

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