

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 _____

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 27th, 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)