

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 15th 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