Master, it being the manifest intention of the Grand Lodge to entrust the sufficiency of such avouchment solely to his sound discretion, and he cannot be too circumspect and careful in the exercise of his authority.

### Rulings and Decisions

In case of a visitor who cannot be examined because he has lost his speech, the Worshipful Master may, at his discretion, accept as a proper avouchment a letter received from the visiting Brother's Lodge certifying to his good standing, provided, the visitor is known to be the person he represents himself to be. (1954 Proc. 75)

A petition for the Degrees or visitation of an otherwise duly qualified visiting Mason may not be objected to by a member of a Particular Lodge if the objection is based upon the grounds of race, creed, or color. (1993 Proc. 123)

## CHAPTER 41

### **DIMITS; TRANSFER CERTIFICATES AND AFFILIATION**

#### **DIMITS**

##### **Constitutional Provisions**

Any member of a Lodge who has no charges preferred against him has a clear Masonic right to withdraw from membership by dimit, on payment of all dues against him. (Art. X, Sec. 21)

##### **Regulations**

**41.01** Any member of a Lodge, including Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts, in good standing and not under pending or anticipated charges shall be entitled to a dimit or transfer certificate upon request therefore in writing or in open Lodge.

**41.02** A Resolution requiring a Brother to dimit is irregular.

**41.03** It is improper for those attending a Lodge Communication to dimit all who are present, leaving no members of the Lodge to transact business or conduct the closing ceremonies. Such action would be void.

**41.04** A dimit signed by a Worshipful Master or Warden acting as such, and by a Secretary, who were present and were among the dimitees, under such circumstances would have no force or effect, for, if such action were valid, their membership and official authority would cease as soon as the Lodge had voted to dimit them, per Article X, Section 11, and Article X, Section 21, of the Constitution, and Regulations 19.13 and 41.10. (1985)

**41.05** After a dimit has been granted, but not delivered, it may be withheld by order of the Master, upon cause shown, for the purpose of Masonic investigation.

**41.06** When a member by affiliation desires to be dimitted, he must take a new dimit, for his former one cannot be returned to him.

**41.07** Where a Brother, by mistake or inadvertence, has been recorded as dimitted, the records will be corrected and his name restored to the roll; but he is liable for his dues.

**41.08** A dimit must be signed by the Master, countersigned by the Secretary, and have an impression of the Lodge Seal upon it.

**41.09** If a dimitted Brother has lost his dimit, the Lodge, with due caution, may upon his application, grant him a Certificate that he was regularly dimitted on a given day, and that such Certificate has been granted him on his representation that his original dimit has been lost. A duplicate dimit cannot properly be issued in such cases.

**41.10** Art. X, Sec. 21 of the Constitution, provides that any member of a Lodge can dimit, but Art. X, Sec. 11 makes a distinction between member and Master and Wardens by inhibiting the resignation of Master and Wardens during their term of office, and as dimitting has the same force as resigning, so far as giving up office is concerned, it logically follows that Masters and Wardens cannot dimit.

**41.11** Members of a Lodge whose Charter has been forfeited or surrendered, whose only dereliction or disability rests upon arrears for dues, shall, upon paying the same to the Grand Secretary together with \$1.00 fee for the use of the Grand Lodge, receive a Grand Lodge Certificate, upon which he can make application for membership to any regular Lodge.

**41.12** A Mason whose name does not appear upon the rolls of a Lodge at the time it becomes dormant, must produce conclusive evidence that he was a member in good standing in said Lodge at the time of its demise, before he is entitled to a Certificate from the Grand Secretary qualifying him to make application for membership in a regular Lodge.

### **Rulings and Decisions**

Lodge may give dimit without giving transfer certificate. (1947 Proc. 32)  
 Life of dimit is not limited in this Grand Jurisdiction but privileges and benefits of Masonry expire after one (1) year. (1943 Proc. 48)  
 Action of Lodge dimitting thirteen (13) of total nineteen (19) members including Secretary and three (3) principal Officers was irregular and proceedings abated. (1942 Proc. 56)  
 The term "in good standing" refers to Master Masons and not to Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Masons. A Transfer Certificate may only be issued to a Master Mason "in good standing." A Transfer Certificate may not be issued to Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Masons inasmuch as said Brothers are not subject to Lodge dues and may only be suspended as a result of chargers of unmasonic conduct being filed against them, being found guilty, and the penalty imposed by the Lodge or Grand Lodge being suspension or expulsion. Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Masons may be issued EA/FC Dimits (Form GL-611) as long as their progress has not been arrested, in accordance to Regulation 37.07 of the Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida. (2019 Proc. 114)

## **TRANSFER CERTIFICATES**

### **Regulations**

**41.13** A member of a Lodge desiring to dimit therefrom must apply in writing over his signature for either a dimit or a transfer certificate.

If he is in good standing in the Lodge at the time of the first Communication at which his application may be acted upon, his request, if for a dimit, shall be granted by order of the Master and



entered of record, and no vote of the Lodge is required; if for a transfer certificate, it shall be granted by order of the Master and a certificate shall be issued signed, by the Secretary, with the Seal of the Lodge affixed.

The certificate shall state that the holder thereof is a member in good standing, that no charges are pending against him and that there is no reason to anticipate any such charges and that the certificate may be presented with and in support of a petition for affiliation with any Florida Lodge and any Lodge of another Grand Jurisdiction with which this Grand Lodge maintains fraternal relations where a similar provision of law prevails. The certificate shall not be addressed to any named Lodge but to any and all Lodges to which the certificate may be presented.

If the petitioner is elected to membership, the electing Lodge shall give notice of such election to the Lodge issuing the certificate; and such Lodge shall at its next Stated Communication transmit to the electing Lodge for a dimit for the member transferring his membership.

The Secretary of the electing Lodge will record the date of said dimit, and the Brother shall be a member of that Lodge from the date of the dimit.

A transfer certificate issued by a Lodge of another Grand Jurisdiction with which this Grand Lodge maintains Masonic relations may be presented in support of a petition for affiliation and proceedings thereafter thereon to be generally as herein provided.

No dimit shall be issued after issue of transfer certificate except upon request of Lodge electing certificate holder to membership or to the certificate holder upon return of the transfer certificate and request for dimit.

A dimit is fully effective from date of issue until surrendered to the Lodge with which the holder affiliates and no dues are payable after issuance of the dimit until affiliation with a Lodge.

A transfer certificate is effective from date of issue until the end of the Masonic year in which it is issued and does not excuse the holder from payment of dues.

## EFFECT OF DIMIT

### Regulations

**41.14** A member paying his dues in full and applying for a dimit prior to December 27<sup>th</sup> is not chargeable with dues for the following year, for want of Lodge action, as action should be taken by the Lodge on or before December 27<sup>th</sup>.

**41.15** If a Brother seeks to continue his membership after request for dimit has been granted but before the paper dimit has been delivered, he must apply for affiliation in the usual way and submit to the ballot.

### Rulings and Decisions

A dimitted Brother is still under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge. (1948 Proc. 50)  
When a dual member takes his dimit from his Lodge of original membership and places it in the Lodge of dual membership, he automatically becomes a full member of the latter Lodge without need of filing a petition or being balloted upon. (1954 Proc. 73)

## DOCUMENTS HAVING EFFECT OF DIMITS

### Regulations

**41.16** A certificate from a regular Grand Lodge or its competent authority, stating that the holder thereof is a regular Master Mason, was a member in good standing when his Lodge made its last Returns, and that such Lodge is defunct, has the force and effect of a dimit in Florida.

**41.17** Particular Lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction may recognize as a dimit, any document or documents from a Grand Jurisdiction or a Particular Lodge thereof with which this Grand Jurisdiction is in fraternal relations in those cases and under those circumstances where such documents are recognized and treated as dimits by such other Grand Jurisdictions.

**41.18** A dimit from another Jurisdiction or a document having the value of the same, shall require the Certificate of the Grand Secretary of the Grand Jurisdiction of issue, that the same is regular, when deemed necessary by the Grand Secretary of The Grand Lodge of Florida.

### Rulings and Decisions

Lodge may accept certificates of dismissal from another Grand Jurisdiction presented by E.A. Brother as dimit. (1947 Proc. 32)

Letter from Secretary of Lodge stating that bearer is in good standing will not support petition for affiliation with Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction. (1946 Proc. 39-40)

Certificate of dismissal certified by Grand Secretary of another Grand Jurisdiction may be received in lieu of dimit with petition for affiliation by an Entered Apprentice from such other Grand Jurisdiction. (1965 Proc. 196, 199)

### Rulings and Decisions

It is my decision that Orman Lodge No. 117, F. & A. M., having received the petition and acted in good faith upon the affiliation of Brother Melvyn A. Courtney and having received authorization from the Secretary of a sister jurisdiction on November 18, 1982, that Brother Courtney is an affiliated member of Orman Lodge No. 117, F. & A. M., and this Grand Jurisdiction with effective date of said affiliation as recorded in the minutes of Orman Lodge No. 117, F. & A. M., June 29, 1984. (1985 Proc. 90)

The term “in good standing” refers to Master Masons and not to Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Masons. A Transfer Certificate may only be issued to a Master Mason “in good standing.” A Transfer Certificate may not be issued to Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Masons inasmuch as said Brothers are not subject to Lodge dues and may only be suspended as a result of charges of unmasonic conduct being filed against them, being found guilty, and the penalty imposed by the Lodge or Grand Lodge being suspension or expulsion. Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Masons may be issued EA/FC Dimits (Form GL-611) as long as their progress has not been arrested, in accordance to Regulation 37.07 of the Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida. (2019 Proc.114)

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## AFFILIATION Constitutional Provisions

Any upright Mason, on presentation of satisfactory evidence of his having paid all dues against him, and having regularly withdrawn from a Lodge from which he was last a member, may present a petition in writing, which must be vouched for by two members of the Lodge, at a Stated Communication, and which must lie over at least one month for the Brethren to make due inquiry into the character and standing of the petitioner; \*\*\*. (Art. X, Sec. 15(a); Excerpt)

## DEFINITION

### Regulations

**41.19** (346) The word “membership” as it occurs in Article X, Sections 14, 15, and 16 of the Constitution, shall be construed to mean and include “affiliation.”

## ELIGIBILITY OF PETITIONERS

### Regulations

**41.20** A Mason, with a dimit, can affiliate with any regular Lodge that will receive him, regardless of his residence, without waiver of jurisdiction from the Lodge within whose jurisdiction he may reside, but due inquiry should be made of the Lodge nearest his residence and the Lodge granting his dimit, as to his Masonic standing.

**41.21** A Mason, whose Lodge is dormant or defunct, is not suspended, but merely unaffiliated, and may apply for affiliation only upon a proper Certificate from the Grand Secretary, to whom a fee of one dollar and all arrears must be paid; *provided*, that it shall be in the power of the Grand Lodge, or the Grand Master in recess, to remit such arrears in meritorious cases, upon the recommendations of the Lodge to which such Mason proposes to apply for affiliation. (See Regs. 27.15 and 43.06)

**41.22** A petition for affiliation from a person claiming to have been made a Mason by a Lodge under a Charter from a Grand Body not recognized by this Grand Lodge, cannot be entertained in this Grand Jurisdiction.

**41.23** A Lodge cannot lawfully affiliate a dimitted Mason while he is under charges in another Lodge.

**41.24** When a Brother is rejected upon his petition for affiliation, by one of two or more Lodges having concurrent jurisdiction over primitive material, he may apply to either of the others.

**41.25** Masons made in Military Lodges may, upon satisfactory evidence produced, be affiliated with any Regular Lodge, but the Lodge should carefully guard against imposition.

#### **Rulings and Decisions**

A candidate for affiliation is not restricted as to residence. (1942 Proc. 55)  
 Lodge having jurisdiction may receive petition for F.C. Degree from E.A. of a defunct Lodge certified by the Grand Secretary. (1942 Proc. 45)  
 Members suspended from now defunct Lodge of another Jurisdiction must be reinstated in original Jurisdiction before application for affiliation can be received by Florida Lodge. (1944 Proc. 31)  
 A petition for affiliation will not be received on dimit from Lodge under direct jurisdiction of Grand Lodge with which Grand Lodge of Florida is not in fraternal accord. (1950 Proc. 65)  
 Proceedings of Lodge, admitting to membership by affiliation of member of a Lodge not recognized by the Grand Jurisdiction of Florida, were irregular and should be abated by order of the Master. (1961 Proc. 162, 168, 319)

### **PETITION FOR AFFILIATION**

#### **Regulations**

**41.26** Petitions for affiliation used by the Particular Lodges for petitioners from Grand Jurisdictions other than Florida shall be amended forthwith to include the following: Do You Know: To be eligible for resident and/or non-resident relief, a Mason must have been a member in good standing in a Florida Lodge for not less than 10 years, the last three years whereof must have been continuous at the time the application is made?

\_\_\_\_\_.

Do you know it is further provided that a Mason affiliating with a Florida Lodge subsequent to attaining the age of 70 years shall not be eligible for resident and/or non-resident relief? (2003)

\_\_\_\_\_.

**41.27** A Lodge can properly refuse to receive a petition for affiliation. A Brother has the right to offer his petition, but the Lodge may refuse to receive it at its pleasure.

#### **Rulings and Decisions**

A new petition for affiliation is not necessary after rejection but same petition may be renewed at any subsequent Communication. (1946 Proc. 36)

## PROCEDURE ON PETITION

### Regulations

**41.28** It is the duty of a Lodge, before admitting to membership a dimitted Mason residing outside of its territorial limits, to make due inquiry as to his Masonic standing of the Lodge nearest his residence and of the Lodge granting his dimit.

**41.29** When a Brother affiliates his dimit must be filed in the archives of the Lodge.

**41.30** The Secretary of the Lodge must not place his file mark upon a Brother's dimit, unless he be accepted; for in the case of rejection, it should be returned without mutilation.

**41.31** A Brother by affiliation, or upon receiving the M.M. Degree, thereby becomes a member of the Lodge in which he was elected to receive it.

**41.32** The petition of a Brother rejected for affiliation, may be renewed at any subsequent Stated Communication of the Lodge.

### References

A collective ballot may be taken upon petitions for affiliation. Reg. 35.08

### Rulings and Decisions

Petitioner cannot withdraw petition for affiliation and dimit after it has been received by Lodge action. (1946 Proc. 40)

Vote on petition for affiliation before Constitutional time is irregular and proceedings should abate. (1943 Proc. 75)

Petition of applicant for affiliation from Jurisdiction requiring certificate of election before issuance of dimit may be voted on before applicant secures dimit. (1943 Proc. 79)

Correct procedure on petition for affiliation supported by dimit from Lodge in Grand Jurisdiction with which we do not enjoy fraternal relations is for petitioner to renounce allegiance to that Lodge and proceed as any non-Mason. (1946 Proc. 39)

The Grand Jurisdiction of Florida is in fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Japan and Florida Lodges may properly receive and act upon petition for affiliation from a member of a regular Lodge of that Grand Jurisdiction. (1968 Proc. 57, 212)

All Petitions requiring an investigation and a ball ballot, with the exception of a Petition for Plural Membership or a membership transfer from one Florida Lodge to another, require a Background Check. (2009 Proc.121)

### FEES

#### Regulations

**41.33** Whether or not an affiliation fee shall be charged is left with the Lodges, respectively, but the amount of fee, if any, must be fixed by By-Law.

**41.34** An applicant for affiliation cannot be charged with Lodge dues while he holds his dimit, nor is he liable to any pecuniary assessments.

**41.35** A By-Law of a Particular Lodge, requiring from an applicant for affiliation, a fee of one dollar, or any other amount, for each year the applicant has held his dimit, is in conflict with the Constitution of the Grand Lodge, and is therefore void.

### **Rulings and Decisions**

A Brother who withdraws from a Lodge by dimit is required to pay all current dues before issuance of dimit and if the Brother in that same year affiliates with another Florida Lodge he is not required to pay dues to the Lodge with which he affiliates because Masonic Law does not contemplate a Brother paying dues more than one time each year. (1959 Proc. 60, 164)

## **UNAFFILIATED MASONS**

### **Regulations**

**41.36** An applicant for affiliation must present his dimit, and abide the result of the ballot. He cannot force himself into the membership of any Lodge, and therefore has no right to demand an investigation in case of rejection.

**41.37** A Mason residing twelve months or more under the jurisdiction of any Particular Lodge, willfully unaffiliated, shall not be entitled to any of the rights, privileges or benefits of Masonry, including the right to visit Lodge; nor shall the funeral rites be paid to his memory in death, nor shall the Fraternity have any charge or responsibility as to his family.

### **References**

As to penal jurisdiction over unaffiliated Mason, see Reg. 44.12.

### **Rulings and Decisions**

When it is made to clearly appear that a dimit was requested through error from a Particular Lodge, it being the Brother's intent to request dimit only from Appendant Order, such request for dimit may be withdrawn and if any dimit has been issued thereon the same may be returned to the Lodge and cancelled. (1959 Proc. 57, 164)

- (a) A dimit more than one year old will support and is an adequate predicate for petition for affiliation.
- (b) It is not the age of the dimit that deprives a dimitted Brother of his Masonic right, but it is the willful unaffiliation for more than one year which deprives him of such rights. (See Regulations 38.41, 41.37) (1959 Proc. 58, 164)



## CHAPTER 42

### LODGES UNDER DISPENSATION (U.D. LODGES)

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS

##### **Constitutional Provisions**

The Grand Lodge has the power to constitute new Lodges, and grant Charters or Warrants of Constitution for the same, and has the supervision and approval of the By-Laws of the Particular Lodges, and therefore may adopt a Uniform Code of By-Laws for their government; *provided*, that local Regulations for the benefit of the Craft be not interfered with. (Art. V, Sec. 4)

The Grand Lodge is clothed with the power of constituting new Lodges upon the Petition of not less than twenty (20) Master Masons. But no Dispensation nor Charter shall be issued to a Lodge except upon written consent of the Lodge nearest the place where the new Lodge is to be located and Certificate of the Committee on Work or its duly authorized representative that the Officers and membership of the new Lodge are qualified and capable of conferring the Degrees of Freemasonry.

In the event that two or more Lodges meet at the place nearest the location of the new Lodge, the consent of any one of such Lodges shall be sufficient. (Art. VII, Sec. 1)

In the recess of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master has authority to grant Dispensations for new Lodges until the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, when due returns of the work, with a copy of their proposed By-Laws for examination, shall be submitted to the Grand Lodge, when a Charter may be granted. But until a Charter is granted, the petitioners for the Dispensation continue their membership in their respective Lodges. (Art. VII, Sec. 2)

The fee for a Charter, or Warrant of Constitution for a new Lodge, shall be fifty dollars, to be paid at time of delivery, and five dollars to be paid as a fee to the Grand Secretary. For Dispensation, a fee of five dollars shall be paid to the Grand Secretary for his services, but no fee for the Dispensation. (Art. VIII, Sec. 1)

#### **PETITION**

##### **Regulations**

**42.01** Dispensation shall not issue for a new Lodge unless petition for Dispensation is signed by twenty (20) or more Master Masons.

The Master of a Chartered Lodge cannot be a petitioner for U.D. Lodge. Reg. 19.18

### **Rulings and Decisions**

Plural Members of a Particular Lodge U.D. may sign the Charter of said Lodge U.D. without forfeiting their membership in their Home Lodge. (2005 Proc. 115)

### **OTHER LODGES CONSENT**

#### **References**

See Art. VII, Sec. 1 above.

#### **Regulations**

**42.02** A new Lodge will not be established within the jurisdiction of a Chartered Lodge against its consent (Constitution, Article VII, Section 1), but the Grand Lodge may recommend a favorable consideration of the subject.

### **CHARTER**

#### **Regulations**

**42.03** All Charters granted to U.D. Lodges shall be deposited with the Grand Secretary, and held by him subject to the order of the Grand Master, to be delivered to the Lodge by the constituting Officer at the time the Lodge is constituted and the Officers duly installed.

### **WORSHIPFUL MASTER**

#### **Regulations**

**42.04** The Master of a Lodge Under Dispensation shall be a Past Master of a Florida Lodge, however, the Grand Master may waive this Regulation in his discretion. (1984)

### **MASONIC DISTRICT**

#### **Regulations**

**42.05** When Charters are granted U.D. Lodges it is the Grand Master's responsibility to assign them to the proper Masonic District.

### **OPENING AND SETTING TO WORK**

#### **Regulations**

**42.06** When a Lodge under Dispensation is to be set to work, a Communication shall be called for the purpose by the designated Master. The Grand Master, or his duly authorized representative, shall preside and open the Lodge. The Dispensation shall be read and ordered recorded in full in the minutes, and the Lodge instructed in regard to its powers and duties. The Officers appointed shall not be installed, but shall be placed in charge of the Lodge, and the Dispensation, a copy of the Constitution and the Laws of this Grand Lodge, and a copy of the Monitor, shall be delivered to the Master.

**POWERS OF GRAND MASTER****Regulations**

**42.07** Lodge under Dispensation is a creature of the Grand Master by virtue of a Constitutional provision (Article VII, Section 2). It possesses no power or authority, except such as is expressly stated in Dispensation. Its existence extends only to the first day of the month in which the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge will be held, to which its authority, records, and documents must be surrendered.

If no Charter is applied for, and it is desired by the members of the late U.D. Lodge to continue its Dispensation, petition for same must be presented to the Grand Master after the close of Grand Lodge, as petitions for the U.D. Lodges must be made to the Grand Master in recess, and not to the Grand Lodge while in session. None but members of Florida Lodges in good standing, dual members in good standing, and dimitted Masons, in or out of Florida, are eligible to sign petition for a Lodge U.D. and then only if dimits of dimitted Masons, and receipts for current year's dues of members of Florida Lodges, are filed with the Grand Secretary, along with the petition.

If a Charter is granted to a U.D. Lodge, the Grand Secretary shall transmit with the Charter a true and correct copy of all dimits filed in his office with the petition for the U.D. Lodge and the Charter.

U.D. Lodges cannot affiliate members, but the Grand Master may add qualified members at any time by unanimous request of the U.D. Lodge expressed by unanimous ball ballot at a Stated Communication. It is also his prerogative to remove any member or members, or to revoke the Dispensation.

**JURISDICTION AND POWERS****Regulations**

**42.08** A Lodge U.D. cannot entertain charges against any of its members, nor try them for Masonic offenses. A Lodge U.D. is a creature of the Grand Master, who can add to or strike members from its roll at his discretion.

**42.09** A Lodge under Dispensation cannot legislate except to arrange for its meetings and fees for Degrees, but Brethren receiving the M.M. Degree therein are members thereof. It cannot elect Officers, make By-Laws, affiliate members, grant dimits, or install its Officers. Nor is the Worshipful Master designated in the Dispensation entitled, at any time, to the title or Degree of "Past Master."

A Lodge, therefore, cannot make By-Laws for its government while working under Dispensation, but under the provisions of Article VII, Section 2 of the Constitution, a Lodge U.D., when petitioning for a Charter, is required to submit to the Grand Lodge, for its examination, a copy of proposed By-Laws for its government as a new Lodge, to be regularly adopted by the new Lodge, if and when, it is Chartered, constituted, and its Officers duly installed.

**42.10** Lodges U.D. have the same right of jurisdiction as Chartered Lodges. Non-Masons living within its jurisdiction must petition the U.D. Lodges, but the U.D. Lodge does not acquire jurisdiction over a non-Mason who had previously petitioned a more distant Lodge.

**42.11** Lodges under Dispensation are subject to the same Regulations as Chartered Lodges, as to balloting for candidates and the time which must elapse between the Degrees.

### Rulings and Decisions

- (b) U.D. Lodge does not have authority to collect affiliation fee.
- (c) U.D. Lodge has no authority to issue receipts for dues to members.
- (d) U.D. Lodge does not have authority to refuse paid up member in good standing the privilege of signing petition for Charter.
- (e) There is no provision for use of petitions for affiliation by U.D. Lodge. The proper procedure is for Lodge by unanimous vote to request Grand Master to add to roll of members. (1959 Proc. 59-60, 164)

## MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

### Regulations

**42.12** Membership in a U.D. Lodge in no way affects the membership of a member of a Chartered Lodge.

**42.13** All Brethren who are members of a Lodge U.D. when a Charter is granted may become members of the newly Chartered Lodge by signing the petition for Charter, but this is not compulsory, and those members of Chartered Lodges who do not sign the petition for Charter retain their membership in their respective Lodges, unaffected. A Master Mason, raised in a U.D. Lodge, becomes a Charter member automatically, if and when Charter is granted, and does not have to sign petition for Charter. Newly Chartered Lodges are authorized to complete Degree work begun while they were U.D. Dimitted members of a Lodge U.D. may sign petition for Charter and become Charter members of the new Lodge. If they fail to sign the petition for Charter, their dimits are returned to them.

**42.14** If Charter is granted, petitioners for a new Lodge, their relation with their former Lodge or Lodges is automatically terminated. Care should therefore be observed that no petitioner for the new Lodge Charter is under charges.

**42.15** If for any reason a Dispensation is not renewed or a Charter granted, all Brethren who may have received Degrees in such Lodge under Dispensation shall be provided by the Grand Secretary with Certificates stating the fact, and such Brethren as may have received all the Degrees shall thereafter have the status of unaffiliated Masons. Any one who has not received all the Degrees may petition any Lodge in whose jurisdiction he resides upon said Certificate for the remaining Degrees, and upon election thereto and upon receiving the Master Mason Degree shall become a member of such Lodge.

**42.16** Members of a Lodge U.D. shall not be required to pay the current year's dues to their old Lodge when signing the application for Charter and if such dues have been paid to their Lodge, or Lodges, then if a Charter be granted to such Lodge U.D., any amount paid as dues by members of such Lodge U.D. to their former Lodge or Lodges shall be promptly paid over by such former Lodge or Lodges to the newly Chartered Lodge, and such members shall be accounted for only by the new Lodge. (See Const. Art. VIII, Sec. 2)

## RECORDS

### Regulations

**42.17** A Lodge U.D. must keep a complete record of its proceedings. Such record should exhibit a fair specimen of that intelligence and regularity of proceedings which are characteristic of well-governed Masonic Lodges. From that record and its evidence of fraternal prosperity, the Grand Lodge is to judge whether or not a Charter should be granted.

**42.18** The instruction booklet, "How to Form and Set a U.D. Lodge to Work," adopted at the 134<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication, with such revisions adopted by this Grand Lodge from time to time, is the official publication for guidance in forming a new Lodge. (1985)

### Rulings and Decisions

Section 2 of Article VIII of the Constitution requires Lodge receiving dues for year in which new Lodge was Chartered to remit to the newly Chartered Lodge all current dues collected by it from members who became members of new Lodge. (1967 Proc. 74, 210)

**Digest of Masonic Law**  
**CHAPTER 43**  
**DEFUNCT LODGES**  
**PROPERTY**

**Constitutional Provisions**

The Grand Lodge has the power to suspend the Charter of any of the Particular Lodges or of arresting or withdrawing the Charter of any of the Particular Lodges for good cause shown; and when a Lodge forfeits or surrenders its Charter, the Grand Lodge succeeds to all its furniture, jewels, funds, books, papers, and other property, and may appoint some proper officer to take charge of the same for the benefit of the Craft; *provided*, that when the Charter of a Lodge is restored, all of its furniture, jewels, books, papers, and other property, shall also be restored. (Art. V, Sec.5)

**Regulations**

**43.01** When a Charter is arrested or surrendered, all the property of the Lodge escheat to the Grand Lodge, and a custodian thereof should be promptly appointed, and upon restoration, such property reverts to the resuscitated Lodge, and in the event such property has been sold by the Grand Lodge, the proceeds of such sale, less the expenses incurred by Grand Lodge in connection with such property, shall be paid to said resuscitated Lodge in lieu of restoration of such property.

**43.02** The Grand Secretary is authorized to sell personal property of defunct Lodges, as and when directed by the Grand Master, and report of such sales shall be rendered to the Grand Lodge at the next Annual Grand Communication.

**References**

Under direction of the Grand Master the District Deputy Grand Master may receive the property of defunct Lodge. Const. Art. X, Sec. 11

The Committee on Grand Lodge Properties may sell real and personal property of defunct Lodge with approval of the Grand Master. Reg. 13.13

**UNFINISHED WORK**

**Regulations**

**43.03** A Lodge of competent jurisdiction otherwise, may, upon a proper Certificate from the Grand Secretary, lawfully finish work begun by a Lodge which has become defunct, and advance an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft Mason.

## RIGHTS OF MEMBERS OF DEFUNCT LODGES

### Regulations

**43.04** Members of a Lodge whose Charter has been forfeited or surrendered, whose only dereliction or disability rests upon arrears for dues, shall, upon paying the same to the Grand Secretary together with \$1.00 fee for the use of the Grand Lodge, receive a Grand Lodge Certificate, upon which he can make application for membership to any Regular Lodge.

**43.05** A Mason whose name does not appear upon the rolls of a Lodge at the time it becomes dormant, must produce conclusive evidence that he was a member in good standing in said Lodge at the time of its demise, before he is entitled to a Certificate from the Grand Secretary qualifying him to make application for membership in a Regular Lodge.

**43.06** A Mason, whose Lodge is dormant or defunct, is not suspended, but merely unaffiliated, and may apply for affiliation only upon a proper Certificate from the Grand Secretary, to whom a fee of one dollar and all arrears must be paid; *provided*, that it shall be in the power of the Grand Lodge, or the Grand Master in recess, to remit such arrears in meritorious cases, upon the recommendation of the Lodge to which such Mason proposes to apply for affiliation.

**43.07** Members of defunct Lodges are required to pay dues up to the time the Charter is surrendered or declared forfeited, before they can obtain Grand Lodge Certificates, except in cases where dues are remitted under Regulations. (See Regs. 9.13 and 27.15)

### Rulings and Decisions

E.A. of defunct Lodge certificated by Grand Secretary may petition Lodge having jurisdiction for F.C. Degree (1942 Proc. 45)

## REINSTATEMENT OF MEMBERS OF DEFUNCT LODGES

### References

A member suspended for non-payment of dues of a Lodge thereafter becoming dormant may be reinstated by the Grand Master upon payment of arrearage and recommendation of some regular Lodge. Reg. 27.15

## RESTORATION OF CHARTER

### Regulations

**43.08** After a Particular Lodge has remained defunct for five (5) years, the re-establishment of a Particular Lodge in that jurisdiction shall be by petition for U.D. Lodge.

**43.09** When a Lodge surrenders its Charter and twelve or more Master Masons petition for the restoration of said Charter, the Grand Lodge or its authority, upon being satisfied from the facts and reasons set forth that the best interests of Masonry will thereby be served, will grant the prayer of the petitioners, and the authority restoring the Charter will make provisions for officering the Lodge.

#### References

The Grand Master has the power to restore a suspended Charter during recess of Grand Lodge. Reg. 6.02



## CHAPTER 44

### **PENAL CODE\***

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS

##### **Constitutional Provisions**

The Grand Lodge shall, by Regulation, prescribe the procedures for administration of Masonic Justice. Such Regulations shall provide for notice to an accused Mason, service or specific charges upon him, reasonable opportunity to respond thereto, fair and impartial hearing thereon, and right of appeal from any judgment to the Grand Lodge. (Art. X, Sec. 19)

#### **OFFENSES AGAINST MASONIC LAW**

##### **Regulations**

**44.01** As piety, secrecy, obedience, temperance, truth, honesty, chastity, and charity are a few of the many virtues upon which mystic covenants and virtues are based, so their contrarities, profanity, evil speaking, insubordination, deceit, intemperance, lewdness, and derision are a few of the many vices which are subjects of fraternal discipline, and for the correction or vindication of which every Lodge involved is responsible to the whole Fraternity.

**44.02** Every breach or violation of proper fraternal deportment in the Lodge, and every wrongful disobedience of a legitimate order, notice, or summons from competent Masonic authority, is contempt.

**44.03** A Lodge cannot be used as a medium to collect a debt or to adjust a claim by charges and specifications.

**44.04** Making and filing of false charges against a Brother knowing them to be false or making and filing false charges upon information and belief without due and careful investigation as to the truth thereof is unmasonic.

\*Note - Chapter 44 was completely revised and rewritten, 1979.

**44.05** The sale or serving of beer, wine, liquor, or any other alcoholic or intoxicating beverage on any property owned or leased by Grand Lodge or on any property owned or leased by Particular Lodges, including, but not limited to, any Lodge Room, “Banquet Hall,” recreation room, dining room, or other structure used for Masonic purposes and located on said property is strictly prohibited, except as provided for in Regulation 28.06.1. These prohibitions shall apply to all Table Lodges, but the use of wine for Ceremonial purposes by Allied and Appendant Bodies shall not be prohibited. (2018)

These prohibitions shall not apply to any commercial property owned by the Grand Lodge or a Particular Lodge which is leased to non-Masonic third parties for lawful commercial purposes; to any premises or properties used by the Grand Lodge for its Annual Sessions; to hospitality rooms used by the Grand Lodge, a Masonic District, or a Particular Lodge at a hotel or private residence; nor to picnics or other gatherings held at properties not owned or operated under Masonic authority. (2013)

### References

As to alcoholic or intoxicating beverages being prohibited on Lodge or Grand Lodge owned or leased properties see also Regulation 28.06; or permitted under some circumstances see also Regulation 28.06.1. (2013)

### Rulings and Decisions

The serving of any intoxicating beverage in ~~Masonic Temples or Lodge Rooms or at Masonic Banquets~~ is forbidden by Masonic Law. (1969 Proc. 58, 212) (Partially Repealed 2013 Proc. 358-360 and 2018 Proc. 328)

The use of wine by churches or religious organizations in the sacraments while using Lodge property shall not be prohibited. (2000 Proc. 97-98)

As to Regulations 44.05, 28.06, and 28.06.1:

- I. In the event a Particular Lodge leases all or any portion of any of its properties outside the Lodge proper (such term shall include but not be limited to the Lodge Room, Banquet Hall, Collation Room, Teaching Room, or any other room or area utilized for Masonic purposes) to a non-masonic commercial enterprise or business **engaged** in the sale or serving of alcoholic beverages, the following shall be obtained by the Particular Lodge prior to entering into such leases:
  - a. A written lease agreement with appropriate hold harmless and indemnity language in favor of the Particular Lodge and Grand Lodge. The lease agreement shall further provide that in the event of any loss relating to the sale or serving of alcohol, the lessee shall give immediate notice to the Particular Lodge (which in turn shall provide such notice to the Grand Secretary), and further giving the Particular Lodge the right to make proof of such loss if not made promptly by the lessee to the lessee’s insurance carrier;
  - b. All city, county, state and if applicable, federal licenses;
  - c. Proof of the lessee’s insurance coverage (binder, certificate of insurance or policy) which shall insure the property against all perils including fire, windstorm, flood, and general liability coverage, to include liquor legal liability, in the amount of at least One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) per occurrence/One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) aggregate. The policy must be issued by a company licensed to do business in the State of Florida and possess a financial rating of “A” - Excellent, Class XI, or better according to the A.M. Best & Company rating guide. All Policies shall be maintained in full force and effect during the entire term of the lease and will be endorsed with a clause in favor of the Particular Lodge and The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida, its successors, and/or assigns, P.O. Box 1020, Jacksonville, FL 32201-1020, not to be subject to contribution and provide at least ten (10) days prior notice of cancellation to both the Particular Lodge and the Grand Lodge. Proof of coverage (binder, policy, or certificate of insurance) shall thereafter be delivered to the Grand Secretary on any change or renewal/expiration of such policies.

- II. In the event a Particular Lodge leases all or any portion of any of its properties outside the Lodge proper (such term shall include but not be limited to the Lodge Room, Banquet Hall, Collation Room, Teaching Room or any other room or area utilized for Masonic purposes) to a non-masonic commercial enterprise or business **not engaged** in the sale or serving of alcoholic beverages, the following must be obtained by the Particular Lodge prior to permitting the serving of alcoholic beverages to invitees of the lessee for any function or event (e.g., an infrequent exhibition; a business open house where alcohol is served to guests at no charge; an office Christmas party that includes serving alcohol or BYOB):
- a. A written lease agreement with appropriate hold harmless and indemnity language in favor of the Particular Lodge and Grand Lodge. The lease agreement shall further provide that in the event of any loss relating to the sale or serving of alcohol, the lessee will give immediate notice to the Particular Lodge (which in turn shall provide such notice to the Grand Secretary) and further giving the Particular Lodge the right to make proof of such loss if not made promptly by the lessee to the lessee's insurance carrier;
  - b. Host liquor liability endorsement to the lessee's general liability policy (which meets the criteria set forth in 1 (c) above without the liquor liability);
  - c. A detailed explanation of the function or event, e.g., an infrequent exhibition; a business open house where alcohol is served to guests at no charge; an office Christmas party that includes serving alcohol or BYOB.
  - d. Copies of all the above required documents shall be sent to the Grand Secretary.
- III. In the event that a Particular Lodge or Club intends to engage in the serving or sale of beer, wine, liquor, or any other alcoholic or intoxicating beverage at any function or event the location of which is not on Lodge property, the Particular Lodge or Club must:
- a. Possess general liability insurance which must be endorsed with a clause in favor of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida, its successors and/or assigns, P.O. Box 1020, Jacksonville, FL 32201-1020.
- And
- b. Obtain a liquor legal liability or host liquor liability endorsement to the foregoing policy with a minimum policy limit of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) aggregate.
- Or
- a. Obtain a Special Event Policy with the foregoing endorsement and policy limits.
  - b. Obtain the proper license(s) from the city, town, county, or state, as applicable.
  - c. Comply with procedures and guidelines relating to the registration of the Lodge or Club with the State of Florida. (Ref. GL-220)
  - d. Copies of all the above required documents shall be sent to the Grand Secretary. (2014 Proc. 120-122)

**44.06** Inasmuch as this Grand Lodge is not a profit-making business nor organization and does not engage in profit-making activities for itself, nor for its members, an individual member of the Craft should neither use nor employ his connection with Freemasonry toward the realization of commercial or political gain or advantage. Consistent with the foregoing, the use of Masonic membership or affiliation for political or commercial purpose, including but not limited to advertising or publicizing such membership by signs, letterheads, cards, or otherwise in connection with any political or commercial activity, or solicitation of political support or commercial advantage at any Masonic meeting, is unmasonic; *provided*, however, that nothing herein shall prevent the use and publicizing of Masonic membership consistent with:

(a) Activities and programs specifically provided for elsewhere in this Digest, such as Public Education and Citizenship, Charity, or pursuant to Regulations 4.13 and 26.20.

(b) Display of Masonic emblems, symbols, patents, certificates, or the like in the interior offices of a Member's place of business or profession, consistent with pride of membership in the Fraternity and good taste; and

(c) Display of Masonic emblems and symbols on vehicles that do not display signs nor advertisements promoting or advertising a commercial or political enterprise.

(d) Displays by organizations engaged in the manufacture or sale of Masonic jewelry, emblems, or regalia. (1989)

**44.07** Obtaining a Degree or Degrees of Freemasonry by fraud, untrue statements or representations, or by knowingly concealing and withholding information relevant and material to eligibility for such Degrees is a proper subject for Masonic discipline.

**44.08** Every violation of the moral law, written or unwritten, whether emanating from the Particular or Grand Lodges, is an offense against the established Laws, usages and customs of Masonry; and any Lodge, Grand or Particular, of competent jurisdiction, may take cognizance.

**44.09** No Free and Accepted Mason is at liberty to relate, out of the Lodge, what is said or done within, for a mischievous, wrongful, or vicious purpose. Such conduct would be extremely reprehensible and be punishable accordingly as the circumstances are aggravated or mitigated. (1979)

**44.10** It is not unlawful for a Mason to ask a non-Mason if he would like to apply to become a Mason and offer to furnish a non-Mason information about Freemasonry including the procedures to be followed to become a Mason and offer assistance in the event the non-Mason should desire to become a member of the fraternity nor will it be unlawful for the Mason to remind the non-Mason of the offer but if no favorable response is made to the offer and reminder no further offer shall be made to the non-Mason. (1996)

Any such inquiry or offer shall be limited to a non-Mason who is believed to be of good morals, high character, upright in his community and has a favorable impression of our Fraternity. It shall be unlawful to urge, insist, attempt to persuade, argue, or use any other device or tactic to induce a non-Mason to petition for membership in the Fraternity. (1996)

The essence of the relationship between a Mason and a non-Mason in this matter should be limited and restricted to an inquiry and offer of assistance and one reminder of the offer to the end that it may always be said of every Mason that he came to membership of his own free will and of his own volition. Any action on the part of a Mason in approaching a non-Mason in respect to membership that would violate this concept is unlawful and would subject the Mason to discipline. (1996)

**44.11** Any member of a Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction who uses or refers to any written or printed books, manuscripts or papers purporting to disclose or expose the secret work of Freemasonry, except the authorized written work of this Grand Jurisdiction when lawfully authorized so to do, shall be subject to discipline. (1979)

**PENAL JURISDICTION OF THE GRAND LODGE  
AND THE PARTICULAR LODGES**

**References**

The Grand Lodge has exclusive original Penal Jurisdiction over elected Grand Lodge Officers for life, and over Masters and Wardens of the Particular Lodges and District Deputy Grand Masters and subordinate Grand Lodge Officers while in office and continuing jurisdiction after expiration of term of office as to offenses committed while in office. (Reg. 4.02-1984)

**PENAL JURISDICTION OF A LODGE**

**Regulations**

**44.12** Penal jurisdiction is of two kinds:

- (a) Geographical, which is that jurisdiction over the territory surrounding the Lodge and extending in every direction one half the distance to the nearest Lodges, without regard to concurrent jurisdiction for receiving petitions for the Degrees and extending to all Masons, whether affiliated or unaffiliated, residing within its territory as above defined; and
- (b) Personal, which is that jurisdiction of the Lodge over its own members, wherever they may reside. (1979)

**44.13** The primary responsibility for administration of Masonic Justice is the responsibility of a Lodge for the conduct of its own members, and whenever practicable charges of unmasonic conduct shall be filed in the Lodge of the accused membership. (1979)

**44.14** When charges of unmasonic conduct are filed against a Mason in a Lodge in whose territory he resides but of which he is not a member, the Secretary of the Lodge in which the charges are filed shall, in addition to furnishing copy to the Grand Master, District Deputy Grand Master, and Grand Secretary, also send copy to the Lodge of the accused's membership. (1979)

**44.15** When charges of unmasonic conduct are filed against a Brother in a Lodge of which he is not a member but in whose jurisdiction he resides, the charges shall forthwith be transmitted to the Lodge of the Brother's membership if such Lodge is in the same Masonic District as the Lodge in which the charges were filed; and thereupon the Lodge in which the charges were

filed shall have no jurisdiction to proceed further in the matter, and the Lodge of the Brother's membership shall have jurisdiction and responsibility for all further proceedings.

The Secretary of the Lodge in which charges were filed shall immediately transmit such charges to the Secretary of the Lodge of the accused Brother's membership by registered or certified mail with return receipt requested with copies of charges to the Worshipful Master of the Brother's membership, the Grand Master, Grand Secretary, District Deputy Grand Master, the accused, and to the Brother or Brothers that filed the charges. No action of the Lodge originally receiving such charges shall be necessary for the Secretary to transmit such charges to the Lodge of the accused membership, but the Secretary shall, at next Stated Communication of the Lodge, report his action and make appropriate record in the minutes. (1979)

**44.16** Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Masons are subject to Masonic discipline and shall be entitled to all the rights of a Master Mason in respect to the charges against them and the proceedings thereon except those proceedings which must be conducted in a Master Mason Lodge, but the Master Mason Lodge may be called into recess for purpose of permitting the Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft to present argument or make other appropriate statement in respect to such charges. (1979)

**44.17** If disputes arise between two (2) Brothers, and it is impossible to tell upon whom the blame rests, and it is evident that there has been a violation of Masonic Law, then both should be put upon trial. (1979)

**44.18** A Lodge has the right to try a member for an offense committed before his Initiation when it is of such character that if known at the time of balloting it would have prevented his acceptance. (1979)

**44.19** If the Brethren of a Lodge believe that there may have been a serious breach of the moral law, by one of their members, in which another Mason was grievously offended, it is their duty to investigate his conduct, whether the offended Brother desires to make formal complaint or not, since it is not in the power of any one Mason to prevent an investigation when the reputation of the Fraternity is at stake. (1979)

**44.20** A Mason, after affiliation, may prefer charges against an older member for an offense committed prior to said affiliation. (1979)





## JURISDICTION OF THE GRAND LODGE

### Regulations

**44.21** It shall be the duty of every member of a Florida Lodge to report to the Worshipful Master all convictions of members of the Lodge and of unaffiliated Masons residing in the Penal Jurisdiction of the Lodge of which he has any knowledge.

It shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master of a Lodge to promptly notify in writing the Grand Master, the Grand Secretary, and the District Deputy Grand Master of the District the name and address of any member of his Lodge and the name and address of any unaffiliated Mason residing in the Penal Jurisdiction of his Lodge:

- (1) who is convicted of a criminal offense involving moral turpitude under any State or Federal law, or
- (2) who is being charged with any such offense and who enters any plea other than “not guilty,” or
- (3) who, when charged with any such offense, enters into a “pre-trial intervention program” or joins in any “plea-bargaining” in which one of the stipulations is that he admits his guilt as to the charges,

together with a copy of the charges of which the Brother was convicted, or to which he entered a plea, a copy of the judgement and sentence and other relevant information, or a copy of the stipulations of a pre-trial intervention program in which he admitted his guilt as to the charges and in which he may have also agreed to a specified term of probation after which time, and if all the stipulations are satisfied, the charges would be dropped. (1995)

Moral turpitude is that element of an offense that characterizes the act done as an act of depravity, baseness, vileness, wickedness, or evil and contrary to the accepted and customary rules of right and justice and violative of the duty between man and man and includes any and all violations of moral law.

Upon receipt of such notice and information as aforesaid, the Grand Master shall cause written notice to be served upon such member in accordance with Regulation 44.28 directing him to show cause in writing within thirty (30) days of service why he should not be suspended. If the member fails to respond to the Grand Master, he shall be suspended without further notice. If the member does respond within the thirty (30) days, the Grand Master shall direct the Chairman of the Penal Affairs Panel to convene a review board of three (3) Master Masons, two (2) of whom shall be members of the Penal Affairs Panel. The matter shall proceed in the same manner as provided in Regulation 44.53, except that the review board shall receive the testimony and argument in writing. The review board may, in its discretion, also hear all or part of the matter orally. The review board shall promptly submit its written findings and

recommendations together with the complete record to the Grand Master, with copies to the Chairman of the Penal Affairs Panel and to the member. The Grand Master may adopt, modify, or reject the recommendations of the review board or may direct that charges be filed. Notwithstanding the provisions of Regulation 44.56, any suspension hereunder shall continue until the member has served his sentence of imprisonment, parole, and/or probation, or had his civil rights restored, whichever last occurs; and the member may not seek reinstatement until one (1) year after expiration of his suspension. The Petition for reinstatement may be filed with the Lodge and take its usual course and the ballot must be unanimous. The timely filing of an appeal of the conviction to the appropriate civil court shall stay action under this Regulation until the appellate process has been concluded.

If the Grand Master shall direct that charges be filed, he may specify who shall file the charges or he may specify the number of Master Masons required to sign the charges without regard to requirements as to the signatures to charges in any other provisions of this Penal Code. All trials ordered under this Regulation shall be by Trial Commission. (1986)

#### **Rulings and Decisions**

Applicant must file a Petition for Reinstatement and that Petition must follow the usual course and that the ballot must be unanimous. (1986 Proc. 71)

With reference to the term full civil rights, the word "full" means complete without exception. For a man that has lost his civil rights and had them restored, the restoration must include all civil rights. This restoration, therefore, must include "the right to bear arms." (2009 Proc. 120-121)

**44.22** There shall be a Penal Affairs Panel composed of fifteen (15) Master Masons in good standing in their respective Florida Lodges who shall be appointed and serve terms as follows:

Each year the newly installed Grand Master shall appoint five members of the Panel to serve terms of three (3) years. In the event of vacancy the Grand Master shall make appointment for unexpired term.

For the first year after effective date hereof, the Grand Master shall, in conference with Deputy Grand Master and Senior Grand Warden, appoint five (5) members for terms of three years, five (5) members for terms of two years, and five (5) members for terms of one year.

Each year the Grand Master shall designate one member as Chairman and another member (whose term shall not coincide with term of Chairman) as Vice Chairman.

Members of the Panel should be lawyers, judges, and men experienced in law enforcement and court procedure.

It shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary, upon receipt of each and every paper relating to penal matters, to forthwith make record thereof in a book kept for that purpose and forward copy to Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Panel.

The Chairman, under the direction and supervision of the Grand Master shall be the administrator of the Penal system of the Grand Lodge and shall keep current docket record of each Penal Proceeding in a book provided by the Grand Lodge for that purpose, which book shall be delivered to his successor.

The Grand Master shall inform the Chairman in respect to all acts or actions taken or proposed to be taken by the Grand Master and copies of all documents issued by the Grand Master shall be delivered to the Chairman and to the Grand Secretary, the accused Brother, his counsel, and such other persons as may be appropriate.

The Grand Secretary, upon request therefore, shall make available to the Chairman of the Penal Affairs Committee, the Chairman of the Appeals Committee of the Jurisprudence Committee, and to the Jurisprudence Committee any file or files, documents and papers or copies thereof relating to Penal Affairs.

The Grand Master may, by Executive Order, confer upon the Chairman of the Panel the power to exercise any or all of the powers of the Grand Master in respect to Penal Affairs. The Executive Order shall be filed with the Grand Secretary and copies furnished to Grand Lodge Officers, Particular Lodges, Past Grand Masters, and Chairman of the Penal Affairs Panel.

In the event the Grand Master shall delegate any or all of his powers to the Chairman of the Panel, the Grand Master shall continue to supervise all Penal Affairs.

If the Grand Master shall delegate any or all of his powers aforesaid to the Chairman of the Panel, any person aggrieved by any act or action of the Chairman during the progress of the proceedings may appeal to the Grand Master in writing for review of such act or Order.

Such appeal shall be taken not later than fifteen (15) days after the act or action complained of and shall be in writing and set forth clearly and fully the act or action complained of and the reasons for the appeal.

Copies of the written appeal shall be delivered to the Chairman of the Penal Panel and the Grand Secretary.

The Grand Master shall enter Order approving, reversing, amending or correcting the act or action of the Chairman and file his Order with the Grand Secretary with copy to the Chairman of the Penal Affairs Panel and to the complaining party.

This Regulation shall not be construed to permit appeal to the Grand Master of final judgment of the Lodge or Trial Commission, which appeal must be addressed to the Grand Lodge as provided in this Penal Code. (1983)

## **POWERS OF THE GRAND MASTER**

### **Regulations**

**44.23** Notwithstanding any other provision of this Penal Code, the Grand Master may, upon receipt of copy of charges

or at any other time or stage of the proceedings, take such action in regard to the proceedings as he may be advised, including but not limited to directing the Lodge as to further proceedings, abatement of proceedings pending investigation, appointment of Trial Commission, referral of the matter to the Penal Affairs Committee or to the Chairman thereof or to any member or members of the Committee with such orders as he may deem appropriate, and in any and all other ways control and direct the proceedings to a conclusion.

Copies of all Orders shall be filed in the office of the Grand Secretary and a copy delivered to the Lodge, to the District Deputy Grand Master, to the accused, and to any other person affected by said Order or Orders.

The Grand Master, in the exercise of his discretion, may investigate or cause to be investigated any matter coming to his attention and file charges or order charges to be filed in every instance where there is probable cause to believe there has been conduct justifying filing of charges.

The grant of powers herein shall not be construed to limit, restrict or impair the inherent powers of the Grand Master or any other powers of the Grand Master set forth herein but shall be construed as additional and cumulative powers.

The Grand Master shall enter an order for Expulsion from the Fraternity for any member who is convicted, of any of the following crimes or who when charged with any of these crimes enters into a pre-trial intervention program or who joins in any plea bargaining in which one of the stipulations is that he admit his guilt or who enters a plea of anything other than not guilty when charged with Murder, Attempted Murder, Sexual Battery, Child Molestation, Terrorism, or the use of a firearm during the commission of a Felony. (2008)

### **Rulings and Decisions**

The Terms "With Prejudice" and "Without Prejudice" are terms used in Civil and Criminal trials only and have no merit or meaning in our Grand Lodge or Lodge Masonic Trials or in the dismissal of charges of unmasonic conduct when it pertains to our Digest of Masonic Law or our Masonic Justice Manual; therefore, these terms shall not be used in Penal Proceedings. (2018 Proc. 120)

## **PREFERMENT OF CHARGES, SERVICE THEREOF, AND ANSWER**

### **Regulations**

**44.24** Any Master Mason who is a member in good standing in a regular Lodge may file charges of unmasonic conduct against any Mason either in the Lodge of the accused membership or in the Lodge in whose territory the accused resides. Charges against an unaffiliated Mason shall be brought in the Lodge in whose jurisdiction the accused resides. The Vigilance Committee of a Lodge may file charges in such Lodge against any member of the Lodge or against any Mason residing in the jurisdiction of the Lodge.

**44.25** Charges shall be in writing and shall conform to the following:

- (a) Addressed to the Worshipful Master, Wardens and members of the Lodge in which the charges are to be filed with address of such Lodge.
- (b) The name of the accused, his address, Lodge membership or that the accused is unaffiliated, and telephone number if known.
- (c) The general charge shall be that the accused is guilty of unmasonic conduct, which general charges shall be followed by clear, definite and detailed specification of the acts or actions of the accused. If more than one (1) charge is made, each charge shall be consecutively numbered with appropriate spacing between each of the charges.
- (d) Each charge shall specify in clear language the acts or actions of the accused, the time and date or dates thereof, the place where such acts or actions took place, and the name or names of witnesses having knowledge of such action, and upon whose testimony the accuser or accusers will rely upon at trial of the accused.
- (e) Each fact alleged in a charge shall be presumed to be facts of which the accuser or accusers have personal knowledge unless such fact is specifically stated to be alleged upon information and belief.
- (f) The charges shall conclude with the statement that the accusers or accuser, on his or their Masonic honor, allege the charges to be true, except such charges as are stated to be upon information and belief and that upon investigation they verily believe the charges or charge to be true.
- (g) The charges shall be signed by the accuser or accusers together with his or their address and telephone number, if any, and Lodge membership.
- (h) The original and six (6) signed duplicate copies of the charges shall be filed with the Secretary.
- (i) The charges or charge shall be in substantially the following form:

1

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Members of 2 Lodge No. 3  
located at 4 :

In Re: Charges against Brother 5 who resides at 6 and whose address is  
7 and whose telephone number is 8 and who is a member of 9 Lodge  
No. 10 (or is unaffiliated).

The undersigned hereby charge Brother 5 with unmasonic conduct as  
hereinafter specified:

1. Brother 5 on or about the 11 day of 11 A.L. 60\_\_ A. D.  
20\_\_ (or during the period beginning on the 11 day of 11 A.L. 60\_\_  
A.D. 20\_\_) - and ending on the 11 day of 11 A.L. 60\_\_ A.D. 20\_\_) at  
13 in 14 did 15.

Witnesses having knowledge of the foregoing are 16, 17, 18 and  
19.

2. On information and after due and careful investigation the  
undersigned verily believes that Brother 5 (continue as in charge No. 1).

The undersigned upon his or their Masonic honor allege the above  
charges are true except those alleged upon information and belief and the  
undersigned verily believe those to be true after due and careful investigation  
20, 21 and 22.

1. Date charges are being prepared
2. Name of Lodge in which charges will be filed
3. Lodge number
4. Location and address of Lodge in which charges will be filed
5. Name of accused
6. Residence of accused
7. Mailing address of accused
8. Telephone number of accused
9. Lodge of which accused is a member
10. Lodge number
11. Date or dates of alleged unmasonic conduct

12. Place where offense was committed
13. Name of city, town Or community where offense was committed
14. Name of state
15. Detailed description of the acts, actions, words or conduct constituting the offense
16. Name or names of witnesses having knowledge of the unmasonic conduct and who will testify thereto
- 17-19. Residence, address and telephone number of witnesses and if a witness is a Mason the name and number of his Lodge
- 20-22. Name, residence address and telephone number and Lodge membership of accuser or accusers

**44.26** For administrative and time purposes, charges shall be deemed filed when the original and six (6) copies have been delivered to the Secretary of the Lodge personally or by registered or certified mail with return receipt requested. Upon receipt of charges, the Secretary shall forthwith endorse on the original and all copies the date and time of delivery to him and the means by which the same was delivered to him. Such action shall not be considered a formal filing of charges until such charges are accepted either by the Lodge or Grand Lodge for prosecution. (2010)

### **DUTIES OF THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER AND SECRETARY UPON RECEIPT OF CHARGES**

#### **Regulations**

- 44.27** Upon receipt of charges the Secretary shall:
- (a) File the original in the records of the Lodge.
  - (b) Deliver personally or by registered or certified mail copies of the charges to:
    - (1) The Worshipful Master of the Lodge
    - (2) The District Deputy Grand Master
    - (3) The Grand Secretary
    - (4) The Grand Master



- (5) If the accused is a member of a Florida Lodge other than the Lodge in which the charges are filed, the Secretary shall deliver copy of the charges to the Worshipful Master of the Lodge of the accused's membership.
  - (6) If the accused is a member of a Lodge of a foreign jurisdiction, the Secretary shall deliver, additional copy of the charges to the Grand Secretary for delivery by the Grand Secretary to proper Masonic authorities of such foreign jurisdiction.
- (c) Upon receipt of the charges the Worshipful Master shall examine them and determine if they be in proper form and if they state an offense against Masonic Law.

If the charges are in proper form and sufficiently state an offense, the Worshipful Master shall direct the Secretary to serve copy of the charges as provided in Regulation 44.28.

If the charges are not in proper form or shall be insufficient to state an offense, the Worshipful Master shall enter his written order stating therein the errors, omissions, or deficiencies in the charges and either dismiss the charges or direct amendments thereto or other proceedings thereon as he may be advised and shall file his order with the Secretary. The Secretary shall deliver personally or by registered or certified mail, with return receipt requested, copies of the order of the Worshipful Master to the accused, the accusers, the District Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Secretary and the Grand Master.

The dismissal of the charges by the Worshipful Master shall not preclude or prevent filing of other or further charges which shall take the same course as the original charges.

**44.28** After determination by the Worshipful Master that the charges are in proper form and state a violation of Masonic Law, the Secretary shall, at direction of the Worshipful Master, serve a copy of the charges upon the accused:

- (a) By personally delivering a copy of the charges to the accused; or
- (b) By delivery of a copy of the charges to the usual Place of residence of the accused and in absence of the accused delivery to an adult (age 18 or more years) member of the family of the accused residing at and with the accused at the usual place of residence of the accused; or
- (c) By registered or certified mail addressed to the accused at the last known address of the accused.

The Secretary shall make notation on the original of the charges of service on the accused, specifying the time, date and manner of service.

If service cannot be made as above provided, the Secretary shall announce at the next Stated Communication of the Lodge his failure to effect service upon the accused and request information as to the whereabouts of the accused and make other search and inquiry in regard thereto; and if the accused cannot then be found and served, the Secretary shall make written record of all his efforts to serve the accused and report to the Lodge, and thereafter the matter shall proceed as if the accused had been served with copy of the charges and had failed to respond thereto.

Every member of the Lodge has the duty to inform the Secretary of the Lodge of his mailing and residence address and any change thereof, and if he fails to do so cannot be heard to object to lack of service or receipt of notices.

## **ANSWER OR OTHER RESPONSE TO CHARGES**

### **Regulations**

**44.29** If the accused shall be served with a copy of the charges or sign receipt for registered or certified mail containing a copy of the charges at least ten (10) days before the next Stated Communication of the Lodge (in counting the ten (10) days the day of service or signing of receipt shall not be counted but the day of the Stated Communication shall be

counted), he shall, on or before the day of the next Stated Communication of the Lodge, file with the Secretary his answer to the charges admitting, denying or excusing each of the charges against him.

If the accused shall not be served with a copy of the charges or sign receipt for mail containing the charges at least ten (10) days before the next Stated Communication of the Lodge, he shall, on or before the day of the next succeeding Stated Communication file answer; *provided*, however the accused may waive the ten-day period and file answer or objections at next Stated Communication after such service or receipt.

### Reference

If the accused or the Lodge desires trial by Trial Commission procedure is set forth in Regulation 44.63.

**44.30** The answer shall set forth in plain language the facts of the case and shall specifically admit or deny or excuse each of the charge or charges in consecutively numbered paragraphs in the charges.

The answer shall be signed by the accused, who shall certify on his honor as a Mason that the facts set forth in the answer are true except as to such facts as may be alleged on information and belief and in such case he shall certify that he verily believes such facts to be true.

If the answer contains any matter not pertinent or material to the case it may be stricken by action of the Lodge or Trial Commission.

The original and six (6) signed copies of the answer shall be delivered to the Secretary, who shall retain the original in the Lodge files and deliver a copy to the Worshipful Master, the District Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Secretary and the Grand Master.

**44.31** For good cause the Worshipful Master may allow charges or the answer to be amended, but in every such instance copies of such amendment shall be served or delivered as in the ease of the original charges or answer.

**44.32** If the accused shall fail to file answer or other response to the charges after proper notice, he shall, by direction of the Worshipful Master, be given further and final notice by registered or certified mail to appear or file response within the time set forth in the final notice; and upon failure to appear or respond to said final notice or if the accused in his answer shall admit that he is guilty of the charges, he shall be deemed guilty as charged and the Lodge shall proceed to fix penalty.

**44.33** If the accused Brother is in prison and unable to obtain someone to represent him, the Worshipful Master shall either upon request of the accused or, if no such request is received, may in his discretion appoint a Brother to represent the accused; and in such case the appointed representative shall, if possible, obtain from the accused a statement either orally or in writing and in reliance thereon file answer in behalf of the accused and sign the same but need not certify as to the truth of such answer.

#### **DETERMINATION TO PROSECUTE OR DISMISS CHARGES AND PROCEEDINGS THEREON**

##### **Regulations**

**44.34** (a) At the first Stated Communication of the Lodge after the answer of the accused has been filed with the Secretary the charges and the answer shall be read in full to the Lodge.

(b) If the answer shall deny the charges or admit the truth thereof but set forth reason or excuse therefore the Lodge, after such discussion as the Worshipful Master shall deem appropriate, shall by majority vote by secret written ballot of members present determine to dismiss or prosecute the charges.

(c) The accused shall have right to be present at time of reading of the charges and the answer but shall retire from the Lodge immediately thereafter and shall not be permitted to be present at time of discussion or voting.

(d) If the Lodge shall vote to dismiss the charges, the Worshipful Master shall enter a written order dismissing the charges and file the same with the Secretary.

(e) If the Lodge shall vote to prosecute the charges, the Lodge shall then determine by majority vote by secret written ballot of members present whether or not to request trial by Trial Commission as provided in Regulation 44.63; and if the Lodge shall determine to request trial by Trial Commission, the Worshipful Master and Secretary shall forthwith prepare and deliver such request to the Grand Master as provided for in Regulation 44.63.

(f) If the Lodge shall determine to prosecute the charges and not to request trial by Trial Commission the Secretary shall give written notice to the accused that the Lodge has determined to prosecute the charges and not to request trial by Trial Commission and informing the accused of his right to request trial by Trial Commission within ten (10) days after receipt of the notice of the action of the Lodge, which notice shall be by personal delivery or by registered or certified mail with return receipt requested. (In counting days, the day of delivery of charges or signing of receipt of registered or certified mail shall not be counted but day for filing request shall be counted.)

(g) If the Lodge shall determine to prosecute the charges and not to request trial by Trial Commission, and the accused has not filed request for Trial Commission as provided in Regulation 44.63, the matter shall proceed as provided in Regulation 44.35.

(h) The Secretary shall deliver personally or by registered or certified mail with return receipt requested all orders, notices, request for Trial Commission or copies thereof to the accused, the accusers, the District Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Secretary and the Grand Master. If the Secretary shall personally deliver any of the above he shall take receipt therefore, and all receipts for personal delivery and by mail shall be preserved in the records of the proceedings.

(i) Notwithstanding the vote of the Lodge to dismiss the charges, the Grand Master in his discretion may order prosecution and in his order give directions as to further proceedings as provided in Regulation 44.23.

(j) A Brother under charges shall not automatically be excluded from the Lodge except at such time as the Lodge is discussing or voting on matters relating to such charges; but the Worshipful Master may, if he deems it in the best interest of the Lodge and the peace and harmony thereof, enter order excluding the Brother from the Lodge until final judgment of the Lodge or Trial Commission; but the Brother shall not be excluded from the Lodge at time of reading the charges and answer as provided in Regulation 44.34(c) nor at time of trial as provided in Regulation 44.46.

### **Rulings and Decisions**

The Terms "With Prejudice" and "Without Prejudice" are terms used in Civil and Criminal trials only and have no merit or meaning in our Grand Lodge or Lodge Masonic Trials or in the dismissal of charges of unmasonic conduct when it pertains to our Digest of Masonic Law or our Masonic Justice Manual; therefore, these terms shall not be used in Penal Proceedings. (2018 Proc. 120)

## **TAKING AND REPORTING TESTIMONY**

### **Regulations**

**44.35** If the Lodge has determined to:

- (a) Prosecute the charges; and
- (b) Not to request trial by Trial Commission as provided in Regulation 44.34; and
- (c) If the accused shall not request trial by Trial Commission within ten (10) days after notice that the Lodge has determined to prosecute the charges and not request trial by Trail Commission; and
- (d) If the Grand Master shall not have entered any order otherwise directing the proceedings;

the Worshipful Master shall appoint a Trial Committee of three (3) members of the Lodge, designating one of them as Chairman to take the testimony in writing.

If possible, the Chairman of the Trial Committee shall confer with the accused or his counsel or representative and enter into agreement relating to all further proceedings as provided in Regulation 44.40; but otherwise the Chairman shall give at least ten (10) days notice to the accuser and the accused and his counsel or representative of date, time and

place of taking testimony. The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Committee and at taking of testimony and may adjourn such meetings or taking of testimony to reconvene at such times and places as may suit the convenience of the parties and may tend to promote the cause of truth and justice. When all the evidence has been taken on behalf of the accused and against him, the Committee shall cause the same to be sealed up, addressed to the Master of the Lodge, and deposited with the Secretary.

**44.36** In the trial of a member all the testimony must be submitted in writing and signed by the witness or witnesses, respectively, except such matters as, in their nature, are improper to be written.

**44.37** In the taking of testimony, no oath shall be administered. Masons testify upon their honor as such; others affirm upon their honor as gentlemen, etc., as prudence and propriety suggest.

**44.38** Testimony in a Masonic trial can be taken by deposition, the witness being at a distance; *provided*, notice is given to the accused of the time and place and the name of the witness, or witnesses, and an opportunity is given the accused to cross-examine the witnesses.

**44.39** The accused and the Lodge may be represented at the taking of testimony before a Trial Committee by Brothers as counsel.

## AGREEMENTS AND STIPULATIONS

### Regulations

**44.40** The accused and the Chairman of the Trial Committee may enter into agreements and stipulations relating to time, place and manner of taking testimony, setting time for other and further proceedings and relating generally to all other matters relevant to disposition of the proceedings; *provided*, that no agreement shall be made as to date of trial without approval by the Worshipful Master. Such agreements should be made whenever practicable to expedite the proceedings, avoid misunderstandings, avoid unnecessary delays and in all other ways bring the proceedings to speedy conclusion.

**EVIDENCE ADMISSIBLE****Regulations**

**44.41** All relevant testimony should be taken and considered on every matter of Masonic investigation.

**44.42** Rumor and hearsay testimony is not evidence in a Masonic trial, but all information obtained in a regular Masonic manner is admissible.

**TRIAL****Regulations**

**44.43** After the Trial Committee has filed the testimony as provided in Regulation 44.35, the Worshipful Master shall appoint a Stated Communication for the trial and announce the same in open Lodge; and if the accused not be present at time of such announcement, the Secretary shall note his absence in the minutes and shall give him notice thereof in the same manner prescribed in Regulation 44.28 for service of charges upon the accused.

**44.44** The lodge, of right, is the judge of the weight and credibility of testimony.

**44.45** The filing of charges against a suspended Brother shall operate to restore to him the right to be present in the Lodge during the proceedings relating to the charges against him as provided in Regulation 44.46.

**44.46** The Lodge is the jury. After the testimony has been read to the Lodge, argument for the Lodge and the accused shall be permitted; but when arguments have been heard, the accused and accuser, together with their counsel, shall retire, and the Lodge, as jury shall then discuss and deliberate upon the law and facts to a reasonable extent. The first question to be voted upon by the members present shall be: "Is the accused guilty or not guilty of the offense charged?" If the accused or his counsel, or any member of the Lodge, prior to the ballot, request it, a vote upon each charge shall be taken separately.



**44.47** All charges for unmasonic conduct shall be tried upon their merits; and no quibbles, technicalities or special pleadings shall be allowed to prejudice, retard or defeat the ends of Fraternal Justice. In Masonic Trials, the main points of law shall be: First, a charge plainly stated; second, a reasonable notice to the accused; and third, a speedy and impartial trial.

**44.48** After the testimony is read to the Lodge, such discussion should be allowed and encouraged as will enable the Brethren fully to understand its import so that they may render an intelligent verdict when the vote is taken.

**44.49** When the testimony is under discussion during the course of a Masonic trial, and a Brother present has been involved in the matters under investigation, though not under charges, he should be requested by the Worshipful Master to withdraw until the vote is taken if his presence tends to check a full discussion of the case.

**44.50** Every member of the Lodge who is present must vote on all questions arising in trials unless excused by the Lodge for good cause stated.

**44.51** The vote on all questions arising during the trial shall be by written secret ballot, and a majority vote controls.

**44.52** A Lodge is not, in general, required to postpone a trial when the accused is also charged with violation of state or municipal law, until the courts have acted; but if the Lodge trial would tend to defeat the ends of legal justice, by aiding an escape or by creating bias or prejudice in the minds of his peers for or against him, the Masonic proceedings should await action of the courts.

#### **FORM OF CHARGES FOR CIVIL CONVICTION AND PROCEEDINGS THEREON**

##### **Regulations**

**44.53** If the Grand Master shall order charges to be filed under Regulation 44.21, the charges shall be substantially in

the form prescribed by Regulation 44.25; but it shall be only necessary in describing the offense to set forth the fact of the plea, adjudication or conviction giving nature of the offense committed, the date of plea, adjudication or conviction and the name and location of the court, and attach to the charges copies of the indictment or information, and the record of the plea, adjudication or judgment of the court.

The accused shall admit or deny the charge or charges; and if the accused shall allege that he was not guilty of the charges made in court against him, he shall set forth fully the facts upon which he expects to rely to establish his statement that he is not guilty of the civil charge and the names of two (2) or more witnesses upon whose testimony he will rely to establish such facts.

At the trial it shall only be necessary to put in evidence a copy of the court records relating to the plea, adjudication or conviction; and thereafter the burden shall be upon the accused to establish such facts as will demonstrate that notwithstanding the action of the civil court he is not guilty of the charges, which facts shall be established by uncontradicted testimony of not less than two (2) witnesses.

All other proceedings shall be as prescribed in this Penal Code.

The accused shall have right of appeal from action of the Lodge in same manner and form as provided for other appeals from judgments of the Lodge or Trial Commission.

### **Rulings and Decisions**

Dispensation to hold trial at Called Communication is fatal legal error and trial proceedings are void and new trial will be granted or ordered. (1956 Proc. 206)

## **SENTENCE AND PENALTY**

### **Constitutional Provisions**

Expulsion and suspension from the "higher degrees" of Masonry do not necessarily work as such in Symbolic Masonry, but may be good cause for investigation by a Lodge. (Const., Art. X, Sec. 30)

### Regulations

**44.54** The vindication or sanction of fraternal justice, for the correction of errors and the protection of the just against contamination of evil, is a necessary ingredient in the scientific organization of the Fraternity of Freemasons, for which purposes three (3) general penalties, viz: reprimand, suspension, and expulsion, have been established, and which, respectively, apply to every grade and species of offense that can be committed against the Laws of Masonry.

**44.55** In all cases of conviction for Masonic offenses the vote of a majority of the members present is necessary to assess the penalty. Every member of the Lodge who is present must vote on all questions of penalty unless excused by the Lodge for good cause stated.

**44.56** It is impossible to prescribe any definite role for the application of these penalties to the various offenses for which a Mason may be convicted; much, therefore, must be left to the exercise of sound discretion, guided by the third and fourth cardinal virtues (Prudence and Justice) in each particular case; but the following general outlines should be observed:

#### Reprimand

Reprimand is the mildest of the three (3) general penalties and may be properly applied in case of contempt, improper deportment, and all offenses of minor magnitude. It should be administered by the presiding Officer, or a Brother appointed by him for that purpose. It should be more or less severe in import according to the circumstances of the case.

#### Suspension

Suspension is the intermediate penalty between reprimand and expulsion. It takes away or suspends as its name imports, all the fraternal rights, privileges and benefits of its subject during its continuance, but may leave behind the veil of charity a hope of reformation and consequent restoration. Its duration is for a definite or indefinite period, as may be determined.

A DEFINITE SUSPENSION EXPIRES BY ITS OWN LIMITATION, EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN REGULATION 44.21, AFTER WHICH ALL FORMER RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES ARE RESUMED WITHOUT SPECIFIC ACTION.

An indefinite suspension continues in force until removed by the power inflicting it or until set at naught by the appellate tribunal.

Suspension may properly be applied for non-payment of dues, (Article X, Section 20). It may properly be inflicted for a provoking repetition of an offense for which reprimand is inadequate and expulsion unjustly severe. Vicious practices, such as habitual intemperance, profanity, Sabbath-breaking, gambling, with the exception of fundraiser drawings and raffles, fraud, evil speaking, and the various species of mischief-making are proper subjects for the penalty of suspension. (2013)

### Expulsion

Expulsion is the severest penalty for the punishment of offenses known to the plan of Freemasonry and it drives its subject from the circle of the Mystic Brotherhood. It is, therefore, properly applied only to the gravest offenses known to Masonic Law. It may properly be inflicted upon a provoking repetition of an offense for which a Brother has been suspended, or for the violation of the Mystic Covenant of Secrecy, or for the violation of any injunction of the moral law which exhibits an intolerable degree of moral depravity.

### Rulings and Decisions

Based on the historical and judicial findings recognized as authorities in Freemasonry when it comes to established law with deep roots in Masonic tradition, usages, and customs from the 1800's, that an expelled Mason shall not, under any circumstances, be allowed to be present, participate, or engage in any Masonic public or private event. As expulsion is equal to a Masonic death. (2023 Proc. \_\_\_\_\_)

**44.57** When it has been determined that a Brother has been convicted of, enters a plea of guilty to, or enters a plea admitting the commission of a criminal offense involving moral turpitude, the penalty to be imposed shall not be less than suspension for the period of the sentence of imprisonment or the period of probation imposed by the civil court, whichever is the longer period.

**44.58** In proceeding with vote to determine the penalty to be imposed, all votes shall be by secret written ballot.

The first vote shall be upon which of three (3) penalties shall be imposed-reprimand, suspension or expulsion.

If none of the three (3) penalties shall receive a majority, the penalty receiving the smallest number of votes shall be dropped.

If there is a tie vote between the two (2) lowest number of votes, then voting shall continue on the three (3) penalties until the tie vote is broken.

After the tie vote, if any, is broken and no penalty receives a majority vote, the next vote shall be upon the two (2) penalties receiving the largest number of votes.

If the majority vote is for the penalty of reprimand or expulsion that shall be the penalty but if the majority vote be for suspension the next vote shall be to determine if the suspension be for an "definite" or "indefinite" period of time.

If the majority vote is for indefinite suspension, that shall be the penalty; but if the majority vote shall be for a definite period of time, vote shall be taken with ballots marked as to time of suspension, and voting shall continue until a definite time of suspension is determined, and that shall be the penalty.

If it shall appear after several votes that no majority vote for any specific period of suspension will be cast, the Worshipful Master, in his discretion, but with due regard for the trend of the voting, may limit the ballots to specific periods of time and specify what periods of time may be voted for. For example, if a majority of the votes are for a period of less than one (1) year the Master may order that no ballot be cast or counted for a period of more than one (1) year or if the majority of the votes are for a period of more than one (1) year the Master may order that no ballot be cast or counted for a period of less than one (1) year.

The Master may, with due regard for the trend of the voting, continue to limit the range of the voting until a definite period of suspension shall receive majority vote and that period of suspension shall be the penalty.

**44.59** A Brother who absents himself from the Lodge for the Purpose of avoiding reprimand to which he was regularly sentenced should be summonsed under the Seal of the Lodge by direction of the Master to attend at a given Communication, and the Summons should state the purpose for which his attendance is required; and if he fails to answer to the summons he is subject to discipline.

**44.60** Suspension or expulsion from other Masonic bodies does not affect a Mason's standing in his Particular Lodge, but may properly be the subject of investigation. (Const., Article X, Section 30)

**44.61** Being under the penalty of suspension is no bar to trial and expulsion for other unmasonic conduct.

If a penalty for suspension is imposed the suspended Brother shall, upon written request of the Secretary, deliver to the Secretary his current dues card which shall be returned to the suspended Brother upon termination of period of suspension or upon his reinstatement. Failure of the Brother to deliver his dues card upon request shall subject him to further discipline. If the penalty is expulsion the Secretary shall request return of current dues card; and if the same is not delivered to the Secretary upon such request the Secretary shall publish the fact of such expulsion in the Lodge Bulletin and send copies to all Lodges in the Masonic District, or if there is no Lodge Bulletin the Secretary shall give written notice of such expulsion to all Lodges in the District.

### **Rulings and Decisions**

Based on the historical and judicial findings recognized as authorities in Freemasonry when it comes to established law with deep roots in Masonic tradition, usages, and customs from the 1800's, that an expelled Mason shall not, under any circumstances, be allowed to be present, participate, or engage in any Masonic public or private event. As expulsion is equal to a Masonic death. (2023 Proc. \_\_\_\_\_)

## **DUTIES OF SECRETARY TO RECORD ALL PROCEEDINGS**

### **Regulations**

**44.62** The Secretary shall make full and complete records in the minutes of all proceedings of the Lodge in respect to filing of charges, service upon the accused, answer of the accused, request for Trial Commission if any, vote of the Lodge on determination to prosecute or dismiss the charges, orders of the Worshipful Master, appointment of Trial Committee, report of Trial Committee and the proceedings and votes of the Lodge thereon and the judgment of the Lodge as to guilt

or acquittal and penalty imposed, if any, and shall send copies of the final judgment of the Lodge to the accused, the District Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Secretary, and to the Grand Master, making note of such service in the minutes of the Lodge. (1979)

## REQUEST FOR AND TRIAL BY TRIAL COMMISSION

### Regulations

**44.63** (a) If the accused shall desire trial by Trial Commission he shall, on or before expiration of ten (10) days after notice of Lodge determination to prosecute the charges as provided in Regulation 44.34(f), file with the Secretary of the Lodge original and five (5) copies of such request, taking receipt from the Secretary therefore. (In counting days the day of receipt of notice shall not be counted but date for filing shall be counted.)

The request shall be addressed to the Grand Master, state the grounds for such request and be signed by the accused, show the address of the accused, and contain the statement that the facts stated in the request are made upon the Masonic honor of the accused.

The Secretary shall file the original in the papers of the Lodge and send by registered or certified mail with return receipt requested copies to the Grand Master, Grand Secretary, District Deputy Grand Master and the accuser or to one of the accusers.

The filing of the request with the Secretary shall stay an proceedings pending decision of the Grand Master.

(b) If the Lodge determines by majority vote by secret written ballot to request trial by Trial Commission as provided in Regulation 44.34, the Worshipful Master and Secretary shall prepare the request and five (5) copies which request shall be addressed to the Grand Master and signed by the Worshipful Master and Secretary under Seal of the Lodge.

The Secretary shall mail by registered or certified mail a copy to the Grand Master, to the Grand Secretary, to the District Deputy Grand Master, to the accused, and to the accuser or one of the accusers.

The vote of the Lodge to request trial by Trial Commission shall stay all proceedings pending decision of the Grand Master.

(c) The Grand Master shall enter his order granting or denying the request of the accused or the Lodge and in such order give such direction as he shall deem appropriate as to other or further proceedings.

(d) If the Grand Master grants the request for trial by Trial Commission he shall, in his order granting the request, appoint five (5) Florida Master Masons as a Trial Commission to conduct further proceedings, designating one of them as Chairman, and giving address and telephone number of all of the members of the Commission and including in his order directions in respect to further proceedings as he shall deem appropriate. One (1) copy of the order shall be delivered to the Lodge, a copy to the Grand Secretary, a copy to the District Deputy Grand Master, a copy to the accused, and a copy to the accuser or one of the accusers, and to the members of the Trial Commission.

Upon entry and filing of such order the Secretary of the Lodge shall deliver all papers relating to the matter to the Chairman of the Trial Commission, who shall enter such orders as to further proceedings as he shall deem appropriate, including but not limited to time of meeting of the Trial Commission, taking testimony and deposition, if any, and trial.

The Chairman of the Trial Commission shall have the same powers in respect to entering into agreement and stipulation as provided in Regulation 44.40.

(e) If the Grand Master shall deny the request for trial by Trial Commission he shall enter Order denying the request and shall include in the order such special directions as to further proceedings as he shall deem appropriate, or if there be no such special directions he shall order the Lodge to proceed with trial as if no request for trial by Trial Commission had been made.

A copy of such Order shall be delivered to the Grand Secretary, the Lodge, the District Deputy Grand Master, the accused and to the accuser. (1979)



**44.64** In all instances of trial by Trial Commission the proceedings shall be conducted under the same procedure prescribed by Regulations for conduct of trial by a Lodge except the testimony shall be taken by the Commission and not by a Committee. The Chairman of the Commission shall exercise all powers and perform all the duties of the Worshipful Master, the Secretary and the Chairman of Trial Committee in Lodge trials; and the Trial Commission shall have all powers and duties of the Lodge as in trial by the Lodge.

Upon conclusion of the trial the Commission shall make written report of its findings and judgment thereon, and the Chairman shall promptly deliver the same with transcript of testimony and all other records and documents to the Secretary of the Lodge, taking receipt therefor.

The Chairman of the Trial Commission shall furnish copies of the findings and judgment to the Grand Master, the Grand Secretary, the District Deputy Grand Master and to the accused, and deliver copy of receipt of the Lodge Secretary for all records to the Grand Secretary and to the Grand Master.

The accused and the Lodge shall be bound by the findings and judgment of the Commission subject only to right of appeal to Grand Lodge.

The Chairman of the Trial Commission shall submit statement of all expenses of the Commission and the members thereof to the accused, the Lodge, the Grand Secretary and to the Grand Master; and the Grand Master shall enter order as to payment thereof.

## **APPEALS TO GRAND LODGE**

### **Regulations**

**44.65** (a) The accused shall have right of appeal to the Grand Lodge from judgment of the Lodge or Trial Commission; and the Lodge, by majority vote in favor thereof by secret written ballot, shall have right of appeal to Grand Lodge from judgment of the Trial Commission.

(b) The accused has right to appeal the judgment as to sufficiency of the charges, finding of guilt, or excessiveness

of penalty, either or all; and the Lodge has right to appeal the judgment finding the accused not guilty or on account of insufficiency of penalty, either or both.

(c) An appeal by the accused from judgment of the Lodge or Trial Commission and appeal by the Lodge from judgment of Trial Commission shall be taken within thirty (30) days after receipt of copy of such judgment. (In counting days the day of receipt of the copy of judgment shall not be counted but date of filing of the appeal shall be counted.)

(d) An appeal by the accused from judgment of the Lodge or Trial Commission shall be in writing addressed to the Worshipful Master, Wardens and members of the Lodge wherein the charges were filed and shall designate the judgment appealed from and specify in consecutively numbered paragraphs the errors complained of. The original and three (3) copies shall be signed by the accused with place provided on each for receipt of original by the Secretary of the Lodge.

The original and three (3) copies shall be delivered to the Secretary who shall sign receipt therefore on said original and on the three (3) copies.

The Secretary shall keep the original and deliver personally or by certified mail one (1) copy of the appeal with his receipt shown thereon to the accused, one (1) copy to the Grand Master, and a like copy to the Grand Secretary.

(e) The appeal of the Lodge from the judgment of the Trial Commission shall be addressed to the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Wardens and members of the Grand Lodge and shall specify the errors complained of in consecutively numbered paragraphs.

The original and four (4) copies shall be signed by the Worshipful Master and the Secretary under seal of the Lodge and shall provide place for receipt of copy by the accused or for certificate of Secretary that copy of appeal was delivered to the accused by certified or registered mail, with return receipt requested.

The original of the appeal shall be mailed by certified mail to the Grand Master, a copy likewise mailed to the Grand

Secretary, a copy mailed or delivered to the accused as aforesaid and one (1) copy retained by the Lodge Secretary.

(f) During period of appeal the accused shall not be entitled to any Masonic rights or privileges except to be present at all hearings on his appeal by the Grand Lodge.

**44.66** (a) When appeal is taken from judgment of the Lodge or Trial Commission, the Secretary of the Lodge shall, within fifteen (15) days after notice of appeal, prepare the record on appeal and deliver the same to the Grand Secretary. The record on appeal shall consist of all documents and papers relating to the case and all entries in the Lodge minutes relating thereto, including, but not limited to the following so far as they are applicable to the case:

- (1) The charges against the accused and all amendments thereto, if any.
  - (2) Copy of notice served upon the accused.
  - (3) Copy of request for appointment of Special Trial Commission, if any, and all documents relating thereto.
  - (4) The answer of the accused, if any, and all amendments thereto, if any.
  - (5) Copy of notice of taking testimony.
  - (6) Transcript of testimony and report of committee, or Special Trial Commission thereon, including all papers and documents filed therewith, if any.
  - (7) The notice of appeal filed by the accused or copy of notice of appeal filed by the Lodge, if the appeal be by the Lodge.
  - (8) Any and an other documents and papers relating to the case and any and all articles or things offered in evidence.
  - (9) A full and complete transcript of the minutes of the Lodge or excerpts thereof relating to the case.
- (b) The Secretary shall arrange and bind the record in convenient form for review by the Grand Lodge. If practicable,

he shall prepare an index thereto of the documents and papers therein. An appropriate certificate of the Secretary, under Seal of the Lodge, that the record contains all of the documents and papers and a true and correct copy of all minutes of the Lodge that relate to the case shall be attached to the Record on Appeal. The Record on Appeal, bound, indexed and certificated as aforesaid, shall be delivered to the Grand Secretary by hand delivery or by registered mail with return receipt requested.

Upon receipt of the record on appeal the Grand Secretary shall notify the Grand Master and Chairman of the Grand Lodge Committee on Appeals, and thereafter the matter shall proceed as directed by the Grand Master.

### **ACTION OF GRAND LODGE ON APPEALS**

#### **Regulations**

**44.67** (a) In all cases of appeal by the accused to the Grand Lodge for the action of a Lodge or Special Trial Commission, the Jurisprudence Committee shall review such actions and make recommendations to the Grand Lodge for final action. The Grand Lodge may affirm the action of the Lodge or Trial Commission, adjust the penalty, which shall end the proceedings, or may reverse the action of the Lodge or Trial Commission and acquit the accused. If the penalty imposed upon the accused was indefinite suspension or expulsion, such reversal and acquittal shall not restore the accused to membership in his Lodge; but he shall, upon reversal and acquittal, have the status of an unaffiliated Mason, and the Grand Secretary shall, on order of the Grand Master or by direction of the Grand Lodge, issue to him a certificate to that effect, which shall constitute a proper basis for application for affiliation with any Lodge. (2010)

(b) On such appeal by the accused the Grand lodge may reverse the action of the Lodge or Trial Commission and order a new trial. Such order for new trial shall give full and specific directions in regard to conduct of such new trial, including directions as to whether the trial shall be by the Lodge or by the original or new Trial Commission, and shall also specify the errors to be corrected, the proceedings for correction

thereof and the procedure to be followed after such corrections are made.

(c) The order of reversal for new trial by the Grand Lodge shall have the effect of restoring the accused to the same status he occupied prior to his conviction, without regard to the penalty imposed, it being hereby expressly declared that reversal for a new trial is not such reversal as contemplated in Article V, Section 3 of the Constitution of this Grand Lodge as will deprive the accused of membership in his Lodge.

(d) After the order of reversal, the matter shall proceed in accordance with such order with full right of appeal to the accused from the action of the Lodge or Trial Commission.

#### **Rulings and Decisions**

The Terms "With Prejudice" and "Without Prejudice" are terms used in Civil and Criminal trials only and have no merit or meaning in our Grand Lodge or Lodge Masonic Trials or in the dismissal of charges of unmasonic conduct when it pertains to our Digest of Masonic Law or our Masonic Justice Manual; therefore, these terms shall not be used in Penal Proceedings. (2018 Proc. 120)

**44.68** On an appeal by the Lodge, the Grand Lodge may affirm the action of the Trial Commission and this shall end the proceedings, or the Grand Lodge may reverse the action of the Trial Commission and order a new trial in the same manner as provided in Regulation 44.67. Such new trial shall be by the original or a new Trial Commission as directed by the Grand Lodge or by the Grand Master.

**44.69** If there shall be an appeal by the accused on retrial by the Lodge or by Trial Commission or appeal by the Lodge on retrial by Trial Commission the Grand Lodge shall enter such judgment as it deems appropriate, and if such judgment be that the accused is guilty of the charges against him the Grand Lodge shall fix the penalty.

**44.70** If the Grand Lodge reverses a judgment of a Lodge and orders a new trial, failure or refusal of such Lodge to conduct such trial within a reasonable time thereafter, or to request the appointment of a Trial Commission shall subject such Lodge and the Officers thereof to Masonic discipline.

**44.71** When a case has been decided on appeal by the Grand Lodge, the Grand Secretary shall certify the result to the parties in interest, as early as practicable.

#### **Rulings and Decisions**

When Grand Lodge assumes jurisdiction over a penal case then any appeal to reopen the case must come before Grand Lodge. (1951 Proc. 26)

**REINSTATEMENT****Constitutional Provisions**

In cases of an appeal from a suspension or expulsion, if the Grand Lodge acquits the accused, or reverses the decision of the Lodge or Special Trial Commission below, or when the Grand Lodge confirms the decision of the Particular Lodge or Special Trial Commission and subsequently restores the party to the rights and benefits of Masonry, the action of the Grand Lodge does not in either case restore the party to membership in the Lodge from which he is suspended or expelled without the unanimous consent of the Lodge, as in cases of a ballot for membership. In all cases of definite suspension, the member returns to his membership upon the expiration of the term of suspension. (2016) (Art. V, Sec. 3)

**Regulations**

**44.72** A petition for reinstatement from an indefinite suspension or expulsion may be filed with the Secretary and voted upon at a Stated Communication after being presented at a previous Stated Communication, notwithstanding, the petition must be approved by the Delegates at an Annual Grand Communication according to Regulations 44.75 and 44.76, but the membership must have due notice; *provided*, if such petition is rejected, the Petitioner may not petition the Lodge for reinstatement until after one (1) year from the date of such rejection. (2023)

**44.73** A member of a Lodge suspended for a definite time becomes a member in good standing again at the expiration of that time without action of the Lodge.

**44.74** When, after inflicting the penalty of suspension or expulsion for unmasonic conduct, the Lodge becomes dormant or defunct, the penalty can be removed only by the Grand Lodge, or Grand Master, upon the recommendation of some Regular Lodge.

**44.75** Grand Lodge has inherent power to reinstate an expelled or suspended member upon petition of such member without necessity of action by a Particular Lodge and may exercise such power after review of all circumstances relating thereto; however, said Petition for Reinstatement shall be reviewed by the Masonic Jurisprudence Sub-Committee and its appropriate sub-committee thereon for their recommendation. The Petition for Reinstatement, along with a report from the Masonic Jurisprudence Committee with a recommendation, to grant or deny, shall be presented to the Craft at the next Annual Grand Communication and voted upon by the Delegates. The vote of the Delegates is final, and no further Petition for Reinstatement will be accepted by Grand Lodge. Grand Lodge may entertain and grant petition of a Particular Lodge for reinstatement of a member or former member of the Lodge expelled by the Grand Lodge after investigation and report of appropriate committee thereon. (2023)

**44.76** When the Grand Lodge, either in the exercise of its original jurisdiction or on appeal, imposes or affirms a penalty of indefinite suspension or of expulsion, no action in respect to reinstatement shall be taken by a Particular Lodge without express written permission or consent of the Grand Lodge during the Annual Grand Communication. (2023)

### **Grand Lodge Trials**

**44.77** Grand Lodge has exclusive original Penal Jurisdiction over elected Grand Lodge Officers for life, and over Masters and Wardens of the Particular Lodges and District Deputy Grand Masters and subordinate Grand Lodge Officers while in office and continuing jurisdiction after expiration of term of office as to offenses committed while in office. The Particular Lodges have Penal Jurisdiction over all other Masons as set forth in Regulation 44.12. (1986)

Trial of above named Officers, except the Grand Master who shall not be subject to trial while in office but shall be subject to trial after expiration of his term in office shall be by following procedures:

- (1) Charges may be filed by not less than seven (7) Master Masons in good standing in Florida Lodges, which charges shall be substantially in form prescribed in Regulation 44.25 and shall be filed with the Grand Master.
- (2) The Grand Master shall review the charges, and if they be in proper form and state an offense against Masonic Law he shall cause them to be served in the manner prescribed in Regulation 44.28.
- (3) The Grand Master shall forthwith enter order appointing a Trial Commission of five (5) Master Masons, two (2) of whom shall be past elected Grand Lodge Officers, one (1) of whom shall be designated as Chairman, which order shall be served upon the accused at the same time as service of charges.
- (4) Thereafter the Chairman shall enter such orders respecting filing of answer, taking of testimony, and

other similar matters as shall be appropriate, a copy of which orders shall be delivered to the accused and the Grand Master, and which orders shall direct all proceedings in substantial compliance with provisions of this Chapter relating to trials by Trial Commission.

- (5) The Trial Commission shall enter such judgment as it deems appropriate, deliver copy thereof to the accused and deliver all records, papers, and documents to the Grand Master together with statement of expenses incident to the trial.
- (6) The Grand Master shall review the record of the trial and shall enter such orders as he shall deem appropriate, including but not limited to affirming the judgment, suspending operation of the judgment or directing other and further proceedings, all of which proceedings and orders shall be reviewed by the Jurisprudence Committee and report and recommendations made thereon to the Grand Lodge Delegates for final action. Final action shall be deemed final. (2023)

#### RULE OF CONSTRUCTION

**44.78** All provisions of this code shall be mandatory, and time shall not be considered of essence as to those provisions relating to time for performance of any act or actions but shall be construed to require or permit such performance within reasonable time except when failure to take such actions shall be shown to be prejudicial to the accused or the Lodge and substantial compliance with provisions hereof shall be deemed sufficient compliance; *provided* that requirements as to form and specificity of charges, service of charges upon the accused, time for filing answer or objections by the accused, notice of hearings and taking of testimony, trial, and time for and manner of request for trial by Trial Commission and for appeal shall be strictly construed.



CHAPTER 45

**FLORIDA LODGE OF RESEARCH**

**Regulations**

**45.01** The Grand Master may in his discretion constitute one Lodge to be known and designated “Florida Lodge of Research.”

The Grand Master, upon the petition of twenty or more Florida Masons in good standing, may form a Florida Lodge of Research for the purpose of promoting, encouraging, conducting, and fostering Masonic research and study and for the purpose of spreading Masonic light and knowledge and a Charter may be issued to such Lodge of Research without compliance with the usual requirements prescribed for the forming and chartering of regular subordinate Lodges.

A Florida Lodge of Research Chartered under the provisions of this Section shall not have power or authority to receive petitions for or to confer the Craft Degrees; its representatives as such, shall not have a vote in Grand Lodge, nor be entitled to receive mileage or per diem, as such, nor shall the Lodge be liable for or be required to pay per capita tax or assessments to the Grand Lodge, and, in lieu of annual returns it shall make an annual report to the Grand Lodge.

Any Master Mason, a member in good standing of a Florida Lodge, shall be eligible for membership in and may petition for membership in the Florida Lodge of Research formed under the provisions of this section.

The Territorial Jurisdiction of such Lodge shall be coextensive with that of the Grand Lodge and it may hold annual, Stated or Special Communications at such times and places as it or its duly authorized Officer or Officers may determine.

Active membership in such Lodge shall not continue unless regular membership in good standing is maintained by such member in a regular subordinate Lodge of this Jurisdiction. Honorary, associate, corresponding, and/or subscribing memberships in such Lodge may be had and maintained by individual

Masons, Masonic libraries, Masonic bodies or organizations on such terms, and conditions as the Florida Lodge of Research may prescribe. Individual Masons may be elected “Fellows” by the Florida Lodge of Research as a recognition of outstanding accomplishment.

Membership in such Lodge of Research shall not be considered dual membership.

The Florida Lodge of Research shall promulgate a Code of By-Laws for its government which shall be effective upon its approval by the Grand Master.

The Grand Master may promulgate such rules and regulations as he deems appropriate for the government of such Lodge.

**45.02** The Worshipful Master or Past Master of a Florida Lodge of Research is not eligible to receive the “Actual Past Master’s Degree.” (1985)



**Digest of Masonic Law**

**CHAPTER 46**

**MEMORIAL LODGES**

**Regulations**

**46.01** Memorial Subordinate Lodges may be constituted in this Grand Jurisdiction for the sole and only purpose of conducting Masonic funerals and rendering Masonic service incidental thereto, and the members thereof shall be members in good standing of a regular Lodge of the State of Florida, by securing a Dispensation from the Grand Master and subsequently a Charter from the Grand Lodge upon the petition of not less than seven Florida Master Masons showing the approval of the sponsoring Lodges and the territory to be affected thereby. Such sponsoring Lodges shall be a majority of the Lodges in the affected territory and the aforesaid petition shall be signed by the Worshipful Masters of the sponsoring Lodges under the Seal of the said Lodges attested by the Secretaries. Except as otherwise provided, the formation of a Memorial Lodge shall be subject to the Constitutional provisions pertaining to the formation of a Particular Lodge.

**46.02** All Memorial Lodges shall be named "Memorial Lodge" and, when and if Chartered, shall bear the number of the District in which located, i.e. 1, 2, 3, 5, etc.

**46.03** The sole function of a Memorial Lodge shall be to conduct the funeral ceremonies of deceased Master Masons of other Grand Jurisdictions, or of this Grand Jurisdiction when requested so to do by the Lodge having jurisdiction, hence such Memorial Lodges shall do no ceremonial work other than the opening and closing thereof, the installation of their Officers, and the conduct of funeral ceremonies. Therefore, the requirement of proficiency for Officers of Memorial Lodges shall be limited accordingly.

**46.04** For the sole purpose of conducting funeral ceremonies, a Memorial Lodge shall be deemed to be open at all times and shall not be required to formally open and close Lodge before and after each funeral ceremony; *provided*, however, that the Secretary thereof shall keep proper minutes of each such funeral ceremony, and that the Memorial Lodge shall adhere, in all other respects, to the requirements of Masonic Law.

**46.05** Master Masons in good standing in a Particular Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction shall be eligible to petition for membership in a Memorial Lodge; *provided*, that the suspension, expulsion, or dimitting of a member of a Memorial Lodge from his Particular

Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction shall automatically suspend or expel such member from such Memorial Lodge. Membership in a Memorial Lodge shall not in anywise interfere with membership in the Particular Lodge of such Master Masons.

**46.06** Memorial Lodges shall have the usual complement of Lodge Officers, who shall be elected or appointed, and hold office for that period of time as set forth in our law pertaining to Particular Lodges.

**46.07** Memorial Lodges shall not hold territorial jurisdiction over non-Masons, since the only source of their membership is by the affiliation of Master Masons.

**46.08** Memorial Lodges shall assess such dues as they may in their By-Laws prescribe; *provided*, that no member shall be assessed Grand Lodge dues and fees, nor shall any Memorial Lodge be liable to the Grand Lodge for any such Grand Lodge dues and fees.

**46.09** Memorial Lodges shall report changes of membership status and make Annual Returns at times prescribed in Regulations 14.06 and 30.02, on forms provided by the Grand Secretary for such purposes, which forms shall provide for names and titles of Officers and the names of all members and the Particular Lodge of which they are members.

**46.10** Officers and Past Masters of Memorial Lodges shall have, in the performance of their duties in connection with Masonic funerals, the same official duties, obligations, privileges, and prerogatives as are exercised by the Officers of Particular Lodges in the performance of their duties in connection with Masonic funeral ceremonies; *provided*, that Memorial Lodges cannot send representatives to the Grand Lodge, nor shall the members of a Memorial Lodge be eligible for appointment or election to any Grand Lodge Office, or as a District Deputy Grand Master; and *provided further*, that no Master of a Memorial Lodge shall be eligible to receive the Actual Past Master's Degree in the Grand Lodge, nor shall any Past Master of a Memorial Lodge receive or wear any regalia or insignia indicating that he is such Past Master, except in the discretion of his Lodge he may receive and wear a suitable lapel pin indicating that he is Past Master of a Memorial Lodge, and may, on appropriate Masonic occasions, wear a Jewel indicating that he is a Master or Past Master of a Memorial Lodge, but such Jewel shall not indicate in any manner that he is a Master or Past Master of a Particular Lodge. The

Memorial Lodge may also issue a Certificate to a Past Master of a Memorial Lodge showing such service.

#### UNIFORM CODE OF BY-LAWS

**46.11** The following Uniform Code of By-Laws is adopted for all Memorial Lodges of the Grand Jurisdiction of Florida. This Uniform Code shall become effective immediately upon its adoption by Grand Lodge. The Uniform Code shall be incorporated in the By-Laws of all Memorial Lodges without change, variation or modification, together with such supplemental and additional By-Laws of the Lodge as shall be regularly adopted and approved and shall constitute the By-Laws of each Memorial Lodge. Memorial Lodges are authorized to fill in, with appropriate matter, the blanks in the Uniform Code, to-wit:

- (A) In By-Law 1.01 fill in the date of the Charter. The location of each Memorial Lodge may be changed under the direction of the Lodge by each incoming Worshipful Master at the beginning of his year and the Charter may be housed in any Lodge in their District that he so designates. The Grand Lodge Office must be notified of the Memorial Lodge's Elected Officers and the location of the Lodge Charter each year.
- (B) In By-Law 2.01 fill in the name of the Lodge.
- (C) In By-Law 8.01 fill in place, date, and time of Stated Communications.
- (D) In By-Law 9.01 fill in the amount of annual dues.

#### AUTHORITY

**1.01** Charter.-This Lodge exists by virtue of a Charter dated \_\_\_\_\_, from The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Florida, and is located in District No. \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_, in this State. The mailing address being that of the Master or Secretary of this Memorial Lodge.

#### NAME

**2.01** Name.-The name of this Lodge shall be \_\_\_\_\_

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#### PURPOSE

**3.01** Purpose of the Lodge.-This Lodge is a Memorial Lodge and is constituted for the sole and only purpose of conducting Masonic funerals and rendering Masonic services incidental thereto.

**3.02 Regalia.**-This Lodge shall keep an ample supply of clean white gloves and aprons on hand at all times, and it shall be the duty of members of this Lodge to attend, whenever possible, all funeral ceremonies conducted by the Lodge and shall wear white gloves at all such funeral ceremonies.

### MEMBERSHIP

**4.01 Membership.**-All Master Masons whose names are now upon the roll of members, and who hereafter shall be elected to membership shall constitute the membership of this Lodge.

**4.02 Eligibility.**-Master Masons in good standing in a Particular Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction, including dual members, shall be eligible to petition for membership in this Lodge; *provided*, that suspension, expulsion, or dimitting of a member of this Lodge from a Particular Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction shall automatically suspend or expel such member from this Lodge.

### OFFICERS

**5.01 Officers.**-The Officers of this Lodge shall be a Master, whose title is Worshipful, a Senior Warden, a Junior Warden, a Treasurer, a Secretary, a Senior Deacon, a Junior Deacon, two Stewards, and a Tyler, the first five of whom shall be elected by separate ballot at the first Stated Communication in December of each and every year. The Master shall appoint the other Officers, but the Senior Warden may nominate the Junior Deacon; *provided*, that when from any cause the election shall not be held at the time above specified, the Master may order an election at any time thereafter on or before December 27<sup>th</sup>, but not afterward, except by Dispensation from proper authority.

**5.02 Chaplain and Marshal.**-The Worshipful Master, if he so desires, may appoint a Chaplain and a Marshal.

**5.03 Dual members** are eligible to hold office.

**5.04 Rights and Privileges.**-Officers and Past Masters of this Lodge shall have, in the performance of their duties in connection with Masonic funerals, the same official duties, obligations, and privileges as are exercised by the Officers of Particular Lodges in the performance of their duties in connection with Masonic funeral ceremonies; *provided*, that this Lodge shall not send representatives to the Grand Lodge, nor shall the members of this Lodge be eligible for appointment or election to any Grand Lodge Office or as a District Deputy Grand Master; and *provided further*, that no Master of this Lodge shall be eligible to receive the Actual

Past Master's Degree in Grand Lodge, nor shall any Past Master of this Lodge receive or wear any regalia or insignia indicating that he is such Past Master, except this Lodge may, in its discretion, present to a Past Master of this Lodge a suitable lapel pin which he may wear indicating that he is a Past Master of this Lodge.

**5.05** Other provisions.-

### **DUTIES**

**6.01** Duties.-The duties of the Officers, jointly and severally, shall be such as are prescribed by the Constitution, Resolutions, and Edicts of The Grand Lodge of Florida, and the ancient established usages and customs of the Masonic Fraternity.

**6.02** Secretary.-The Secretary shall keep full and accurate records of all proceedings of the Lodge, preserve all books and records of the Lodge, shall be ex officio Librarian of the Lodge, and shall have custody of the Lodge Seal subject to the direction and control of the Worshipful Master.

**6.03** Treasurer.-The Treasurer shall have custody of all Lodge funds, and shall keep full and accurate records of the receipts and disbursement thereof.

**6.04** Reports.-The Treasurer and Secretary shall each present full written annual reports of the state of the Lodge finances as they appertain to their offices respectively, which shall be placed on file and noted in the records and shall also report quarterly, when required to do so.

**6.05** Other provisions.-

### **ELECTIONS**

**7.01** Time of Election.-The election and appointment of the Officers of this Lodge shall take place at the first Stated Communication in December of each year and such Officers shall be installed on the anniversary of Saint John the Evangelist, or as soon thereafter as practical, and the Officers so elected and installed shall continue in office for one year and until their successors are duly elected and installed; *provided*, that if, from any cause, there should be no election at the time appointed for the annual election, it shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master to order an election at any time before or on the anniversary of Saint John the Evangelist, but not thereafter except by Dispensation from proper authority.



**7.02** Manner and Method of Election.- In the election of Officers, nominations shall be made in writing to the Memorial Lodge Secretary no later than the opening of the Stated Communication preceding the December Stated Communication and no other nominations will be accepted thereafter. The nominee shall also make a statement in writing stating that he will accept the position if elected no later than the opening of the Stated Communication preceding the December Stated Communication and no other acceptance letters will be accepted thereafter. Discussions regarding nominees for office may take place among Brethren, but not in open Lodge. A majority of all votes cast, respectively, shall determine. In each succeeding ballot for the same office, when more than two members are voted for, the name or names of the Brother or Brethren having the lowest number of votes, shall, by order of the Master, be dropped; and all votes cast in derogation of said order shall not be counted. (2018)

Time of Elections shall be held in accordance to By-Law Section 7.01 of Regulation 46.11 of the Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida, Uniform Code of By-Laws. (2018)

**7.03** Other provisions.-

### COMMUNICATIONS

**8.01** Stated Communications.-The Stated Communications of this Lodge shall be held at its hall on the \_\_\_\_\_ in each month at \_\_\_o'clock \_\_m. or quarterly in its hall on the \_\_\_\_\_ in the months of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and December at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_m.

**8.02** Called Communications.-Called Communications may be called by the Worshipful Master in the manner provided by the Regulations of The Grand Lodge of Florida.

**8.03** Lodge Always Open for Ceremonies.-This Lodge shall be deemed to be open at all times for the purpose of conducting funeral ceremonies. Proper minutes of each such funeral ceremony shall be kept by the Secretary and Masonic Law shall be adhered to in all other respects.

**8.04** Other Provisions.-

### DUES

**9.01** Dues.-Every member of this Lodge shall pay to the Secretary for the use of the Lodge the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ per annum, which sum shall be due and payable in advance on or before the first day of each Masonic year.

**9.02** Other provisions.-

### COMMITTEES

**10.01** Committees.-The Lodge may provide for standing committees by appropriate Resolution and the Master may appoint special committees for the discharge of such responsibilities as he, in his discretion, may decide.

**10.02** Other provisions.-

### AUTHORITY OF GRAND LODGE

**11.01** By-Laws Under Grand Lodge Authority.-These By-Laws are adopted under authority of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Florida and nothing herein shall be construed in any wise to conflict with the Constitution or Regulations of such Grand Lodge, but shall be construed in harmony therewith and to fully effectuate the intent and purpose of such Constitution and Regulations.

**11.02** Grand Lodge Law Part of These By-Laws.-The terms and provisions of the Constitution and of the Regulations of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Florida are hereby specifically referred to and made a part of these By-Laws by reference and in all matters not dealt with herein the Constitution and Regulations of Grand Lodge shall control and govern this Lodge.

**11.03** Constitution and Regulations of Grand Lodge Supreme Law.-The Constitution and Regulations of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida as the same now are or may hereafter be changed, altered or amended shall be the supreme law of this Lodge and any By-Law or any part or portion thereof in conflict therewith shall be null and void.

**11.04** Other Provisions.-

### AMENDMENTS

**12.01** Amendments.-

(1) These By-Laws may be amended only as follows, viz: The proposition must be made in writing at a Stated Communication, and if approved by a majority vote, shall lie over to the next Stated Communication, of which the membership shall be given written notice; and if three-fourths of all members of the Lodge then present vote in favor thereof, it is adopted, and will go into effect after approval of the Grand Lodge or its authority.

(2) Any amendment proposed and adopted to these By-Laws shall be submitted to the Grand Lodge or its authority as follows: The original of such By-Laws or revision signed by the Worshipful Master and Secretary under the Seal of the Lodge, with date of approval and date of adoption shown thereon, shall be forwarded to the Grand Secretary. (2018)

**46.12** Except as heretofore or hereafter restricted and limited, Memorial Lodges shall be subject to the Constitutional provisions and Regulations pertaining to Particular Lodges.

**Rulings and Decisions**

Regulation 22.06 regarding mailing out statements for dues does not apply to Memorial Lodges. (1962 Proc. 82, 296)

Grand Master is vested with full authority to arrest Charter of Memorial Lodge when the good of the Craft requires it. (1969 Proc. 212)

**Digest of Masonic Law**

**CHAPTER 47**

**CLUBS AND SIMILAR ORGANIZATIONS**

**Regulations**

**47.01** All Masonic affiliated clubs, societies, or similar organizations, including Masters and Wardens Association, formed, organized, and operating within the Grand Jurisdiction of Florida shall be subject to the jurisdiction and approval of The Grand Lodge of Florida and subject to the direction and control of a central or general authority recognized by the Grand Lodge. Any Mason joining, having membership in, or affiliated with any club, society, or similar organizations, including Masters and Wardens Association, not recognized or approved in accordance with this Regulation, who, upon order or directive from the Grand Master fails or refuses to withdraw therefrom shall be subject to Masonic discipline. (1991)

**47.02** A Uniform Code of By-Laws for clubs and similar organizations is adopted as follows:

**UNIFORM CODE OF BY-LAWS  
CLUBS AND SIMILAR ORGANIZATIONS  
NAME AND LOCATION**

**1.01** Name.-The name of this organization is \_\_\_\_\_, is located at \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ County, Florida, and its mailing address is \_\_\_\_\_.

**AUTHORITY**

**2.01** Authority.-This organization exists and operates under authority of and permission from The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Florida, hereinafter referred to as the Grand Lodge, as evidenced by letter of approval of date of \_\_\_\_\_ day of A. L. \_\_\_\_\_, A. D. \_\_\_\_\_, and is subject to all the Laws, Rules, Regulations, and Edicts of said Grand Lodge, or its authority.

**2.02** Supreme Authority of the Grand Lodge.-All the Laws, Rules, Regulations, and Edicts of the Grand Lodge as the same now are or which hereafter may be enacted, adopted, promulgated, or issued shall be the supreme law of this organization and are hereby incorporated in these By-Laws by reference the same as if set forth herein.

**2.03** Limitation of Action.-This organization shall conduct its meetings with the same decorum as required by a Lodge of Masons, and shall not serve as a forum for debate of partisan and controversial questions nor be an agency or the means for dissemination of propaganda, nor endorse or oppose any candidate for political office, or propose or support any program or project or proposal in the Grand Lodge, nor in any Particular Lodge, nor in any other organization, provided, however, this shall not be construed to prohibit support of and participation in programs and projects sponsored or approved by the Grand Lodge.

**2.04** Gambling and Intoxicating Liquors.-This organization shall not sponsor or participate in any program or project involving gambling, or games of chance, with the exception of fundraiser drawings and raffles, and no beer, wine, liquor, or other alcoholic or intoxicating beverage shall be served or the use thereof permitted in connection with any activity, occasion or meeting of this organization (except when allowed by Regulations 28.06.1 and 44.05). (2013)

### References

As to alcoholic or intoxicating beverages being prohibited on Lodge or Grand Lodge owned or leased properties see also Regulation 28.06; or permitted under some circumstances see also Regulations 28.06.1. and 44.05. (2013)

### Rulings and Decisions

Particular Lodges and Clubs (which term shall include but not be limited to Masters and Wardens Associations, etc.) shall be permitted to conduct fundraising drawings and/or raffles provided all city, town, county, state and federal laws are complied with, particularly, the 2013 amendments to Florida Statutes, Section 849.0935, which make it illegal to award cash prizes for drawings and/or raffles (included but not limited to 50/50 drawings). In the event the sale of tickets for the drawing and/or raffle is limited to the sponsoring Lodge or Club's membership, it is exempt from the registration requirements of Florida's Charitable Solicitation Law, Chapter 496, Florida Statutes. It must be noted that the fair market value of all winnings from any form of raffles and/or drawings (which are defined as "Gambling" by the Internal Revenue Service Code), is deemed income and fully taxable. The Particular Lodge or Club shall be responsible for becoming familiar with all Internal Revenue Service Code provisions relating to withholding and reporting requirements. Additionally, all Lodges and Clubs are required to familiarize themselves with Form GL 220, Particular Lodge Solicitation Procedures and Guidelines. (2014 Proc. 122)

### MEMBERSHIP

**3.01** Membership.-Any Master Mason in good standing in a Particular Lodge in the State of Florida or in any other Grand Jurisdiction recognized by the Grand Lodge of Florida shall be eligible for membership in this organization, subject to the Laws, Rules, and Regulations of The Grand Lodge of Florida and the provisions of these By-Laws. (Reg. 4.07)

**3.02** Application for Membership and Proceedings Thereon.-Any Master Mason eligible for membership in this organization shall be admitted to membership upon application therefore in writing and furnishing satisfactory evidence of eligibility and payment of membership fee of \$\_\_\_\_\_, which payment shall accompany the application for membership.

The Officers and Board of Directors hereinafter provided for shall examine the application for membership and make such inquiry as to eligibility as shall be appropriate within thirty (30) days after receipt thereof and notify the applicant forthwith in regard thereto. If the applicant shall be found to be eligible and has paid the membership fee his name shall be added to the roll of members. The membership fee shall include annual Club dues for the year the applicant is admitted to membership.

### DUES

**4.01** Annual Club Dues.-The annual Club dues for membership in this organization shall be \$\_\_\_\_\_, payable on or before January 1 of each year. The annual Club dues period shall be from January 1 through December 31 of each year.

**4.02** Suspension for Non-Payment of Club Dues.-If the annual Club dues are not paid on or before January 1, the Secretary shall give written notice of such non-payment to the delinquent member at his last known address and if such Club dues are not paid within thirty (30) days after giving of such notice the delinquent member may be suspended by majority vote of the Board of Directors. Written notice of such suspension shall be given the delinquent member forthwith.

**4.03** Reinstatement.-Any member suspended from membership for non-payment of Club dues may be reinstated within thirty (30) days after such suspension on payment of delinquent Club dues plus the additional sum of \$1.00, and after thirty (30) days may be reinstated only by making application for membership and payment of membership fee as provided in By-Law 3.02 hereof.

**4.04** Evidence of Good Standing.-Each member shall at time of paying annual Club dues furnish satisfactory evidence of eligibility for membership by showing current card from home Lodge. If a member is not eligible for membership at time of payment of annual Club dues such Club dues shall be returned to him. If at any time during the annual Club dues period a member shall cease to be eligible for membership he shall be forthwith suspended by the Board of Directors and written notice of such suspension sent to such member at his last known address but any Club dues paid for such Club dues period shall not be returned to him.

### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

**5.01** Officers and Directors.-The Officers of this organization shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined. (1991)

**5.02** Board of Directors.-The Board of Directors of this organization shall consist of the Officers designated in By-Law 5.01 hereof and four (4) members elected for the terms hereinafter provided.

**5.03 Election of Officers and Directors.**-The election of Officers and Directors shall be held at the last meeting of this organization of each calendar year in the same manner as officers are elected in Particular Lodges in Florida. No later than the opening of the meeting preceding the last meeting of the calendar year, nominations shall be made in writing to the Secretary and no other nominations will be accepted thereafter. The nominee shall also make a statement in writing stating that he will accept the position if elected no later than the opening of the meeting preceding the last meeting of the calendar year and no other acceptance letters will be accepted thereafter. Regardless of the month in which elections are held, the installation of the new Officers and Directors may not be held prior to December 27<sup>th</sup> of each year. (2018)

At the first election after approval of these By-Laws all Officers and Directors shall be elected in the manner above prescribed to serve until the annual election above provided for. At the first annual election all Officers shall be elected to serve for the year beginning January 1 and ending December 31. Two Directors shall be elected to serve for a term of one year and two Directors shall be elected to serve for a term of two years.

At the second annual election there shall be elected all Officers above provided for and two Directors for a term of two years to fill vacancies of Directors whose terms expire. If in any election a Director whose term does not expire shall be elected an officer, a Director shall be elected for the unexpired term.

Thereafter all elections shall proceed as prescribed for the second annual election.

In the event of vacancy in the office of President during the term aforesaid, the Vice President shall become President until the next annual election. All other vacancies shall be filled by majority vote of the Officers and Directors or by special election called by the President.

**5.04 Duties of Officers.**-The President shall preside at all meetings of this organization and at meetings of the Board of Directors and shall perform all other duties usually appertaining to the office of President and those duties prescribed herein.

The Vice President shall preside at all meetings in the absence of the President and shall perform all other duties usually appertaining to the office of Vice President and the duties prescribed herein.

The Secretary shall make and preserve full and accurate records of the membership of this organization, of all proceedings at meetings of this organization and of the Board of Directors, and such other records as from time to time he shall be directed to make and preserve by this organization or by the Board of Directors.

The Treasurer shall make and preserve full and accurate records of all moneys received and disbursed by this organization and such other records and reports as from time to time he shall be directed to make and preserve by this organization or by the Board of Directors.

The Directors shall perform such duties as usually appertain to the office of Director and such other duties as shall be prescribed herein.

### FUNDS

**6.01** Custody of Funds.-The Treasurer shall be the custodian of all funds of this organization and shall deposit the same in such depository as shall be designated by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may provide and require that the Treasurer make bond for faithful performance of his duties, the cost of said bond to be paid by this organization.

**6.02** Disbursement of Funds.-No funds of this organization shall be disbursed or expended except by check or voucher signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by the President, or in his absence by the Vice President, and no funds shall be expended or disbursed except by approval of the Board of Directors and by majority vote of membership in regular meeting or by majority vote of membership in two consecutive regular meetings except as provided for herein.

### MEETINGS

**7.01** Meetings.-The regular meetings of this organization shall be

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**7.02** Board of Directors Meetings.-The Board of Directors shall meet

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**7.03** Repealed. (1984)

**7.04** Opening and Closing Meetings.-No Ritual or secret ceremony shall be used in opening or closing meetings of this organization. (Reg. 4.07)

**7.05** Special Meetings.-Special Meetings may be called by the President, or in his absence by the Vice President, or by the Board of Directors by announcement of time, place, and purpose thereof at any regular meeting and any business of this organization may be transacted at a special meeting except such business as is required by these By-Laws to be transacted at regular meeting.



## PURPOSES

**8.01 Purpose.**-The purpose and objective of this organization is to foster Masonic fellowship, and brotherly love among the members, encourage active participation in programs and projects sponsored or approved by the Grand Lodge and or any Particular Lodge or Lodges approved by the Grand Lodge. (1984)

## PROPERTY

**9.01 Ownership and Use of Property.**-All property, real and personal owned, leased, or controlled by this organization shall be subject to the Laws, Rules, Regulations, and Edicts of the Grand Lodge governing and regulating property of Particular Lodges.

## INCORPORATION

**10.01 Incorporation.**-This organization may, with the approval of the Grand Lodge or its authority, incorporate as a non-profit corporation. Proposed Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws for such incorporation shall be submitted for approval before being filed with civil authorities and the provisions of these By-Laws shall be incorporated in the By-Laws of any such corporation.

## AMENDMENTS

**11.01 Amendments.**-These By-Laws may be amended only as follows: Any proposal for amendment shall be submitted in writing to the Board of Directors, shall be presented for action at the next regular meeting of this organization. If a majority of the Members present at such meeting approve such proposal, the President shall announce that the proposal will be presented for final approval or rejection at the next regular meeting, and if at such regular meeting such proposal be adopted by three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Members present, the original amendment(s) signed by the President and Secretary with the date of approval and date of adoption shown thereon shall be submitted to the Committee on Appendant and Allied Orders for review and forwarding to the Grand Master for approval or rejection. If approved by the Grand Master, such proposal shall become effective, subject only to review by the Grand Lodge. (2018)

## SCHEDULE

**12.01 Schedule.**-These By-Laws shall, upon approval by the Grand Lodge, be effective and shall be binding on all organizations operating under and by virtue of Grand Lodge Regulations 4.06 and 4.07, except as exempted thereunder. Such organization shall be furnished with four copies of these By-Laws and shall forthwith fill in the blank spaces hereof

relating to name, membership, fees, dues, location, and time of meeting and submit the same in quadruplicate to the Chairman of Appendant Orders Committee who shall transmit three copies with recommendation thereof to the Grand Master who shall approve or disapprove the same and make distribution thereof as provided for in Amendments to By-Laws of Particular Lodges as provided for in Grand Lodge Regulation 24.04.

**12.02** Existing Organizations.-Organizations in existence at time of effective date of these By-Laws that have elected officers are not required to conduct an election of officers until the first meeting in December, at which meeting the election shall be for officers and conducted in the manner prescribed in By-Law 5.03 hereof. (1970 Proc. 232-238)

### Regulations

**47.03** No club or society in this Grand Jurisdiction whose membership is predicated exclusively upon members of Masons and/or of Masons and person related to them by blood or marriage shall be formed or operate within this Grand Jurisdiction unless its By-Laws are submitted to the Grand Lodge or its authority for approval, and the same are approved; *provided* that any such group forming such a club may incorporate as a non-profit corporation; *provided further*, that any such club, when formed, operates its club and its clubrooms or rooms, if any, or their place of meeting with the same decorum as required by a Lodge of Masons, that no unfavorable reflection will result against Masonry; and *provided further*, that all Laws, Rules, and Regulations of this Grand Lodge governing the conduct of Particular Lodges, in this Grand Jurisdiction as to the location of meeting places, clubrooms, occupation of same with others, leasing property owned by such club to others, prohibiting gambling, with the exception of fundraiser drawings and raffles, or the use or sale of intoxicating liquors in its clubrooms, or on property owned by it (except when allowed by Regulations 28.06.1 and 44.05), and that it follow all Rules and Regulations that may be made by the Grand Lodge. A violation of any of the above having occurred, the Grand Lodge or its authority may rescind the permission given. (2013)

No such club or society shall, by a By-Law provision or otherwise, limit or restrict its membership to the members of any Particular Lodge. Master and Wardens Association may, nevertheless, amend Section 3.01 of the Uniform Code of By-Laws contained in Regulation 47.02 to limit membership, voting rights, or both, or may adopt other By-Laws when approved by the Grand Lodge or its authority. (1993)

Any club or society heretofore organized shall have until February 15, 1985, for the submission of its By-Laws to the Grand Lodge or its authority, and may continue to function until its By-Laws are submitted and acted upon, and thereafter if the By-Laws are approved. If the Grand Lodge or its authority shall disapprove such By-Laws, such club or society shall have ninety (90) days to conform to the Grand Lodge requirements and if they do not within such period of time they shall forthwith disband and all members thereof who are Masons shall withdraw therefrom. Every such club or society shall submit to the Grand Lodge or its authority, a copy of its By-Laws and each year thereafter on or before February 1<sup>st</sup> of each year to the Grand Secretary, a roster of its officers showing their names, places of residence, and the names of the Particular Lodge to which the Officers respectively belong. (1984)

### References

Chapter 4, Powers Relating to Other Orders and Organizations  
(A Reference was moved to pg. 345)

### Rulings and Decisions

As to Regulations 44.05, 28.06, and 28.06.1:

- I. In the event a Particular Lodge leases all or any portion of any of its properties outside the Lodge proper (such term shall include but not be limited to the Lodge Room, Banquet Hall, Collation Room, Teaching Room, or any other room or area utilized for Masonic purposes) to a non-masonic commercial enterprise or business **engaged** in the sale or serving of alcoholic beverages, the following shall be obtained by the Particular Lodge prior to entering into such leases:
  - a. A written lease agreement with appropriate hold harmless and indemnity language in favor of the Particular Lodge and Grand Lodge. The lease agreement shall further provide that in the event of any loss relating to the sale or serving of alcohol, the lessee shall give immediate notice to the Particular Lodge (which in turn shall provide such notice to the Grand Secretary), and further giving the Particular Lodge the right to make proof of such loss if not made promptly by the lessee to the lessee's insurance carrier;
  - b. All city, county, state and if applicable, federal licenses;
  - c. Proof of the lessee's insurance coverage (binder, certificate of insurance, or policy) which shall insure the property against all perils including fire, windstorm, flood, and general liability coverage, to include liquor legal liability, in the amount of at least One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) per occurrence/One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) aggregate. The policy must be issued by a company licensed to do business in the State of Florida and possess a financial rating of "A" - Excellent, Class XI, or better according to the A.M. Best & Company rating guide. All Policies shall be maintained in full force and effect during the entire term of the lease and will be endorsed with a clause in favor of the Particular Lodge and The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida, its successors, and/or assigns, P.O. Box 1020, Jacksonville, FL 32201-1020, not to be subject to contribution and provide at least ten (10) days prior notice of cancellation to both the Particular Lodge and the Grand Lodge. Proof of coverage (binder, policy, or certificate of insurance) shall thereafter be delivered to the Grand Secretary on any change or renewal/expiration of such policies.
- II. In the event a Particular Lodge leases all or any portion of any of its properties outside the Lodge proper (such term shall include but not be limited to the Lodge Room, Banquet Hall, Collation Room, Teaching Room, or any other room or area utilized for Masonic purposes) to a non-masonic commercial enterprise or business **not engaged** in the sale or serving of alcoholic beverages, the following must be obtained by the Particular Lodge prior to permitting the serving

of alcoholic beverages to invitees of the lessee for any function or event (e.g., an infrequent exhibition; a business open house where alcohol is served to guests at no charge; an office Christmas party that includes serving alcohol or BYOB):

- a. A written lease agreement with appropriate hold harmless and indemnity language in favor of the Particular Lodge and Grand Lodge. The lease agreement shall further provide that in the event of any loss relating to the sale or serving of alcohol, the lessee will give immediate notice to the Particular Lodge (which in turn shall provide such notice to the Grand Secretary) and further giving the Particular Lodge the right to make proof of such loss if not made promptly by the lessee to the lessee's insurance carrier;
- b. Host liquor liability endorsement to the lessee's general liability policy (which meets the criteria set forth in 1 (c) above without the liquor liability);
- c. A detailed explanation of the function or event, e.g., an infrequent exhibition; a business open house where alcohol is served to guests at no charge; an office Christmas party that includes serving alcohol or BYOB.
- d. Copies of all the above required documents shall be sent to the Grand Secretary.

III. In the event that a Particular Lodge or Club intends to engage in the serving or sale of beer, wine, liquor, or any other alcoholic or intoxicating beverage at any function or event of the location of which is not on Lodge property, the Particular Lodge or Club must:

- a. Possess general liability insurance which must be endorsed with a clause in favor of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida, its successors and/or assigns, P.O. Box 1020, Jacksonville, FL 32201-1020.

and

- b. Obtain a liquor legal liability or host liquor liability endorsement to the foregoing policy with a minimum policy limit of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) aggregate.

or

- a. Obtain a Special Event Policy with the foregoing endorsement and policy limits.
- b. Obtain the proper license(s) from the city, town, county, or state, as applicable.
- c. Comply with procedures and guidelines relating to the registration of the Lodge or Club with the State of Florida. (Ref. GL-220)
- d. Copies of all the above required documents shall be sent to the Grand Secretary.

(2014 Proc. 120-122)

Particular Lodges and Clubs (which term shall include but not be limited to Masters and Wardens Associations, etc.) shall be permitted to conduct fundraising drawings and/or raffles provided all city, town, county, state, and federal laws are complied with, particularly, the 2013 amendments to Florida Statutes, Section 849.0935, which make it illegal to award cash prizes for drawings and/or raffles (included but not limited to 50/50 drawings). In the event the sale of tickets for the drawing and/or raffle is limited to the sponsoring Lodge or Club's membership, it is exempt from the registration requirements of Florida's Charitable Solicitation Law, Chapter 496, Florida Statutes. It must be noted that the fair market value of all winnings from any form of raffles and/or drawings (which are defined as "Gambling" by the Internal Revenue Service Code), is deemed income and fully taxable. The Particular Lodge or Club shall be responsible for becoming familiar with all Internal Revenue Service Code provisions relating to withholding and reporting requirements. Additionally, all Lodges and Clubs are required to familiarize themselves with Form GL 220, Particular Lodge Solicitation Procedures and Guidelines. (2014 Proc. 122)

CHAPTER 48  
MASONIC HOME

**TRUSTEES OF MASONIC HOME AND  
EMERGENCY RELIEF**

**Constitutional Provisions**

The Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home shall be composed of ten (10) members. One (1) member shall be appointed by the Grand Master as Chairman. The Board shall be divided into sub-committees as shall be prescribed by the Constitution or Regulations of the Grand Lodge and such other sub-committees as shall be deemed appropriate by the Chairman of the Board. The Grand Treasurer and the Grand Secretary shall be Treasurer and Secretary, respectively, of the Board. The Grand Master shall designate one of the members of the Board to serve as Vice Chairman. (2019)

Paragraph referring to terms of Board of Trustees Members removed. (2019 Proc. 351)

The members of the Board of Trustees shall be men of experience in the management of or men qualified in professions that acquaint them to the duties and responsibilities of managing and operating all aspects of nursing facilities for the aged, including, but not limited to, accountants, building maintenance, dieticians, doctors, food management, health insurance advisors, inventory management, legal counsel, marketing specialist, nurses, pharmacist, and men of similar training and experience.

The Board shall be divided into such sub-committees as shall be prescribed by the Constitution or Regulations of the Grand Lodge, such as Committee on Admissions and Non-Resident Relief, Long Range Planning/Facility, Masonic Home Budget, Hal W. Adams Hospital Service and Emergency Relief, Masonic Home Activities, and such other sub-committees as shall be deemed appropriate by the Chairman of the Board, which sub-committees shall report to the Board of Trustees the results of their respective investigations with their recommendations. All actions taken by the Board must be approved by a majority thereof.

It shall be the duty and responsibility of the Board of Trustees to determine and fix basic policy for operation of the Masonic Home and Relief Programs; to employ an Administrator to implement, administer, and operate the Masonic Home. No member of the Board of Trustees,

except the Chairman, shall give or attempt to give instructions or directions to the Administrator in respect to administration or operation of the Masonic Home. It shall be the duty of the Chairman to insure strict compliance with the provisions of this paragraph. (2011)

The Board of Trustees shall have the care, custody, and control of Masonic Home property, real and personal, and shall maintain and make routine repairs thereto and shall arrange for insurance coverage through the Insurance Committee and the Corporate Board. (1992) (Art. IX, Sec. 1(3))

The Board of Trustees shall meet not less than once a month, at the Home in St. Petersburg, Florida, on a day to be fixed by the Chairman of the Board; *provided* the Board may hold the monthly meeting at the same location as the Annual Grand Communication for the month of said Annual Grand Communication and at such other times and places as the Grand Master or Chairman of the Board may designate. All actions taken by the Board must be approved by a majority of the membership of the Board. (2014) (Art. XII, Sec. 2)

The Grand Lodge of Florida in Annual Grand Communication shall, by Regulation, adopt such Rules and Regulations as may be found necessary or desirable for the management, operation, and supervision of the Masonic Home and Relief Funds, relating to eligibility for admission to the Home or to receive Masonic Relief, and for the management of finances, and all operations and actions pertaining to the above shall be in strict accord with such Rules and Regulations. (Art. XII, Sec. 4)

All the Rules and Regulations now in effect and not inconsistent with the provisions of this Article shall remain in full force and effect until amended or repealed as herein provided for. (Art. XII, Sec. 5)

**48.01** In approving requests and in extending emergency relief, the Board of Trustees shall apply and enforce the following division of expense of such relief: One-third to be borne by the Particular Lodge, and two-thirds to be borne by the Grand Lodge; *provided*, that in extremely urgent cases only, the Board of Trustees is empowered to waive this rule. (1983)

**48.02** The Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home may prescribe Rules for the operation and government of the Relief Funds of the Masonic Home under the Grand Lodge or its authority subject to review by the Grand Lodge at each Annual Grand Communication; *provided* said Board shall make no change, alteration, or amendment of rules relating to eligibility for admission to the Masonic Home, and for relief, which shall be altered, changed, or amended only by Grand Lodge in Annual Grand Communication; and *provided further* that Grand Lodge may amend any or all rules at any Annual Grand Communication with or without recommendation from the Board of Trustees. (1983)

APPENDIX

**Masonic Home**

**Rules and Regulations**

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS  
GOVERNING EMERGENCY AND  
NON-RESIDENT MEMBER  
RELIEF FUNDS; THE  
HAL W. ADAMS HOSPITAL SERVICE FUND

AND

THE MASONIC HOME OF THE  
STATE OF FLORIDA

June, 1960  
With Revisions

**Digest Of Masonic Law**

**EDICT**

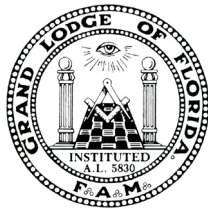
Acting under and by virtue of the authority vested in me as Grand Master of Masons in Florida, I do hereby proclaim and promulgate the following Edict:

The attached Rules and Regulations are and shall be the Rules and Regulations governing Emergency Relief and Non-Resident Member Relief Funds and The Hal W. Adams Hospital Service Fund and The Masonic Home of The State of Florida.

All other Rules and Regulations covering any and all of the foregoing subjects which are in conflict with any of the Rules and Regulations hereby promulgated are superseded pending action on this Edict by The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida.

This Edict shall take effect on July 1, A.D. 1960.

Given under my hand and the Seal of The Grand Lodge this the 27<sup>th</sup> day of June A.L. 5960, A.D. 1960.



J. EDWIN LARSON  
Grand Master



**GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING  
EMERGENCY AND NON-RESIDENT MEMBER  
RELIEF FUNDS; THE  
HAL W. ADAMS HOSPITAL SERVICE FUND  
AND**

**THE MASONIC HOME OF THE  
STATE OF FLORIDA  
JUNE, 1960  
WITH REVISIONS**

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**RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**CHAPTER 1  
AUTHORITY FOR THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**1.01** These Regulations are adopted under the authority of the Grand Lodge and nothing herein shall be construed to be in conflict with the Constitution and Regulations thereof, which Constitution and Regulations are hereby referred to and made a part hereof, it being the intent of these Rules and Regulations to be supplementary of the Grand Lodge Constitution and Regulations.

**CHAPTER 2  
DEFINITIONS**

**2.01** Wherever used in these Regulations the following words shall have the following meaning unless the context shall clearly indicate a different meaning:

- HOME: The Masonic Home of Florida located at St. Petersburg, Florida.
- ADMINISTRATOR: The Administrator of the Masonic Home. (2012)
- ADMISSIONS COORDINATOR: Person at the Masonic Home in charge of handling and preparing the applications for presentation to the Admissions Committee. (2012)
- ORPHAN: The minor child of a deceased Master Mason without regard to whether or not the Mother of such minor child is living or dead.
- RELIEF FUNDS: All funds allocated to Masonic Relief, including the Masonic Home Operating Fund, Emergency Relief Fund, Hal W. Adams Hospital Service Fund, and the Non-Resident Relief Fund.
- HOSPITAL FUND: The Hal W. Adams Hospital Service Fund.
- OPERATING FUND: The Masonic Home Operating Fund.

CHAIRMAN: The Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home.

GRAND MASTER: The Grand Master of Masons of Florida.

GRAND SECRETARY: The Grand Secretary of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida.

GRAND LODGE: The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida.

RELIEF ADMINISTRATOR: The Relief Administrator of Emergency Relief Funds and the Hal W. Adams Hospital Service Fund.

GRAND TREASURER: The Grand Treasurer of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida.

RESIDENT: A person admitted to the Home.

EASTERN STAR: The Order of the Eastern Star.

CASE INVESTIGATOR: The Investigator of the financial affairs of applicants for Masonic Relief who shall be a Florida Mason and who shall be qualified either by training or experience. (2012)

In all cases the masculine gender shall be construed to include the feminine gender.

### CHAPTER 3

#### GENERAL PURPOSES

**3.01** The purpose of the Home is to primarily provide a place of comfort and security for distressed, worthy Master Masons and their wives or widows as qualified under the Life Care Plan and other residents as qualified under the Private Pay Plan as space permits. Master Masons and their wives or widows admitted under the Life Care Plan will always be a priority and have a reserved bed. (2017)

**3.02** The purpose of the Non-Resident Relief Fund is to render sustaining help, aid, and assistance to distressed, worthy Master Masons and their wives, widows, and orphans who are eligible to receive the same.

**3.03** The purpose of the Emergency Relief Fund is to assist in providing emergency help, aid, and assistance to distressed, worthy Master Masons and their wives, widows, and orphans who are eligible therefore.

**3.04** The purpose of the Hospital Fund is to provide medical, surgical, and hospital care or assistance for distressed, worthy Master Masons, their wives, widows, and orphans.

**3.05** Note: Regulation 3.05 of the Masonic Home Rules and Regulations was repealed as the Order of the Eastern Star no longer sponsors admissions to the Masonic Home under the Life Care Plan. (2012 Proc. 377)

## CHAPTER 4

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**4.01** The Board is vested with authority to manage, direct, supervise, and operate the Home and all Relief Funds in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Grand Lodge.

**4.02** The Board shall organize immediately after each Annual Grand Communication or as soon thereafter as practicable.

**4.03** Five members of the Board shall constitute a quorum but no action shall be taken except upon concurring vote of five members.

**4.04** The Board shall meet at least once each month at the Home, on a day affixed by the Chairman; *provided*, the Board may hold the monthly meeting at the same location as the Annual Grand Communication for the month of said Annual Grand Communication; *further provided*, that the Board may meet at other times and places designated by the Grand Master or the Chairman of the Board, with notice to all members of the Board. (2013)

**4.05** The meetings of the Board shall be opened and closed with prayer.

**4.06** The Board shall, at its first regular meeting or as soon thereafter as is practicable, employ an Administrator who shall hold office at the pleasure of the Board, at a salary not to exceed the amount appropriated therefore by the Grand Lodge. The Administrator shall be qualified and licensed in accordance with requirements of the Statutes of the State of Florida.

**4.07** The Board shall have supervision and control of all purchases and contracts made for the operation of the Home. The Board may delegate to the Administrator authority to make such purchases as shall be deemed appropriate for usual and ordinary operations of the Home. They shall cause bills, authorized by the appropriation of the Grand Lodge, to be verified, with budget sub-account numbers designated thereon, and transmitted to the Grand Secretary for payment.

**4.08** The Board shall each month certify the Non-Resident Relief Roll and return it to the Grand Secretary for payment. The roll shall contain the name, address, and the amount to be paid each member as approved by the Board.

**4.09** The Board shall prepare and provide the forms to be used in making application for admission to the Home and for assistance from the Relief Funds, and shall prescribe the method of filing and processing such applications in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Grand Lodge.

**4.10** The Board shall require every officer and employee who is responsible for funds or property of the Home, or Relief Funds, or residents' funds, to give a good and sufficient bond, in such amount as the Board may deem to be proper. All such bonds shall be in the custody of the Grand Master.

**4.11** The Board shall prepare an operating budget for the operation of the Home and Relief Funds, and shall submit the same to the Chairman of the Committee on Finance and Accounts of the Grand Lodge on or before the January Board Meeting of each year. Request and report shall be sent to the Office of the Grand Secretary.

**4.12** At the last meeting of the Board prior to the Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge, the Chairman, the Administrator, the Relief Administrator, and the Chairmen of all Committees shall submit written reports of their activities to the Board, each report shall be included and shall become a part of the Annual Report of the Board. The Administrator's report shall include an annual inventory. The Board may require reports of such activities at any other time.

**4.13** The Board shall, at the close of each fiscal year, submit to the Grand Lodge an Annual Report of the operations of the Home and Relief Funds.

**4.14** The Board shall immediately report to the Committee on Grand Lodge Properties all real and tangible property acquired for the Grand Lodge by said Board. The disposition and management of said property shall be by direction of the Committee on Grand Lodge Properties, subject to the Rules and Regulations governing said property. Intangible property shall be referred to the Corporate Board for disposition. The Administrator of the Masonic Home shall release jewelry only to the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Properties Committee after a certified appraisal to be procured by the Administrator. (1991)

**4.15** Traveling Expenses-Members of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home, the Senior Grand Warden, and Junior Grand Warden of Grand Lodge. Travel and subsistence expenses shall be paid as per Regulation 13.25.

**4.16** The Chairman shall appoint such sub-committees from the Board as he shall deem necessary or expedient. (1983)

**4.17** All transactions, actions, and decisions of the Board shall be subject to the approval of the Grand Master.

## References

In relating to financial matters in the admission of residents, see Masonic Home Rules and Regulations 7.05.1. (2011 Proc. 375)





## CHAPTER 5

**TREASURER AND SECRETARY**

**5.01** The Grand Secretary shall preserve as permanent records of the Grand Lodge all records of the actions and transactions of the Board, together with all papers, correspondence, and books, pertaining to the Home and the Relief Funds. The Grand Secretary shall compile the minutes of the meetings of the Board each year in the appropriate binder.

**5.02** The Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary shall perform such duties in regard to the Home and Relief Funds as shall be prescribed by Grand Lodge Constitution and these Regulations.

## CHAPTER 6

**ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION TO THE MASONIC HOME AND NON-RESIDENT RELIEF**

**6.01** (a) Those eligible for admission to the Home under the Life Care Plan are distressed, worthy Master Masons, dual members, their wives and widows, subject to the conditions, limitations, and restrictions set forth in the Rules and Regulations. (2012)

(b) Those eligible for Non-Resident Relief are distressed, worthy Master Masons, their wives, widows, and orphans, subject to the conditions, limitations, and restrictions set forth in the Rules and Regulations. (2012)

(c) Admission for residency under the Private Pay Plan in the Masonic Home of Florida shall be allowed based upon a monthly fee schedule, which will be established by the Board of Trustees and will be comparable to fees charged by commercial life care establishments doing business in the State of Florida. Residents admitted under this program will not be obliged to convey any of his property interest to the Grand Lodge except for the monthly fees and entry fee deposit. (2008)

**6.02** No person shall be admitted to the Home who is suffering from any communicable disease; or is of unsound mind; or who is intemperate or addicted to narcotics or alcoholic liquors; or is of such disposition that he cannot live in harmony with other residents of the Home or whose general mobility condition is not acceptable to the Board.

**6.03** Qualifications of a Master Mason, his wife, widow, mother\*, father\*, ladies of the Order of the Eastern Star\*, or other non-Masons qualified as defined in Masonic Home Regulation 6.02\*, to be admitted to residency in the Masonic Home: (\*as to the Private Pay Plan only) (2017)

(a) The Master Mason under the Life Care Plan must have become a member or dual member of a Florida Lodge before he attained the age of seventy (70) years. (2008)

(b) The Master Mason under the Life Care Plan must have been a member or dual member in good standing in a Florida Lodge for not less than ten (10) years, the last three (3) of which must have been continuous, and in the event he became a member of a Florida Lodge by affiliation from another Grand Jurisdiction, he also must have been a bona fide resident of the State of Florida for ten (10) years after such affiliation. (2008)

(c) The ten year or 70 year age requirement may be waived under the following circumstances: (2014)

(1) Applicant has been a member in good standing continuously to date of application and meets all other requirements, and by unanimous vote of all Board members present, and by approval of the Grand Master. (2021)

(d) The wife or widow of a Master Mason is only eligible for residency in the Home based on the Master Mason's Lodge membership.

(e) The Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home may allocate a portion of the rooms available at the Masonic Home for use by qualified individuals as defined in Masonic Home Regulation 6.02 on the Private Pay Plan. Florida Masons, their wives, widows, or mothers will have preference for admission to the Masonic Home of Florida under the Private Pay Plan. Admissions under the Life Care Plan will have preference and priority over admissions under the Private Pay Plan. (2017)

**6.04** The qualification for a Master Mason, his wife, widow, or orphans to receive Non-Resident Relief shall be the same as (a), (b), (c), and (d) of Section 6.03.

**6.05** Note: Regulation 6.05 of the Masonic Home Rules and Regulations was repealed as the Order of the Eastern Star no longer sponsors admissions to the Masonic Home under the Life Care Plan. (2008)

**6.06** All admissions to the Home or to the Non-Resident Relief roll shall be made at the discretion of the Board of Trustees and not as a matter of right.

**6.07** No change, alteration, or amendment shall be made in the provisions of this Chapter except by direct action of the Grand Lodge in Annual Grand Communication.

#### CHAPTER 7

##### **PROCEDURE FOR ADMISSION TO THE MASONIC HOME AND FOR NON-RESIDENT RELIEF**

**7.01** The form of application for admission to the Home under Life Care or Private Pay plans, for Non-Resident Relief or for Emergency Relief, or aid from the Hospital Fund shall be prepared by the Board of Trustees and presented to and adopted by the Corporate Board. (2012)

**7.02** Applications to the Masonic Home under the Life Care Plan and Non-Resident Relief: (2008)

(a) Every application for admission to the Home must be initiated and sponsored by the Lodge of the person on whose membership the application is based. (2012)

(b) Every application for Non-Resident Relief must be initiated and sponsored by the Lodge of the person on whose membership the application is based. (2012)

All applications must be in writing upon prescribed forms furnished to the Lodges by the Grand Lodge Office or the Masonic Home. (2012)

(c) The completed applications from Lodges shall then be presented to the District Deputy Grand Master for his further review, and upon his approval and signature, shall then be presented to the Admissions Coordinator of the Masonic Home. (2012)

(d) All Applications for Admission to the Masonic Home shall be received by the Admissions Coordinator at least ten (10) days prior to the next regular meeting of the Board. The Admissions Coordinator shall thereupon furnish copies of non-medical portions of the Application to the Chairman of the Admissions Committee and to the Attorney of the Board of Trustees. (2012)

(e) All Applications for Non-Resident Relief shall be forwarded to the Chairman of the Admissions Committee at least ten (10) days prior to the next regular meeting of the Board. (2012)

**7.03** (a) The Admissions Committee shall make such investigations as may be necessary or required, and shall present such applications to the Board of Trustees at the next meeting following completion of such investigation together with the recommendation of the Committee. Upon considering the report of the Admissions Committee, the Board of Trustees may approve or disapprove the admission of the applicant to the Home or grant such other relief as may be justified. When approved by the Board of Trustees and the Grand Master, the applicant may be admitted to the Home or placed on the Non-Resident Relief roll. (2012)

(b) The Administrator of the Home shall receive all applications under the Private Pay Plan and refer them to the appropriate Department Heads for recommendations as to acceptance or rejection regarding fraternal, financial, health, and mobility eligibility. The Administrator will refer the application with recommendation to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees for his approval with the concurrence of the Grand Master. (2008)

**7.04** (a) Every applicant who is accepted for admittance to the Home under the Life Care Plan who owns any property, real, personal, or mixed, shall be required to convey all of his or her interest in such property to the Grand Lodge for the use and benefit of the Home, except that a member of a Particular Lodge may assign, give, bequeath, donate, transfer, or by any other means or device, convey up to but not to exceed thirty-three and one third percent (33 $\frac{1}{3}$ %) of his entire estate (unexpended residual funds at the time of the death of the resident) to a Particular Lodge Chartered by The Grand Lodge of Florida and/or to The Grand Lodge of Florida, and retain eligibility for residency in The Masonic Home of Florida; *provided*, however, the following provisions shall apply: (2016)

- (1) Said applicant shall be permitted to retain the use and disposition of ten percent (10%) of all of his or her liquid assets in excess of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for his or her personal use and disposition. Said ten percent (10%) allocation shall apply to all assets subsequently liquidated and/or after acquired.
- (2) Grand Lodge shall create and maintain separate ledger accounts reflecting the disposition of the liquid assets of the residents. The first ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) shall be credited to the Resident Members Trust Account. The balance of the residents liquid assets shall be divided and credited as follows: ninety percent (90%) to the Resident Members Trust Account, and ten percent (10%) for the use and benefit of the resident. The amount held for the use and benefit of the resident may be withdrawn by the resident at any time and from time to time and used in any manner the resident determines. The balance remaining in said account at the death of the resident shall be transferred to the Resident Member's Trust Account. Quarterly statements reflecting the balance in each of these accounts shall be provided to the respective residents. Ten percent (10%) of the resident's monthly excess income over maintenance cost shall be deposited in the resident's personal account and 90% of the excess shall be deposited in the Resident's Trust Fund. (2003)

If the property of the applicant is held in an estate by the entireties of the Board of Trustees with the approval of the Corporate Board shall require (2011):

- (1) The conveyance by the applicant and his spouse of all such property to the Grand Lodge for use and benefit of the Home, or
- (2) The conveyance by the applicant and his spouse of any part or portion of such property to the Grand Lodge for use and benefit of the Home, or
- (3) The conveyance by the applicant and his spouse of all or any part or portion of such property to the Grand Lodge for the use and benefit of the Home subject to life estate of applicant's spouse in such property or a part or portion thereof, or
- (4) The compliance by the applicant and his spouse with any combination of the above requirements.

Any conveyance of any property in which the applicant's spouse retains a life estate shall provide that said life estate shall terminate in the event such spouse shall sell, convey, assign, or transfer or attempt to sell, convey, assign, or transfer said life estate to any other person and shall further provide that Grand Lodge shall not sell or convey the property subject to said life estate until after termination of such life estate.

The provisions of this section shall apply to all current and future residents of the Home. (2012)

(b) Subject to the provisions of Section 7.04(a), every applicant shall sign an agreement to transfer, convey, and deliver any and all moneys or property to the Grand Lodge for the use and benefit of the Home which may come to him or her after admittance to the Home and shall execute and deliver such documents as may be reasonably required to facilitate such transfer, conveyance, and delivery, including but not limited to a Durable Power of Attorney. (2012)

(c) All residents of the Home shall be required to sign an agreement and comply with all Rules and Regulations now in effect or as may be hereafter adopted by the Grand Lodge. (2007)

(d) It shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master of the Lodge and the District Deputy Grand Master processing an application to advise the applicant and family of all provisions of these Rules and Regulations. (2008)

(e) All deeds, bills of sale, checks, assignments, and abstracts, title insurance policies, life insurance policies, casualty insurance policies, and all other papers and documents affecting and bearing on the right, title, and interest of the applicant in and to all property being conveyed, transferred, or assigned shall be transmitted to the Administrator immediately after such applicant has been tentatively approved by the Board for admission. The applicant may retain cash and other items being used for living expenses until admitted into the Home at which time such items and the balance of any cash shall be delivered to the Administrator upon arrival of the applicant at the Home, which are to be turned over to the Grand Secretary to be credited in accordance with Regulation 7.04(a). (2012)

(f) All real and tangible personal properties coming into the possession of the Board shall be turned over to the Grand Lodge Properties Committee for disposition. Said property shall be sold or handled for the best interest of the Grand Lodge for the use and benefit of the Masonic Home; and the proceeds thereof to be credited to the Resident Members Trust Account. (2008)

(g) Any applicant for admission to the Home or for relief funds who has deeded or disposed of property in any manner within five (5) years prior to making application shall be ineligible unless it is established that such property was disposed of for adequate consideration in order to secure funds to care for such applicant or applicant's dependent, or said property is re-conveyed to applicant and/or conveyed to Grand Lodge for the use and benefit of the Masonic Home; or said property was/is conveyed to a Particular Lodge and/or Grand Lodge and does not constitute a part greater than thirty-three and one third percent (33 $\frac{1}{3}$ %) of applicant's estate. (2008)

(h) Whenever title to real property is being conveyed to the Grand Lodge by the applicant, a title search and examination shall be conducted by an attorney or title company designated by or approved by the Grand Master prior to such conveyance. The cost of such title search or examination, together with the cost of any recording fees or documentary stamps advanced for the recording of the warranty deed to Grand Lodge, shall be deducted from the net proceeds of the sale of such real property. (2012)

(i) Whenever any papers and documents are to be recorded in the public records of any county or state, such recording shall not be done until the applicant has entered the Home as a resident thereof.

(j) After six months from the date of entry to the Home of a new resident, or upon a proper waiver of the six months, or in the event of such new resident's demise after being admitted to the Home but before the *expiration* of said six months period, then all property conveyed to the Grand Lodge by such resident is subject to such disposition as the Grand Lodge may determine. However, if the new resident's spouse is also a resident, the remaining trust fund balance of the new resident shall be transferred in full to the surviving spouse. (2012)

If any boats, automobiles, trailers, furniture, or any other personal property of whatsoever kind or nature are involved, they should be disposed of as soon as practical and the funds be credited to the Resident Members Trust Account.

**7.05** When the Board has approved the admission to the Home of an applicant under the Life Care Plan, the following shall be the procedure to further process the application:

- (1) The Admissions Coordinator shall notify the sponsoring Lodge by letter to bring the applicant and any requirements concerning assets to the Home. If the applicant is not presented within thirty (30) days from date of such correspondence, it will be necessary to file a new application unless the Board extends such time in its discretion. (2012)
- (2) When the Admissions Coordinator has completed all of the paper work and secured the information needed for the office, the application shall be transmitted along with all official papers to the Grand Secretary for permanent file. (2012)

Upon receipt of the notice of approval by the Admissions Coordinator, of an applicant for admission to the Home, the sponsoring Lodge shall provide transportation to the Home for the applicant and if required, provide attendants, in order that the applicant shall be delivered to the Home at the time designated by the Administrator. (2012)



**7.05.1** The Grand Master is vested with absolute discretion in approving or disapproving the actions of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home as they relate to Fraternal Matters in the admission of residents. The Corporate Board is vested with the authority over the actions of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home as they relate to financial matters in the admission of residents. (2011)

**7.06** The responsibility of the Lodge for the welfare of a resident admitted to the Home under the Life Care Plan does not cease upon such admission, but is a continuing responsibility, and the Lodge must assume full responsibility in any situation when notified thereof by the Board or Administrator. (2008)

**7.07** All applicants for Non-Resident Relief approved by the Board of Trustees and the Corporate Board shall be on a month to month basis, and shall be certified to the Grand Secretary each month. The Grand Secretary shall make remittances to the applicant or to the one designated by the Board of Trustees to receive the assistance for the applicant. The Board of Trustees shall from time to time request the sponsoring Lodge and the District Deputy Grand Master to make investigation and to certify to the Board of Trustees that further assistance is needed. A Lodge having knowledge of any change in the condition of a recipient of relief funds shall immediately report the same to the Board of Trustees. (2011)

**7.08 (a)** Worthy applicants for Non-Resident Relief are not always indigent. It is the duty of this Board of Trustees to recover, if possible, the moneys granted for Non-Resident Relief, so that it might be available for those less fortunate.

**(b)** When the applicant for Non-Resident Relief owns real property or other valuable assets, the Board of Trustees shall have the authority to require of the applicant security for the repayment of the money granted.

The Board of Trustees shall exercise this authority upon Masonic principles of right and justice, and shall have full discretion as to the requirement thereof, and the method, time, etc., in the administration of same.

**(c)** All action by the Board of Trustees pursuant to Section 7.08 (b) shall be subject to the approval of the Corporate Board. (2011)

### **Rulings and Decisions**

~~Grand Master is vested with absolute discretion in approving or disapproving action of Trustees of Masonic Home in regard to admission of applicants. (1967 Proc. 74, 210) (Repealed 2011)~~

The Grand Master is vested with absolute discretion in approving or disapproving actions of Trustees of the Masonic Home in regard to admission of applicants when it relates to Fraternal matters only. Only the Corporate Board of The Grand Lodge of Florida has the authority to accept or reject the recommendation of Trustees of the Masonic Home in regards to the financial matters of an applicant when dealing with his or her admission. (2011 Proc. 142)

## CHAPTER 8

**VOLUNTARY AND INVOLUNTARY  
DISCHARGE FROM HOME, TEMPORARY LEAVE OF  
ABSENCE AND FUNERALS**

**8.01** In the event a resident of the Home repeatedly violates any of the Rules and Regulations of the Home as may from time to time be amended, or it is found that their application was based upon false statements or the concealment of assets, said resident shall be subject to dismissal from the Home. The resident will be provided not less than thirty (30) days written notice of dismissal by the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home, unless there has been a good faith determination that the applicant is a danger to himself, herself, or others in which event only such notice as is reasonable under the circumstances shall be provided. In the event such action is taken, the Admissions Coordinator or appropriate Department Head shall arrange for alternate facilities for the resident. (2012)

An applicant may cancel his or her application to the Masonic Home within seven (7) days after executing said application. The applicant shall not be required to move into the facility before expiration of the seven (7) day period. The application to the Masonic Home may be cancelled by the applicant after occupying the Home upon not less than thirty (30) days written notice to the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home. (2012)

Upon cancellation of the Contract of Applicant under the Masonic Home of Florida Life Care Program by either the Board of Trustees or the applicant, the value of any property received by the Home through the time of cancellation and/or any monies received from the applicant, less the reasonable cost of services to the applicant, a four percent (4%) processing and an administrative fee of two percent (2%) per month, shall be refunded to the applicant. Such refund shall be made within 120 days after the giving of the notice of cancellation. (2012)

**8.02** All applicants are admitted to the Home conditioned upon a favorable report by the Home physician. If such report shall be unfavorable, the Lodge requesting the admission of said applicant shall be notified by the Administrator of the rejection and be required to pay the expense incurred in returning the applicant to the place designated by said Lodge. (2012)

**8.03** A resident may be given a leave of absence upon all of the following:

- (1) Completion of leave of absence forms as prescribed by the Board of Trustees;
- (2) Notification to the sponsoring Lodge of the details of the leave of absence shall serve to invoke the responsibility of said Lodge as set forth in Rule 7.06; (2012)
- (3) Completion by members of the family or persons whom the resident wishes to visit, of such responsibility forms as prescribed by the Board of Trustees;
- (4) Approval of the Home physician after examination and concurrence of the Administrator;
- (5) Approval by the Board of Trustees. If the leave of absence does not exceed two weeks in length and two hundred miles in distance, the Administrator may act

in lieu of Board approval. In case of emergency leave, over the limitations allowed, if the Board of Trustees approval cannot be timely obtained, the Administrator must obtain authorization in the most expedient manner from the Chairman or the Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees, or the Grand Master.

**8.04** Funeral Procedure for Life Care Residents who do not have prepaid funeral or cremation arrangements:

Life Care Residents of the Masonic Home of Florida that do not have prepaid funeral service or cremation arrangements will have the following services provided by The Masonic Home of Florida and available from Anderson McQueen Funeral Home of St. Petersburg, Florida, or such other funeral home as may subsequently be approved by the Board of Trustees. (2012)

The Masonic Home of Florida agrees to pay for the following:

- (1) A traditional funeral service or memorial service for cremation may be held at Anderson McQueen Funeral Home if desired, the Masonic Home Chapel, a church within the limits of Pinellas County, or such other funeral home as may subsequently be approved by the Board of Trustees. (2012)
- (2) Interment or internment at Memorial Park Cemetery Masonic Section in St. Petersburg, Florida (includes opening and closing of this gravesite only). (2012)
  - (a) Service Folders, Register Book (2012)
  - (b) Visitation at Anderson McQueen Funeral Home, if desired.

Any request made by the resident's family to the Funeral Home not within the scope of items listed above will be the sole responsibility of the family. The family must arrange for payment of these items with the funeral home. (2012)

Any deviation from this policy will only be allowed at the discretion of the Administrator or authorized representative of the Masonic Home of Florida. (2012)

## CHAPTER 9

**ADMINISTRATOR OF THE MASONIC HOME**

**9.01** The Administrator shall manage and supervise the operation of the Home. He shall be responsible for the care, comfort, and well-being of the residents of the Home and for all funds and property entrusted to his care. He shall attend all meetings of the Board of Trustees unless excused therefrom by the Chairman or the Grand Master.

**9.02** The Administrator, under the supervision of the Board of Trustees, may employ employees at such salaries and wages as the Board may

specify, which must be within the amounts appropriated by the Grand Lodge for salaries and wages. The Administrator may discharge any employee for cause but he shall report all discharges to the Board, giving reasons therefore if requested. He shall be responsible for the employees' performance of their duties and for their conduct. The Administrator shall require from all employees such information on such forms as shall from time to time be approved by the Board or by Grand Lodge.

**9.03** The Administrator shall use the revolving payroll account in the payment of salaries and wages for services rendered at the Masonic Home under the following conditions:

(a) The payroll account shall not be used for any purposes except the payment of salaries and wages.

(b) All payments of salaries and wages must be within the budget appropriations therefore, and must be authorized by the Board of Trustees, or their representative. Vouchers as provided by the Grand Lodge must be used in making these payments. A copy of each voucher, together with requisitions for the replenishing of the account, shall be sent to the Grand Secretary.

(c) The Administrator shall preserve copies of the vouchers and remittance letters, and records of verification as received from the Grand Secretary.

**9.04** The Administrator shall have the authority to purchase such supplies, provisions, and materials for usual and ordinary operations of the Home as authorized by the Board. He shall regularly submit all bills and invoices for purchases to the Board or a member thereof designated by the Board with the budget sub-account number placed thereon for their consideration and review. When such bills and invoices are approved by the Board or its authority, they shall be forwarded to the Grand Secretary who shall prepare proper vouchers for the payment of same.

**9.05** The Administrator shall make a detailed monthly report of his expenditures from the "Petty Cash Fund." The Petty Cash Fund should be audited quarterly by the Grand Lodge Auditors.

**9.06** The Administrator shall advise the Grand Secretary of any outside hospital care or specialist treatment furnished to each resident of the Home and a copy of said report shall be given to the Board.

**9.07** The Administrator shall issue receipts, in triplicate, for all moneys, non-cash items (foods, etc.), and gifts received by him for

the use and benefit of the Home or its residents. The original shall be given to the payor or donor; one copy shall be retained for files at the Home, and one copy shall be sent to the Grand Secretary with remittance of the funds. A report of this shall be listed in his monthly report to the Board.

**9.08** The Administrator shall prepare and submit at each monthly meeting of the Board a complete written statistical report. The report shall include a list of all discharges from and admittances to the Home, together with a complete statement of all moneys, non-cash items, and gifts, received by the Home. He shall prepare and submit to the Board at its last regular meeting of the year an annual written report, giving a summary of the activities of the Home.

**9.09** The Administrator shall, upon admittance of a new resident to the Home, make a complete inventory of all his or her property and effects in excess of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) in value, brought into the Home by such resident. This inventory shall be signed by the said resident, acknowledging its correctness, and it shall be kept on file at the Home. Any change in property held for any resident of the Home shall be noted and signed by the resident. Upon the death of a resident of the Home, the inventory shall be submitted to the Board, a copy forwarded to the Grand Secretary, and one copy filed at the Home.

**9.10** The Administrator shall, upon the death of a resident of the Home, take possession of the property of such resident, make a written inventory of same and after inventory has been taken, keep all property intact and report fully to the Board at the next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees after the death of the resident for instructions.

**9.11** The Administrator shall be treasurer for the resident "Savings Account" funds. These funds shall be placed in a bank in the name of "Masonic Home of Florida Guests Accounts" subject to his deposit and withdrawal. A complete record shall be kept in the Administrator's Office of each resident's savings. This account should be audited quarterly by the auditors of the Grand Lodge and at such times as the Board may request. A written report shall be furnished the Board and the Grand Secretary on or before its March meeting, showing funds on hand. Any funds remaining in this account at the death of a resident shall be forwarded to the Grand Secretary.

**9.12** The Administrator shall prepare on April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year a complete inventory of all equipment, personal property, supplies, and any other items owned by the Home, and make written report to

the Board of Trustees and the Grand Secretary within ten days, for its verification and approval.

**9.13** The Administrator shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Trustees or by the Grand Lodge.

## CHAPTER 10

### EMERGENCY RELIEF

**10.01** Emergency Relief shall be given only to those distressed, worthy Master Masons, who are members of regular Lodges working under a Charter granted by Grand Lodge and to their distressed, worthy wives, widows, and orphans whose need is urgent and who cannot provide for themselves, are not eligible to sufficient assistance from the State Welfare Board or who cannot be otherwise provided for. (For further information on eligibility, see Chapter 6, Section 6.03, paragraphs (a), (b), (c) and (d).) Assistance from this fund shall not exceed the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) total for any one case, neither shall it extend for a period longer than three months, but by unanimous vote of all Board of Trustees Members present and approval of Grand Master, the limit may be increased. (2012)

**10.02** It shall be the duty of the Relief Administrator to thoroughly investigate every application received by him for emergency relief and to consider, determine, and administer the Emergency Relief Fund in accordance with these Rules and Regulations, as his best judgment may deem proper and necessary.

**10.03** The Relief Administrator shall keep an accurate, full, and complete record of all his transactions, including all receipts and disbursements, and make full report thereof to the Board of Trustees in writing at each monthly meeting, together with report of all applications and correspondence; and he shall at the last meeting of the Board of Trustees submit an annual written report.

**10.04** Applications for Emergency Relief shall be submitted through the Lodge where the Master Mason, upon whose membership the application is based, is in good standing. The application shall be properly filled out and every question fully answered, and be signed by the Worshipful Master and Secretary and bear the Seal of the Lodge. The complete facts in every case must be stated. The Lodge shall recommend the amount of relief needed. The application shall contain an agreement of the Lodge to contribute 33⅓% of the relief granted. If the Lodge claims exemption from the payment of 33⅓% of the requested grant, it shall furnish a statement of the

financial condition of the Lodge, the number of its members, a statement of the dues paid per member each year and furnish satisfactory explanation of its inability to contribute. Upon completion of the application, it shall be sent to the District Deputy Grand Master of the District who shall review the application and make such recommendations as he deems proper. When the application is fully completed, the District Deputy shall forward it to the Relief Administrator for action thereon. When the Relief Administrator deems it worthy and necessary he may waive a part or all of the Lodge's contribution if they are unable to pay the same or when it would work a hardship upon the Lodge and when the Lodge is collecting reasonable dues from its members. The Lodge shall attach and enclose a check or money order for their portion of the requested grant made payable to Grand Lodge. The Relief Administrator shall forward such checks and money orders to the Grand Secretary with requisitions of payments for Emergency Relief, and the Grand Secretary shall deposit such funds in the current income account to the credit of the Emergency Relief Fund. The Relief Administrator shall, upon approving an application for grant from these funds, forward a requisition to the Grand Secretary for the payment to be made in each case and voucher shall be issued as directed. Each month the Relief Administrator shall make a requisition for payment to those continued upon the Emergency Relief roll and enclose the check or money order from the Lodge. The requisition shall contain the name and address of the person to whom the assistance is to be sent, the amount to be paid and the written approval of the Relief Administrator. Upon receipt of the requisition, the Grand Secretary shall draw the vouchers for payment of such relief and mail same to the recipients or Lodge as designated. The Grand Secretary shall attach the requisition to a copy of the vouchers and preserve them as permanent records of the Grand Lodge.

**10.05** The Relief Administrator may, in cases of extreme urgency, waive the formal application provided for herein, upon a guarantee from the Lodge that it will reimburse the Emergency Relief Fund for all funds paid out at its request if, after formal application is filed, it appears that the case is not worthy.

## CHAPTER 11

### HAL W. ADAMS HOSPITAL SERVICE FUND

**11.01** A worthy Master Mason, his wife, widow, and orphans are eligible for assistance from this fund provided:



- (a) A Master Mason must have been raised in a Florida Lodge and be in good standing at the time of making application for relief.
- (b) If he became a member of a Florida Lodge through affiliation from another Grand Jurisdiction he must have affiliated before reaching the age of sixty-six (66) years; must have been a bona fide resident of the State of Florida and a dues paying member of a Florida Lodge for at least ten (10) years and shall have been a member in good standing for at least ten (10) years immediately preceding the date of application. (1999)
- (c) The wives, widows, and orphans are eligible based on the Master Mason's eligibility.
- (d) The applicant must be sick, afflicted, or injured and in need of medical, surgical, or hospital care, and be without money, or other means to secure the needed service, or has received these services and is unable to pay for same.
- (e) Original grants from this fund are not to exceed the sum of Five Hundred (\$500.00) Dollars; *provided*, however, that where a greater need is apparent to the Relief Administrator, he may, with the approval of the Board, make an additional grant.
- (f) Assistance for hospitalization from these funds shall provide ward accommodations only unless the physician in charge shall file in the hospital records of the case a written order that a private room is necessary.
- (g) All applications must be filed through the Lodge and shall be processed in like manner as Application for Emergency Relief except that no contribution shall be required from the Lodge; and *provided further* that the Relief Administrator may in cases of extreme urgency waive the filing of formal application before the grant is made, but the Lodge must assume responsibility for such grants, if it is later found that the applicant is not eligible under these Rules and Regulations.
- (h) The Relief Administrator shall process applications as quickly as received provided they meet all requirements of eligibility. He shall make a written report to the Board at each of the monthly meetings showing all expenditures.

## CHAPTER 12

## FUNDS AND FINANCIAL PROCEDURE

**12.01** The Home and Relief Funds shall be budgeted and expended in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and Regulations governing budgeting and expenditure of Grand Lodge Funds.

**12.02** The Fiscal year for the operation of the Home and Relief Funds shall be from April 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>.

**12.03** At the beginning of each fiscal year, the Board may authorize the Administrator to requisition money from the Grand Lodge for a Petty Cash Fund Account; the amount of money needed to be determined by the Board and Administrator. The Administrator may send in requisition to replenish the Petty Cash Fund as needed. There shall be attached to the requisition all paid bills with budget sub-account numbers designated. This requisition shall have the approval signature of the Board or its authorized member. The Grand Master may increase or decrease the amount of budgeted money to be carried in the Petty Cash Fund.

**12.04** At the beginning of each fiscal year, the Grand Secretary, with the authorization of the Corporate Board, shall provide the sum of one month's payroll for a revolving payroll account for the use of the Masonic Home in the payment of salaries and wages. This account shall be in the name of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida and operate upon the following conditions:

- (a) The Grand Lodge shall provide vouchers in triplicate and consecutively numbered for use of the Masonic Home in the payment of authorized and approved salaries and wages for authorized services rendered the Masonic Home and its residents.
- (b) The Grand Lodge shall provide for the vouchers to be signed: The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida, By \_\_\_\_\_, Administrator.  
(Which shall be the Administrator of the Home).
- (c) The Grand Lodge shall provide for the depository to mail or deliver all monthly statements and paid checks to the Grand Secretary, The Masonic Building, 220 N Ocean Street, Jacksonville, Florida 32202.

- (d) The Grand Secretary shall verify the statements and certify such verification to the Administrator immediately, and file the statement and paid checks as permanent records of the Grand Lodge.
- (e) The Grand Secretary shall prepare vouchers to replenish the payroll account upon receipt of an approved requisition from the Administrator when copies of approved vouchers are attached. The Grand Secretary shall mail or deliver deposits to the depository to replenish such payroll account, and one (1) copy of the remittance letter of deposit list shall be mailed to the Administrator.
- (f) The Grand Secretary shall render to the Board of Trustees and the Administrator a monthly statement of the payroll account.
- (g) All payroll checks shall be made out in triplicate, the original going to the employee, the duplicate copy to the Grand Secretary with requisition, and the triplicate copy retained in the Office of the Administrator.
- (h) The Administrator shall make up a payroll sheet for each payroll, showing all deductions made from salaries.

**12.05** All bills and accounts shall be charged against the proper budget sub-account. The Board of Trustees may request the Corporate Board to transfer funds from one budget sub-account to another budget sub-account, within the “D-The Masonic Home and Relief Fund” account, to meet anticipated expenditures. The appropriation and budget as set up and approved by the Grand Lodge, or as amended by the Corporate Board, for the operation of the Home and Relief Funds shall be binding upon the Board of Trustees and no expenditures shall be made except in accordance therewith. (2011)

**12.06** The Grand Secretary shall prepare voucher checks for the disbursement of funds of Account “D-The Masonic Home and Relief Fund.”

**12.07** Statements of the Masonic Home. “The Grand Secretary shall prepare as soon as practicable after the close of each month, a detailed statement of each and every Budget

Account of the Home and Relief Funds. This statement shall show the amount appropriated by the Grand Lodge and any amendments made by the Corporate Board for each account to total amount expended from each account to date, and the balance of unexpended funds in each account to date. The Grand Secretary shall mail a copy of this statement together with complete minutes of the monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees to each member of the Corporate Board, Legal Advisors to the Board, Elected Grand Lodge Officers, Past Grand Masters, the Administrator; and such other persons or organizations as may request them in writing to the Grand Secretary; and that condensed minutes be furnished to the Particular Lodges and all others on the mailing list of the Grand Lodge.”

**12.08** (a) Resident Members Trust Account. Except as otherwise provided in Regulation 7.04(a), any funds received from a resident of the Home shall be deposited in the “Resident Members Trust Account” to the credit of the particular resident. Individual accounts shall be maintained for each resident having such trust funds. (1994)

The “Resident Members Trust Account” shall be charged with an initial admission fee of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) to offset the costs of admission of said resident into the Home. A resident’s trust account shall also be charged for any expense incurred by the Home in providing outside hospital or medical care for the resident.

In addition to the foregoing, a regular monthly charge shall be made against each Resident Members Trust Account in an amount determined and fixed by the Board of Trustees and approved by Grand Lodge or by the Corporate Board during the recess of Grand Lodge. (2011)

When making a charge against the individual trust accounts of residents, the Grand Secretary shall credit the same to the Current Income Account for “D-The Masonic Home and Relief Fund.”

In the event any resident of the Home is discharged from the Home, said discharged resident shall be refunded with the balance remaining in his or her trust account after deduction of the charges as hereinabove provided. Each discharged resident

shall be furnished a detailed statement of his or her trust account for the period of time in which said person was a resident of the Home.

(b) Upon the death of a resident member any funds in his or her trust account shall be held for a period of ninety (90) days for payment of the following:

- (1) Two hundred dollars (\$200.00) to defray funeral expense.
- (2) Reimbursement for expense of hospitalization, medical services, drugs, surgery, and similar items and expenses incurred for extraordinary attention and services and not previously paid from said Trust Fund.
- (3) After expiration of said period of ninety (90) days any remaining balance shall be transferred and credited to the Masonic Home Endowment Fund.  
(2012)

**12.09** The Board of Trustees shall provide spending money monthly for residents of the Home in accordance with the budget as adopted by Grand Lodge. These funds shall be disbursed to residents by the Administrator.

## CHAPTER 13

### CHILDREN

**13.01** It is recognized that admission of children to membership in the Home under present conditions is impracticable and undesirable. The obligation to care for, educate, and provide for the welfare of the orphan children of Master Masons, however, is an obligation sacred to Masons, and in the event of application for aid for such orphan children, such aid, help, and assistance as is necessary or appropriate shall be given or arranged by the Board of Trustees with the approval of the Grand Master.

## Digest of Masonic Law

### FORMS

The Grand Lodge furnishes its Lodges with completed membership Returns, and if the Secretaries do not receive them by the 1<sup>st</sup> day of February, in each and every year, the Grand Secretary should be notified. It also furnishes to its Lodges, upon proper application to the Grand Secretary, the following blanks:

<i>No.</i>	<i>Forms</i>
GL 101	Certificate for Membership (used for traveling)
GL 104	Certificate in Lieu of Lost Dimit
GL 300	Proficiency Cards
GL 301	Dues Cards
GL 303	Gold Seals - Voluntary Contributor Endowment Fund
GL 401	Requisition for Supplies
GL 404	Instructions for Amending By-Laws
GL 601	Petitions for the Three Degrees
GL 601a	Applicant Background Waiver
GL 602	Supplementary Information for Petition
GL 603	Affiliation by Trsf. Cert. (Petition)
GL 604	Petition for Trsf. Cert. and Trsf. Cert. (becomes Dimit)
GL 604c	Petition for Cert. of G.S. & Cert. of G.S. for Dual Member
GL 604d	Petition for Cert. of G.S. & Cert. of G.S. for Plural Member
GL 605	Reinstatement Petitions
GL 606	Affiliation by Dimit (Petition)
GL 607	Dimits for Master Masons
GL 608	Dual Membership Petitions
GL 609	Statements for Dues (Not Computerized)
GL 610	Delinquent Dues Notices (1st and 2nd)
GL 611	Dimits for E.A. and F.C.
GL 612	Request for Dispensation
GL 613	Cert. of Withdrawal from Dual Membership
GL 615	Petition for Plural Membership
GL 616	Cert. of Withdrawal from Plural Membership
GL 700	Waiver of Jurisdiction
GL 701	Summons to attend Lodge Meetings
GL 705	Up-Dating Sheets (Data Sheets) Tablet
GL 984	Donation Form

**Forms**

Also the following Educational Material per Reg. 37.18

<i>No.</i>	<i>Forms</i>
GL 200	Instruction Booklet
GL 201	Instruction Booklet No. 1
GL 202	Instruction Booklet No. 2
GL 203	Entered Apprentice Booklet
GL 204	Instruction Booklet No. 3
GL 205	Fellow Craft Booklet
GL 206	Instruction Booklet No. 4
GL 207	Master Mason Booklet
GL 208	Masonic Etiquette
GL 210	Handbook for Lodge Officers

The forms given on the following pages are not furnished by the Grand Secretary.

**SUMMONS TO ATTEND LODGE COMMUNICATION**

\_\_\_\_\_ FL \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_ Br  
other \_\_\_\_\_

A \_\_\_\_\_ Communication of \_\_\_\_\_  
Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_ will be held in the Lodge Room on  
the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ A.L. 60\_\_, A.D. 20\_\_ at  
\_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, \_\_\_\_\_ m. for the purpose of \_\_\_\_\_ and  
you are hereby peremptorily notified and summonsed to be then and there personally  
present.

By order of the Worshipful Master.  
Take due notice thereof and govern yourself accordingly.

Witness my signature as Secretary and the Seal of our said Lodge on this the date  
first above written.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary  
Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_ F. & A.M.

**Digest of Masonic Law**

**PROXY FOR MASTER OR WARDEN**

\_\_\_\_\_, FL \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ I  
(insert full name, and Master or Senior Warden, or Junior Warden, as the case may  
be), of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_,  
being unable to attend in person do hereby appoint Brother (his full name), Master  
Mason and member in good standing

of this Lodge, my proxy in the Grand Lodge of Florida, at its ensuing Annual  
Communication, to be held in the city of Jacksonville, on the \_\_\_\_\_,  
A.L. 60\_\_\_\_\_, A.D. 20\_\_\_\_\_, empowering him to act in  
my behalf, and hereby ratify and confirm whatsoever he may lawfully do in said  
capacity.

Witness my official signature, attested by the Secretary and Seal of our  
said Lodge.

(Seal)

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

(1976)

**FORMS TO BE USED IN PREFERRING CHARGES  
AND HOLDING MASONIC TRIALS:  
PREAMBLE**

The following forms are intended only as a guide in preparation of documents  
used in Penal proceedings and are generally sufficient for their stated purpose but  
should be modified or supplemented as facts and circumstances indicate.

These forms were prepared by M.: W.: J. Lewis Hall and are contained in  
Appendix to "Administration of Masonic Justice in Florida." "Hall" refers to chapter  
number in that book and "R" refers to Regulation number in "Digest of Masonic Law  
of Florida." (1980)



**Forms**

**Index**

<i>Form Number</i>	<i>Description of Form</i>
1	General Heading of Documents
2	Charges-Usual Form
3	Charges-Criminal Conviction
4	Order of Master on Charges-Directing Service on Accused
5	Order of Master on Charges-Dismissing Charges
6	Order of Master on Charges-Directing Investigation
7	Notice to Accused of Charges
8	Certificate of Secretary of Service-Personal Service
9	Certificate of Secretary of Service-By Mail
10	Certificate of Secretary of Service-Delivery to Residence
11	Answer of Accused
12	Notice to Accused of Action of Lodge in Respect to Request for Trial by Trial Commission
13	Notice to Accused of Taking Testimony
14	Notice to Accused of Taking Testimony by Deposition
15	Report of Trial Committee
16	Judgment of Lodge-Guilty
17	Judgment of Lodge-Not Guilty
18	Request by Accused for Trial by Trial Commission
19	Request by Lodge for Trial by Trial Commission
20	Judgment of Trial Commission
21	Appeal by Accused to Grand Lodge
22	Appeal by Lodge to Grand Lodge
23	Certificate of Secretary to Record of Appeal
24	Certificate of Secretary of Delivery of Documents
25	Charges-Criminal Conviction-Grand Lodge Trial

**Digest of Masonic Law**

Form No. 1

Headings

Every paper filed in penal proceedings should show the name and number of the Lodge in which the proceeding is pending and the name and address and other information about the accused against whom the proceedings are directed.

The form on the following page is suggested to meet the above requirement.

This heading should be placed at the top of the first page of every document with margin at top of page of at least two inches and margin on left of page of at least one inch.

On appeal all documents must be bound into the record on appeal. It is suggested that all documents be typed on 8½ x 11 inch letter size, white paper.

Forms

Form No. 1

- 2 inch margin

1 inch  
margin

A

In 1 Lodge  
No. 2 F. & A.M.  
3  
3, Florida

In re: Charges Against

Brother 4

Who resides at 5

Whose mailing address

is 6

Whose telephone number

is 7 and who is a mem-

ber of 8 Lodge

No. 9, F. & A.M.

B

- A. Should be in upper right hand corner of page
- B. Should be next to left hand margin of page with top line just below bottom line of A
- 1. Name of Lodge in which proceedings are pending
- 2. Number of Lodge
- 3. Location and address of Lodge
- 4. Name of accused
- 5. Residence of accused
- 6. Address of accused
- 7. Telephone number of accused
- 8. Name of Lodge of which accused is a member
- 9. Number of Lodge

(NOTE: If accused is member of Lodge of foreign jurisdiction location of such Lodge should also be given.)

Digest of Masonic Law

Form No. 2

Charges

(R. 44.25; Hall Chap. VII)

(Follow instructions and use heading in Form No. 1)

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens, and members of 1 Lodge No. 2 F. & A.M.:

The undersigned hereby charge Brother 3 with un-masonic conduct as hereinafter specified:

1. Brother 3 on or about the 4 day of 4 A.L. 60 4, A.D. 20 4 (or during the period beginning on the 4 day of 4 A.L. 60 4, A.D. 20 4 and ending on the 4 day of 4 A.L. 60 4, A.D. 20 4 at 5 in 5 did 6.

Witnesses having knowledge of the foregoing are 7, 7, 7, and 7.

2. On information and after due and careful investigation the undersigned verily believes that Brother 3 (continue as in charge No. 1).

The undersigned upon his, or their Masonic honor allege the above charges are true except those alleged upon information and belief and the undersigned verily believe those to be true after due and careful investigation.

8  
8  
8

Charges filed this 9 day of 9 A.L. 60 9, A.D. 20 9.

10  
Secretary 1 Lodge  
No. 2 F. & A.M.

1. Name of Lodge in which charges are filed
2. Number of Lodge
3. Name of accused
4. Day, month, and year of alleged misconduct
5. Place, City, Town or Community, and State where alleged misconduct occurred
6. Statement in detail of alleged misconduct
7. Names of witnesses

Forms

Form No. 2 Continued

8. Name, address, and telephone number of accuser\*
9. Date charges filed
10. Signature of Secretary

\*(NOTE on No. 8 - If there is more than one accuser the name, address, and telephone number of other accusers must be stated.)

NOTES: Original and six copies shall be signed and filed with Lodge Secretary.

Original shall be retained in Lodge files and certificate of Service (Form 8, 9, or 10) should be signed by Secretary and attached to the original of the charges after service on accused.

Copies of charges shall be delivered to Worshipful Master, District Deputy Grand Master, Grand Secretary, Grand Master, and to Worshipful Master of Lodge of membership of accused if accused is member of another Lodge.

Form No. 3  
Charges - Criminal Conviction  
(R. 44.21; 44.53; Hall Chapt. XX)

---

(Follow instructions and use heading in Form No. 1)

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and members of   1   Lodge No.   2    
F. & A.M.

The undersigned hereby charge Brother   3   with unmasonic conduct as hereinafter specified:

Brother   3   on or about the   4   day of   4   A.L. 60   4  , A.D. 20   4  ,  
being then and there under charges of the crime of   5   in the   6   Court in  
and for   7   entered plea admitting guilt or was adjudicated guilty thereof, copies  
of said charges and the record of the pleas or adjudication of guilt being attached  
hereto.

Digest of Masonic Law

Form No. 3 Continued

The undersigned upon his or their Masonic honor allege the foregoing statements are true.

8  
8  
8

Charges filed this 9 day of 9 A.L. 609, A.D. 209.

10  
Secretary 1 Lodge  
No. 2 F. & A.M.

1. Name of Lodge in which charges are filed
2. Number of Lodge
3. Name of accused
4. Date of alleged conviction or plea
5. Crime
6. Name of Court
7. City, County, Circuit, and State of location of Court
8. Name, address, and telephone numbers of accusers
9. Date charges are filed
10. Signature of Secretary

NOTE: Original and six copies shall be signed and filed with Lodge Secretary. Copies of Court papers showing charge, and conviction or plea must be attached to charges.

NOTE: Charges of conviction or plea in criminal case may be filed only by direction or order of Grand Master.

**Forms**

Form No. 4  
Order of Worshipful Master on Charges  
(Directing Service on Accused)  
(R. 44.27; Hall Chap. IX)

---

(Follow instructions and use heading in Form No. 1)

**ORDER**

The charges against Brother 1 having been delivered to and duly considered by me as required by Grand Lodge Regulation 44.27 and finding the said charges in proper form and sufficient to state an offense against Masonic Law, the Secretary of this Lodge is directed to serve proper notice and copy of the charges upon the accused as provided in regulation 44.28.

Witness my signature as Worshipful Master this 2 day of 2 A.L. 60 2, A.D. 20 2

3  
Worshipful Master  
4 Lodge No. 5  
F. & A.M.

Order received and copies delivered as required by Regulation 44.27 (2) this 6 day of 6 A.L. 60 6, A.D. 20 6.

7  
Secretary 4 Lodge  
No. 5, F. & A.M.

1. Name of accused
2. Date of Order
3. Signature of Worshipful Master
4. Name of Lodge
5. Number of Lodge
6. Date received and copies delivered
7. Signature of Secretary

Digest of Masonic Law

Form No. 5  
Order of Worshipful Master on Charges  
(Dismissing Charges)  
(R. 44.27; Hall Chap. IX)

---

(Follow instructions and use heading in Form No. 1)

ORDER

The charges against Brother 1, having been delivered to and duly considered by me as required by Grand Lodge Regulation 44.27 and finding that the said charges are insufficient to state a violation of Masonic Law and that the alleged acts of the accused do not constitute a Masonic offense the said charges are hereby dismissed.

Witness my signature as Worshipful Master this 2 day of 2 A.L. 60 2, A.D. 20 2

3  
Worshipful Master  
4 Lodge No. 5  
F. & A.M.

Order received and copies delivered as required by Regulation 44.27 (2) this 6 day of 6 A.L. 60 6, A.D. 20 6.

7  
Secretary 4 Lodge  
No. 5 F. & A.M.

1. Name of accused
2. Date of Order
3. Signature of Worshipful Master
4. Name of Lodge
5. Number of Lodge
6. Date received and copies delivered
7. Signature of Secretary



**Forms**

Form No. 6  
Order of Worshipful Master on Charges  
(Directing Investigation)  
(R. 44.27; Hall Chap. IX)

---

(Follow instructions and use heading in Form No. 1)

**ORDER**

The charges against Brother 1 having been delivered to and considered by me as required by Grand Lodge Regulation 44.27 and finding that although deficient in form and substance to comply with requirements of Grand Lodge Regulation 44.25, the charges indicate possibility or probability that there has been a violation of Masonic Law or acts or actions that constitute Masonic offenses, the Vigilance Committee is directed to investigate the conduct of Brother 1 and if such investigation indicates probable cause to believe there has been violation of Masonic Law to file charges as the Committee may be advised.

Witness my signature as Worshipful Master this day of 2 A.L. 60 2,  
A.D. 20 2.

3  
Worshipful Master  
4 Lodge No. 5 F. & A.M.

Order received and copies delivered as required by Regulation 44.27 (2) this 6  
day of 6, A.L. 60 6, A.D. 20 6.

7  
Secretary 4 Lodge  
No. 5 F. & A.M.

1. Name of accused
2. Date of Order
3. Signature of Worshipful Master
4. Name of Lodge
5. Number of Lodge
6. Date received and copies delivered
7. Signature of Secretary

Digest of Masonic Law

Form No. 7  
Notice to Accused of Charges  
(R. 44.28; Hall Chap. X)

---

(Follow instructions and use heading in Form No. 1)

To Brother 1 1 :

You are hereby notified that charges of unmasonic conduct have been filed against you in 2 Lodge No. 2 F. & A.M. located at 3 Florida with address 3 3 3, a copy of said charges is attached hereto.

These charges will be presented and read to the said Lodge at the Stated Communication to be held on the 4 day of 4 A.L. 60 4, A.D. 20 4 at 4 o'clock 4 m. of said date.

You are required to file your answer to these charges on or before said date, which answer shall specifically admit, deny, or excuse each allegation of the charges. Your answer will be read to the Lodge at the Stated Communication aforesaid.

You may be present in the Lodge in person or with counsel when the charges and answer are read to the Lodge but not during consideration thereof by the Lodge.

Witness my signature as Secretary of the Lodge and the Seal of the Lodge the day and year first above written.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of 2 Lodge  
No. 2 F. & A.M.

6 - (Lodge Seal)

1. Name of accused
2. Name and number of Lodge where charges are filed
3. Location and mailing address of Lodge
4. Time, day, month, and year of Stated Communication
5. Signature of Secretary
6. Lodge Seal

NOTE: Notice to accused is served only after Worshipful Master shall order such service (R. 44.27(c))

Forms 8, 9, and 10 are forms for certificate of Secretary that he has delivered notice and copy of charges to accused.

**Forms**

Form No. 8  
Certificate of Secretary of Service of Notice  
and Copy of Charges on Accused  
(Personal Service)  
(R. 44.28; Hall Chap. X)

---

(Follow instructions and use heading in Form No. 1)

I hereby certify that I caused Brother 1 to be served with a copy of the foregoing notice and a copy of the charges referred to therein. Said service was made at the following time and date and in the following manner: At 2 o'clock 3 m. on 4 the 5 day of 6 A.L. 60 7, A.D. 20 7 at 8. I personally delivered the said notice and charges to Brother 1.

Witness my signature as Secretary of 9 Lodge No. 10 F. & A.M. this 5 day of 6 A.L. 60 7, A.D. 20 7.

9  
Secretary 10 Lodge  
No. 11 F. & A.M.

1. Name of accused
2. Time
3. a.m. or p.m.
4. Day of week
5. Date
6. Month
7. Year
8. Location (road, street, city, & State)
9. Secretary's signature
10. Lodge name
11. Lodge number

NOTE: If Secretary served accused personally this Form should be prepared, signed by the Secretary and attached to the original of the charges.

**Digest of Masonic Law**

Form No. 9  
Certificate of Secretary of Service of Notice  
and Copy of Charges on Accused  
(By Mail)  
(R. 44.28; Hall Chap. X)

---

(Follow instructions and use heading in Form No. 1)

I hereby certify that I caused Brother 1 to be served with a copy of the foregoing notice and a copy of the charges referred to therein. Said service was made at the following time and date and in the following manner: At 2 o'clock 3 m. on 4, the 5 day of 6 A.L. 60 7, A.D. 20 7.

I deposited in the United States mail at 8 an envelope containing a copy of the said notice and charges, said envelope being addressed to last known address of Brother 1 as follows: 9 and bearing sufficient postage stamps and being certified or registered to insure delivery to addressee only and with return receipt requested.

Witness my signature as Secretary of 11 Lodge No. 12 F. & A.M. this 5 day of 6 A.L. 60 7, A.D. 20 7.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary 11 Lodge  
No. 12 F. & A.M.

1. Name of accused
2. Time
3. a.m. or p.m.
4. Day of week
5. Date
6. Month
7. Year
8. Location of post office or facility for mailing
9. Address on envelope
10. Secretary's signature
11. Lodge name
12. Lodge number

NOTE: If Secretary made service by mail this Form should be prepared, signed by the Secretary and attached to the original of the charges.

**Forms**

Form No. 10  
Certificate of Secretary of Service of Notice  
and Copy of Charges on Accused  
(Delivery to Residence)  
(R. 44.28; Hall Chap. X)

---

(Follow instructions and use heading in Form No. 1)

I hereby certify that I caused Brother 1 to be served with a copy of the foregoing notice and a copy of the charges referred to therein. Said service was made at the following time and date and in the following manner: At 2 o'clock 3 m. on 4 the 5 day of 6 A.L. 60 7, A.D. 20 7. I personally delivered the said notice and charges to the usual place of residence of Brother 1 located at 8 and in the absence of Brother 1 I delivered the said notice and charges to 9, an adult member of the family of Brother 1 residing at said residence with Brother 1.

Witness my signature as Secretary of 10 Lodge No. 11 F. & A.M. this 5 day of 6 A.L. 60 7, A.D. 20 7.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary 10 Lodge  
No. 11 F. & A.M.

1. Name of accused
2. Time
3. a.m. or p.m.
4. Day of week
5. Date
6. Month
7. Year
8. Road, street, city, & State
9. Name of member of family
10. Name of Lodge
11. Number of Lodge
12. Secretary's signature

NOTE: If Secretary delivers notice and charges to residence of accused the above form should be prepared, signed by the Secretary and attached to the original of the charges.

**Digest of Masonic Law**

Form No. 11  
Answer of Accused  
(R. 44.30; Hall Chap. XI)

---

(Follow instructions and use heading in Form No. 1)

ANSWER

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens, and members of Lodge No. 2 F. & A.M. located at 3, Florida with mailing address 4.

The undersigned, for answer to the charges of unmasonic conduct filed herein says:

5-a

( ) I deny the charge numbered \_\_\_\_\_.

5-b

( ) I admit the truth of the statement in charge numbered \_\_\_\_\_ but deny that the same constitutes unmasonic conduct because \_\_\_\_\_.

5-c

( ) I admit the truth of charge numbered \_\_\_\_\_ but excuse the same as follows:

5-d

( ) For answer to all the charges filed herein I allege that I was previously charged with the same offenses in \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_ F. & A.M. \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and upon trial was (convicted or acquitted).

5-e

( ) For answer to all the charges filed herein I allege that charges for the same offenses are presently pending in \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_F. & A.M. \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

5-f

( ) For answer to all the charges filed herein I allege that my residence is \_\_\_\_\_ and is within the penal jurisdiction of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_ F. & A.M. and outside the penal jurisdiction of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_ F. & A.M.

**Forms**

Form No. 11 (Continued)

I hereby certify on my honor as a Mason that the matters and things hereinabove set forth are true (or are verily believed to be true after due and careful investigation).

\_\_\_\_\_  
6  
\_\_\_\_\_  
7  
\_\_\_\_\_  
8

1. Name of Lodge where charges are filed
2. Number of Lodge where charges are filed
3. City or town where Lodge is located
4. Mailing address of Lodge
- 5a-f Use answer that expresses the defense accused desires to present to a charge.  
Each charge must be answered unless accused shall interpose a single defense to all charges such as 5-d, 5-e, or 5-f
6. Signature of accused
7. Address of accused
8. Name and number of Lodge of accused

Digest of Masonic Law

Form No. 12  
Notice to Accused of Action of Lodge on Matter  
of Request for Trial by Trial Commission  
(R. 44.34; Hall Chap. XIX)

---

(Follow instructions and use heading in Form No. 1)

To Brother \_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_

You are hereby notified that \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ has determined to prosecute the charges filed herein against you and has further determined not to request trial by Trial Commission as provided in Grand Lodge Regulation No. 44.63.

You are further notified that under provisions of Regulation No. 44.63 you may at any time before expiration of ten (10) days after receipt of this notice file request with the Lodge for trial by Trial Commission, which request will be forwarded to the Grand Master, all of which is set forth fully in said Regulation 44.63.

(Optional)

(Enclosed herewith is copy of Regulation 44.63 and suggested form for request for trial by Trial Commission) or (copy of Regulation 44.63 and suggested form for request for trial by Trial Commission will be furnished you upon your request therefor).

Witness my signature as Secretary this day \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_ A.L. 60 \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_  
A.D. 20 \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, \_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_  
Lodge  
No. \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ F. & A.M.

1. Name of accused
2. Name of Lodge where charges are filed
3. Number of Lodge where charges are filed
4. Date
5. Month
6. Year
7. Secretary's signature

NOTE: This notice shall be served on accused by Lodge Secretary by personal delivery to the accused or by registered or certified mail with return receipt requested. (R. 44.34(f))



**Forms**

Form No. 12 (Continued)

The Secretary should affix to the notice a certificate of service by personal service or by mail substantially similar to Form 8 or 9.

The Secretary shall also deliver personally or by certified or registered mail a copy of above notice to the accusers, the District Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Secretary and the Grand Master (R. 44.34(b))

A certificate of such delivery substantially similar to Form 24 should be attached to above notice.



Forms

Form No. 14  
Notice of Taking Testimony by Deposition  
(R. 44.38; Hall Chap. XV)

---

(Follow instructions and use heading in Form No. 1)

To Brother     1    

You are hereby notified that the testimony of     2     relating to charges against you pending in   3   Lodge No.   4   F. & A.M., will be taken by deposition at   5  , on the   6   day of   7   A.L. 60   8  , A.D. 20   8  , at the hour of   9   10 m.

You are entitled to be present, be represented by counsel and question the witness and enter any objections to the testimony.

    11      
Chairman of Lodge  
Trial Committee

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Notice was served upon Brother   1  , in the following manner:  12  on the   6   day of   7  , A.L. 60   8  , A.D. 20   8  .

    11      
Chairman of Lodge  
Trial Committee

1. Name of accused
2. Name of witness or witnesses
3. Name of Lodge where charges are pending
4. Number of Lodge
5. Address of place where testimony will be taken
6. Date
7. Month
8. Year
9. Time
10. a.m. or p.m.
11. Signature of Chairman of Trial Committee
12. Manner of Service

Digest of Masonic Law

Form No. 15  
Report of Trial Committee  
(R. 44.35; Hall Chap. XV)

---

(Follow instructions and use heading in Form No. 1)

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens, and Brethren of 1 Lodge No. 2 F. & A.M.

The undersigned Committee, appointed to take the testimony in the matter of charges preferred against Brother 3 had hearings for the taking of said testimony on the following dates: 4.

Notice of said hearing was served on the accused and a copy of said notice together with certificate as to such service is filed herewith.

The following interested parties and participants were present at said hearing:

5

---

---

The following obligation was stated to all Masons who appeared as witnesses at said hearing to-wit:

“You solemnly promise and vow upon your honor as a Mason, that the testimony which you shall give in the Masonic matter now pending with this Committee shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.”

The following obligation was stated to all witnesses testifying at said hearing, who were not Masons:

“You solemnly affirm upon your honor as a gentleman (or lady) that the testimony which you shall give in the Masonic matter now pending, shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.”

**Forms**

Form No. 15 (Continued)

The following named witnesses testified in behalf of the prosecution:

6 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The following named witnesses testified in behalf of the defense:

7 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The testimony of all the witnesses is included herein.

Having fully performed their duties to the best of their skill and ability, your Committee renders this, its final report, and fraternally asks to be discharged from the further consideration of said matter.

\_\_\_\_\_  
8  
\_\_\_\_\_  
8  
\_\_\_\_\_  
8  
Committee

(When the hearing is concluded and all the testimony taken, the Committee should see that each witness signs the testimony given by him or her, that the report is in proper order for reading, should sign the report, and file it with the Secretary of the Lodge. The Secretary should immediately file said report as of the day it is received by him and notify the Worshipful Master of its reception.)

1. Name of Lodge
2. Number of Lodge
3. Name of accused
4. Date or dates of taking testimony
5. Persons present at hearing testimony
6. Witnesses testifying in behalf of prosecution
7. Witnesses testifying in behalf of defense
8. Signature of members of Trial Committee

Digest of Masonic Law

Form No. 16  
Judgment of Lodge  
(Guilty)  
(Rs. 44.46; 44.62; Hall Chap. XVII)

---

(Follow instructions and use heading in Form No. 1)

JUDGMENT

Charges of unmasonic conduct having been filed herein against Brother 1 a member of 2 Lodge No. 3 F. & A.M. it is the finding and judgment of 4 Lodge No. 5 F. & A.M. that:

1. This Lodge has jurisdiction of the accused.
2. The charges are in proper form and state an offense against Masonic Law.
3. The proceedings were had and conducted with due regard for the Masonic and civil rights of the accused who was advised of his right to file answer, to be represented by counsel, to be confronted with the witnesses against him, to cross examine adverse witnesses, to have witnesses in his own behalf, to request trial by Trial Commission, to present argument in his behalf and is now advised of his right of appeal to the Grand Lodge.

4. That the accused is guilty of the offenses stated in charges no. 6 \_\_\_\_\_.

5. That (Here, state any other facts found by the Lodge and relevant to the issue of guilt or innocence or to fixing of penalty):  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. The penalty is 7.

In witness whereof the Worshipful Master and Secretary have affixed their signatures and the Seal of the Lodge this 8 day of 9 A.L. 6010, A.D. 2010.

\_\_\_\_\_  
11  
Worshipful Master  
\_\_\_\_\_  
12  
Secretary of 4 Lodge  
No. 5 F. & A.M.

(Lodge Seal)

1. Name of accused
2. Name of Lodge of accused
3. Number of Lodge of accused
4. Name of Lodge conducting trial
5. Number of Lodge conducting trial
6. Number of each charge of which accused was found guilty

Forms

Form No. 16 (Continued)

7. State fully the penalty imposed
8. Date
9. Month
10. Year
11. Signature of Worshipful Master
12. Signature of Secretary

Form No. 17  
Judgment of Lodge  
(Not Guilty)  
(Rs. 44.46; 44.62; Hall Chap. XVII)

---

(Follow instructions and use heading in Form No. 1)

JUDGMENT

Charges of unmasonic conduct having been filed herein against Brother   1   a member of   2   Lodge No.   3   F. & A.M. it is the finding and judgment of   4   Lodge No.   5   F. & A.M. that:

1. The charges against Brother   1   are not well founded and the evidence adduced in support thereof is without merit.
2. Brother   1   is Not Guilty of the charges brought against him.

In witness where of the Worshipful Master and Secretary have affixed their signatures and the Seal of the Lodge this   6   day of   7   A.L. 60   8  , A.D. 20   8  .

          9            
Worshipful Master  
          10            
Secretary of   4   Lodge  
No.   5   F. & A.M.

(Lodge Seal)

1. Name of accused
2. Name of Lodge of accused's membership
3. Number of Lodge of accused's membership
4. Name of Lodge conducting trial
5. Number of Lodge conducting trial
6. Date
7. Month
8. Year
9. Signature of Worshipful Master
10. Signature of Secretary

Digest of Masonic Law

Form No. 18  
Request of Accused for Trial by Trial Commission  
(R. 44.63; Hall Chap. XIX)

(Follow instructions and use heading in Form No. 1)

To The Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons of Florida:

I respectfully and fraternally request trial by Trial Commission of the charges pending against me in 1 Lodge No. 2 F. & A.M. on the grounds that I will not receive a fair trial in that Lodge because of the following:

- 1.
2. [3]
- 3.

This request is made pursuant to provisions of Chapter 44 of the Digest of Masonic Law of Florida.

I was notified on the 4 day of 4 A.L. 60 4, A.D. 20 4 that the Lodge had decided to prosecute the charges against me and not to request trial by Trial Commission and this original and five (5) signed copies of this request is delivered to the Secretary of 1 Lodge No. 2 F. & A.M. on the 5 day of 5 A.L. 60 5, A.D. 20 5 said latter date being before the expiration of ten days after notice of Lodge action aforesaid.

I hereby certify on my honor as a Mason that the matters set forth herein are true.

This 5 day of 5 A.L. 60 5, A.D. 20 5.

Received original and five (5) signed copies of above request. I filed the original in the Lodge files and delivered copies to the Grand Master, Grand Secretary, District Deputy Grand Master, the accuser, and the accused as required by Regulation 44.63, this 7 day of 7 A.L. 60 7, A.D. 20 7.

\_\_\_\_\_  
6  
Secretary of 1 Lodge No. 2

1. Name of Lodge where charges are pending
2. Number of Lodge where charges are pending
3. Detailed statement of grounds upon which accused requests trial by Trial Commission
4. Date of notice to accused of Lodge action
5. Date of delivery of request to Lodge Secretary
6. Signature of accused
7. Date of delivery of copies
8. Signature of Secretary of Lodge where charges are pending



Forms

Form No. 19  
Request of Lodge for Trial by Trial Commission  
(R. 44.63; Hall Chap. XIX)

(Follow instructions and use heading in Form No. 1)

To The Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons of Florida:

1 Lodge No. 1 respectfully and fraternally requests trial by Trial Commission of the charges pending against Brother 2, a member of 3 Lodge No. 3 (or an unaffiliated Mason) whose address is 4, as provided by Chapter 44 of the Digest of Masonic Law of Florida.

The grounds for this request are:

- 1.
2. [5]
- 3.

In witness whereof the Worshipful Master and Secretary of 1 Lodge No. 1 F. & A.M. have hereunto signed their names and affixed the Seal of said Lodge this 6 day of 6 A.L. 60 6, A.D. 20 6.

\_\_\_\_\_  
7  
\_\_\_\_\_  
8

(Lodge Seal)

I hereby certify that the original of this request is filed in the Lodge files and copies delivered to the Grand Master, the Grand Secretary, the District Deputy Grand Master, to the accuser, and to the accused this 9 day of 9 A.L. 60 9, A.D. 20 9.

\_\_\_\_\_  
8  
Secretary of 1 Lodge No. 1  
F. & A.M.

1. Name & number of Lodge where charges are pending
2. Name of accused
3. Name and number of Lodge of accused
4. Address of accused
5. Ground for request
6. Date of request
7. Signature of Worshipful Master
8. Signature of Secretary
9. Date of delivery of copies

**Digest of Masonic Law**

Form No. 20  
Report and Judgment of Trial Commission  
(R. 44.64; Hall Chap. XIX)

---

(Follow instructions and use heading in Form No. 1)

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens, and members of 1 Lodge No. 1 F. & A.M.:

The Trial Commission appointed by the Grand Master to conduct trial of Brother 2 brings this its report, findings and judgment as follows:

1. After receipt of relevant papers and documents from the Lodge Secretary notice of time, place and date was given the accused, copy of such notice is included in transcript of proceedings filed herewith.
2. Trial was conducted at 3 on the day of 4 A.L. 60 4, A.D. 20 4.
3. A transcript of the testimony and record of the proceedings is filed herewith.
4. Upon consideration of the records and testimony the Trial Commission finds and concludes:
  - (a) The Lodge and the Trial Commission have jurisdiction of the accused.
  - (b) The charges are in proper form and state an offense against Masonic Law.
  - (c) The proceedings were had and conducted with due regard for the Masonic and civil rights of the accused.
  - (d) The accused is 5 of the offenses stated in the charges.
  - (e) The penalty imposed is 6.

**Forms**

Form No. 20 (Continued)

In Witness Whereof the members of the Trial Commission have hereunto affixed their signatures this 7 day of 7 A.L. 607, A.D. 207.

\_\_\_\_\_  
8  
\_\_\_\_\_  
8  
\_\_\_\_\_  
8  
\_\_\_\_\_  
8  
\_\_\_\_\_

1. Name & number of Lodge
2. Name of accused
3. Place of trial
4. Date or dates of trial
5. "Guilty" or "Not Guilty"
6. Description of penalty
7. Date of report
8. Signatures of members of Trial Commission

NOTE: If Trial Commission deems it appropriate to make specific findings of facts the same may be stated as paragraph (d) and other paragraphs lettered accordingly.

If finding is "not guilty" paragraph (e) is unnecessary.

Digest of Masonic Law

Form No. 21  
Appeal by Accused to Grand Lodge  
(R. 44.65; Hall Chap. XXI)

(Follow instructions and use heading in Form No. 1)

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens, and members of 1 Lodge No. 2 F. & A.M.:

I hereby appeal to the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of Florida from the judgment entered against me by 1 Lodge No. 2 F. & A.M. (or by Trial Commission) of date of 3 day of 3 A.L. 60 3, A.D. 20 3, and hereby request that record on appeal be prepared, certified and delivered to the Grand Secretary as provided by Regulation 44.66.

The grounds for this appeal are:

4

4

This appeal and three signed copies delivered to Secretary of 1 Lodge No. 2 this 5 day of 5 A.L. 60 5, A.D. 20 5.

6

7

8

9

Received appeal and three signed copies this 10 day of 10 A.L. 60 10, A.D. 20 10, and on the 11 day of 11 A.L. 60 11, A.D. 20 11 I filed the original in the records of 1 Lodge No. 2 delivered a copy to the accused, a copy to the Grand Master, and a copy to the Grand Secretary.

12

Secretary of 1 Lodge  
No. 2 F. & A.M.

1. Lodge name in which judgment was entered
2. Lodge number in which judgment was entered
3. Date of judgment appealed from
4. Detailed specification of errors
5. Date of delivery of appeal to Secretary
6. Signature of accused
- 7., 8., 9. Residence, mailing address & telephone number of accused
10. Date of receipt of appeal
11. Date of delivery of copies
12. Signature of Secretary

**Forms**

Form No. 22  
Appeal by Lodge to Grand Lodge  
(R. 44.65; Hall Chap. XXI)

---

(Follow instructions and use heading in Form No. 1)

To the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, and Right Worshipful Grand Wardens, and members of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, F. & A.M. of Florida:

1 Lodge No. 1 hereby appeals from the judgment of the Trial Commission of date of 2 day of 2 A.L. 602, A.D. 202 in the matter of charges against Brother 3, whose address, telephone number, residence, and Lodge membership appears in the heading hereof.

The grounds of this appeal are:

4  
\_\_\_\_\_  
4  
\_\_\_\_\_

Witness the signatures of the Worshipful Master and Secretary of 1 Lodge No. 1 and the Seal of said Lodge this 5 day of 5 A.L. 605, A.D. 205.

6  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Worshipful Master  
7  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of 1 Lodge  
No. 1 F. & A.M.

**Digest of Masonic Law**

Form No. 22 (Continued)

I hereby certify that the original of the foregoing request for trial by Trial Commission was delivered to the Grand Master, a copy delivered to the Grand Secretary and a copy delivered to the accused as required by Regulation 44.65.

\_\_\_\_\_  
7  
Secretary of 1 Lodge  
No. 1 F. & A.M.

1. Lodge name and number
2. Date of judgment
3. Name of accused
4. Detailed specification of errors
5. Date of appeal
6. Signature of Worshipful Master
7. Signature of Secretary

NOTE: Original and four copies must be signed by the Worshipful Master and Secretary under Seal of the Lodge. Original and copies shall be delivered as set forth in above Certificate and a copy retained by the Secretary.

Forms

Form No. 23  
Certificate of Secretary to Record on Appeal  
(R. 44.66; Hall Chap. XXII)

---

(Follow instructions and use heading in Form No. 1)

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the attached papers are all the documents and papers filed with me as Secretary of the hereinafter named Lodge, in the matter of charges of unmasonic conduct preferred against Brother 1, including a true and correct copy of all the minutes of said Lodge relating to said charges, said documents and papers being as follows, to-wit:

(Describe and number consecutively in chronological order each document, including but not limited to charges, notice of preferring of charges, notice of taking testimony, report of Committee or Trial Commission, judgment, appeal, true and correct copy of the minutes and all other documents relating to the matter.)

Witness my signature as Secretary of 2 Lodge No. 2 F. & A.M. and the Seal of the same this 3 day of A.L. 60 3, A.D. 20 3.

4  
Secretary of 2 Lodge  
No. 2 F. & A.M.

(SEAL)

1. Name of accused
2. Name and number of Lodge
3. Date
4. Signature of Secretary

**Digest of Masonic Law**

Form No. 24  
Certificate of Secretary to Delivery of Documents  
(Hall Chap. XXVI)

---

(Follow instructions and use heading in Form No. 1)

I, the undersigned Secretary hereby certify that I have delivered copies of the foregoing 1 to the persons designated to receive such copies by Regulation 2 this 3 day of 3 A.L. 60 3, A.D. 20 3.

4  
Secretary of 5 Lodge  
No. 5 F. & A.M.

1. Descriptions of documents, i.e., charges as per R. 44.27; orders of the Worshipful Master, R. 44.27; answer of accused, R. 44.30, et. al. - (see Chapter XXVI)
2. Number of Regulation requiring the distribution of copies
3. Date
4. Signature of Secretary
5. Name and number of Lodge



Forms

Form No. 25  
Charges - Criminal Conviction  
Grand Lodge Trial  
(R. 44.21; Hall Chaps. XX and XXV)

---

In the Most Worshipful Grand  
Lodge, F. & A.M. of Florida

In re: Charges against W.:., R.: W.:., or M.: W.:.  
(use proper title) \_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
who resides at \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and whose  
mailing address is \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and whose  
telephone number is \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
and who is a member of \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_  
Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_  
F. & A.M. of \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_.

To the Grand Master and Members of said Grand Lodge:

The undersigned hereby charge Brother \_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_ with unmasonic  
conduct as herein after specified and say:

1. Brother \_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_ and by reason thereof the Grand  
Lodge has exclusive original jurisdiction of this cause.

2. Brother \_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_ on or about the \_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_, A.L. 60 \_\_\_\_\_,  
A.D. 20\_\_\_\_\_, being then and there under charges of \_\_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ 9  
Court in and for \_\_\_\_\_ 10 \_\_\_\_\_ entered plea admitting guilt or was adjudicated guilty  
thereof, copies of said charges and record of said plea or adjudication of guilt being  
attached hereto.

3. The undersigned upon his or their Masonic Honor allege the foregoing  
statements to be true.

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11  
11  
11

Charges filed this 12 day of 12 A.L. 60\_\_, A.D. 20\_\_.

Grand Secretary of The Most  
Worshipful Grand Lodge,  
F. & A. M. of Florida

1. Name of accused
2. Residence address of accused
3. Mailing address of accused
4. Telephone number of accused
5. Lodge name, number & Grand Jurisdiction
6. Office held or previously held by accused
7. Date of alleged conviction or plea
8. Crime
9. Name of Court
10. Location of Court
11. Name, address, and telephone number of accusers
12. Date of filing charges

**Forms**

Form No. 26  
Letter of Transmittal of Charges  
Regulation 44.21

CERTIFIED MAIL NO.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Member of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Brother

You will find enclosed Notice of Charges as well as Charges of Unmasonic Conduct.

You shall respond within thirty (30) days from receipt of Charges or face immediate suspension according to the penalty prescribed in Regulation 44.21 (copy enclosed).

Sincerely and fraternally,

Chairman, Penal Affairs Panel

cc: Grand Master  
Grand Secretary  
Chairman, Jurisprudence  
D.D.G.M., District \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosures

Digest of Masonic Law

Form No. 27

IN THE MOST WORSHIPFUL  
GRAND LODGE of FREE and  
ACCEPTED MASONS of  
FLORIDA

IN RE: CHARGES AGAINST

BROTHER \_\_\_\_\_  
who is a member of \_\_\_\_\_  
Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_, F. & A. M. of  
Florida, \_\_\_\_\_  
Florida

NOTICE TO THE ACCUSED OF CHARGES

You are hereby notified that charges of UNMASONIC CONDUCT have been filed against you by THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE of FREE and ACCEPTED MASONS of FLORIDA, a copy of said charges being attached hereto.

You are required to show cause in writing within thirty (30) days of service why you should not be suspended. Should you fail to respond to the authority invested in me by Executive Order No. \_\_\_\_\_, issued by Grand Master \_\_\_\_\_, you shall be suspended without further notice.

Should you wish to respond you shall submit your testimony and argument in writing per Regulation 44.21 (copy attached and made a part of this notice) within the thirty (30) days stated in this Regulation. Your answer must specifically admit or deny the allegations of the charges. In the event you allege in your answer that you were not guilty of the offenses of which you were convicted in Court, you shall set forth fully the facts upon which you rely to establish the truth of this allegation that you are not guilty and must further set forth in the answer the names of two or more witnesses upon whose testimony you will rely to establish the facts that demonstrate your innocence.

Upon receipt of the aforementioned, I will proceed according to Regulation 44.21.

Forms

Form No. 27 (continued)

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CHAIRMAN  
PENAL AFFAIRS PANEL  
THE MOST WORSHIPFUL  
GRAND LODGE  
F. & A. M. OF FLORIDA

Enc. Copy, Executive Order No. \_\_\_\_  
Copy, Regulation 44.21

FORM NO. 28

IN THE MOST WORSHIPFUL  
GRAND LODGE of FREE and  
ACCEPTED MASONS of  
FLORIDA

IN RE: CHARGES AGAINST

BROTHER \_\_\_\_\_  
who resides at \_\_\_\_\_  
Florida, \_\_\_\_\_,  
and whose mailing address is  
\_\_\_\_\_ Florida,  
and who is a member of \_\_\_\_\_  
Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_ F. & A. M.  
\_\_\_\_\_, Florida

CHARGES

TO THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER OF MASONS OF  
FLORIDA, and THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE of FREE AND  
ACCEPTED MASONS of FLORIDA:

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by Most Worshipful \_\_\_\_\_  
Grand Master, in Executive Order No. \_\_\_\_\_, Regulation 44.21, the undersigned  
hereby charges Brother \_\_\_\_\_ with Unmasonic Conduct as hereinafter  
specified and says:

**Digest of Masonic Law**

Form No. 28 (continued)

1. Brother \_\_\_\_\_ has been convicted in a \_\_\_\_\_  
of an offense involving moral turpitude and by reason thereof the undersigned has  
authority to file these charges and proceed under Regulation 44.21.

2. Brother \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. The undersigned, upon his Masonic Honor, alleges the fore going  
statement to be true.

Charges filed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ A.L. 60\_\_\_\_, A.D. 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRMAN  
PENAL AFFAIRS PANEL

Forms

Form No. 29

IN THE MOST WORSHIPFUL  
GRAND LODGE of FREE and  
ACCEPTED MASONS of  
FLORIDA

IN RE: CHARGES AGAINST

BROTHER \_\_\_\_\_  
A MEMBER OF \_\_\_\_\_  
LODGE NO. \_\_\_\_\_, F. & A. M.  
\_\_\_\_\_, Florida

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I caused Brother \_\_\_\_\_, to be served with a copy of the foregoing Notice to The Accused of Charges and a copy of the Charges referred to therein. Said service was made at the following time and date in the following manner: At \_\_\_ o'clock on the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ A.L. 60\_\_\_\_, A.D. 20\_\_\_\_ I deposited in the United States Mail at \_\_\_\_\_, Florida an envelope containing a copy of said note and charges, said envelope being addressed to the last known address of Brother \_\_\_\_\_, as follows:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Florida \_\_\_\_\_ and bearing sufficient postage stamps and being certified to insure delivery and with return receipt requested.

WITNESS my signature as Chairman of the Penal Affairs Panel of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, F. & A. M. of Florida, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.L. 60\_\_\_\_, A.D. 20\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman, Penal Affairs Panel  
The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge  
F. & A. M. of Florida

Digest of Masonic Law

Form No. 30

Order of Suspension  
Regulation 44.21

CERTIFIED MAIL NO.:

Member of \_\_\_\_\_  
Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Brother

On \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, I mailed you the Notice of Charges as well as charges of Unmasonic Conduct.

In this letter I advised you of Regulation 44.21 and enclosed a copy of same. You were advised that you would have to respond in 30 days from receipt of charges or face immediate suspension as prescribed in Regulation 44.21.

The certified mail was delivered by the United States Postal Service on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and the Return Receipt, duly signed, was returned to me.

In view of not hearing from you it is now my duty to inform you that you are now under a definite suspension as prescribed in Regulation 44.21 and the suspension is:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Should your sentence change it will be your responsibility to notify your Lodge, who in turn will notify our Grand Master. I am enclosing another copy of Regulation 44.21 as well as a copy of Grand Master \_\_\_\_\_'s Executive Order No. \_\_\_\_\_.

By copy of this letter I am requesting the Secretary of your Lodge and the Grand Secretary to record this suspension on your Lodge record.



**Forms**

Forms No. 30 (continued)

Sincerely and fraternally,

Chairman, Penal Affairs Panel

cc: Grand Master  
Grand Secretary  
Chairman, Jurisprudence  
D.D.G.M. District \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosures

Digest of Masonic Law

Form No. 31

Order of Suspension After Review Board Action  
Regulation 44.21

CERTIFIED MAIL NO.:

Member of \_\_\_\_\_  
Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Brother

Enclosed you will find a copy of the action of the Review Board at which you were ( ) present, ( ) not present on \_\_\_\_\_.

It is now my duty to inform you that you are now under a definite suspension as prescribed in Regulation 44.21 and the suspension is:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Should your sentence change it will be your responsibility to notify your Lodge, who in turn will notify our Grand Master. I am enclosing another copy of Regulation 44.21 as well as a copy of Grand Master \_\_\_\_\_'s Executive Order No. \_\_\_\_\_.

By copy of this letter I am requesting the Secretary of your Lodge and the Grand Secretary to record this suspension on your Lodge record.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Chairman, Penal Affairs Panel

cc: Grand Master  
Grand Secretary  
Chairman, Jurisprudence  
D.D.G.M., District \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary, \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosures

## Forms

Digest of Masonic Law

SUGGESTIONS FOR PRONOUNCING WORDS SOMETIMES  
MISPRONOUNCED

ACACIA-ah-*k*-sha, not a-*k*-seye-ah or a-*k*-see-ah  
ACCESSORY-ak-*sess*-ary, not a-*sess*-ory or ax-e-sory  
ADULT-ah-*dult*, not a-*dult*  
AFFILIATE-a-*fill*-iate, not a-*fill*-yate  
ALLEGIANCE-uh-*lee*-junts, not alee-*gents*  
ALLEVIATE-uh-*lee*-vi-ate, not a-*leev*-yate  
AMEN-*aa*-men, not *ah*-men  
AMMONITISH-Am-on-*eye*-tish, not Am-*on*-it-ish or  
Amon-it-ish  
ANCIENT-*ain*-shent, not an-*chunt*  
ANNIHILATE-ah-*nigh*-hil-ate, not a-*nigh*-yu-late or  
a-*nill*-i-ate  
ANNO LUCIS-An-no-*Lu*-kis, not An-*no*-Lusis or  
An-no-*Lu*-sis  
ARCHANGEL-*Ark*-ain-jil, not *Artch*-an-jel  
ARCHITECT-*ark*-i-tekt, not *artch*-i-tekt  
ARCHIVES-*ar*-kives, not *ar*-chives  
ARTIFICER-ar-*tiff*-i-cer, not ar-*tye*-fi-cer  
ASPIRANT-as-*pie*-rent, not as-*pe*-runt, or as-*pair*-rent  
ASSIDUITY-ass-i-*diu*-ity, not ass-i-*doo*-it-ty  
ATTACKED-a-*takt*, not at-*tak*-ed  
AUDACIOUS-awe-*day*-shus, not aw-*day*-see-us  
  
BARBAROUS-*bar*-bar-us, not bar-*bay*-ri-us or bar-*bar*-us  
BEGONE-be-*gon*, not be-*gawn*  
BLESSED-*bless*-ed, not *bu*-less-ed  
BOAZ-*Bo*-az, not Bo-*aze* or Boze  
BRETHREN-*breth*-wren, not *breth*-er-in  
  
CABLE-TOW-*K*-bel-toe, not *Cab*-el-toe  
CALCULATED-*kal*-kyou-*la*-ted, not *kal*-koo-*la*-ted  
CAPITULAR-ka-*pit*-u-lar, not kap-i-*too*-lar  
CEMENT-se-*ment*, not *see*-ment  
CHAPTER-*chap*-i-ter, not *chap*-ter  
CLANDESTINE-clan-*des*-tin, not *clan*-des-tin or *clandes*-tine  
CLOTHED-*cloth* 'd, not clo-*thed*  
COLUMN-*col*-um, not *col*-yum

### Pronouncing Words

COMPOSITE-*kom-pos-it* (preferred) or *kom-pos-it*  
CONFIDANT-(a friend) *con-fi-dant*  
CONFIDENT-(sure) *con-fi-dent*  
CONSPIRACY-*kon-speer-a-cy*, not *kon-spy-ra-cy*  
CONTEMPLATING-*kon-tem-play-ting* (preferred) or  
*kon-tem-pla-ting*

DELINEATE-*de-lin-e-ate*, not *dee-lin-e-ate*  
DELINEATED-*de-lin-e-ated*, not *dee-lin-e-ated*  
DIMENSION-*deh-men-shun*, not *die-men-shun*  
DIMIT-*de-mit*, not *die-mit*  
DEW-*diu*, not *doo*  
DIFFERENT-*dif-er-ent*, not *diff-rent*  
DIVESTED-*duh-vest-ed*, not *di-vest-ed*  
DUE GUARD-*dew-gard*, not *doo-gard*  
DUTY-*dew-ty*, not *doo-ty*

EASTWARD-*east-ward*, not *east-ard* or *east-ard*  
EMERITUS-*e-mer-i-tus*, not *e-mer-ee-tus*  
ERR-*er* (as in *her*) not *air*  
ESOTERIC-*ess-o-tear-ic*, not *ee-sot-er-ik* or *ex-ot-erik*  
EUNUCH-*you-nuk*, not *you-nutch*  
EXEMPLARY-*ig-zem-pler-e*, not *egg-zem-plary*  
EXOTERIC-*ex-o-ter-ic*, not *ex-ot-er-ik* or *egg-so-ter-ic*

FERVENCY-*fer-ven-sy*, not *fer-ven-sy*  
FIGURE-*fig-ure*, not *fig-ger*  
FINANCE-*fi-nans*, not *fine-ance*  
FOREHEAD-*for-ed*, not *four-head*

GOD-Godd, not Gawd. Rhymes with odd, not awed.  
GORGEOUS-*gor-jus*, not *gor-ge-ous*

HECATOMB-*hek-a-tome* preferred to *hek-a-toom*  
HELE-*hale*, not *he-le* or *heel*  
HORIZON-*hor-eye-zon*, not *hor-e-zone* or *hor-eyezon*  
HUMBLE-*hum-ble*, not *um-ble*

IMPIOUS-*im-pius*, not *im-pie-us*  
INSTITUTE-*in-sti-tiut*, not *in-sti-toot*

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INTERESTING-*in-tres-ting*, not *int-er-est-ing*  
INVEST-*in-vest*, not *in-vest*  
IRREVOCABLE-*ir-rev-o-ka-ble*, not *ir-re-voc-a-ble*

JACHIN-*Jay-kin*, not *Jah-kin* or *Jaw-kin*  
JERUSALEM-*Jeh-roo-sa-lem*, not *gee-ru-sa-lem*

KNEW-*niu*, not *noo*

LAMENTABLE-*lam-en-ta-ble*, not *la-ment-able*  
LEGEND-*lej-end*, not *lee-jend*  
LIBERTINE-*lib-er-teen*, not *lib-er-tine* or *lib-er-tin*

MAUSOLEUM-*maw-so-lee-um*, not *maw-so-le-um*  
MEMORY-*mem-o-ry*, not *mem-ry*  
MOSAIC-*mo-zay-ic*, not *moz-i-ac*  
MURDERER-*mur-der-er*, not *murd-rer*

NAKED-*nay-ked*, not *neck-ed*  
NAPHTALI-*Naf-ta-lie*, not *Nap-thal-eye* or *Nap-ta-lie*

OBSEQUIES-*ob-see-quiz*, not *ob-see-quiz*  
OFTEN-*of-en*, not *of-ten* or *oft-en*  
OPERATIVE-*oper-a-tive*, not *op-rative*  
OVERSEER-*o-ver-see-er*, not *o-ver-seer*

PALESTINE-*Pal-es-tine*, not *Pal-es-teen* or *Pal-es-tin*  
PARIAN-*Par-i-an*, not *Pay-ri-an*  
PECTORAL-*pek-tor-al*, not *pek---al*  
PEDAL-*ped-al* preferred to *pee-dal*  
PHARAOH-*Fay-ra-oh*, or *Fay-roh*, not *Fair-a-* or *Fair-oh*  
PILASTER-*puh-last-er*, not *pie-last-er*  
POMEGRANATE-*pom-gran-it* or *pum-gran-ate*, not *pom-e-gran-ate* or  
    *Pom-gran-ate*, or *pom-gran-ate*  
PRECEPT-*pre-cept*, not *pre-cept*  
PYTHAGORAS-*Pith-ag-or-as*, not *Pie-thog-or-as* or *Pithy-goras*

RECOGNIZE-*rek-og-nize*, not *reck-o-nize*  
REQUIEM-*ree-que-em*, not *ree-queem*  
REVERENT-*rev-er-ent*, not *rev-rent*

SAMARITAN-*Sa-mar-i-tan*, not *Say-mar-i-tan*

### Pronouncing Words

SANCTORUM-sank-*to*-rom, not sank-*to*ry-um  
SCHISM-*sizz*-em, not *skiz*-em  
SCYTHE-*seye*-th, not *sithe*  
SENTINEL-sen-*ti*-nel, not -nal  
SERAPH-Ser-*af*, not Ser-*ap*  
SHEKINAH-She-*kee*-nah, not *Shek*-i-nah  
SHIBBOLETH-*Shib*-bo-leth, not *Shy*-bo-leth  
SINAI-*Si*-ni or Si-*ne*-i not Si-*nay*-i  
SOLSTICE-*sol*-stis, not sol-*steece*  
SUCCOTH-*Suck*-oth, not *Suc*-coth  
SPECULATIVE-*speck*-u-la-tive, not *speck*-u-la-tive  
SUPERFICES-siu-per-fish-ees, not soo-per-*fy*-ci-es  
SUPERINTENDENT-siu-per-in-ten-dent, not *soop*-er-in-ten-dent

TABERNACLE-*tab*-er-nak-le, not ta-ber-*nack*-le  
TENETS-*ten*-ets, not *teen*-its  
TESSELATED-*tes*-sel-ate-ed, not tes-sel-*a*-ted  
TORTUOUS-*tor*-tu-us, not tort-*you*-us  
TYRIAN-*Tih*-ri-an, not *Tire*-i-an

WESTWARD-*west*-ward, not *west*-ard

ZEREDATHA-Zer-*e*-*dath*-ah preferred to Ze-*red*-atha

**STYLE**

The following is adopted as accepted Masonic usage in the Digest and other Masonic documents:

## 1. USE:

Freemasonry-not Free Masonry  
 Freemason-not Free Mason  
 Tyler-not Tiler  
 Tyle; Tyled-not Tile or Tiled  
 Moneys-not monies  
 Communication; Communications-not meeting or meetings

## 2. CAPITALIZE:

Account; Accounts, in reference to Grand Lodge or Lodge  
 Budget Accounts  
 Ancient Landmarks  
 Ancient Regulations  
 Annual Grand Communication

Board, in reference to a specific Masonic Board  
 Brethren  
 Brother  
 By-Laws

Called, when referring to Called Communication  
 Certificate, in reference to a Certificate of a Lodge or the  
 Grand Lodge  
 Chaplain  
 Charge; Charges, in reference to Charges of a Freemason  
 Charge at initiation or installation  
 Charter; Charters; Chartered, when referring to Lodge Charters  
 Committee, when referring to specific Committee  
 Communication; Communications, when referring to assemblies of the  
 Craft  
 Constitution  
 Craft

Degree; Degrees, when referring to Masonic Degree or Degrees  
 Degree Team; Degree Teams  
 Deputy  
 Diploma, when referring to Diploma from the Grand Lodge



**Appendix**

**Style**

Dispensation; Dispensations  
Divine; Divine Service

Edict  
Emeritus Brother  
Emeritus List  
Entered Apprentice  
Entered Apprentice Mason  
Executive Order

Fellow Craft; Fellow Craft Mason  
First Degree, in reference to the Entered Apprentice Degree  
Fund, in reference in Lodge or Grand Lodge Budget Funds

Grand Honors  
Grand Jurisdiction  
Grand Lodge  
Grand Lodge Officer  
Grand Lodge Regulations

Jewels, in reference to Jewels of the Lodge or of Office  
Junior Deacon  
Junior Grand Warden  
Junior Master  
Junior Past Grand Master Junior Steward  
Junior Warden  
Junior Worshipful Master  
Jurisdiction; Jurisdictions, in reference to Grand Jurisdictions

Landmark; Landmarks  
Lodge

Marshal  
Mason  
Masonic  
Masonic Law  
Master, in reference to the Worshipful Master  
Master Mason  
Memorial Lodge; Memorial Lodges

Officer; Officers  
Old Landmark; Old Landmarks  
Operative, in reference to Operative Masonry

Particular Lodge; Particular Lodges

Proceedings, in reference to published Proceedings of the Grand Lodge

Regulation; Regulations, in reference to Lodge or Grand Lodge or Masonic Regulation or Regulations

Resolution, in reference to Lodge or Grand Lodge Resolution

Returns, in reference to Lodge Returns to Grand Lodge

Rules, in reference to Grand Lodge Rules and Regulations

Saint; Saints (Do not abbreviate)

School of Instruction; Schools of Instruction, in reference to

Schools conducted by Committee on Work

Seal; Seals, in reference to Lodge and Grand Lodge Seals

Second Degree, in reference to Fellow Craft Degree

Secretary, in reference to Lodge or Grand Lodge Secretary

Senior, in reference to Deacons, Stewards, Grand Wardens,

Wardens, Past Grand Masters and other Officers

Sister, in reference to Sister Grand Jurisdiction or Sister

Jurisdiction

Special, in reference to Special Communications

Speculative, in reference to Speculative Masonry

Stated, in reference to Stated Communications

Subordinate, in reference to Subordinate Officers and

Subordinate Lodges

Symbolic, in reference to Symbolic Masonry

Third Degree, in reference to Master Mason Degree

Three Degrees, in reference to the Three Degrees of Masonry

Treasurer, in reference to Lodge or Grand Lodge Treasurer

Uniform Code of By-Laws

Warrant; Warrants; Warrants of Constitution

#### *Additional Capitalization*

Titles of Officers of Grand Lodge and appendant and allied orders of Masonry.

#### 3. HYPHENATED AND UNHYPHENATED WORDS:

Freemason-not Free-Mason

Freemasons-not Free-Masons

Fellow Craft-not Fellow-Craft

Re-ballot-not reballet

Re-spread-not respread

MISCELLANEOUS RULES:

Use unmasonic instead of un-Masonic  
Use Saint and Saints-not St. and Sts.

That wherever appropriate the initials for the title of a Grand Lodge Officer or Lodge Officer shall be inserted in all provisions of the Constitution and Regulations, i.e., M.: W.: Grand Master, R.: W.: Grand Secretary. (Art. IX, Sec. 2(a))

That sub-paragraphs of sections of the Constitution be designated with lower case letters in parenthesis, i.e. (a) (b), not (A), (B).



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1.90	413		1.09	
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9.04	61	1985 P. 297	9.04	12.09
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9.06	63		9.06	12.10
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19.07	203	1996 P. 324; 1997 P. 398	19.07	
19.08	206		19.08	25.15
19.09	77		19.09	6.14
19.10	205		19.10	
19.11	204		19.11	
19.11.1		1977 P. 380		
19.12		1954 P. 139; 1982 P. 432	19.12	
19.13	257	1969 P. 227	19.14	41.10
19.14	201	1981 P. 394	19.15	
19.15	274		19.16	26.22
19.16	142		19.17	5.08
19.17	186		19.18	
19.18	189		19.19	
19.19	384	1996 P. 325	19.20	
19.20	385		19.21	
19.21	196		19.22	
19.22	143		19.23	5.09
2022				



**Tables**

<i>1976 Digest</i>	<i>1947 Digest</i>	<i>Adopted or Amended</i>	<i>1969 Digest</i>	<i>Same As</i>
19.23	370	1982 P. 432	19.24	
20.01	177		20.01	
20.02	178	1954 P. 286	20.02	
20.03	179	1954 P. 236	20.03	
20.04	180		20.04	
20.05	181	1954 P. 236	20.05	38.21
20.06	182		20.06	
20.07	191	1954 P. 236	20.07	
20.08	214		20.08	
20.09	215		20.09	
20.10	207		20.10	
20.11	208		20.11	
20.12	228	1951 P. 166; 1963 P. 360	20.12	25.24
20.13	190		20.13	
20.14	195		20.14	38.23
20.15	386		20.15	
20.16	192		20.16	
20.17	184		20.17	
20.18	185		20.18	
20.19	176	1962 P. 298	20.19	
22.01	197	1980 P. 413	22.01	
22.02	198		22.02	
22.03	114A		22.03	
22.04	199	1996 P. 320; 2001 P. 322; 2019 P. 347	22.04	
22.05	164	1971 P. 294; 1991 P. 231; 2021 P. 373	22.05	9.14
22.06		1959 P. 167; 1960 P. 180; 1961 P. 212; 1962 P. 302; 2009 P. 357; 2018 P. 342	22.06	
22.07		1961 P. 213; 1963 P. 260; 1983 P. 360; 1984 P. 407	22.061	
22.08		1971 P. 300; 1972 P. 261		
22.09		1974 P. 355		33.11
23.01	200		23.01	
24.01	93		24.01	
24.02	387		24.02	
24.03	388	1985 P. 300	24.03	
24.04	480A	1954 P. 133; 1956 P. 208; 1958 P. 156; 1978 P. 301; 2017 P. 344	24.04	13.05
24.05	481	1971 P. 357; 1985 P. 303; 1990 P. 310, 311; 2023 Proc. _____	24.05	

\*Note: See pages 422-423 for By-Law Section changes.

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<i>1976 Digest</i>	<i>1947 Digest</i>	<i>Adopted or Amended</i>	<i>1969 Digest</i>	<i>Same As</i>
25.01	217		25.01	
25.02	218	1956 P. 202	25.02	
25.03	210		25.03	
25.04	236		25.04	25.14
25.05	163	1956 P. 209; 2021 P. 369	25.05	28.02
25.06	279	2013 P. 348	25.06	26.10
25.07	188		25.07	
25.08	193		25.08	
25.09	219		25.09	
25.10	222		25.10	
25.11	223		25.11	
25.12		1975 P. 418		38.42
25.13	213		25.12	
25.14	236		25.13	25.04
25.15	206		25.14	19.08
25.16	231		25.15	38.25
25.17	224		25.16	
25.18	225		25.17	
25.19	234		25.18	38.31
25.20	233		25.19	
25.21	289		25.20	
25.22	216		25.21	
25.23	227		25.22	
25.24	228	1951 P. 166; 1963 P. 360	25.23	20.12
25.25	226	1954 P. 174	25.24	38.26
25.26	232		25.25	
25.27	229		25.26	
25.28	237	1971 P. 300	25.27	
25.29	238		25.28	
25.30	239		25.29	
25.31	240		25.30	
25.32	241	1952 P. 161	25.31	
25.33	85		25.32	
25.34	395		25.33	
25.35	408		25.34	27.17
25.36		1962 P. 265	25.341	
25.37		1962 P. 265	25.342	
25.38	116	1953 P. 159	25.35	
25.39	138		25.36	12.13
25.40	211		25.37	
25.41	212		25.38	26.18, 35.07

<b>Tables</b>				
<i>1976 Digest</i>	<i>1947 Digest</i>	<i>Adopted or Amended</i>	<i>1969 Digest</i>	<i>Same As</i>
25.42	139		25.39	
25.43	159		25.40	
25.44	220		25.41	
25.45	221		25.42	
25.46	89		25.43	4.05, 6.03
25.47	409		25.44	
25.48		1979 P. 328		
26.01	94	Repealed 1982		
26.02	115	1969 P. 230	26.02	
26.03	278	1956 P. 212; 2001 P. 315	26.03	
26.04		1952 P. 165; 1988 P. 277	26.04	
26.04.1		2001 P. 315		
26.04.2		2001 P. 315		
26.05	161	1956 P. 204; 1958 P. 154	26.05 26.06	
26.05 G		2017 P. 346		
26.05.1		1988 P. 285; 1990 P. 310		24.05, 3.03.1
26.05.1(a)		2003 P. 313		24.05, 3.03.1(a)
26.05.1(f)		2017 P. 346		
26.05.1(g)		1994 P. 457; 2001 P. 329		24.05, 3.03.1(g)
26.05.1(h)		2001 P. 329		24.05, 3.03.1(h)
26.05.1(n)		1994 P. 435; 2001 P. 330		24.05, 3.03.1(n)
26.05.1(o)		1998 P. 348; 2001 P. 330		24.05, 3.03.1(t)
26.05.1(p)		1998 P. 348		24.05, 3.03.1(o)
26.05.1(q)		1998 P. 348		24.05, 3.03.1(p)
26.05.1(r)		1998 P. 348		24.05, 3.03.1(q)
26.05.1(s)		1998 P. 348		24.05, 3.03.1(r)
26.05.2(b)		2001 P. 330		
26.05.2(c)		2001 P. 330		
26.05.2(e)		2001 P. 330		
26.05.2(g)		1990 P. 312		
26.07	404		26.07	27.06

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<i>1976 Digest</i>	<i>1947 Digest</i>	<i>Adopted or Amended</i>	<i>1969 Digest</i>	<i>Same As</i>
26.08	275		26.08	30.05
26.09		1952 P. 164; 1958 P. 155; 1972 P. 393; 2017 P. 345	26.09	
26.10	279	2013 P. 348	26.10	25.06
26.10.1		1990 P. 311; 2001 P. 331		24.05, 3.04.1
26.10.2		1999 P. 377; 2001 P. 331		24.05, 3.04.2
26.10.3		2003 P. 313		24.05, 3.04.3
26.11	140	1985 P. 301; 2017 P. 346	26.11	
26.12	277	1953 P. 153; 1965 P. 203; 1966 P. 248; 1977 P. 396; 1980 P. 406; 1984 P. 407; 1987 P. 308; 1990 P. 273 2015 P. 358; 2016 P. 332	26.12	
26.13	251		26.13	1.06
26.14	253		26.14	
26.15	254		26.15	
26.16	252		26.16	
26.17	286		26.17	
26.18	212		26.18	25.41 35.07
26.19	272		26.19	
26.20	145	1984 P. 414	26.20	
26.21		1953 P. 191	26.21	
26.22	274		26.22	19.15
26.23	255	1966 P. 250; 1987 P. 314	26.23	
26.24	283		26.24	
26.25	374		26.25	
26.26	372		26.26	27.10
26.27		1955 P. 111; 1985 P. 301	26.27	
26.28		1977 P. 398; 1983 P. 360; 1985 P. 310; 1987 P. 298 1989 P. 274; 1991 P. 234		
27.01	399		27.01	
27.02	400		27.02	
27.03	401		27.03	
27.04	402		27.04	
27.05	403		27.05	
27.06	404		27.06	
27.07	262		27.08	41.14
27.08	92		27.09	
27.09	114		27.10	14.07, 30.04

<b>Tables</b>				
<i>1976 Digest</i>	<i>1947 Digest</i>	<i>Adopted or Amended</i>	<i>1969 Digest</i>	<i>Same As</i>
27.10	372		27.11	26.26
27.11	371		27.12	
27.12	406		27.13	
27.13	472	1948 P. 198; 1958 P. 155	27.14	
27.14	473		27.15	
27.15	474		27.16	
27.16	409		27.17	25.47
27.17	408		27.18	25.35
28.01		1951 P. 143; 2017 P. 349	28.01	
28.02	163	1956 P. 209; 2021 P. 369	28.02	26.05
28.03	410	1959 P. 100; 1969 P. 227	28.03	
28.04	304	1954 P. 272; 1966 P. 252	28.04	
28.05	397		28.05	
28.06	398	1961 P. 123; 1978 P. 301 1992 P. 389; 2013 P. 358 2018 P. 329	28.06	
28.06.1		2013 P. 358; 2018 P. 329		
28.07		1979 P. 328; 1995 P. 399; 2009 P. 360	28.06	
28.07.1		2003 P. 334; 2009 P. 360		
29.01	51		29.01	
29.02	53		29.02	
29.03	54		29.03	
29.04	55		29.04	
29.05	56		29.05	
29.06	56A		29.06	
30.01	110	1957 P. 177; 1965 P. 204; 1966 P. 249; 1969 P. 230; 2010 P. 349	30.01	14.08
30.02	111	1969 P. 229; 1975 P. 419	30.02	14.06
30.03	112		30.03	
30.04	114		30.04	14.07, 27.09
30.05	275		30.05	26.08
30.06	276		30.06	
31.01	287	1978 P. 301 1991 P. 233	31.01	
31.02	292		31.02	
31.03		1955 P. 132	31.021	
31.03.1	251	2009 P. 350		
31.04	289	1973 P. 354; 1977 P. 411; 1991 P. 235	31.03	
31.05	291	1991 P. 236	31.05	
31.06	296	1948 P. 86, 198; 2008 P. 330	31.07	34.06
31.07	153		31.08	

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<i>1976 Digest</i>	<i>1947 Digest</i>	<i>Adopted or Amended</i>	<i>1969 Digest</i>	<i>Same As</i>
31.08	297	2012 P. 370	31.09	
31.09	298	1964 P. 271; 2012 P. 370	31.10	
31.10	299	1964 P. 272; 2012 P. 370	31.11	
31.11	300		31.12	
31.12	152	1985 P. 303	31.13	18.04
31.13	325	1948 P. 86, 198	31.14	34.08
31.14	338		31.15	37.09
31.15	321	1948 P. 86, 198; 1995 P. 380	31.16	36.03
31.16	288		31.17	
31.17		1951 P. 145	31.18	
31.18	329		31.21	
31.19		1948 P. 198	31.22	33.06 36.05
32.01	295	1948 P. 85, 198; 1965 P. 196, 204	32.01 32.01	
32.02	407		32.02	
32.03	316	2009 P. 350	32.03	33.05
32.04	317	1948 P. 86, 198	32.04	
32.05	318	1950 P. 204	32.05	37.11
32.06	310	1948 P. 86, 198	32.06	
33.01	303		33.01	
33.02		1948 P. 197; 2009 P. 350 2018 P. 346	33.02	
33.03	304	2009 P. 350	33.03	
33.04	15	1948 P. 87, 198; 1995 P. 381	33.04	
33.05	316	2009 P. 350	33.05	32.03
33.06		1948 P. 198	33.06	31.19, 36.05
33.07		1950 P. 202	33.07	
33.08		1951 P. 147; 1955 P. 132; 1974 P. 355	33.08	
33.09		1952 P. 163	33.09	
33.10	307	2009 P. 350	33.10	35.14, 22.09
33.11		1974 P. 355		
34.01	154		34.01	
34.01	155		34.02	
34.03	313		34.03	
34.04	314	2008 P. 330	34.04	
34.05	311		34.05	18.07
34.06	312		34.06	31.06
34.07	341	1977 P. 400 Repealed	34.07	
34.08	325	1948 P. 86, 198	34.08	31.13

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<i>1976 Digest</i>	<i>1947 Digest</i>	<i>Adopted or Amended</i>	<i>1969 Digest</i>	<i>Same As</i>
35.01	209		35.01	
35.02		1953 P. 154; 1967 P. 312	35.02	
35.03	377		35.03	
35.04	378		35.04	
35.05	379		35.05	
35.06	323		35.06	36.04
35.07	212		35.07	25.41, 26.18
35.08	305	1954 P. 216; 1967 P. 213	35.08	
35.09	306	1948 P. 86, 198	35.09	
35.10		1948 P. 85, 198; 1953 P. 152; 1954 P. 172	35.10	37.02
35.11		1948 P. 85, 198; 1954 P. 172	35.11	
35.12	381		35.12	
35.13		1974 P. 360, 361		
35.14	307		35.13	33.10
35.15	380		35.14	
35.16	376		35.15	
35.17	308		35.16	
35.18	309	1948 P. 86, 198	35.17	
35.19	382		35.18	
36.01	319	1948 P. 86, 198; 1995 P. 381	36.01	
36.02	320	1948 P. 86, 198; 1977 P. 401; 1995 P. 381	36.02	
36.03	321	1948 P. 86, 198; 1995 P. 382	36.03	
36.04	323		36.05	35.06
36.05		1948 P. 198	36.06	31.19, 33.06
37.01	324		37.01	
37.02		1948 P. 85, 198 1953 P. 152; 1954 P. 172	37.02	35.10
37.03	326		37.03	38.13
37.04	327		37.04	38.14
37.05	340		37.05	43.03
37.06	336		37.06	
37.07	336	1950 P. 20	37.07	
37.07	336	1950 P. 204	37.07	
37.08	337	1948 P. 86, 198	37.08	
37.09	338		37.09	31.14
37.10	339		37.10	
37.11	318		37.10	
37.11	318	1950 P. 204	37.11	32.05

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<i>1976 Digest</i>	<i>1947 Digest</i>	<i>Adopted or Amended</i>	<i>1969 Digest</i>	<i>Same As</i>
37.12		1954 P. 168; 1966 P. 251; 1979 P. 329	37.12	
37.13	334		37.13	
37.14	332		37.14	
37.15	343	1974 P. 360	37.15	
37.16		1959 P. 169; 1974 P. 361 1989 P. 273	37.16	13.11
37.16 (d)		2010 P. 351		
37.16 (g)		2003 P. 321		13.11 (g)
37.17		1959 P. 169	37.17	
37.18		1966 P. 251; 1979 P. 329; 1991 P. 238	37.18	
38.01	128	1969 P. 219, 378; 1996 P. 285	38.01	38.01
38.02		1959 P. 179; 1969 P. 219, 378	38.011	
38.03	361		38.02	
38.04	123	1967 P. 228, 332; 1978 P. 617; 1982 P. 436 1989 P. 258, 272	38.03	
38.04 (b)		1995 P. 372; 2009 P. 347; 2019 P. 331		
38.04 (f)		1995 P. 374; 2001 P. 317; 2021 P. 361		
38.05	124		38.04	
38.06	125		6.08	
38.07	127		6.09	
38.08	124		6.10	
38.09	126		6.11	
38.10		1959 P. 171; 1967 P. 209, 212; 1973 P. 360	6.111	
38.10.1		1977 P. 396		
38.11	126		38.05	
38.12	129	2002 P. 297	38.06	5.04
38.13	326		38.07	37.03
38.14	327		38.08	37.04
38.15		1957 P. 177; 1977 P. 381; 1992 P. 393; 2003 P. 323	38.081	
38.16		1959 P. 170	38.082	
38.17		1959 P. 170	38.083	
38.18		1959 P. 170	38.084	
38.19		1959 P. 170; 1976 P. 333	38.085	
38.20	182		38.09	20.06
38.21	181	1954 P. 236	38.10	20.05



**Tables**

<i>1976 Digest</i>	<i>1947 Digest</i>	<i>Adopted or Amended</i>	<i>1969 Digest</i>	<i>Same As</i>
38.22	194	1985 P. 302	38.11	
38.23	195		38.12	20.14
38.24	230		38.13	
38.25	231		38.14	25.16
38.26	226	1954 P. 174	38.15	25.25
38.27	359	38.16		
38.28	362	1967 P. 289, 332	38.17	44.17
38.29	360		38.18	
38.30	71		38.19	6.09
38.31	234		38.20	25.19
38.32	263	1959 P. 172	38.21	
38.33	390	1982 P. 436	38.22	
38.34	391		38.23	
38.35	282		38.24	
38.36	281		38.25	
38.37	364		38.26	
38.38	365		38.27	
38.39		1959 P. 174	38.271	
38.40	366		38.28	
38.41	280		38.281	
38.42		1975 P. 418		
38.43	367		38.29	
38.44		1959 P. 173	38.40	
38.45		1977 P. 381; 2008 P. 329		
39.01	81		39.01	
39.02	137		39.02	
39.03	342	1948 P. 89, 198; 1985 P. 302	39.03	18.05
39.04	344		39.04	
39.05	345		39.05	
40.01	284		40.01	
40.02	242		40.02	
40.03	243		40.03	
40.04	248		40.04	
40.05	249		40.05	
40.06	285	1969 P. 227		
40.07	245		40.07	
40.08	244		40.08	
40.09	160		40.09	
40.10	247		40.10	
40.11	246		40.11	
41.01	256	1977 P. 400; 1991 P. 237	41.01	

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<i>1976 Digest</i>	<i>1947 Digest</i>	<i>Adopted or Amended</i>	<i>1969 Digest</i>	<i>Same As</i>
41.02	261		41.02	
41.03	266		41.03	
41.04	267	1985 P. 302	41.14	
41.05	259		41.05	
41.06	265		41.06	
41.07	263		41.07	
41.08	258		41.08	
41.09	264		41.09	
41.10	257	1969 P. 227	41.10	19.13
41.11	268		41.11	43.04
41.12	269		41.12	43.05
41.13		1948 P. 89; 1949 P. 157; 1981 P. 383	41.13	
41.14	262		41.14	
41.15	260		41.15	
41.16	82		41.16	
41.17	83		41.17	
41.18	84	1949 P. 157	41.18	
41.19	346		41.19	
41.20	347		41.19	
41.20	347	1977 P. 400	41.20	
41.21	348		41.21	9.13, 43.06
41.22	80		41.22	
41.23	355		41.23	
41.24	356		41.24	
41.25	107		41.25	
41.26		1953 P. 154; 1998 P. 344	41.26	
41.27	353		41.27	
41.28	349		41.28	
41.29	357		41.29	
41.30	358		41.30	
41.31	273		41.30	
41.32	335	1948 P. 86, 198	41.32	
41.33	350		41.33	
41.34	351		41.34	
41.35	352		41.35	
41.36	354		41.36	
41.37	280		41.37	

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<i>1976 Digest</i>	<i>1947 Digest</i>	<i>Adopted or Amended</i>	<i>1969 Digest</i>	<i>Same As</i>
42.01	78	1963 P. 337; 1969 P. 228	42.01	
42.02	158		42.02	18.03
42.03	96		42.03	
42.04		1963 P. 339; 1969 P. 227; 1984 P. 416		
42.05	105		42.04	
42.06	165A		42.05	
42.07	166A	1966 P. 327; 2017 P. 343	42.06	
42.08	172		42.07	
42.09	167		42.08	
42.10	169		42.09	
42.11	168		42.10	
42.12	170		42.11	
42.13	171		42.12	
42.14	271		42.13	
42.15	173A		42.14	
42.16		1950 P. 82; 1967 P. 212	42.15	
42.17	173		42.16	
42.18		1985 P. 303		
43.01	97	1954 P. 140	43.01	
43.02	106		43.02	
43.03	340		43.04	37.05
43.04	268		43.05	41.11
43.05	269		43.06	41.12
43.06	348		43.07	9.13 41.21
43.07	405		43.08	
43.08	101A		43.09	
43.09	101		43.10	17.07
44.01	411		44.01	
44.02	412		44.02	
44.03	414		44.03	
<del>*44.04-44.67</del>		Repealed 1979*		
44.05		1979 P. 301; 1992 P. 390; 2013 P. 347, 358; 2018 P. 330		
44.06		1979 P. 301; 1984 P. 415; 1989 P. 276		
44.07		1979 P. 301		
44.08		1979 P. 302		
44.09		1979 P. 302		

\*Note-Chapter 44 was completely rewritten in 1979.

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<i>1976 Digest</i>	<i>1947 Digest</i>	<i>Adopted or Amended</i>	<i>1969 Digest</i>	<i>Same As</i>
44.10		1979 P. 302; 1983 P. 363; 1996 P. 344		
44.11		1979 P. 302		
44.12		1979 P. 302		
44.13		1979 P. 302		
44.14		1979 P. 303		
44.15		1979 P. 303		
44.16		1979 P. 303		
44.17		1979 P. 303		
44.18		1979 P. 303		
44.19		1979 P. 303		
44.20		1979 P. 304		
44.21		1979 P. 304; 1983 P. 361; 1985 P. 311; 1986 P. 305; 1995 P. 392		
44.22		1979 P. 304; 1983 P. 362		
44.23		1979 P. 305; 2008 P. 334		
44.24		1979 P. 305		
44.25		1979 P. 305		
44.26		1979 P. 307; 2010 P. 358		
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UNIFORM CODE OF BY-LAWS  
Particular Lodges

The 1947 Revision of the 1942 Digest contained the Uniform Code as Regulation 481. The Uniform Code as revised appears in 1958 Proceedings 156-171. The following table shows amendments since 1958.

<i>By-Law No.</i>	<i>Adopted or Amended</i>	<i>Same As</i>
1.01	2022 P. 333	
3.02	1978 P. 308; 1997 P. 401	
3.02.1	2001 P. 315; 2004 P. 262	
3.03.1	1988 P. 285; 1990 P. 310	
3.03.1(a)	2003 P. 312	26.05.1(a)
3.03.1(f)	2017 P. 346	26.05.1(f)
3.03.1(g)	1994 P. 457; 2001 P. 327	26.05.1(g)
3.03.1(h)	2001 P. 328	26.05.1(h)
3.03.1(n)	1994 P. 434; 2001 P. 328	26.05.1(n)
3.03.1(s)	2001 P. 328	26.10.1
3.03.1(t)	1998 P. 347; 2001 P. 329	26.05.1(o)
3.04.1	1990 P. 310; 2001 P. 331	26.10.1
3.04.2	1999 P. 377; 2001 P. 331	26.10.2
3.04.3	2003 P. 313	26.10.3
3.05	1972 P. 394; 2018 P. 339	
4.01	1971 P. 357; 1987 P. 306; 2014 P. 341	
4.02	1962 P. 298	
5.01	1973 P. 352	
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9.01	2009 P. 350; 2018 P. 345	
9.02	2009 P. 350	
10.01	1985 P. 303; 2010 P. 344	
10.02	2003 P. 319	
10.04	1974 P. 56, 354	
10.05	2010 P. 345	
10.07	2001 P. 315	
10.08	1980 P. 403	
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14.01	1986 P. 308; 2021 P. 369	
14.02	1986 P. 308	
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16.01	1978 P. 301	
16.01 (2)	2021 P. 381	

UNIFORM CODE OF BY-LAWS

Memorial Lodges

The Uniform Code of By-Laws for Memorial Lodges was adopted 1963 P. 377-381. The following table shows amendments since that time:

1.01	2007 P. 280
5.03	1973 P. 362
7.02	2018 P. 340
8.01	2014 P. 339
8.03	1969 P. 210
12.01 (2)	2018 P. 341
12.04	1985 P. 298

Clubs

Uniform Code of By-Laws for Clubs and Similar Organizations was adopted 1970 P. 232-238.

2.04	2013 P. 345
5.01	1984 P. 417; 1991 P. 233
5.03	2018 P. 333
7.03 Deleted	Deleted 1984 P. 417
8.01	1984 P. 417
11.01	1985 P. 299; 2018 P. 334

TABLE OF AMENDMENTS TO MASONIC  
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<i>Rule</i>	<i>Adopted or Amended</i>
2.01	1977 P. 247; 2012 P. 377
3.01	2010 P. 346; 2012 P. 374; 2016 P. 323; 2017 P. 332
3.05	2012 P. 374
4.04	2013 P. 351
4.14	1991 P. 232
4.16	1983 P. 354
4.20	1982 P. 434
4.17, 4.18, 4.19, 4.20,	
5.01, 5.02	1983 P. 354 Repealed
5.03, 5.04	1983 P. 354 Renumbered
5.01, 5.02	1983 P. 354
6.01(a)	2005 P. 295; 2008 P. 335; 2012 P. 377
6.01(b)	2012 P. 377
6.01(c) Repealed	2008 P. 335
6.01(d)	2003 P. 333; 2008 P. 335
6.03	2010 P. 346; 2012 P. 374; 2016 P. 323; 2017 P. 332
6.03(a)	1997 P. 409; 2003 P. 331; 2008 P. 335
6.03(b)	2005 P. 295; 2008 P. 335
6.03(c)	2014 P. 337
6.03 (c) (1)	2021 P. 382
6.03(e)	2008 P. 335; 2010 P. 346; 2012 P. 374; 2016 P. 323; 2017 P. 332
6.05(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)	1997 P. 408; 2008 P. 335 Repealed
7.01	2012 P. 377
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7.02(a)	2008 P. 335; 2012 P. 377
7.02(b)	2008 P. 335; 2012 P. 377
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7.02(d)	2005 P. 296; 2012 P. 377
7.02(e)	2012 P. 377
7.03(a)	2008 P. 335; 2012 P. 377
7.03(b)	2008 P. 335
7.04	1979 P. 333; 2000 P. 359
7.04(a)	1994 P. 425; 1996 P. 414 2003 P. 329; 2008 P. 335; 2011 P. 375; 2012 P. 377; 2016 P. 331
7.04(b)	1994 P. 427; 2012 P. 377
7.04(c)	2007 P. 280



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7.04 (j)	2012 P. 377
7.05	2008 P. 335; 2012 P. 377
7.05(5)	2008 P. 335
7.05(6)	2008 P. 335
7.05.1	2011 P. 375
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7.08 (c)	2011 P. 375
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10.01	1992 P. 404; 2012 P. 377
11.01(b)	1999 P. 385
12.05	2011 P. 375
12.08	1979 P. 295; 1981 P. 386; 1994 P. 429; 2011 P. 375; 2012 P. 377

**REGULATIONS IN  
1969 DIGEST REPEALED**

<i>Regulation</i>	<i>Repealed</i>	<i>Regulation</i>	<i>Repealed</i>
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13.02 (6.02)	1972 Proc. 283	13.08	1972 Proc. 283
13.03 (6.03)	1972 Proc. 283	13.09 (6.07)	1972 Proc. 283
13.031	1972 Proc. 283	13.151	1972 Proc. 283
13.05 (6.05)	1972 Proc. 283	13.163	1972 Proc. 283
13.072	1972 Proc. 283	31.04	1973 Proc. 354
13.073	1972 Proc. 283	31.06 (34.06)	1973 Proc. 354

**Digest of Masonic Law**

GENERAL INDEX

In the following index, R stands for Regulation, A and S stand for Article and Section of the Constitution, B.L. stands for By-Laws of Lodges, C.B.L. for Club By-Laws, M.B.L. for Memorial Lodge By-Laws and M.H.R. for Masonic Home Regulations. The Constitution is printed in full in the front of the Digest. Where any entry in this index refers you to another heading, such heading may be found in this index. Be sure and check every heading and sub-heading which may have some bearing on the subject you are looking for. The Uniform Code of By-Laws for Lodges, Clubs and Similar Organizations, and Memorial Lodges are printed in full in this Digest.

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**WARDENS, GRAND**

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