

June 6, 2023

To: Worshipful Masters and Officers of All Particular Lodges
Grand Lodge Officers
Past Grand Masters
District Deputy Grand Masters

Re: Summary of Legislation – 194th Annual Grand Communication

Dear Brethren:

In compliance with Regulation 13.04 of the Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida, listed below are the Resolutions enacted at the 194th Annual Grand Communication held in Orlando, Florida, on May 29, 30, and 31, 2023. This summary should be reviewed by the Elected Lodge Officers and reported to the Brothers, in open Lodge, at the next Stated Communication after its receipt.

At the 194th Annual Grand Communication of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida the following Grand Lodge Officers were Elected and Installed:

M.: W.: Glen B. Bishop, Grand Master
R.: W.: Donald W. Cowart, Deputy Grand Master
R.: W.: Taleb T. Atala, Senior Grand Warden
R.: W.: Haskell R. Vest, Jr., Junior Grand Warden
R.: W.: Rudin J. Boatright, Grand Treasurer
M.: W.: Richard E. Lynn, P.G.M., Grand Secretary

This report contains five (5) Resolutions adopted which will amend various Constitutional Provisions and/or Regulations along with 3 Rulings and Decisions adopted by the Craft.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS/REGULATION CHANGES ADOPTED BY 2/3 ELECTRONIC VOTE:

RESOLUTION ON THE MASONIC HOME BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home shall be composed of ten (10) (9) members. One (1) member shall be appointed by the Grand Master as Chairman and (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 subcommittees 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 (1) of the members of the Board to serve as Vice Chairman. (2019)

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 or the vacant term. No person shall serve as a member of the Board of Trustees for more than six (6) consecutive years.

REGULATION CHANGES ADOPTED:

RESOLUTION TO AMEND REGULATION 24.05 Requiring (A) In Section 1.01 fill in date of Charter, **Name, Number,** and location of the Lodge.

THE SALE OF THE GRAND LODGE BUILDING AND PROPERTY IN JACKSONVILLE THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The Grand of Florida facility located at 220 N Ocean Street in Jacksonville, Florida, be sold following the approval of the Craft at the 194th Annual Grand Communication.

PETITIONS FOR REINSTATEMENT FROM INDEFINITE SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION 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 judgement, suspending operation of the judgement, or directing other and further proceedings, all of which proceedings and orders shall be reviewed by the Jurisprudence Committee and a report and recommendations made thereon to the Grand Lodge (Delegates) for final action. Final action shall be deemed final.

Rulings and Decisions ADOPTED:

RULING AND DECISION NO. 1, that 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.

RULING AND DECISION NO. 2, that 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.

RULING AND DECISION NO. 4, Therefore, it is my Ruling and Decision, 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.

This Summary has been reviewed by M.:W.: Stanley L. Hudson, P.G.M., Chairman, and M.:W.: Richard G. Hoover, P.G.M., Vice Chairman, of the Masonic Jurisprudence Committee.