

# Washington Masonic Code

2003



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# Washington Masonic Code

2003



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**WASHINGTON MASONIC CODE**  
**2003**  
**OF THE**  
**MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE**  
**OF**  
**FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF WASHINGTON**  
**WITH**  
**PREFACE, APPENDICES, INCLUDING RULINGS AND DECISIONS**



**CLARIFIED AND AMENDED BY**  
**GRAND LODGE CODE COMMISSIONS**  
**APPOINTED IN JUNE 2001, AND JUNE 2002**  
**SUBMITTED TO THE DELEGATES AND CONSTITUENT**  
**LODGES FOR CONSIDERATION AND REPORTED TO**  
**GRAND LODGE FOR ACTION JUNE 2003.**

**PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF**  
**THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE**  
**OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS**  
**OF WASHINGTON**

## Preface

Beginning in 2001, the Code Commission was charged to perform a complete review of the Washington Masonic Code. It was tasked especially to correct any typographical or omission errors, and to modify any language in the Code that was unclear, assuring that these changes remained faithful to the original intent. Their charge was similar to that given the 1980-83 Commission, “. . . by restructuring and rewriting the accumulated material . . . every member of the Constituent Lodges throughout Washington Jurisdiction will find the Code’s wisdom readily accessible and understandable.”

The 1983 Code had required nearly three years to complete and was a most worthy product. However, by 2001, the Code had not undergone a comprehensive review for nearly two decades, and the intervening years of legislative modifications had materially impaired the Code’s clarity, consistency, and usability. Understandably, in the Spring of 2000 The Grand Lodge Long Range Strategic Plan identified making the Code more “user friendly” as one of the Jurisdiction’s primary goals. To that end, the Code Commission remained essentially in tact for two successive Grand Lodge years, 2001 to 2003. Thanks to the application of modern technology, the Commission completed a draft revision of the Code in less than one year, allowing an extensive period for review and comment by the membership.

The Code Commission has spent many hours at the task and the revision presented here is the result of that effort. This revised Code is characteristically a work in progress. As the Commission completed its efforts, it acknowledged that several areas in the Code will require more complete study. However, both the Code Commission and the Jurisprudence Committee agree this new Code warranted acceptance, and it was adopted at the 2003 Grand Lodge Session in Tacoma.

M.: W.: Robert L. Van Zee  
Grand Master  
2001-2002

M.: W.: James N. Reid, Jr.  
Grand Master  
2002-2003

## **W. M. C. Historical Changes**

The Constitutional Convention of December 6-8, 1858, at which was formed “The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Washington,” adopted a Constitution which in due time would be expanded as a compilation of Masonic laws and be known as the Washington Masonic Code.

The compilation was revised frequently and in 1929, after seventy-one years, had undergone seven re-printings and was due for its eighth. In that year, the delegates to the Seventy-second Annual Communication foresaw the need to guard against potential degrading of the literary quality of the Code. Permanent legislation was approved authorizing the designation of the Jurisprudence Committee as a Special Code Commission charged with the maintenance of the Code

In 1973, deficiencies in the structure and composition of the Code had increased to a serious degree. To maintain the quality of the Code, new legislation was adopted authorizing the Grand Master to annually appoint an independent Code Commission.

Code Commissions were appointed in 1975 and again in 1976 for the purpose of beginning the work of restoring the high quality of the Code. The initial studies revealed the great magnitude and extreme difficulty of the project. The studies were to be helpful by forewarning subsequent Commissions of the extraordinary effort and skill that would be required.

M.:W.: Wayne A. Sparger in 1980 directed the Code Commission to revise and clarify the Washington Masonic Code. M.:W.: Herbert M. Edman reappointed the Commission in 1981 with this comment: “The work you are doing is very important and long overdue.”

M.:W.: George R. Bordewick, after examining a preliminary draft of the Code clarification in 1982 and approving plans for reviews by the Committee on Jurisprudence and by the Constituent Lodges, expressed hope that delegates to the 1983 Annual Communication would accept and approve “this monumental work.”

The 1983 Edition of the Washington Masonic Code was adopted at the 126<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, June 1983.

M.:W.: Robert L. Van Zee in 2001 charges the Code Commission to perform a complete review of the Washington Masonic Code. During this process, the Code Commission were to make any revisions and restructuring necessary to make the Code more accessible and understandable to the Craft. Considering the Washington Masonic Code had not had a complete review in 18 years the time for the change was due.

The 2003 Edition of the Washington Masonic Code to be presented to the delegates at the 145<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication of Grand Lodge June 2002 for their consideration and action by the Grand Lodge by the next Annual Communication in June 2003.

## STATEMENT OF CODE COMMISSION

All Masons have promised to faithfully observe the laws of Masonry. Most have heard the admonition to the Worshipful Master at installation to “Cause (the Book of Constitutions) to be read in your Lodge that none may pretend ignorance of the excellent precepts which it enjoins.” It follows logically that every member is entitled to understand what the laws of Masonry require of him and his Brethren.

The objective of the Code Commission of 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 has been to bring the Washington Masonic Code into an elevated state of usefulness by restructuring and rewriting the accumulated material so that every member of Constituent Lodges throughout the Washington Jurisdiction will find the Code’s wisdom readily accessible and understandable.

V.: W.: James A. Mosley

V.: W.: James A. Smyth

M.: W.: Sidney Kase

M.: W.: Matt Martin

M.: W.: Bill R. Wood, Chairman

Ad-hoc Members:

Bro. Todd A. Oberlander

V.: W.: Christopher J. Coffman

M.: W.: Wayne J. Deming



## LIST of ABBREVIATIONS USED

B.L.	By-Laws
Const.	Constitution
D.G.M.	Deputy Grand Master
D. of G.M.	Deputy of the Grand Master
E.A.	Entered Apprentice
F.C.	Fellowcraft
G.L.	Grand Lodge
G.M.	Grand Master
Gr. Sec.	Grand Secretary
J.G.W.	Junior Grand Warden
J.W.	Junior Warden
L.	Lodge
Mas.	Masonic
MRC.	Masonic Retirement Center
M.M.	Master Mason
M.W.	Most Worshipful
N.P.D.	Non Payment of Dues
Para.	Paragraph
P.G.M.	Past Grand Master
Rev.	Revised
R.W.	Right Worshipful
Sec.	Section in Code
S.G.W.	Senior Grand Warden
S.W.	Senior Warden
U.D.	Under Dispensation
V.W.	Very Worshipful
W.M.	Worshipful Master
W.M.C.	Washington Masonic Code

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## Part 1 – Grand Lodge

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- Sec. 1.03 Const. – [Members](#)
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- Sec. 1.05 Const. – [Divisions Masonic Law](#)
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- Sec. 1.08 B.L. – [Washington Masonic Code](#)
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- Sec. 1.10 B.L. – [Seal](#)

## Part I -- Grand Lodge

### CHAPTER 1 - GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### Sec. 1.01 Const.

**Style and Title of Grand Lodge.** The style and title of this Grand Lodge is and shall be: “The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Washington.”

#### Sec. 1.02 Const.

**Supreme Jurisdiction.** This Grand Lodge has Supreme Jurisdiction over all matters of Ancient Craft Masonry within the territorial limits of the State of Washington; and like Jurisdiction over such Lodges as it has established and hereafter shall establish in open territory belonging to the United States of America, except for the shared and independent Jurisdiction of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington and Jurisdiction, which it exercises over its Lodges, members and Ancient Craft Masonry within this State.

With the foregoing single exception, this Grand Lodge does not recognize or admit the existence of any coordinate or superior Masonic authority, however styled, and it has the inherent power, not including Prince Hall Masons, to investigate and determine all Masonic matters relating to the Craft in general, to particular Lodges, and to individual Brethren, either directly or by its delegated authority, and its authority cannot be called into question. **Rev. 1997**

#### Sec. 1.03 Const.

**Members.** Members of the Grand Lodge shall consist of the following:

1. Past Masters of chartered Lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction, while members therein,
2. Masters and Wardens, or their duly appointed proxies, of the chartered and duly constituted Lodges of this Jurisdiction; and
3. Members of Lodges of this Jurisdiction who are Past Masters of any other Jurisdiction which is in fraternal communication with the Grand Lodge of Washington. **Rev. 1990**

#### Sec. 1.04 Const.

**Powers.** The powers of the Grand Lodge are legislative, executive, and judicial, and are limited only by its own Constitution and Laws and by the Ancient Landmarks of Masonry.

1. **Legislative:** The **legislative powers** extend to every case of legislation not immemorially inherent in the Constituent Lodges. The Grand Lodge Constitution, By-Laws and regulations are binding on all Lodges and Masons of this Jurisdiction.
2. **Executive:** The **executive powers** include, but are not limited to:
  - A. Granting dispensations and charters for Lodges within this Jurisdiction and in open territory,
  - B. Revoking or suspending dispensations and charters for cause,
  - C. Issuing special dispensations provided by the Constitution; and
  - D. Exercising such authority as may be necessary to put its legislation into effect.
3. **Judicial:** The **judicial powers** are of two kinds: Original and Appellate.
  - A. Original judicial power includes:
    - a. Resolution of all controversies between Lodges, between a Lodge and a member or members of another Lodge, or between members of different Lodges,
    - b. Enforcement of discipline upon members of Grand Lodge and upon Lodges under its Jurisdiction; and

[Rev. 2003]

- c. Disposition of all charges preferred against the Master of a Lodge during his incumbency or against a Past Master for official misconduct during his term of office.

B. Appellate power embraces the review and disposition of all matters of controversy or discipline proper for Masonic investigation that have arisen in any of the Lodges.

**Sec. 1.05 Const.**

**Divisions of Masonic Law.** The action of Freemasons in the Grand Lodge and in their Lodges and in their individual capacity is regulated and controlled by the Masonic Law consisting of:

1. The moral law - our obligations, charges and rituals.
2. The common law of Masonry, which is the Immemorial Law and includes the Ancient Landmarks.
3. The written law of Masonry, which includes:
  - A. Constitutions; and
  - B. General and specific laws, rules, edicts, resolutions and By-Laws enacted by competent authority.
4. Usages and customs of Masonry:
  - A. Usages which are those practices and modes of behavior of Brethren, individually and collectively, in Grand Lodge and in Lodges and toward each other, long observed in this Jurisdiction by voluntary assent; and
  - B. Customs that are usages of such universality and antiquity as to have acquired the force and effect of law.

**Sec. 1.06 Const.**

**Constitutions.** Constitutions are those written compacts or laws enacted by Freemasons for the government of Grand Lodge and Lodges and their members - including fundamental provisions, constitutionally adopted, that are intended to be permanent in their character.

**Sec. 1.07 Const.**

**Grand Lodge By-Laws.** By-Laws are those enactments adopted by the Grand Lodge for the regulation of its internal affairs and its dealings with other Jurisdictions, and for the government of its members.

**Sec. 1.08 B.L.**

**Washington Masonic Code.** The codification of the Constitution, By-Laws and Regulations of the Grand Lodge of Washington shall be known as the Washington Masonic Code.

**Sec. 1.09 B.L.**

**Recognition of Foreign Grand Lodges.** The basis of recognition for a foreign Grand Lodge shall be that such Grand Body:

1. Shall have been legally formed by at least three regularly Constituted Lodges, or chartered by some legally authorized body of Masons to act as a Grand Lodge,
2. Is self-governing, responsible and independent, with undisputed authority over its Symbolic Lodges conferring the first three Degrees of Freemasonry; and not subject to or holding divided Jurisdiction with a Supreme Council or any other claiming to have ritualistic control over the Symbolic Degrees,
3. Requires that the membership of the Symbolic Lodges under its Jurisdiction shall be composed of men only,
4. Requires that each candidate for the Degrees of Masonry, shall express a belief in a Supreme Being,
5. Requires of its Constituent Lodges a strict adherence to the Ancient Landmarks, Customs and Usages of the Craft, as set forth in the Constitution adopted by the Grand Lodge of England in 1723, except insofar as they have been modified since that date by the United Grand Lodge of England or by this Grand Body,
6. Shall have no Masonic relations of any kind with mixed Lodges or Bodies which admit women to membership,
7. Obligates its initiates on a book of Sacred Law,
8. Prohibits the discussion within the Lodge Room of any and all religious or sectarian doctrines, or any political subjects; and
9. Requires that when at work, in either Grand or Constituent Lodges, there shall be displayed the Three Great Lights of Masonry.

**Sec. 1.10 B.L.**

**Seal.** The seal of the Grand Lodge shall be as follows:



(W.M.C. 1913. Sec. 41.)

[REV. 2003]



**Part I – Grand Lodge**

**CHAPTER 2 – OFFICERS**

- Sec. 2.01 Const. – [List and Title](#)
- Sec. 2.02 Const. – [Manner of Selection and Installation](#)
- Sec. 2.03 Const. – [Eligibility](#)
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## Part I - Grand Lodge

### CHAPTER 2- OFFICERS

#### Sec. 2.01 Const.

**List and Title.** The officers of the Grand Lodge shall be as follows:

#### ELECTIVE

1. Grand Master
2. Deputy Grand Master
3. Senior Grand Warden
4. Junior Grand Warden
5. Grand Secretary

#### APPOINTIVE

6. Grand Chaplain
7. Grand Lecturer
8. Grand Orator
9. Grand Historian
10. Grand Marshal
11. Senior Grand Deacon
12. Junior Grand Deacon
13. Grand Standard Bearer
14. Grand Sword Bearer
15. Grand Bible Bearer
16. Senior Grand Steward
17. Junior Grand Steward
18. Grand Organist
19. Grand Tyler
20. Assistant Grand Secretary

Titles of office for Grand Officers shall be:

1. Grand Master, Most Worshipful
2. Elective Officers other than Grand Master, Right Worshipful
3. Appointive Officers, Worshipful or higher previous title.

#### Sec 2.02 Const.

**Manner of Selection and Installation.** The election, appointment, and installation of all Grand Officers shall be regulated and conducted as prescribed by ceremonial usage by the constitution and the By-Laws of the Grand Lodge.

#### Sec. 2.03 Const.

**Eligibility.** Any member of Grand Lodge who has been installed Master of a Lodge of Masons shall be eligible for any office in the Grand Lodge.

[Rev. 2003]

Any member of a Lodge of this Jurisdiction shall be eligible for appointment as Grand Chaplain, Grand Organist, or Grand Tyler.

**Sec. 2.04 B.L.**

**Statement of Availability.** On or before the first day of September preceding the Annual Communication, any eligible member of the Grand Lodge desiring to serve as Junior Grand Warden or Grand Secretary may file with the Grand Secretary a Statement of Availability containing a resume setting out in no more than one page his qualifications, not limited by format only to his service in his Symbolic Lodge or Grand Lodge, and including a black and white photograph.

Prior to October first, all such statements shall be printed and forwarded by the Grand Secretary to all Constituent Lodges for study prior to the next Annual Communication.

This action does not preclude the right of the Grand Lodge to elect any eligible member without such statement. **Rev. 2002**

**Sec 2.05 B. L.**

**Elections and Appointments.**

1. Elective Grand Lodge Officers shall be chosen by a secret ballot at each Annual Communication in the following manner:
  - A. Balloting for Grand Officers shall be the first order of business on the afternoon of the second day of each Annual Communication, taking precedence over all other matters,
  - B. Ballots will be collected and counted under the direction of the Committee on Credentials,
  - C. A majority of all votes cast shall be necessary for a choice. A blank ballot does not count as a vote. Results shall be reported immediately after the tabulation. Following the second ballot in which no candidate has a simple majority for a particular office, subsequent balloting shall be limited to the two candidates with the highest number of votes for that office until one is elected; and
  - D. The election of officers must be concluded before the Grand Lodge can be recessed.
2. Appointive Grand Officers, shall be selected by the Grand Master-elect prior to the time of installation. The Assistant Grand Secretary shall be selected in accordance with Sec. 3.05 Const. Para. 15. **Rev. 1995**

**Sec 2.06 B.L.**

**Holding Two Offices.** No elective or appointive Grand Officer shall hold two Grand Lodge offices at the same time. If a member of Grand Lodge is elected to two offices, he shall immediately accept the office of his choice and decline the other office. A ballot for the declined office shall be held immediately.

**Sec. 2.07 B.L.**

**Installation.** Grand Officers shall be installed in tiled session before the close of the Annual Communication, unless the Grand Lodge has, at the request of the Grand Master-elect and by majority vote, authorized a public installation.

[Rev. 2003]

Public installation of Grand Officers, shall be performed after the Grand Master has declared the Grand Lodge at "off-session" and has directed the Junior Grand Deacon to inform the Grand Tyler to tile accordingly.

Any such public installation of Grand Officers shall be monitorial and shall conform to proper Masonic usage. The public installation shall be recorded as part of the regular minutes of the Grand Communication.

**Sec. 2.08 B. L.**

**Regalia.** Each Grand Officer shall appear in the Grand Lodge with his proper jewel and clothing.

**Sec, 2.09 B.L.**

**Vacancies.** Whenever a vacancy shall occur in any Grand Office, the Grand Master may appoint any eligible member of Grand Lodge to discharge the duties of the office until the vacancy shall be filled at the next Annual Communication.

In case of the death, absence or inability of the Grand Master, the powers and duties of the office shall be assumed in succession by the:

1. Deputy Grand Master
2. Senior Grand Warden
3. Junior Grand Warden

In case of the simultaneous vacancy in the office of Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, and Junior Grand Warden the powers and duties of the Grand Master shall be assumed by the Junior Past Grand Master.

## Part I – Grand Lodge

### CHAPTER 3 – POWERS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS

- Sec. 3.01 Const. - [Grand Master's Powers](#)
- Sec. 3.02 Const. - [Grand Master's Duties](#)
- Sec. 3.03 Const. - [Deputy Grand Master's Duties](#)
- Sec. 3.04 Const. - [Grand Warden's Duties](#)
- Sec. 3.05 Const. - [Grand Secretary's Duties](#)
- Sec. 3.06 Const. - [Grand Chaplain's Duties](#)
- Sec. 3.07 Const. - [Grand Lecturer's Duties](#)
- Sec. 3.08 Const. - [Grand Orator's Duties](#)
- Sec. 3.09 Const. - [Grand Historian's Duties](#)
- Sec. 3.10 Const. - [Other Grand Officer's Duties](#)

[Rev. 2003]

## Part I - Grand Lodge

### CHAPTER 3 - POWERS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS

#### Sec. 3.01 Const.

**Grand Master's Powers.** The Grand Master has power to:

1. Convene any Lodge within the Jurisdiction, preside therein, inspect its proceedings, and require its conformity to Masonic rules,
2. Depose any officer of a Lodge from the functions of his office for just cause and to arrest the charter of any Lodge for dereliction of duty or other Un-Masonic conduct, until the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, when he shall present in writing the reasons for such deposition or arrest,
3. Grant dispensations:
  - A. To a Lodge for an election to fill the three vacancies when the offices of the Master and Wardens become vacant all at the same time,
  - B. For a Lodge to elect its officers when the Lodge shall have failed to hold its election at the proper time,
  - C. For a new Lodge, under the restrictions of the Constitution; and
  - D. For other purposes as may be requested in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Grand Lodge.
4. Appoint such officers and committees as may be authorized under the Constitution and By-Laws of this Grand Lodge. He may act as ex-officio chairman of any committee so appointed,
5. Require the attendance of and information from any Grand Officer respecting his office,
6. Authorize Grand Lodge Committees to meet while Grand Lodge is actually in session,
7. Appoint Representatives of this Grand Lodge near other Grand Lodges and to receive and accredit Representatives of other recognized Grand Lodges near this Grand Lodge,
8. Sell, convey, or relinquish interest in and to real property and manage the Grand Lodge assets in cooperation with the Grand Secretary and with approval of the Committee on Finance,
9. Draw from the Charity Fund, in cooperation with the Committee on Charity, for the relief of worthy applicants and for the emergency relief of distressed Masons following an extraordinary calamity,
10. Do such other things as are inherent in and pertain to his office, in accordance with Ancient Usage and not in conflict with this Constitution; and
11. To call a Special Communication of the Grand Lodge for the purpose of allowing a Constituent Lodge or Lodges to complete unfinished Degree work or to confer Degrees as provided in Sec.20.01 (5). **Rev.2000**

#### Sec. 3.02 Const.

**Grand Master's Duties.** It is the duty of the Grand Master to:

1. Preside in the Grand Lodge,
2. Present at each Annual Communication a written message, setting forth his official acts during the year, exhibiting the general condition of Masonry within the Jurisdiction, and recommending such legislation as he may deem necessary or expedient for the welfare of the fraternity,

[Rev. 2003]

3. Approve for publication the minutes of the Annual Communication over which he presided,
4. Constitute all Chartered Lodges, either in person or by a duly authorized representative who shall be a Past Master of this Jurisdiction, in accordance with the Ancient Usages and Regulations,
5. Exercise a general and careful supervision over the Craft and see that the Constitution, By-Laws, and Regulations of the Grand Lodge are strictly observed,
6. Discharge all the necessary executive functions of the Grand Lodge when it is not in session; and
7. As Grand Master and Chief Executive Officer of the "Sole Voting Member" of the Masonic Retirement Center corporation, report, or cause to be reported, the Annual Operating Budget of the Masonic Retirement Center to the Grand Lodge at the Annual Communication. **Rev. 1996**

**Sec. 3.03 Const.**

**Deputy Grand Master's Duties.** The Deputy Grand Master shall discharge such executive functions of the Grand Lodge as may be delegated to him by the Grand Master.

**Sec. 3.04 Const.**

**Grand Wardens' Duties.** The Grand Wardens shall assist the Grand Master in conducting the affairs of the Grand Lodge and shall diligently endeavor to preserve the Ancient Landmarks throughout the Jurisdiction.

**Sec. 3.05 Const.**

**Grand Secretary's Duties.** The Grand Secretary shall:

1. Record all Proceedings of the Grand Lodge proper to be written,
2. Register all initiates and members of Lodges in this Jurisdiction reported to him on the Lodge returns,
3. Receive, file, and keep all papers and documents of the Grand Lodge committed to his custody,
4. Prepare, sign, and certify all dispensations, charters, and other instruments issuing from the Grand Lodge and affix its seal thereto when required,
5. Receive all monies of the Grand Lodge, keep a proper account of the same, and pay them over promptly to the depositories selected by the Grand Master and the Committee on Finance,
6. Submit a financial report annually to the Grand Lodge, including operating statements of the various Grand Lodge funds, all prepared in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles and procedures,
7. Report annually to the Grand Lodge those Lodges that have failed to render proper returns of their elections, members, and dues and such general facts regarding the financial and membership condition of the Lodges as may be proper for the information or action of the Grand Lodge,
8. Conduct the correspondence of the Grand Lodge under the direction of the Grand Master,
9. Attend, with the necessary books and papers under his control, all communications of the Grand Lodge and, when required, attend upon the Grand Master on Masonic business,

[Rev. 2003]

10. Supervise all printing ordered during the Annual Communication, and cause to be produced and distributed, after approval by the Grand Master, the Proceedings and such reports and documents as may be required,
11. Arrange promptly for the printing and distribution of sufficient copies of all Code changes after approval of Grand Lodge and codification by the Code Commission,
12. Examine the returns made by the Lodges for the preceding year and see that errors and irregularities are corrected. Tabulate the Master Masons, Fellowcrafts, and Entered Apprentices reported, the number admitted, initiated, passed, raised, reinstated, dimitted, dropped, suspended, expelled, deceased, and rejected; the net increase and decrease of membership in each Lodge for the year; the amount of dues paid and the amount due the Grand Lodge,
13. Obtain the blank forms required for Grand Lodge use, and provide to the Lodges, at Grand Lodge expense, the forms to be used by the Lodges in transmitting returns and other reports required by the Grand Lodge,
14. Make, and retain in his office, duplicates of all Lodge charters,
15. Appoint and be responsible for the official acts of an Assistant Grand Secretary who must be a member in good standing and a Past Master of a Lodge in this Jurisdiction, and who will, in the absence, disability, or illness of the Grand Secretary, perform the duties of that office under the direction of the Grand Master,
16. Be placed under surety bond, along with the Assistant Grand Secretary in like amount, at Grand Lodge expense. The limits of bonding to be determined by the Grand Master and approved by the Committee on Finance,
17. Appoint such assistants as he may require,
18. Print and mail to the Constituent Lodges, prior to April 1, a budget of estimated income and expenditures for the General Fund and the Masonic Retirement Center for the ensuing year. and;
19. Review, update and maintain as necessary the Grand Lodge Forms and report at the Annual Communication as to the status of the Grand Lodge Forms. **Rev. 2002**

**Sec. 3.06 Const.**

**Grand Chaplain's Duties.** The Grand Chaplain shall open and close the Communications of the Grand Lodge with appropriate prayer and perform services on special occasions at the request of the Grand Master. He shall also make suitable reports on the Fraternal Dead for the past Masonic year.

**Sec. 3.07 Const.**

**Grand Lecturer's Duties.** The Grand Lecturer shall sign for a copy of the Standard Work at the Annual Communication in which he is installed, or such other times when a Grand Lecturer is installed, and he shall return such copy upon the termination of his tenure as Grand Lecturer. While assigned to him, the Grand Lecturer will not allow the Standard Work to leave his personal supervision. The Grand Lecturer shall give needed instruction to the Lodges under the direction of the Grand Master. He shall also review the Standard Work, and where errors or conflicts are noted, prepare a Resolution to correct the error and/or resolve the conflict and deliver said Resolution to the Grand Master for the Grand Master's approval. If the Grand Master concurs with said Resolution, it will be included in the Grand Master's Message for action by the Grand Lodge at its next Annual Communication. **Rev. 2002**

[Rev. 2003]



**Sec. 3.08 Const.**

**Grand Orator's Duties.** The Grand Orator shall, at each Annual Communication, deliver an address on the subject of Freemasonry or upon a topic bearing thereon and shall render like service on special occasions at the request of the Grand Master.

**Sec. 3.09 Const.**

**Grand Historian's Duties.** The Grand Historian shall prepare and write a history of the Grand Lodge of Washington and collect, classify, arrange, and file with the Grand Secretary all available data, documents, and material concerning matters of interest to the Grand Lodge for use in the preparation of subsequent histories.

**Sec. 3.10 Const.**

**Other Grand Officers' Duties.** The Grand Marshal, Grand Deacons, Grand Standard Bearer, Grand Sword Bearer, Grand Bible Bearer, Grand Stewards, Grand Organist, and Grand Tyler shall perform the duties incident and appropriate to their respective places and in accordance with the traditions, Usages, and Customs of the Craft. The Grand Lodge or the Grand Master may from time to time assign other duties to them.

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**Part I – Grand Lodge**

**CHAPTER 4 – DISTRICTS AND DEPUTIES**

- Sec. 4.01 Const. – [Deputies of the Grand Master](#)
- Sec. 4.02 B.L. – [Districts](#)
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- Sec. 4.04 B.L. – [Deputy Appointment and Title](#)
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- Sec. 4.08 B.L. – [Retention of Title](#)

## Part I – Grand Lodge

### CHAPTER 4 – DISTRICTS AND DEPUTIES

#### Sec. 4.01 Const.

**Deputies of the Grand Master.** The Grand Lodge, having provided in its By-Laws for the designation of districts, may authorize the appointment of a Deputy of the Grand Master to represent the Grand Master in each district.

#### Sec. 4.02 B.L.

**Districts.** The Jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge shall be divided into geographical districts and every chartered Lodge shall be assigned to a district.

The Grand Master shall have the authority to make such rearrangements of the districts as he may deem advisable, if he shall determine that a change will facilitate the operation of the system. The rearrangement shall be effective until the next Annual Communication when the Grand Master shall report his action to the Grand Lodge for its approval.

#### Districts and Lodges.

**District No. 4** Occidental, No. 72, Seattle; Doric, No. 92, Seattle; Green Lake, No. 149, Seattle; Maritime, No. 239, Seattle; Greenwood, No. 253, Seattle; Walter F. Meier Lodge of Research, No. 281, Seattle.

**District No. 5** St. John's, No. 9, Seattle; Eureka, No. 20, Seattle; Arcana No. 87, Seattle; University No. 141, Seattle; Century, No. 208, Seattle; Daylight, No. 232, Seattle; Lafayette No. 241, Seattle; Queen Anne, No. 242, Seattle. George Washington, No. 251, Seattle.

**District No. 6** South Gate, No. 100, Burien; Ark, No. 126, Tukwila; Seattle; Alki. No. 152, Tukwila; Delta-White Center, No. 172, Tukwila; Mark P. Waterman, No. 177, Burton; Rainier, No. 189, Seattle; West Seattle-Service, No. 287, Seattle.

**District No. 7** Falls City, No. 66, Fall City; Myrtle, No. 108, Issaquah; West Gate, No. 128, Kirkland; Kirkland, No. 150, Kirkland; Unity, No. 198, North Bend; Lakeside, No. 258, Bellevue; Mercer Island, No. 297, Mercer Island; Renaissance, No. 312, Redmond.

**District No. 8** Centennial, No. 25 Snohomish; Peninsular, No. 95, Everett; Crystal, No. 122, Marysville; Arlington, No. 129, Arlington; Everett, No. 137, Everett; Monroe, No. 160, Monroe; Sultan, No. 179, Monroe; Damascus, No. 199, Granite Falls; Alpha, No. 212, Everett; Skykomish, No. 259, Skykomish.

**District No. 9** Whidby Island, No. 15, Coupeville; Camanio, No. 19, Stanwood; Mount Baker, No. 36, Mt. Vernon; Garfield, No. 41, LaConner; Fidalgo, No. 77, Anacortes; Burlington - United, No. 93, Sedro Woolley; Langley, No. 218, Langley.

**District No. 10** Bellingham Bay, No. 44, Bellingham; Lynden, No. 56, Lynden; Fairhaven, No. 73, Bellingham; Nooksack Valley, No. 105, Nooksack; Whatcom, No. 151, Bellingham; San Juan, No. 175, Friday Harbor; Kulshan International, No. 186, Blaine; Ferndale, No. 264, Ferndale. **Rev. 2001**

**District No. 11** Port Townsend, No. 6, Port Townsend; Port Angeles, No. 69, Port Angeles; Quilcene-Jefferson, No. 107, Quilcene; Sequim, No. 213, Sequim; Mt. Olympus, No. 298, Forks. **Rev. 2002**

[Rev. 2003]

**District No. 12** Franklin, No. 5, Port Gamble; Mount Moriah, No.11, Valley Junction; Union City, No. 27, Valley Junction; Renton, No. 29, Winslow; Port Orchard, No. 98, Port Orchard; Bremerton, No. 117, Bremerton; William H. Upton, No. 206, Bremerton; Steadfast, No. 216, Bremerton; Warren G. Harding, No. 260, Poulsbo; John Paul Jones, No. 271, Gig Harbor; Hood Canal, No. 288, Belfair; Silverdale, No. 311, Silverdale.

**District No. 13** St. Andrew's, No. 35, Renton; Corinthian, No. 38, Puyallup; Verity, No. 59, Kent; King Solomon, No. 60, Auburn; Western Cascade, No. 61, Buckley; Diamond, No. 83, Black Diamond; Crescent, No. 109, Enumclaw; Tyee, the Wayfarer's Daylight No. 115, Renton; Phoenix, No. 154, Sumner; Des Moines, No. 245, Des Moines; Thornton F. McElroy, No. 302, Federal Way; Frank S. Land No. 313, Des Moines.

**District No. 14** Defiance No. 22, Tacoma; Evergreen State, No. 68, Tacoma; Fairweather, No. 82, Tacoma; Cedar, No. 104, Tacoma; Joseph Warren, No. 235, Tacoma; Horace W. Tyler, No. 290, University Place.

**District No. 15** Steilacoom, No. 2, Tacoma; Valley, No. 71 Orting; Fern Hill, No. 80, Tacoma; Mt. Tahoma, No. 190, Ashford; Mountain View, No. 194, Graham; Terrestrial, No. 228, Eatonville; Yelm, No. 244, Yelm; Henry A. Greene, No. 250, Lakewood; Parkland-Lakewood , No. 299, Parkland.

**District No. 16** Wynooche, No. 43, Montesano; Gavel, No. 48, Raymond; Grays Harbor, No. 52, Hoquiam; Hoquiam, No. 64, Hoquiam; Elma, No. 65, Elma; Occident, No. 99, Ilwaco; .

**District No. 17** Olympia, No. 1, Tumwater; Harmony, No. 18, Tumwater; Chehalis, No. 28, Chehalis; Winlock, No. 47, Winlock; Centralia, No. 63, Centralia; Tenino, No. 86, Tenino; Robert Morris, No. 97, Silver Creek; Morton, No. 209, Morton.

**District No. 18** Woodland-Kalama, No. 17, Woodland; Castle Rock, No. 62, Castle Rock; Kelso, No. 94, Kelso; Little Falls, No. 176, Vader; Longview, No. 263, Longview;

**District No. 19** Washington, No. 4, Vancouver; Mount Hood, No. 32, Vancouver; White Salmon, No. 163, White Salmon; Twin Falls, No. 180, Yacolt; North Bank, No. 182, Washougal; Ridgefield Daylight, No. 237, Vancouver; Silver Star, No. 286, Battle Ground.

**District No. 20** Yakima, No. 24, Yakima; Goldendale, No. 31, Goldendale; Ellensburg, No. 39, Ellensburg; Cle Elum-St. Thomas, No. 139, Cle Elum; Toppenish-Meridian, No. 178, Toppenish; Hermes, No. 185, Granger; Naches, No. 211, Naches; Mount Adams, No. 227, Yakima; Compass, No. 306, Yakima.

**District No. 21** Badger Mountain, No. 57, Waterville; Riverside, No. 112, Wenatchee; Chelan Valley, No. 118, Chelan; Zarthan, No. 148, Leavenworth; William H. Jett, No. 285, Wenatchee.

**District No. 22** Okanogan, No. 169, Okanogan; Aurora, No. 201, Oroville; Palestine, No. 214, Omak; Methow Valley, No. 240, Twisp.

**District No. 23** Euclid, No. 125, Prosser; Sunnyside, No. 138, Sunnyside; Kennewick, No. 153, Kennewick; Pasco, No. 173, Pasco; Grandview, No. 191, Grandview; Benton, No. 277, Benton City; Richland, No. 283, Richland.

**District No. 24** Walla Walla, No. 7, Walla Walla; Blue Mountain, No. 13, Walla Walla; Waitsburg, No. 16, Waitsburg; Dayton, No. 26, Dayton; Evening Star, No. 30, Pomeroy.

**District No. 25** Hiram, No. 21, Colfax; Whitman, No. 49, Pullman; Oakesdale, No. 55, Oakesdale; Mystic Tie, No. 103, Colton; Clarkston, No. 143, Clarkston; Lacrosse, No. 155, Lacrosse; Nitosa, No. 204, Asotin.

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**District No. 26** Rockford, No. 45, Rockford; Rosalia, No. 84, Rosalia; Spangle, No. 131, Spangle; Coin, No. 132, St. John; Malden, No. 188, Malden; Waverly, No. 231, Waverly.

**District No. 27** Spokane, No. 34, Spokane; Temple, No. 42, Cheney; Oriental, No. 74, Spokane; Medical Lake, No. 102, Medical Lake; York, No. 234, Spokane; Audubon Park, No. 272, Spokane; Eastern Washington Lodge of Research, No. 310, Spokane.

**District No. 28** Quincy, No. 161, Quincy; Ephrata, No. 167, Ephrata; Moses Lake, No. 174, Moses Lake; Paul Revere, No. 205, Othello.

**District No. 29** Acacia, No. 58, Davenport; Grand Coulee Dam, No. 120, Coulee Dam; Almira, No. 127, Almira; Reardan, No. 146, Reardan; Odessa, No. 156, Odessa.

**District No. 30** Colville, No. 50, Colville; Kettle Falls, No. 130, Kettle Falls; Deer Park, No. 134, Deer Park; Chewelah, No. 135, Chewelah; Hunters, No. 236, Hunters.

**District No. 32** Ashler, No. 121, Bothell; Edmonds, No. 165, Edmonds; Robert Burns, No. 243, Lynnwood; Richmond-Haller Lake, No. 248, Shoreline; Yancey C. Blalock, No. 265, Seattle; Genesis, No. 305, Lynnwood.

**District No. 33** Hillyard, No. 133, Spokane; Newport, No. 144, Newport; Orchard, No. 200, Millwood; North Hill, No. 210, Spokane; East Gate, No. 222, Spokane; Manito, No. 246, Spokane; Concordia, No. 249, Millwood.

#### **Sec. 4.03 B.L.**

**Assignment of Lodges U.D. to Districts.** The Grand Master upon issuing a dispensation for a new Lodge shall assign the Lodge initially to the district in which it is situated. The assignment shall become permanent upon the granting of a charter to the Lodge, unless the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master shall order otherwise.

#### **Sec. 4.04 B.L.**

**Deputy Appointment and Title.** The Grand Master shall appoint at each Annual Communication, or as soon thereafter as possible, a Deputy of the Grand Master for each of the districts. The jurisdiction of each Deputy shall extend only to the Lodges within the district to which he is assigned.

The Deputy shall be known as the "Deputy of the Grand Master in District No. \_\_\_\_\_," and shall bear the title "Very Worshipful." He shall receive a warrant for his appointment signed by the Grand Master and attested by the Grand Secretary under the seal of the Grand Lodge.

#### **Sec. 4.05 B.L.**

**Deputy Eligibility.** Every Deputy of the Grand Master shall be well skilled in the Standard Work and Lectures of this Jurisdiction and in the Customs of the Craft. He shall be a Master or a Past Master and a member in good standing of a Lodge in the district for which he is appointed. No one shall be eligible to hold the office of Deputy of the Grand Master for more than two successive terms but shall be eligible for reappointment after a lapse of one year.

#### **Sec. 4.06 B.L.**

**Deputy's Powers and Duties.** The powers and duties of a Deputy of the Grand Master are:

1. Visit every Lodge within his district officially at least once each year and at such other times as requested by the Worshipful Master of the Lodge. The Grand Master may grant Deputies permission to forego a visit to a Lodge or Lodges if weather conditions, illness or financial hardships prevail,

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2. Report to the Grand Master after each visit, on forms to be furnished by the Grand Secretary, the general and/or particular condition of the Lodge visited and his official acts in relation thereto,
3. Each District Deputy shall sign for a copy of the Standard Work at the Annual Communication in which he is installed, or such other times when a Deputy is installed, and he shall return such copy upon the termination of his tenure as Deputy of the Grand Master. While assigned to him, the Deputy will not allow the Standard Work to leave his personal supervision. He shall disseminate the Standard Work and Lectures to officers and members of each Lodge within his district, and give them such general instructions as they may require concerning their duties. For this purpose the Deputy shall receive instructions from the Grand Master, **Rev. 2002**
4. Examine such books and records of each Lodge within his district as the Grand Master may direct; and
5. Perform such other duties as the Grand Master may direct.

**Sec. 4.07 B.L.**

**Deputy Removal. Vacancy in Office.** The Grand Master may remove any Deputy of the Grand Master from office.

The Grand Master shall fill any vacancy in the office of Deputy of the Grand Master with an appointment for the un-expired term.

**Sec. 4.08 B.L.**

**Retention of Title.** A Deputy of the Grand Master shall retain permanently the title of "Very Worshipful."

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**Part I – Grand Lodge**

**CHAPTER 5 – AMENDMENTS, RULES OF ORDER AND VOTING**

- Sec. 5.01 Const. - [Amendments](#)
- Sec. 5.02 Const. - [Voting on Amendments](#)
- Sec. 5.03 Const. - [Number of Votes](#)
- Sec. 5.04 Const. - [Tie Votes](#)
- Sec. 5.05 B.L. - [Procedure for Code Adoption](#)
- Sec. 5.06 B.L. - [Time Limit](#)
- Sec. 5.07 B.L. - [Manner of Voting](#)
- Sec. 5.08 B.L. - [Disposal of Question](#)
- Sec. 5.09 B.L. - [Majority Vote Required](#)
- Sec. 5.10 B.L. - [Blank Ballot](#)
- Sec. 5.11 B.L. - [Motion in Order](#)
- Sec. 5.12 B.L. - [Adjournment](#)
- Sec. 5.13 B.L. - [One Amendment at a Time](#)
- Sec. 5.14 B.L. - [Subject-Matter Cannot be Amended](#)
- Sec. 5.15 B.L. - [Reconsideration](#)
- Sec. 5.16 B.L. - [Speaker to Stand](#)
- Sec. 5.17 B.L. - [Proposition Should be in Writing](#)

## Part I – Grand Lodge

### CHAPTER 5 – AMENDMENTS, RULES OF ORDER AND VOTING

#### Sec. 5.01 Const.

##### Amendments.

1. **Presentation.** Proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws shall be presented as resolutions at an Annual Communication. All resolutions submitted to the Annual Communication for consideration must be submitted by a Constituent Lodge of this Jurisdiction or by a Grand Master's recommendation, **Rev. 1998**
2. **Referral.** Drafts of all proposed amendments shall first be referred to the Code Commission for approval or revision of the composition and format and then to one or more appropriate committees who shall report thereon before a vote is taken.,
3. **Format.**
  - A. A clear, factual and concise statement of purpose of the proposed legislation shall preface proposed amendments; and
  - B. A Resolution to amend the Code shall set out in full each section or sub-section to be amended or added, with material to be deleted enclosed in parenthesis and struck out, and material to be added underlined. The Code Commission shall see that Resolutions submitted comply with this requirement. **Rev. 1993**
4. **Distribution.** New proposals and those held over from the previous Annual Communication shall be distributed in full by the Grand Secretary to the Constituent Lodges for reading and discussion in open Lodge at least sixty days in advance of the next Annual Communication. **Rev. 1998**

#### Sec. 5.02 Const.

##### Voting on Amendments.

1. A proposed amendment to the Constitution that receives a ninety percent vote shall be declared adopted and shall become a part of the Constitution at the close of that Annual Communication.

If the vote is not ninety percent, but is an affirmative majority, the proposal shall be declared held over for one year and shall be published with the Proceedings under the caption of "Proposed Amendments to the Constitution."

At the next Annual Communication, the proposed amendment shall be reported by the Committee on Unfinished Business and called by the Grand Master for action in advance of any new business.

If it shall receive two-thirds of the votes cast thereon, it shall be declared adopted and shall become a part of the Constitution at the close of that Annual Communication; otherwise it shall be declared rejected.
2. A proposed amendment to change the Constitution necessitating a correlating change of the By-Laws, may be included in the change and may be submitted as one Resolution; provided the necessary vote for adoption remains as a Constitutional amendment.
3. A proposed amendment to the By-Laws that receives a three-fourths vote shall be declared adopted and shall become effective at the close of that Annual Communication.

If the vote is not three-fourths affirmative, but is an affirmative majority, the

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proposal shall be declared held over for one year and shall be published with the Proceedings under the caption "Proposed Changes to the By-Laws"

At the next Annual Communication, the proposed amendment shall be reported by the Committee on Unfinished Business and called by the Grand Master for action in advance of any new business.

If it shall receive a majority of favorable votes, it shall be declared adopted and shall become effective at the close of that Annual Communication; otherwise it shall be declared rejected. **Rev. 1994**

#### **Sec. 5.03 Const.**

**Number of Votes.** Each member of the Grand Lodge shall have one vote, plus one additional vote for each proxy held provided that an individual member shall not be allowed to act as proxy for more than one Lodge. **Rev. 1992**

#### **Sec. 5.04 Const.**

**Tie Vote.** In all cases of a tie, the Grand Master, in addition to his proper vote, shall have the deciding vote.

#### **Sec. 5.05 B.L.**

**Procedure for Code Adoption.** The accomplished codification of written material into the Washington Masonic Code shall establish the basis of the Constitution, By-Laws, Regulations, and Standing Resolutions of the Grand Lodge. Upon receipt and adoption by the Grand Lodge the Code shall bear the date of such adoption.

Nothing in the process of codification shall be construed to repeal or amend established matters or to enact new matters. In case of any conflict, the prior Grand Lodge legislation enactment or approved ruling shall prevail.

#### **Sec. 5.06 B.L.**

**Time Limit.** All Resolutions which if adopted would change the Constitution or By-Laws shall be delivered to the Grand Secretary or mailed to him under postmark not later than December 1 preceding each Annual Communication. **Rev. 2003**

The Grand Secretary shall forward all Resolutions to appropriate Standing Committees after the Code Commission has reviewed and approved the composition and format of the Resolutions, as shown in Flow Chart Appendix B. The Grand Secretary shall prior to April 1 print the Resolutions and Committee Recommendations, together with any Resolutions held over from the previous Annual Communication, and forward the same to all Constituent Lodges for study.

Recommendations of the presiding Grand Master shall be received by the Grand Secretary not later than March 1 preceding each Annual Communication and shall be printed and circulated to the Constituent Lodges for study prior to April 1 along with proposed Resolutions. Recommendations of the Grand Master presented at the Annual Communication, and not previously circulated, shall be presented as Resolutions by the appropriate Committee prior to the following Annual Communication in the prescribed manner unless declared emergent.

Any Resolution submitted after December 1 and prior to twelve o'clock noon of the second day's session of any Annual Communication shall be forwarded to the Grand Master. If the Grand Master believes that any such proposal is urgent and that it should,

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for the good of Masonry, be considered by Grand Lodge at the ensuing Annual Communication, he may, at his discretion, order the same to be processed and circulated in such manner as time will permit. **Rev. 2003**

If time will not permit the processing and subsequent mailing of late Resolutions to the Constituent Lodges, the Grand Secretary when possible shall make such resolutions and committee reports available to each member of Grand Lodge at the time of registration.

Any Resolution submitted after twelve o'clock noon of the second day's session shall not be considered.

**Sec. 5.07 B. L.**

**Manner of Voting.** All questions in Grand Lodge shall be decided by members either by voting with their left hand or written secret ballot as determined by the Grand Master. The election of officers shall be by written secret ballot. The written secret ballot may be conducted by means of the use of electronically scored ballots. **Rev. 1992**

**Sec. 5.08 B. L.**

**Disposal of Question.** Whenever a vote is required to dispose of any question submitted to Grand Lodge, the affirmative and negative of such shall be taken directly thereon unless the question is resolved in some preliminary manner agreeable to Masonic Law.

Before any vote shall be taken, the report and recommendation of any committee to which the question may have been referred shall be read.

**Sec. 5.09 B.L.**

**Majority Vote Required.** All motions are to be decided by a simple majority vote except as provided for in Sec. 5.02 Const.

**Sec. 5.10 B.L.**

**Blank Ballot.** A blank ballot does not count as a vote.

**Sec. 5.11 B.L.**

**Motion in Order.** When a motion is under discussion no other motion shall be in order except to amend, commit, or postpone.

**Sec. 5.12 B.L.**

**Adjournment.** A motion to adjourn is not in order, but the Grand Lodge at any time may be called off at the will and pleasure of the Grand Master.

**Sec. 5.13 B.L.**

**One Amendment at a Time.** A motion to amend the main question must be decided before another motion to amend can be received.

**Sec. 5.14 B.L.**

**Subject-Matter Cannot be Amended.** A motion presented as an amendment but which actually changes the subject-matter of the original motion shall not be entertained.

**Sec. 5.15 B.L.**

**Reconsideration.** No member except one of the majority which decided the question shall be entitled to move for reconsideration. **[Rev. 2003]**

**Sec. 5.16 B.L.**

**Speaker to Stand.** Any member who wishes to speak shall rise and remain standing and shall address the presiding officer.

**Sec. 5.17 B.L.**

**Proposition Should be in Writing.** Every proposal and Resolution shall be put in writing if so requested by any member.

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**Part I – Grand Lodge**

**CHAPTER 6 – MASONIC WORK AND LECTURES**

Sec. 6.01 Const. – [Standard Work](#)

Sec. 6.02 B.L. – [Ciphers](#)

Sec. 6.03 B.L. – [Certificates of Proficiency](#)

Sec. 6.04 B.L. - [Lectures in the Standard Work](#)

**[Rev. 2003]**

## Part I – Grand Lodge

### CHAPTER 6 – MASONIC WORK AND LECTURES

#### Sec. 6.01 Const.

**Standard Work.** The master copy of the Esoteric Work, together with the Monitorial Work and amendments thereto adopted by the Grand Lodge, shall be the Standard Work of this Grand Jurisdiction. Every Lodge shall practice that Standard Work and no other.

1. The Grand Secretary shall be the custodian of the master copy of the Esoteric Work at all times and he shall store the document in a suitable safe within the vaults of his office. The master copy, being for reference only, shall be placed at the disposal of the Craft under such regulations and safeguards, as he shall deem prudent and proper.
2. The Grand Secretary is authorized to make copies of the Standard Work in plain English, including the esoteric work, available for use by the Grand Lecturer and by Deputies of the Grand Master in their several Districts, subject to the following:
  - A. The Grand Secretary shall maintain a numbered register of all copies of the Standard Work which shall indicate when and to whom each was issued, and when returned to his custody,
  - B. The Standard Work furnished to the Grand lecturer and each Deputy of the Grand Master will not allow the copy to leave his personal supervision. It will not be loaned to anyone. **Rev. 2002**
  - C. It shall be a Masonic offense for any Mason other than the Grand Secretary to reproduce the Standard Work in plain English in any medium; and **Rev. 2001**
3. Any Lodge violating the provisions of this chapter, without express authority from the Grand Lodge, shall be subject to discipline.

#### Sec. 6.02 B.L.

**Ciphers.** The Grand Lodge shall print the Standard Work in cipher, but with the essential secrets excluded, for the purpose of insuring uniformity in the Standard Work and Lectures.

1. A separate booklet shall be printed for each Degree in a size not to exceed 3 inches wide by 5 inches long. The booklets shall bear no writing, title page or other identification indicating them to be the Work of this Grand Lodge,
2. Booklets authorized by this chapter shall be sold only to members of Constituent Lodges at a price not to exceed 25% above the cost of printing,
3. The cipher booklet of any Degree may be made available to a candidate who has received that Degree; and
4. The Grand Secretary is authorized to exchange copies with recognized foreign Grand Jurisdictions.

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**Sec. 6.03 B.L.**

**Certificates of Proficiency.** A Certificate of Proficiency shall be issued to any Brother who shall pass a satisfactory examination in all or part of the Standard Work before a Deputy of the Grand Master. The Certificate shall be attested by the Grand Master, and by the Deputy of the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary shall keep a record thereof. Certificates shall be issued for the periods of time shown:

1. All the Standard Work.
  - A. Three years, upon an examination with less than 10 errors,
  - B. Two years, upon an examination with less than 25 errors,
  - C. One year, upon an examination with less than 50 errors.
2. An individual Degree of the Standard Work.
  - A. Three years, upon an examination with less than 5 errors,
  - B. Two years, upon an examination with less than 10 errors
  - C. One year, upon an examination with less than 15 errors.

A reasonable opportunity shall be given during the examination to correct any error made.

**Rev. 1984**

**Sec. 6.04 B.L.**

**Lectures in the Standard Work.** Lodges are authorized to provide Lectures on any of the Three Degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry either delivered by a Mason from memory or delivered through use of media systems which employ video, digital, or computer stored images and sounds provided that:

1. No electronically or optically produced Lecture shall contain or reveal the words, steps, grips, signs of recognition, tokens, or obligations of an Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft or Master Mason,
2. Any electronic or optical media production shall have first been approved for use by the Grand Master,
3. Such Lectures shall have been produced by the Grand Lodge of Washington and the Grand Lodge of Washington shall retain all rights, including copyright copy, to each and every copy, and each Grand Lodge reproduction shall be password protected or have standard language regarding copyright infringements as part of the disc to guard against unauthorized reproduction, **Rev. 2003**
4. Each copy shall be registered with the Grand Secretary, who shall retain the right to recall and/or replace any or all copies, without remuneration, at the order of the Grand Master or the Annual Communication,
5. All Lectures, however delivered, shall be given or presented in a tiled Lodge or in a secure place for instruction; and
6. Constituent Lodges may acquire a copy of a media reproduction of any one of the Three Degrees, at fair market cost of production and distribution, from the Grand Secretary; however, such acquisition is for use only and does not constitute conveyance of any rights to the material contained therein. **Adopted 2000**

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## Part I – Grand Lodge

### CHAPTER 7 – FINANCE AND REVENUE

- Sec. 7.01 Const. – [Sources](#)
- Sec. 7.02 Const. – [Financial Procedures](#)
- Sec. 7.03 B.L. – [Revenue for the General Fund](#)
- Sec. 7.04 B.L. – [Revenue for the Charity Fund](#)
- Sec. 7.05 B.L. – [Revenue for the Masonic Home Fund](#)
- Sec. 7.06 B.L. – [Dues for N.P.D. Reinstatements](#)
- Sec. 7.07 B.L. – [Powers to Sell and Convey Securities and Real Estate](#)
- Sec. 7.08 B.L. – [Fund Management](#)
- Sec. 7.09 B.L. – [Charity Fund](#)
- Sec. 7.10 B.L. – [Masonic Home Fund](#)
- Sec. 7.11 B.L. – [Masonic Home Endowment Fund](#)
- Sec. 7.12 B.L. – [Masonic Loan Fund](#)
- Sec. 7.13 B.L. – [Masonic Scholarship Endowment Fund](#)
- Sec. 7.14 B.L. – [Endowed Life Membership Fund](#)
- Sec. 7.15 B.L. – [Grand Lodge Endowment Fund](#)
- Sec. 7.16 B.L. – [Washington Masonic Tribune Endowment Fund](#)
- Sec. 7.17 B.L. – [Grand Lodge Projects Endowment Fund](#)
- Sec. 7.18 B.L. – [Grand Lodge Self Insurance Fund](#)

## Part I Grand Lodge

### CHAPTER 7 – FINANCE AND REVENUE

#### Sec. 7.01 Const.

**Sources.** Revenue of the Grand Lodge shall be derived from the following sources:

1. Fees charged for dispensations, charters, diplomas and other documents issued under the Grand Lodge authority,
2. Dues and contributions, paid by the Lodges, in an equal and uniform manner,
3. Assessments voted by the Grand Lodge for special purposes and paid by the Lodges in an equal and uniform manner,
4. Assets of dissolved Lodges, subject to all legal and equitable rights of creditors of such Lodges,
5. Proceeds from investments, loans and other transactions made by the Grand Lodge;
6. Earnings from various Grand Lodge funds,
7. Penalties for late returns and late payments; and
8. Penalties for charter reinstatements.

#### Sec. 7.02 Const.

**Financial Procedures.** Methods for levying and collecting revenues and for the management and disbursement of funds of the Grand Lodge shall be regulated by the By-Laws.

#### Sec. 7.03 B.L.

##### Revenue for the General Fund.

1. Every Lodge shall pay into the treasury of the Grand Lodge in support of Grand Lodge general activities the following:
  - A. Ten dollars (\$10.00) for a charter granted to a new Lodge,
  - B. Twenty dollars (\$20.00) for each petition approved for conferral of the degrees;
  - C. One dollar (\$1.00) for each degree conferred during the year,
  - D. One dollar (\$1.00) for each member enrolled during the year by affiliation, in Lodges charging an affiliation fee,
  - E. Ten dollars (\$10.00) for each petition for affiliation from a member of some other Jurisdiction, unless the petitioner, through prior membership, has contributed to the Masonic Home Fund, Masonic Home Endowment Fund or General Fund of this Jurisdiction; and
  - F. A sum to be set annually by the Grand Lodge [but not to exceed eleven dollars and no cents (\$11.00)] for each enrolled Master Mason, except those whose dues are remitted or not required for any reason. One Dollar of this amount shall be designated for the official publication of the Grand Lodge and one dollar shall be designated for Masonic Public Relations. The exceptions are:
    - a. A Mason who is supported at the expense of the Lodge or Grand Lodge,
    - b. A Mason whose dues are permanently waived by the Lodge because of inability to pay the same,
    - c. An honorary member who is not also an active member and who resides outside this Jurisdiction,
    - d. An honorary member for whom any other Lodge of this Jurisdiction is liable for Grand Lodge dues,
    - e. A fifty-year member whose Lodge has remitted his dues; and,

[Rev. 2003]

f. A member of a Lodge of Research, who holds dual membership in another Lodge of this Jurisdiction.

G. The Grand Master may establish a fee to cover the cost of providing the Grand Lodge mailing list or labels for those purposes approved at the Annual Communication. **Rev. 1999**

2. Any member in this Jurisdiction may pay one dollar (\$1.00) to the treasury of the Grand Lodge and obtain from the Grand Secretary a diploma bearing the seal of the Grand Lodge and attesting that the Brother is a Master Mason in good standing,
3. The General Fund shall receive annually from each Grand Lodge Fund, with the exception of the Grand Lodge Self Insurance Fund, a maximum of one percent (1%) of the fund's fair market value as established at the close of business on the last day of the calendar year. Billing for the care and welfare of the Masonic Retirement Center Residents will be satisfied prior to the one percent (1%) assessment being charged to the Masonic Home Endowment Fund and the fee will not invade the Fund's principal,

**Rev. 2002**

The Life Membership Fund shall pay to the General Fund one percent (1%) of the revenue from the Fund's investments as a management fee; and

4. Each attending delegate at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge shall be charged a registration fee that shall be established at twenty dollars (\$20.00) per registrant. Funds derived from this registration fee shall be used to offset the expenses incurred during and pursuant to holding the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge commencing with the fiscal year 2003-2004. Any sums not expended for the payment of such expenses (which may accrue as a surplus in any year) shall be deposited in the Grand Lodge General Fund. **Rev. 2003**

#### **Sec. 7.04 B.L.**

**Revenue for the Charity Fund.** Every Lodge shall pay as follows for dispensations and documents, and the money shall be placed in a special fund, to be known as the Charity Fund:

1. Dispensation to form a new Lodge - one hundred dollars (\$100.00),
2. Dispensation for any other purpose - five dollars (\$5.00),
3. Twenty-five cents (\$.25) annually from each enrolled Master Mason, except those whose dues are remitted or are not required for any reason; and
4. Twenty dollars (\$20.00) from fees for the Degrees.

The Grand Lodge may, from time to time, appropriate money for the Charity Fund.

#### **Sec. 7.05 B.L.**

**Revenue for the Masonic Home Fund.** Financial support for the Masonic Home Fund shall be provided annually as follows:

1. **Constituent Lodges.**
  - A. One dollar (\$1.00) for each Degree conferred during the year; and
  - B. Three dollars (\$3.00) per month for each Lodge with a membership of 140 or more and twenty-five cents (\$0.25) per year per member for each Lodge with a membership less than 140, for each guest recommended by the Lodge and now in the Masonic Retirement Center.
2. **Eastern Star.** A contribution as in 1B, above; and
3. **Amaranth.** A contribution as in 1B, above.

No other charges or fees shall be required of any Lodge, Chapter or Court for support of the Masonic Home Fund. **Rev. 1995**

**[Rev. 2003]**

**Sec. 7.06 B.L.**

**Dues for N.P.D. Reinstatements.** All Lodges must pay dues to the Grand Lodge on N.P.D. reinstatements for the year in which the member was dropped.

**Sec. 7.07 B.L.**

**Powers to Sell and Convey Securities and Real Estate.**

The Grand Master and the Grand Secretary, with approval of the Committee on Finance, shall have power to:

1. Sell and convey any real estate now held or hereafter acquired in liquidation of indebtedness or received as a donation; and
2. Acquire, purchase, sell, exchange, convert, assign, and endorse for the transfer of capital stock, bonds or securities and where such stock, bonds or securities are issued or registered in the corporate name of this Grand Lodge, then upon sale, exchange, conversion or assignment to endorse the same in its corporate name, attested by the seal.

**Sec. 7.08 B.L.**

**Fund Management.** Monies from the various funds now authorized by the Grand Lodge or to be created in the future for specific purposes, if not needed for current expenses, shall be invested under Grand Lodge management to generate revenue. Funds managed by the Grand Lodge shall be subject to such reasonable fees as may be established under Section 7.03 B.L.

The Grand Master and the Grand Secretary, with the approval of the Committee on Finance shall be responsible for the management of such investments that may be in interest bearing bank deposits or in such securities as are legal investments for trust funds under the laws of the State of Washington. Those include Government bonds, notes and bills, corporate bonds, preferred and common stock, and real estate contracts. **Rev.1995**

**Sec. 7.09 B.L.**

**Charity Fund.** This special fund shall be maintained for charity purposes. The fund shall be supported by monies listed in Sec. 7.04 B.L.

**Sec. 7.10 B.L.**

**Masonic Home Fund.** This special fund shall be maintained exclusively for the support of the Masonic Retirement Center of Washington. **Rev. 2001**

**Sec. 7.11 B.L.**

**Masonic Home Endowment Fund.** This special fund shall be maintained exclusively for the use and benefit of the Masonic Retirement Center of Washington. The principal shall constitute, be and remain a permanent trust fund, except that up to 20% of the net capital gains of such fund may be exempted from consideration as principal. Beginning with the audited annual reports of the Endowment Fund between the years 1988 and 1992, the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary, with the approval of the Committee on Finance, may authorize the utilization of a limited portion of the capital gains of the Masonic Home Endowment Fund for operation and maintenance revenue provided that the sum shall not exceed 20% of the net capital gains accrued during the preceding fiscal year. In any fiscal year in which net realized and unrealized capital losses occur, they shall be carried forward to succeeding year(s). In any subsequent year, net realized and unrealized capital gains must exceed any net unrealized and realized capital losses carried forward before the 20% rule may again be applied.

**[Rev.2003]**

This fund shall receive such sums as may be appropriated for that purpose by the Grand Lodge, together with all monies or property donated to or for the benefit of said fund by gift, bequest or devise.

The asset value of the proceeds from the sale of any real or personal property, which has been conveyed to the Grand Lodge by gift, bequest, or devise, shall become a part of the Masonic Home Endowment Fund, if:

1. Designated for the benefit of the Masonic Retirement Center, or
2. Not impressed for any specific use or disposition. **Rev. 1995**

#### **Sec. 7.12 B.L.**

**Masonic Loan Fund.** This special fund shall be maintained to provide loans to Constituent Lodges and Masonic Building Corporations for Masonic purposes.

The Fund shall consist of such monies as may be appropriated for that purpose by Grand Lodge, money and property contributed by gift, bequest and devise, and from any other source.

The Fund shall be managed and disbursed by a committee composed of the Grand Master, the Grand Secretary, and the Committee on Finance. This Committee shall have the authority to make loans pursuant to this Chapter and in such amounts, and under such terms and conditions as may be determined by the Committee; provided, however, that no such loans shall be made unless:

1. The loan is a matter of urgent necessity to the borrower,
2. The loan is a matter of proper concern to Grand Lodge; and
3. The loan will be adequately secured and repaid when due.

Any real and personal property of the Fund may be sold, leased, conveyed or otherwise disposed of by the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary with the approval of the Committee on Finance.

#### **Sec. 7.13 B.L.**

**Masonic Scholarship Endowment Fund.** This special Fund shall be maintained for the purpose of awarding Grand Lodge scholarships annually to deserving students as selected by the Committee on Public Schools. Revenue generated by this Fund shall be divided among programs that provide Grand Lodge scholarships to high school juniors and seniors.

The principal of the Fund shall constitute, be, and remain, a permanent trust Fund. This fund shall receive:

1. Money or property that may be donated to the Fund by gift, bequest or devise.
2. Five dollars (\$5.00) for each petition approved for conferral of the Degrees, from the conferring Lodge. **Rev. 2000**

#### **Sec. 7.14 B.L.**

**Endowed Life Membership Fund.** The Grand Lodge, having sponsored and established an endowed life membership plan for Masons of this Jurisdiction, shall maintain a special Fund for the management of money received for Endowed Life Memberships under the plan. The principal sum of the Fund shall constitute, be and remain a permanent trust Fund.

1. All sums collected by Lodges for Endowed Life Membership under the Grand Lodge plan shall be immediately remitted to the Grand Secretary who shall place all money so received in the Endowed Life Membership Fund,
2. The Grand Secretary shall immediately issue to the member paying the required fees an Endowed Life Membership Certificate under Seal of the Grand Lodge,

[Rev. 2003]

3. The holder of an Endowed Life Membership Certificate may voluntarily transfer to another Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction, whereupon the Grand Secretary, upon notice thereof, shall transfer on the books of the Endowed Life Membership Fund, to the credit of the new Lodge of membership, the fees received for the holder's endowed life membership. Endowed Life Memberships which are purchased with Lodge Funds shall remain in trust for said Lodge of purchase,
4. The holder of an Endowed Life Membership Certificate in a Lodge that becomes dissolved shall, upon affiliation with another Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, have his Endowed Life Membership transferred in the same manner as for a voluntary transfer,
5. All money in the Endowed Life Membership Fund to the credit of two or more Lodges that consolidate shall be combined to the credit of the Consolidated Lodge,
6. Earnings of the Endowed Life Membership Fund, shall be distributed annually to participating Lodges based on their share of the Fund. As set forth in Sec. 7.03 B.L., One percent (1%) of the annual asset valuation shall be retained by the Grand Lodge to defray expenses of managing the Fund. **Rev. 2002**
7. Interest accruing from the Fund, as the share of a dissolved Lodge, shall be added, at the end of each year, to the principal of the Fund,
8. Nothing in this section shall preclude the transfer of Life or Endowed Life Membership Funds on behalf of Lodges that have affiliated with the Grand Lodge of Alaska; and
9. The fiscal year for the Endowed Life Membership Fund shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31 of each calendar year. **Rev. 1999**

**Sec. 7.15 B.L.**

**Grand Lodge Endowment Fund.** This special Fund shall be maintained for the use and benefit of the General Fund. The principal shall consist, be and remain a Permanent Trust Fund. This Fund may receive such sums as may be appropriated thereto by the Grand Lodge and one-fourth of the excess income over expenses occurring in the General Fund annually will be transferred to this Fund.

**Sec. 7.16 B.L.**

**Washington Masonic Tribune Endowment Fund.** This special Fund shall be maintained for the use and benefit of the Washington Masonic Tribune. The principal shall consist of, be and remain a Permanent Trust Fund.

This Fund shall receive such sums as may be appropriated for that purpose by the Grand Lodge, together with all monies or property donated to or for the benefit of said Fund by gift, bequest, or devise. **Rev.1991**

**Sec. 7.17 B.L.**

**Grand Lodge Projects Endowment Fund.** This special Fund shall be maintained to fund such projects as the Grand Master and/or the Grand Lodge shall determine. The principal shall consist of, be, and remain a Permanent Trust Fund.

This Fund shall receive such sums as may be appropriated for that purpose by the Grand Lodge, together with all monies or property donated to or for the benefit of said Fund by gift, bequest or devise. **Rev. 1991**

[Rev. 2003]



**Sec. 7.18 B.L.**

**Grand Lodge Self Insurance Fund.** This special Fund shall be maintained for the purpose of self insuring paraphernalia and other property belonging to the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Washington and its Constituent Lodges and paying such deductibles resulting from property loss claims on other Grand Lodge insurance. Eight thousand dollars (\$8,000.00) shall be budgeted and transferred from the General Fund each year until the assets of the Self Insurance Fund total twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00).

Any earnings of the Fund in excess of \$25,000.00 shall be returned to the General Fund. The principal of the fund shall be maintained at \$25,000.00 and in the event of the payment of losses, if the principal is reduced to less than \$25,000.00 funds shall be budgeted and transferred from the General Fund to the Self Insurance Fund, provided no more than twenty-five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) be transferred each year until the principal of the fund is returned to twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00).

The Committee on Insurance shall develop such procedures as necessary for the submission and processing of claims and shall review and approve or disapprove all claims made against the Fund. **Rev. 1996**

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## Part I – Grand Lodge

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## Part I - Grand Lodge

### CHAPTER 8 - COMMITTEES, FOUNDATIONS AND THEIR DUTIES

#### Sec. 8.01 B.L.

**Standing Committees.** The newly-installed Grand Master shall appoint, before the close of the Annual Communication, the following Standing Committees to serve until the close of the next Annual Communication. The number of Committee members shall be no less than the number stipulated. **Rev. 2002**

1. By-Laws, three members
2. Charity, three members
3. Code Commission, three members
4. Correspondence, one member
5. Credentials, ten members
6. Endowment for the Masonic Home Fund, five members
7. Finance, five members
8. Grievances and Appeals, three members
9. Information Technology, ten members **Adopted 2002**
10. Insurance, five members
11. Jurisprudence, five members
12. Library and Museum, five members
13. Literacy Outreach, ten members **Adopted 2002**
14. Long Range Planning, ten members **Adopted 2002**
15. Masonic Float, four members **Adopted 2002**
16. Masonic Public Relations, three members
17. Masonic Research and Education, five members
18. Masonic Tribune, one member
19. Membership Cultivation and Retention, seven members
20. Military Recognition, seven members
21. Public Schools, six members
22. Youth, six members

The Committees on Jurisprudence, Finance, and Credentials shall meet on the day immediately preceding the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge. **Rev. 2002**

#### Sec. 8.02 B.L.

**By-Laws.** The Committee shall:

1. Receive from the Grand Secretary all By-Laws or By-Law amendments submitted by the Lodges for approval, review the same and forward promptly to the Grand Master with a recommendation of approval or disapproval; and
2. Report to the Grand Lodge at the Annual Communication a list of the By-Laws and By-Law amendments submitted for consideration.

#### Sec. 8.03 B.L.

**Charity.** The Committee shall investigate and report upon all applications for assistance, and may report upon the necessities of any worthy Brother whose condition may claim the attention of the Grand Lodge.

[Rev. 2003]

**Sec. 8.04 B.L.**

**Code Commission.** The Commission shall:

1. Compile and maintain a continuing review of the Washington Masonic Code. Where such review reveals misspelled words, extra, missing, or misplaced punctuation, or similar errors, whether related to grammar, syntax, agreement in number, gender or sentence structure, the Code Commission, with the concurrence of the Committee on Jurisprudence, may jointly authorize publication of such changes, which action shall be reported to the next Annual Communication of Grand Lodge for its approval,
2. Receive from the Grand Secretary each Resolution proposing an addition or an amendment to the Code; review, and, when necessary, restructure and/or rewrite the proposal, with the concurrence of the sponsors, to preserve the desired qualities of the Code; approve or revise the proposed placement in the Code,
3. Receive from the Grand Secretary all enactments of Grand Lodge affecting the Code, confirm the placement in the Code and the indexing for each item, and file a report of the same with the Grand Secretary, and
4. Perform a systematic review and upgrading of the Constitution, By-Laws, and Rulings and Decisions as deemed necessary. The upgrading shall include the restructuring and/or rewriting of portions of the Code when necessary for clarification. Extreme care shall be exercised during this procedure to avoid changing or obscuring the original intent of the legislation. Proposed amendments to the Constitution or By-Laws shall be reported to the Grand Lodge for consideration at the Annual Communication following the completion of the clarification project.

Clarification, removal or relocation of Rulings and Decisions shall be discussed with the Committee on Jurisprudence and the conclusions shall be reported in the form of a joint report to the Grand Lodge at the next Annual Communication for their approval or disapproval. **Rev. 1995**

**Sec. 8.05 B.L.**

**Correspondence.** The Committee shall examine the printed or written proceedings or other documents emanating from other Grand Lodges, and report, at each Annual Communication, whatever may seem of sufficient importance and interest to the Craft. He shall deliver his report to the Grand Secretary before the meeting of the Grand Lodge.

**Sec. 8.06 B.L.**

**Credentials.** The Committee shall:

1. Verify the credentials of all Masons claiming the right of membership in the Grand Lodge,
2. List, for the record, at each Annual Communication:
  - A. The names of Grand Officers and other members of the Grand Lodge in attendance,
  - B. Names and numbers of Lodges represented,
  - C. Names of Masters, Wardens and Past Masters present; and
  - D. Names of proxies present.
3. Report to the Grand Lodge, after the call to order and before the ceremonial opening of the Annual Communication, that the required number of Lodges are present to provide a quorum for the transaction of business; and
4. Conduct the annual election of officers at the direction of the Grand Master, and report the results to the Grand Lodge. **[Rev.2003]**

**Sec. 8.07 B.L.**

**Endowment for the Masonic Home.** The Committee shall foster, promote, increase and develop the objectives of the Masonic Home Endowment Fund as set forth in the Washington Masonic Code.

Its members shall work under the direction of the Grand Master. The members shall visit the Lodges, dispense information, provide speakers, encourage interest, develop programs, prepare and distribute literature, prepare talks, make an annual report to the Grand Lodge and, in conjunction with the Trustees of the Masonic Retirement Center, engage in such further activities as will promote and further the soundness and growth of the Endowment Fund. **Rev. 1995**

**Sec. 8.08 B.L.**

**Finance.** The Committee shall:

1. Examine and report on all matters concerning the finances of the Grand Lodge, not otherwise provided for; and upon all subjects involving an appropriation of its funds. Without such report no appropriation shall be made,
2. Examine and compare the books, papers, vouchers and accounts of the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary, and make detailed reports thereon and submit the same to the Grand Lodge before the close of each Annual Communication; and report the financial condition of the Grand Lodge,
3. Present, before the close of each Annual Communication, an estimate of the probable expenses of the ensuing year (giving each class of expenditure under its proper heading), and recommend the appropriation of such sums as it shall deem necessary,
4. Oversee and approve management and disposition of all real and personal property not assigned to another committee, including any held in trust for the benefit of any charitable activity,
5. Consider for approval the recommendations made by the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary for investment of monies from the various Funds that the Grand Lodge has authorized,
6. Ensure that title to all property, real or personal, offered to the Grand Lodge by applicants for admission to the Masonic Retirement Center for inclusion in the Masonic Home Endowment Fund shall, upon admission of the applicant to membership in the Masonic Retirement Center, be transferred of record before any disposition thereof is made of those assets which must be converted to cash prior to inclusion in the Masonic Home Endowment Fund; and
7. May engage Certified Public Accountants and such other professional assistance as may be required to assist and report to the Committee as to the details of the financial, property, or other matters pertaining thereto, subject to the approval of the Grand Master. **Rev. 1995**

**Sec. 8.09. B.L.**

**Grievances and Appeals.** The Committee shall consider, report upon, and make such recommendations as it may deem proper on the following matters:

1. Any complaint or grievance appertaining to Masonic discipline,
2. All appeals from decisions of any Lodge or the Master thereof; and
3. All petitions for restoration.

[Rev. 2003]

Matters contained in the report of the Committee on Grievances and Appeals shall be mentioned in our Proceedings only by titles of the cases and statements of action taken. No details of the case shall be mentioned.

**Sec. 8.10 B.L.**

**Information Technology.** The Committee shall:

1. Develop, promote and improve methods of communication between Grand Lodge and Constituent Lodges,
2. Provide a review of current communication methods and computer technology available,
3. Make recommendation about technology which will assist and improve Masonic Communication. **Adopted 2002**

**Sec. 8.11 B.L.**

**Insurance.** The Committee shall consist of members who are knowledgeable about property and casualty insurance. The Committee annually shall:

1. Review and audit all insurance policies held by Grand Lodge for:
  - A. Dollar amount of insurance coverage,
  - B. Dollar amount of premium paid,
  - C. Gaps or omissions in coverage,
  - D. Methods of reducing cost; and
  - E. Improvements in coverage.
2. When requested, review the insurance coverage of Constituent Lodges, Temple Corporations or Associations and other owners of Masonic property and make recommendations for improvement of coverage, when applicable,
3. Act as a liaison between insurance providers and Grand Lodge to resolve insurance complaints within this Jurisdiction and be available to explain or respond to questions regarding Constituent Lodge coverage, and
4. Make report to Grand Lodge of audit findings, together with recommendations for change when deemed advisable and as provided for in Sec. 11.06 B.L.

**Sec. 8.12 B.L.**

**Jurisprudence.** The Committee shall consider and report upon all questions, documents, papers, decisions on Masonic Law and Usage, and proposed amendments to the Constitution, By-Laws, and Regulations.

**Sec. 8.13 B.L.**

**Library and Museum.** The Committee shall be responsible for the daily administration and operation of the Washington Masonic Library and Museum, preserving the artifacts of Masonic history in and for this Grand Jurisdiction and perform such archival functions as may be necessary and proper.

The Committee shall also act as a fund raising committee for the Washington Masonic Library and Museum Foundation.

**Sec. 8.14 B.L.**

**Literacy Outreach.** The Committee will provide the means of assisting the Lodges with information about the benefits of a literate society and the role Freemasonry can play by implementing Operation Outreach Programs. **Adopted 2002**

[Rev. 2003]

**Sec. 8.15 B.L.**

**Long Range Planning.** The Committee will be custodians of the Washington Grand Lodge Long Range Plans, incorporating and implementing changes necessitated by evolving circumstances within the Grand Lodge. **Adopted 2002**

**Sec. 8.16 B.L.**

**Masonic Float.** The Committee shall be responsible for the public display of the Washington Masonic Family Float in this Grand Jurisdiction as well as other Grand Jurisdictions. **Adopted 2002**

**Sec. 8.17 B.L.**

**Masonic Public Relations.** The Committee shall assist Grand Lodge and its Constituent Lodges with information and news releases on Masonic matters, including Grand Lodge communications, cornerstone laying, dedications and similar matters.

**Sec. 8.18 B.L.**

**Masonic Research and Education.** The Committee shall:

1. On request, furnish speakers on Masonic and kindred subjects for Lodges and for community meetings held under the auspices of Lodges,
2. Select for printing and circulation such Masonic addresses proper and suitable for circulation,
3. Invite and conduct correspondence with Lodges, or members thereof, concerning Masonic subjects; and
4. Have power to expend in its work such funds as may have been appropriated for its use by the Grand Lodge. **Rev. 1994**

**Sec. 8.19 B.L.**

**Masonic Tribune.** The Committee shall be responsible for publication of the official publication of the Grand Lodge on a regular basis as directed by the Grand Master. **Rev. 1999**

**Sec. 8.20 B.L.**

**Membership Cultivation and Retention.** The Committee shall research, develop and promote programs to cultivate and increase Masonic membership among the member Lodges. To assist the Lodges in creating interesting and viable programs for its meetings and activities to promote and create an interesting Masonic environment for greater attendance and participation among its enrolled membership; and shall make an annual report and recommendations to Grand Lodge concerning its activities and findings. **Rev. 1992**

**Sec. 8.21 B.L.**

**Military Recognition.** The Committee shall provide for the annual recognition of an active duty military Person of the Year, as directed by the Grand Master. **Rev. 1999**

**Sec. 8.22 B.L.**

**Public Schools.** The Committee shall maintain a continuous program of educating our members in the importance of the American system of tax-supported public schools and the preservation of its inviolability.

[Rev. 2003]



The Committee shall select deserving students annually to receive assistance from the Masonic Scholarship Endowment Fund in accordance with established guidelines.

**Sec. 8.23 B.L.**

**Youth.** The Committee shall maintain a program of guidance and assistance which shall be available to Constituent Lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction for assisting and guiding the Order of DeMolay, International Order of Rainbow for Girls and International Order of Jobs Daughters in their areas.

**Sec. 8.24 B.L.**

**Sessions Committees.** The Grand Master shall appoint for each Annual Communication, when required, any of the following committees of three members each to serve during the Communication and cease at its close:

1. A Committee on Charters and New Lodges,
2. A Committee on Segregation and Reference; and
3. A Committee on Unfinished Business.

**Sec. 8.25 B.L.**

**Charters and New Lodges.** The Committee shall consider and report upon all applications for charters, and all cases of surrendered, forfeited or suspended charters.

**Sec. 8.26 B.L.**

**Segregation and Reference.** The Committee shall segregate by subject the Message of the Grand Master and the Report of the Grand Secretary and, immediately after each is delivered at an Annual Communication, shall recommend that the various segregations be referred to appropriate committees for review and report.

**Sec. 8.27 B.L.**

**Unfinished Business.** The Committee shall examine and report to Grand Lodge with its recommendations all deferred or unfinished business which may require action.

**Sec. 8.28 B.L.**

**Special Committees.** Special Committees may be appointed by the Grand Master to facilitate business of the Grand Lodge whenever it shall be deemed necessary. They shall perform such duties as may be assigned to them by the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge. Special Committees whose duties and functions are continued for three successive years following their institution, beginning with the conclusion of the 1995 Annual Communication, shall be reviewed thereafter at the Annual Communication following the third anniversary of their creation and Grand Lodge may choose to make such committees Standing Committees, Sessions Committees, or abolish them.

**Rev. 1995**

**Sec. 8.29 B.L.**

**Committee Reports.** Every Committee to which any question or matter has been referred shall, after making an investigation, submit a written report-if proper to be written-of the facts determined by its inquiry. Recommendations which the Committee shall deem proper, regarding the subject under investigation, shall be submitted as Resolutions attached to the report.

**[Rev. 2003]**

**Sec. 8.30 B.L.**

**Meetings During Annual Communication.** Committees shall not meet while the Grand Lodge is actually in session, except by permission of the Grand Master.

**Sec. 8.31 B.L.**

**Bill P. Horn Memorial Masonic Medal Foundation.** The Bill P. Horn Memorial Masonic Medal Foundation is constituted in order to recognize a Mason of note on the world scene who has quietly contributed in a significant way to the improvement of society. A Board of Trustees appointed by the Grand Master shall manage the affairs and operation of the Foundation.

1. The Board of Trustees shall consist of five members, each of whom shall serve a term of five years so arranged that one Trustee shall be appointed or reappointed each year in June following the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge,
2. The Board of Trustees shall develop and establish operating procedures for the award of the Bill P. Horn Memorial Masonic Medal,
3. The Board of Trustees may create and administer a trust fund to support this activity; and
4. The Trustees shall report annually to the Grand Lodge on the income, expenses, and activities, including the name or names of the recipients of this award. **Rev. 1999**

**Sec. 8.32 B.L.**

**Washington Masonic Library and Museum Foundation.** The Foundation is a separately incorporated not for profit corporation chartered under the laws of the State of Washington and organized appropriately according to regulations pertaining to tax exempt charitable, educational and philanthropic organizations.

The Washington Masonic Library and Museum Foundation consists of the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden, Grand Secretary, Grand Historian, Chairman of the Committee on Jurisprudence, and the Chairman of the Committee on Finance by virtue of their election or appointment and then only for the term of their service. Their duties shall be to acquire and take possession of all assets, donations and revenues of the Foundation, oversee all expenditures, employ such paid and volunteer assistance as they deem appropriate, provide oversight to the Library and Museum Committee, and set policy.

The Grand Master shall serve as Chairman of the Board of Trustees and the Grand Secretary as Secretary of the Board and other functions of administration shall be established by the corporation By-laws. **Rev. 2002**

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**Part I – Grand Lodge**

**CHAPTER 9 – ANNUAL COMMUNICATION PROCEDURE**

Sec. 9.01 B.L. – [Communications](#)

Sec. 9.02 B.L. – [Quorum](#)

Sec. 9.03 B.L. – [Hours of Convening and of Labor and Refreshment](#)

Sec. 9.04 B.L. – [Opening Proceedings](#)

Sec. 9.05 B.L. – [Continuing Proceedings](#)

Sec. 9.06 B.L. – [Approval of Minutes](#)

Sec. 9.07 B.L. – [Distribution of Proceedings](#)

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## Part I – Grand Lodge

### CHAPTER 9 – ANNUAL COMMUNICATION PROCEDURE

#### Sec. 9.01 B.L.

##### **Communications.**

**Annual.** The Grand Lodge shall meet annually on the second Thursday of June in the City of Tacoma, unless an invitation to hold the Annual Communication for a given year in another city shall have been received and accepted by vote of the Grand Lodge, after having been referred without debate to the Committee on Finance for report.

##### **Special.**

1. The Grand Master may call Special Communications for ceremonial purposes; and
2. Special Communications may also be called by the Grand Master for purpose of enactment of legislation of an emergent nature after 45 days written notice to all Lodges. **Rev. 1992**

#### Sec. 9.02 B.L.

**Quorum.** The Representatives of fifty-one percent of the Chartered Lodges, convened on due notice to all the Lodges, shall be indispensably necessary to open Grand Lodge for the transaction of business; however, on occasions of ceremony, the Grand Master or his special Deputy, with a number of Brethren sufficient to fill the stations and places, may open the Grand Lodge and perform the ceremony for which it is called.

#### Sec. 9.03 B.L.

**Hours of Convening and of Labor and Refreshment.** The Grand Lodge shall convene at ten o'clock A.M. on the first day of each Annual Communication. Thereafter the hours of labor and refreshment shall be at the will and pleasure of the Grand Master.

#### Sec. 9.04 B.L.

**Opening Proceedings.** The Annual Communication shall observe the following initial order of proceedings and business:

1. Prayer by the Grand Chaplain,
2. Roll Call of elective, appointive and past elective officers by the Grand Secretary,
3. Receive the report of the Committee on Credentials regarding the number of Lodges represented,
4. Solemn Ceremonies of Opening the Grand Lodge in Ample Form,
5. Read and approve the minutes of the last Annual Communication, unless dispensed with,
6. Announcement of Sessions Committees, appointments to fill vacancies on Standing Committees and other business affecting the organization of the Grand Lodge,
7. Message of the Most Worshipful Grand Master,
8. Report of the Committee on Segregation and Reference and referral of the Grand Master's message,
9. Report of the Right Worshipful Grand Secretary,
10. Report of the Committee on Segregation and Reference and referral of the Grand Secretary's report,
11. Report of the Committee on Unfinished Business,

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12. Report of the Committee on Correspondence,
13. Report of the Committee on Charity; and
14. Other business of the Grand Lodge.

**Sec. 9.05 B.L.**

**Continuing Proceedings.** Business during the several sessions after the convening of Grand Lodge shall include the following:

1. Presentation and referral or other disposition of memorials, petitions and communications,
2. Presentation of Resolutions and referral to Committees,
3. Reports from Sessions, Standing, and Special Committees and action on recommendations,
4. Reports from Grand Officers as required,
5. Consideration of amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws,
6. Report of Committee on Credentials in preparation for the election of officers;
7. Election of officers,
8. Special orders, if any,
9. Installation of Grand Officers and Deputies of the Grand Master,
10. Appointment of Standing Committees,
11. Other business; and
12. Solemn Ceremonies of Closing the Grand Lodge in Ample Form.

**Sec. 9.06 B.L.**

**Approval of Minutes.** The Grand Secretary shall submit the minutes of an Annual Communication for examination, correction if necessary, and approval by the Grand Master who presided, prior to December 31 of the year in which the Annual Communication occurred and before the record of the Proceedings shall be produced. **Rev. 1998**

**Sec. 9.07 B.L.**

**Distribution of Proceedings.** Copies of the Proceedings of the Annual Communication shall be produced annually and distributed by the Grand Secretary prior to April 1 of the calendar year following the Annual Communication as follows:

1. At a price which shall reflect the cost of production, handling, and distribution, but in any case shall not be more than eighteen dollars (\$18.00) per copy, one copy to each of the following upon receipt of an order for the same:
  - A. Each chartered Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction,
  - B. Each appointed Grand Lodge Officer,
  - C. Each appointed Grand Lodge Committeeman,
  - D. Each District Deputy of the Grand Master; and
  - E. Each Past Grand Master.
2. One copy each without cost to:
  - A. Each Elected Grand Lodge Officer,
  - B. Each Grand Representative of this Grand Lodge near another Grand Lodge,
  - C. Each Grand Lodge which corresponds with and furnishes this Grand Jurisdiction with a copy of its Annual Proceedings,
  - D. Each member of the Committees on Jurisprudence, Finance, and the Code Commission, as needed; and

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E. Each Research Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction.

3. Such additional copies as may be produced shall be held by the Grand Secretary and may be sold under the same or similar terms as pertain to those in paragraph 1, above, to any interested party; and
4. Copies of the Proceedings may also be distributed in an electronically or optically stored and reproduced media provided that they are available in a format which is generally accessible and affordable, and that the price charged reflects the actual costs of production, duplication, handling, and distribution. **Rev. 2000**

**Part I – Grand Lodge**

**CHAPTER 10 – MASONIC RETIREMENT CENTER**

Sec. 10.01 B.L. – [Masonic Retirement Center](#)

Sec. 10.02 B.L. – [Eligibility for Admission](#)

Sec. 10.03 B.L. – [Board of Trustees](#)

Sec. 10.04 B.L. – [Appointment of Board of Trustees](#)

Sec. 10.05 B.L. – [Board Associates](#)

Sec. 10.06 B.L. – [Authority of the Board](#)

Sec. 10.07 B.L. – [Relief Outside the Masonic Retirement Center](#)

Sec. 10.08 B.L. – [Board Reports](#)

Sec. 10.09 B.L. – [Board Meetings and Compensation](#)

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## Part I - Grand Lodge

### CHAPTER 10- MASONIC RETIREMENT CENTER

#### Sec. 10.01 B.L.

**Masonic Retirement Center.** The Grand Lodge shall establish and maintain a home for eligible persons and the official name of the home shall be: "The Masonic Retirement Center of Washington". The home shall be incorporated as a Washington State not-for-profit corporation subject to the laws of the State of Washington and the Internal Revenue Code of the U.S. Treasury Department, which laws, rules, regulations, and requirements shall have supremacy over the Constitution and By-Laws of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Washington, and the Rulings and Decisions of the Grand Masters, and any By-Laws of the corporation established or any successor corporation established hereafter. **Rev. 1995**

#### Sec. 10.02 B.L.

**Eligibility for Admission.** Admission to the Masonic Retirement Center shall be in the following numerical priority order:

1. Master Masons who are members of Lodges of this Jurisdiction; wives, widows, orphans, widowed mothers, single daughters and single sisters of Master Masons who are members of Lodges in this Jurisdiction; female members of the Order of the Eastern Star of Washington; and/or female members of the Order of Amaranth of Washington.
2. Master Masons in good standing and the wives, widows, widowed mothers, single daughters and single sisters of Master Masons in good standing who are members of Lodges in other Grand Lodges which are recognized by the Grand Lodge of Washington and who have been permanent residents of this Jurisdiction for at least one year.

This eligibility is subject to such rules and regulations as may hereafter be adopted by the Board of Trustees provided that any additional category shall always be given a lower priority than any category listed in paragraphs 1 and 2, above. **Rev. 1995**

#### Sec. 10.03 B.L.

**Board of Trustees.** The Board of Trustees shall be in charge of the Masonic Retirement Center and the title of the board is: "The Board of Trustees of the Masonic Retirement Center of Washington."

The Board shall consist of the following elected Grand Lodge Officers:

- The Grand Master
- The Deputy Grand Master
- The Senior Grand Warden
- The Junior Grand Warden
- The Grand Secretary

Additionally, nine members who are Master Masons of Grand Lodge appointed by the Grand Master to serve as provided in Sec. 10.04 B.L.

The Board, at its first meeting following the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, shall choose from its membership a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. **Rev. 2001**

[Rev. 2003]



**Sec. 10.04 B.L.**

**Appointment of Board of Trustees.** The nine appointed members of the Board of Trustees shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years each, in alternating years so that three members shall be appointed each year. Members so selected may be eligible for reappointment up to a maximum of twelve (12) consecutive years. **Rev. 2001**

**Sec.10.05 B.L.**

**Board Associates.** The Trustees are empowered and authorized to associate with themselves in the management and control of the Masonic Retirement Center, and under such conditions and regulations as the Trustees shall determine:

1. Two members of the Grand Chapter of Washington, Order of Eastern Star chosen for a term of two years in alternating terms in such manner as the Grand Chapter may provide,
2. Two members of the Grand Court of Washington, Order of Amaranth chosen for a term of two years, in alternating terms in such manner as the Grand Court may provide; and
3. Vacancies occurring during the terms of Board Associates shall be filled by the respective Organizations in such manner as the Organization may determine, provided that alternating terms of the Board Associates is maintained.

**Sec. 10.06 B.L.**

**Authority of the Board.** The Board shall direct the expenditure of all money appropriated by the Grand Lodge for support and maintenance of the Masonic Retirement Center. The Board shall make all necessary rules and regulations for the government of the Masonic Retirement Center, the admission of residents, and the holding of their assets in escrow, pending their acceptance as permanent residents.

**Sec. 10.07 B.L.**

**Relief Outside the Masonic Retirement Center.** The Board may extend relief outside the Masonic Retirement Center, when in its judgment it is advisable to do so, for the care, maintenance and support of those who are denied admission by reason of physical or mental incapacity but meet all other requirements.

**Sec. 10.08 B.L.**

**Board Reports.** The Board's actions shall be reported annually to the Grand Lodge, and to the Grand Chapter of Washington, Order of Eastern Star and the Grand Court of Washington, Order of the Amaranth. Further, the Board shall, through its officers, make such other annual reports to civil authorities as may be required. **Rev. 1995**

**Sec. 10.09 B.L.**

**Board Meetings and Compensation.** The Board shall meet monthly and shall serve without compensation other than actual expenses.

**[Rev. 2003]**

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**Part 1 – Grand Lodge**

**CHAPTER 11 – APPROPRIATIONS**

- Sec. 11.01 B.L. – [Disbursements](#)
- Sec. 11.02 B.L. – [Payments](#)
- Sec. 11.03 B.L. – [Referrals](#)
- Sec. 11.04 B.L. – [Emergency Aid](#)
- Sec. 11.05 B.L. – [Retirement Plan](#)
- Sec. 11.06 B.L. – [Blanket Insurance Coverage](#)
- Sec. 11.07 B.L. – [Authorization for May – June Expenditures](#)
- Sec. 11.08 B.L. – [Fiscal Year](#)

## Part I – Grand Lodge

### CHAPTER 11 – APPROPRIATIONS

#### Sec. 11.01 B.L.

**Disbursements.** Funds of the Grand Lodge shall be disbursed only by checks duly signed by the Grand Master or, in his absence or disability, the Deputy Grand Master, and by the Grand Secretary or, in his absence or disability, the Assistant Grand Secretary.

#### Sec. 11.02 B.L.

**Payments.** Checks shall be issued in payment for duly authorized labor or material only after the labor is finished or the material actually furnished.

#### Sec. 11.03 B.L.

**Referrals.** Proposals and Resolutions presented for the appropriation or expenditure of money shall be referred to the Committee on Finance for review and report before final consideration by the Grand Lodge.

#### Sec. 11.04 B.L.

**Emergency Aid.** The Grand Master, in cooperation with the Committee on Charity, may draw upon the Charity Fund for the relief of worthy applicants at any time and for instant relief in an emergency following an extraordinary calamity which has caused extensive distress to large numbers of the Fraternity.

#### Sec. 11.05 B.L.

**Retirement Plan.** Employees of the Grand Lodge, and employees of the Masonic Retirement Center, who have been employed for a period of five (5) years or more and who have attained the age of 62 years will be retired when they so elect, under terms and conditions of the retirement plan now in effect or as hereafter amended, and as approved by the Federal Government, provided that no individual benefit shall exceed 30% of the final average earnings.

The administration of the Retirement Plan shall be the function of an Administrative Committee of a minimum of five (5) members and in addition one (1) representative of the employee group who are employed by the Grand Lodge and one (1) representative of the employee group who are employed by the Masonic Retirement Center. The Committee members shall serve for a term of three years on an alternating basis with one or two members appointed each year. The Grand Master shall appoint Committee members with the concurrence of the Grand Secretary. The employee representatives shall be chosen by and from each employee group. **Rev. 1995**

[Rev. 2003]

**Sec. 11.06 B.L.**

**Blanket Insurance Coverage.** The Grand Lodge may authorize and appropriate funds to cover the cost of the following insurance coverage for the Constituent Lodges:

1. Comprehensive Public Liability,
2. Medical Payments,
3. Fidelity and Depository Forgery – Blanket Policy,
4. Monies and Securities/Broad Form for Lodges; and
5. The Grand Lodge shall self insure all paraphernalia belonging to the Grand Lodge and constituent Lodges for replacement cost new and will pay all losses of more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for any one occurrence up to a maximum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) per occurrence.

The limits of insurance coverage provided in sub-sections 1, 2, 3 and 4 shall be published annually to the Constituent Lodges and the cost included in the General Fund Budget.

**Sec. 11.07 B.L.**

**Authorization for May-June Expenditures.** The Grand Lodge is authorized to expend funds for the normal operation of business during May and June, following the end of the Grand Lodge fiscal year. Said expenditures shall not exceed the average monthly expenditures of the previous fiscal year.

**Sec. 11.08 B.L.**

**Fiscal Year.** The fiscal year for the Grand Lodge shall begin on May 1 and end on April 30 of each calendar year. **Adopted 1999**

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## CHAPTER 12 – RESTRICTIONS

- Sec. 12.01 B.L. – [Use of Masonic Name and Emblem](#)
- Sec. 12.02 B.L. - [Business or Begging Letters](#)
- Sec. 12.03 B.L. - [Intoxicating Liquors in Lodge Room](#)
- Sec. 12.04 B.L. - [Lotteries](#)
- Sec. 12.05 B.L. – [Incorporation of Lodges](#)
- Sec. 12.06 B.L. - [Incorporation of Bodies for Masonic Purposes](#)

[Rev. 2003]

## CHAPTER 12 - RESTRICTIONS

### Sec. 12.01 B.L.

**Use of Masonic Name and Emblem.** It shall be a Masonic offense for any Mason to:

1. Display any Masonic emblem upon any place of business, or in connection with any business advertisement, or upon any sign, flag or banner, except:
  - A. In a Masonic procession; or
  - B. In a community historical, educational, or patriotic parade or event provided, however, that the Grand Master first grants his approval bearing in mind mode, style, minimum levels of participation and other considerations that he feels appropriate,
2. Use any Masonic emblem, or the word "Mason" or any variation whatsoever, or make any reference thereto for the purpose of soliciting patronage of any kind in connection with any private business, or any insurance or other business enterprise,
3. Accept employment with, or solicit business for, any person or persons violating the provisions of this Section,
4. Permit the printing while in the business of publishing Masonic books, journals or periodicals, of an advertisement on behalf of a client, using the word "Mason" or a variation thereof or a term, sign or symbol of Freemasonry, the use of which is prohibited in this Section; provided that this Subsection shall not apply to Masonic books, journals or periodicals, or to legitimate trade in Masonic supplies,
5. Fail to obtain written approval from the Grand Master before any advertising material shall be solicited, accepted or published by any publication claiming to be Masonic in character.

Such approval may be withheld by the Grand Master or revoked after granting whenever, in his opinion, the welfare of Masonry will be compromised thereby. Any revocation shall become effective after ten days following written notice served in person, or by registered mail with return receipt requested, and an offer of opportunity to be heard in person and/or by counsel; and

6. Use any Masonic emblem or design or the word "Masonic" in connection with any unauthorized publication. Further, such violation shall subject the offender to the penalties of the civil law. **Rev. 1986**

### Sec. 12.02 B.L.

**Business or Begging Letters.**

1. No Lodge shall:
  - A. Issue, furnish or endorse any letter or document to any person whomsoever, or to any organization to be used for business or begging purposes,
  - B. Solicit monetary assistance or donations of money for any purpose whatsoever, by circular letter or otherwise, from any Lodge or Mason in this or any other Jurisdiction, or from the general public; or
  - C. Entertain or permit to be read in Lodge any begging letter from Masons or Lodges of other Jurisdictions or from other sources, unless such letter or document shall have received the approval of the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master of this Jurisdiction, which approval shall appear on the face of such letter.

**[Rev. 2003]**



2. No Mason shall circulate in any Lodge a petition asking for financial aid for any matter or thing not of a strictly Masonic nature; and
3. The elective Grand Lodge officers shall not use the Grand Lodge mailing list for any commercial purpose, whatsoever, or engage themselves in any professional fund raising enterprise whatsoever, without first obtaining the consent of Grand Lodge at the Annual Communication.

Policies for usage are:

- A. Grand Lodge authorization for fund raising enterprises and the use of the Grand Lodge mailing list shall be renewed annually at the annual Communication,
- B. Use of the Grand Lodge mailing list, or portions thereof, by Masonic Family organizations other than Grand Lodge 501(c) 10 (1, 2, and 3) may be allowed for a fee established and approved by the Grand Master; and
- C. Authorization of the Grand Lodge mailing list for use by Masonic Family organizations is limited exclusively to the purposes of promoting membership and fraternal communication between bodies and that no commercial or fund raising use, charitable or otherwise, may be made of it whatsoever. **Rev. 1998**

**Sec. 12.03 B.L.**

**Intoxicating Liquors in Lodge Room.** Intoxicating liquors shall not be introduced into a Lodge Room. Lodges or Temple Corporations may, at their option, by Standing Resolution, adopt and enforce such regulations relating to other areas than a Lodge Room, as they, in their wisdom, may deem appropriate. **Rev. 1990**

**Sec. 12.04 B.L.**

**Lotteries.** The conduct of raffles, bingo, and other lotteries to the extent authorized by civil law is permitted, provided that any organization conducting the same shall fully comply with all state and local laws, rules and regulations.

**Sec. 12.05 B.L.**

**Incorporation of Lodges.** No Lodge shall form itself into a corporate body without permission from the Grand Lodge.

**Sec. 12.06 B.L.**

**Incorporation of Bodies for Masonic Purposes.** No Mason or group of Masons shall organize or sponsor any incorporated body for any declared Masonic purpose, without permission of the Grand Master and the Committee on Jurisprudence.

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## CHAPTER 13 – GENERAL PROVISIONS

- Sec. 13.01 Const. – [Authority to Hold Lodge](#)
- Sec. 13.02 B.L. – [Lodge Membership](#)
- Sec. 13.03 B.L. – [Sunday Labor](#)
- Sec. 13.04 B.L. – [Proper Time for Business](#)
- Sec. 13.05 B.L. – [Voting Members](#)
- Sec. 13.06 B.L. – [Change of Meeting Place](#)
- Sec. 13.07 B.L. – [Public Appearance as Masons](#)
- Sec. 13.08 B.L. – [Grand Honors](#)
- Sec. 13.09 B.L. – [Admitting Visitors](#)
- Sec. 13.10 B.L. – [Objection to Visitor](#)
- Sec. 13.11 B.L. – [Inspection of Charter by Visitor](#)
- Sec. 13.12 B.L. – [Examination for Masonic Fraternal Relations](#)

## Part III - Constituent Lodges

### CHAPTER 13- GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### Sec. 13.01 Const.

**Authority to Hold Lodge.** Every Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction is and shall be held by virtue of a charter from the Grand Lodge or under a dispensation issued by the Grand Master.

#### Sec. 13.02 B.L.

**Lodge Membership:** A Lodge shall be composed of those who retain membership after having been:

1. Named in the warrant of dispensation,
2. Raised and enrolled as a member,
3. Admitted to the Lodge by affiliation; or
4. A member of a Lodge which consolidates with another.

#### Sec. 13.03 B.L.

**Sunday Labor.** No Lodge shall meet on the first day of the week, commonly called Sunday, for Masonic Labor other than the burial of an Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, or Master Mason.

**Rev. 1986**

#### Sec. 13.04 B.L.

**Proper Time for Business.** A Lodge may transact its business and conduct its balloting when at labor on any Degree at a Stated Communication. When one or more Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft Degree Masons desire to attend, the Worshipful Master, at his discretion, may open Lodge on the appropriate Degree.

A Lodge at labor on any Degree for other than business shall be limited to such proceedings as pertain respectively to the Degree on which it is open:

1. The Work and Lectures,
2. Testimony upon Masonic charges; and
3. Programs or ceremonies permitting attendance of E. A's or F. C's. **Rev. 2000**

#### Sec. 13.05 B.L.

**Voting Members.** All Master Masons present who are members, unless excused by unanimous consent must ballot on the following questions:

1. A petition for the Degrees or for Affiliation,
2. The acceptance or rejection of charges for a Masonic Trial,
3. The expulsion or suspension of a member; and
4. A proposal for consolidation of Lodges.

A vote of all members present is not required on other business matters.

#### Sec. 13.06 B.L.

##### **Change of Meeting Place.**

1. **Regular Meetings.** A Lodge may permanently change its regular place of meeting by a vote of its members and the sanction of the Grand Master.

The vote shall be taken at a Stated Communication at least ten days after written notice has been mailed to each member of the Lodge stating the proposed change and the date of the meeting.

**[Rev. 2003]**

Two-thirds of the votes cast must be favorable for the approval of a change of meeting place and the change shall not be effective until sanctioned by the Grand Master.

Only one Lodge at any one time shall be allowed to permanently change its regular place of meeting to the Masonic Retirement Center. This change shall not be effective until approved by the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Retirement Center and sanctioned by the Grand Master.

2. **Temporary Meetings.** The Grand Master may grant permission for a Lodge to temporarily change its regular meeting place for the purpose of:
  - A. Holding a Stated Communication at a suitable place in event of an emergency preventing the Lodge from meeting at its regular place of meeting,
  - B. Holding a Special Communication upon good cause shown, at a safe place in this Jurisdiction other than its own Lodge Room,
  - C. Hosting the Lodges of one or more Districts for a District meeting; and
  - D. Opening Lodge in the auditorium of the Masonic Retirement Center for any purpose deemed proper by the Grand Master. The Grand Master shall not grant such permission to any one Lodge more than once in two months. **Rev. 1996**

#### **Sec. 13.07 B.L.**

**Public Appearance as Masons.** A Lodge or Mason may appear in public in Masonic clothing to attend a Masonic funeral service, when escorting the Masonic Float in parades, at meetings of the International Order of Job's Daughters, the International Order of Rainbow for Girls, or the Order of DeMolay. A Lodge or Mason may not otherwise appear publicly in Masonic clothing without the consent of the Grand Master.

The occasions for which the Grand Master may consider granting a dispensation for Masons or Lodges to appear publicly in Masonic clothing are:

1. A strictly Masonic occasion,
2. To attend divine services,
3. The performance of Masonic duty, ceremony, or custom,
4. To take part in a community patriotic, historical, or educational event; and
5. To take part in a community parade. **Rev.1998**

#### **Sec. 13.08 B.L.**

##### **Grand Honors.**

1. The Worshipful Master of a Lodge is the sole judge of what honors, if any, shall be tendered to visitors, other than the Grand Master,
2. In the absence of a preference by the Grand Master, he should be received as follows:
  - A. The Worshipful Master shall direct one or more officers or distinguished members to meet a visiting Grand Master in the Tyler's Room and remain with him until the proper time for his entrance,
  - B. After Lodge has been opened, the Grand Master shall be escorted to the altar and, after the salutation, be presented to the Worshipful Master; and
  - C. The Worshipful Master, while receiving the Grand Master, is in full charge of the Lodge and shall remain covered until the Grand Master shall have accepted the gavel,
3. Other Grand Officers may be received in a ceremony of introduction similar to that used for the Grand Master; and
4. No Mason has the right to demand that he be accorded the Grand Honors of Masonry.

**[Rev. 2003]**

**Sec. 13.09 B.L.**

**Admitting Visitors.**

1. Every Master Mason, on applying for admittance as a visitor to a Lodge, shall exhibit either a receipt for dues or a document showing him to be in good standing, or a dimit that was issued within the previous three years. Such documents shall not be conclusive as to the identity of the holder, who must provide additional evidence of his identity,
2. A Lodge must be satisfied as to the good Masonic standing of an applicant for admission and as to the regularity of the Lodge from which he hails. A Lodge becoming satisfied as to the identity of a visitor and the genuineness and regularity of his documentation shall require additionally, either:
  - A. The personal avouchment by a Brother knowing him to be in good Masonic standing and having met him in open Lodge (examination by a Brother outside of Lodge is not sufficient), or
  - B. That he shall take the Test Oath and submit to a strict trial and due examination by a committee appointed by the Master.
3. A Mason who has been unaffiliated for more than three years shall not be permitted to visit a Lodge in this Jurisdiction, unless, in an exceptional case, he shall have received written permission from the Master of the Lodge to attend the Lodge for a period not to exceed six months.

**Sec.13.10 B.L.**

**Objection to Visitor.** The privilege of a Mason to visit a Lodge other than his own is subject to the right of any member thereof to object to his admittance. Such member shall not be required to state his reason for the objection. The objection shall hold good only during the communication at which it is made and while the objector is present.

**Sec.13.11 B.L.**

**Inspection of Charter by Visitor.** Inspection of the charter of a Lodge by one seeking admittance as a visitor is a privilege that the Master may grant or withhold at his discretion. It is not an absolute right.

**Sec. 13.12 B.L.**

**Examination for Masonic Fraternal Relations.** Masonic Communications shall be held with Masons only. Whenever it becomes necessary for one Brother to prove another, he may do so in any secure place, after first taking the precaution of administering the Test Oath. When by strict trial each is fully satisfied, the two may converse Masonically, but one cannot vouch for the other for purpose of visitation.

## Part III – Constituent Lodges

### CHAPTER 14 – LODGE POWERS AND DUTIES

- Sec. 14.01 Const. – [Powers and Duties](#)
- Sec. 14.02 B.L. – [Powers of a Lodge](#)
- Sec. 14.03 B.L. – [By-Laws](#)
- Sec. 14.04 B.L. – [Communications](#)
- Sec. 14.05 B.L. – [Lodge Seal](#)
- Sec. 14.06 B.L. – [Books](#)
- Sec. 14.07 B.L. – [Minutes](#)
- Sec. 14.08 B.L. – [Annual Reports](#)
- Sec. 14.09 B.L. – [Lodge Representation in Grand Lodge](#)
- Sec. 14.10 B.L. – [Lodge Communications During Grand Lodge](#)
- Sec. 14.11 B.L. – [Audit Committee](#)
- Sec. 14.12 B.L. – [Welcome Sign](#)
- Sec. 14.13 B.L. – [Lodges May Sponsor Youth Groups](#)

## Part III - Constituent Lodges

### CHAPTER 14- LODGE POWERS AND DUTIES

#### Sec. 14.01 Const.

**Powers and Duties.** The powers and duties are those prescribed and determined by the Immemorial Laws and Usage of the Fraternity, and which have not been delegated to the Grand Lodge or expressly modified by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Grand Lodge or by the terms of the Lodge dispensation or charter.

#### Sec.14.02 Const.

**Powers of a Lodge.** The powers of a Lodge are executive, legislative, judicial and educational, and include the following:

1. **Executive.** The performance of its proper work under control of its Master and in accordance with the law,
2. **Legislative.** The enactment of legislation relative to its own affairs, not in conflict with the Constitution or By-Laws of the Grand Lodge, or with the Immemorial Customs and Usages of the Fraternity,
3. **Judicial.**
  - A. The exercise of discipline over its own members (except the Master, or a Past Master for official misconduct during his term of office) and over all other Masons within its territorial Jurisdiction,
  - B. The right to elect to have the accused tried by a Grand Master's Committee,
  - C. The settlement of controversies between all Masons within the Lodge's Jurisdiction, subject to an appeal to the Grand Lodge from a Lodge settlement,
4. **Educational.** The education of deserving persons is a Masonic purpose, and Lodges have power, individually or collectively, to disburse Lodge funds to, or for the benefit of, deserving persons for their education; and
5. **Charitable.** The contribution of funds for the relief of the poor and distressed, whether members in good standing or not, is a Masonic purpose, and Lodges have power, individually or collectively to disburse Lodge funds for the relief of deserving persons in time of emergency or need. **Rev. 1985**

#### Sec. 14.03 Const.

##### By-Laws.

1. A Lodge has full power and authority to enact, for its own government, By-Laws not in conflict with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Grand Lodge or with the principles of Masonry,
2. By-Laws can be amended after adoption only at a Stated Communication and after written notice of the proposed amendment has been mailed to each member of the Lodge at least ten days before such Stated Communication,
3. The Lodge, after adopting its By-Laws or an amendment thereto, shall transmit to the Grand Secretary four copies or on four copies of Form 28 provided without charge by the Grand Lodge. The Grand Secretary shall transmit the copies to the Committee on By-Laws who, after review, shall forward the forms to the Grand Master with a recommendation of approval or disapproval,

[Rev, 2003]



4. The Grand Master shall affix his approval or disapproval on the several copies of the document after which the original shall be returned to the Lodge and a copy transmitted to the Grand Secretary,
5. By-Laws shall be immediately effective when approved by the Grand Master, whose action shall be conclusive; and
6. Form 28 as revised June 1984 shall be adopted for By-Laws and By-Law amendments.

**Rev. 1993**

**Sec. 14.04 B.L.**

**Communications.** Every Lodge shall meet at least once in six months. Neglect by a Lodge to hold any communication for six months may subject it to forfeiture of its charter.

**Sec. 14.05 B.L.**

**Lodge Seal.** Every Lodge shall, within two months from the date of its charter, acquire a suitable seal, bearing such devices as may be proper, the name and number of the Lodge, the initials F. & A. M., the date of the charter and the city, town or location of the Lodge.

All documents or papers emanating from the Lodge or from the Master or Secretary in an official capacity and requiring attestation, shall bear the impress of the seal.

**Sec. 14.06 B.L.**

**Books.** Every Lodge shall provide the books needed by the Secretary in the performance of his official duties.

**Sec. 14.07 B.L.**

**Minutes.** The Secretary shall record the minutes of the meeting which shall be read and approved at the direction of the Worshipful Master after which the Worshipful Master shall affix his signature. The minutes, thus approved, cannot be altered or expunged. At the direction of the Worshipful Master, minutes of a previous meeting may be read at a subsequent meeting for the purpose of information. A transcript of such meeting will be submitted to the Grand Lodge when required. **Rev. 1991**

**Sec. 14.08 B.L.**

**Annual Reports.** Each Chartered Lodge shall transmit annually to the Grand Secretary on or before February 1, an end-of-the-year return for the previous calendar year, on such forms as may be specified by the Grand Secretary. Each Lodge under dispensation shall transmit a similar return for the period from the date of its organization to December 31 of each year.

Any Chartered Lodge that shall fail to submit an annual report on time may have its representatives barred from all privileges of the Grand Lodge and may have its charter forfeited by a vote of the Grand Lodge. Each Lodge so offending shall, in addition to forfeiting its charter, be fined one dollar (\$1.00) for each day's delinquency after February 1.

Each Lodge shall receive from the Grand Secretary, by March 20, an itemized statement of the amount owed by the Lodge for dues, fees and contributions. Payment shall be transmitted to the Grand Secretary on or before April 15. Any Lodge that fails to transmit payment by the required date shall be fined one dollar (\$1.00) for each day's (delay) delinquency after April 15.

**Rev. 1991**

**[Rev. 2003]**

**Sec. 14.09 B.L.**

**Lodge Representation in Grand Lodge.** Each Lodge shall be represented at every Annual Communication by its Master and Wardens, or by their duly appointed proxies. Any member of the Lodge may be appointed as a proxy except an individual Master Mason may not represent more than one Lodge.

Any Lodge that neglects to be properly represented in Grand Lodge for two successive years, without being excused by the Grand Master, shall have its charter suspended until the next Annual Communication when the charter shall be forfeited unless it is restored by vote of the Grand Lodge.

A charter that has been forfeited may be restored at the next Annual Communication by a request of the Lodge, a favorable vote of the Grand Lodge, and upon payment of a one hundred dollar (\$100.00) penalty.

**Sec. 14.10 B.L.**

**Lodge Communications During Grand Lodge.** A Lodge shall hold no communication while Grand Lodge is in Annual Session, except for burial of an Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft or, Master Mason or by permission of the Grand Lodge. **Rev. 1986**

**Sec. 14.11 B.L.**

**Audit Committee.** Every Lodge shall have an Audit Committee which shall be appointed by the Worshipful Master at the last Stated Communication on or before the annual election of officers and no later than the meeting when officers are elected. The Audit Committee shall:

1. Audit the books of the Secretary and Treasurer; and
2. Report its findings in full to the Lodge:
  - A. By the second Stated Communication following the annual installation of officers, or
  - B. At the earliest, convenient time, if the date for reporting cannot be met, due to the additional time required for an audit by professional accountants as specified in the Lodge By-Laws.

**Sec. 14.12 B.L.**

**Welcoming Sign.** A Lodge may place or erect a welcoming sign at the entrance to its city or town.

**Sec. 14.13 B.L.**

**Lodges May Sponsor Youth Groups.** Any Lodge may, by majority vote of the members at any Stated Communication, sponsor a Chapter of DeMolay, a Bethel of the Job's Daughters, an Assembly of the Rainbow for Girls, or similar youth activity. All financial activities associated with the youth organization or activity must be kept separate and apart from those of the sponsoring lodge. The sponsoring lodge has no authority over or power to disburse, distribute or control the funds of any youth group or activity sponsored by the Lodge and, in the event the sponsorship is ended or the youth group or activity disbanded, the Lodge shall have no claim on any assets or funds of the said youth group or activity. **Rev. 1996**

[Rev. 2003]

## Part III – Constituent Lodges

### CHAPTER 15 – LODGE OFFICERS

- Sec. 15.01 Const. – [Officers](#)
- Sec. 15.02 B.L. – [Who May Vote](#)
- Sec. 15.03 B.L. – [Officer Qualification](#)
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## Part III - Constituent Lodges

### CHAPTER 15- LODGE OFFICERS

#### Sec. 15.01 Const.

**Officers.** Each Lodge shall *elect* the following:

Worshipful Master  
Senior Warden  
Junior Warden  
Treasurer  
Secretary; or  
Secretary-Treasurer **Rev. 1992**

The Master shall *appoint* the following:

Senior Deacon  
Junior Deacon  
Senior Steward  
Junior Steward  
Tyler

The Master may also in his discretion appoint the following:

Chaplain  
Marshal  
Organist

#### Sec. 15.02 B.L.

**Who May Vote.** Only Master Masons who are members in good standing of the Lodge holding the election are entitled to vote. **Rev. 2000**

#### Sec. 15.03 B.L.

**Officer Qualification.** All Officers of a Lodge, either elected or appointed, shall be Master Masons in good standing who are voting members thereof, and who shall have passed a proficiency on the Third Degree. Exception: The Chaplain, Organist and Tyler, who may be members of other Lodges.

#### Sec. 15.04 B.L.

**Holding Two Offices.**

1. No Member shall hold two offices in a Lodge at the same time except that a Lodge may at its discretion elect one member to the combined offices of Secretary and Treasurer.
2. No Member may be installed as Worshipful Master or Warden in more than one Lodge at the same time. **Rev. 2001**

#### Sec. 15.05 B.L.

**When To Elect Officers.** The elective officers of every Chartered Lodge shall be chosen annually at a Stated Communication of such Lodge during the period beginning the first Monday after the close of Grand Lodge and ending December 14. **Rev. 2003**

[Rev. 2003]

**Sec. 15.06 B.L.**

**Election.** Election of officers shall be by written ballot. A Brother receiving a majority of all votes cast is duly elected. A blank ballot is not a vote. A show of hands is not permitted for an election of officers.

**Sec. 15.07 B.L.**

**Failure to Elect.** If a Lodge shall fail to elect its Master and Wardens, or any one of them, before December 15, or if the Master-elect or a Warden-elect shall fail or refuse to be installed, the Lodge shall immediately notify the Grand Master, who, for good cause shown, may grant a dispensation to hold an election as soon thereafter as may be practicable. Such dispensation shall be entered at length upon the records of the Lodge.

**Sec. 15.08 B.L.**

**Installations.** The Master of a Lodge may, for the Installation of Officers, either separate or joint, open his Lodge in a tiled Lodge Room of another Lodge.

Officers of a Chartered Lodge shall be installed at a Stated or Special Communication as soon as possible after the election but not later than January 31. The ceremony shall be tiled unless, at the request of the Master-elect, the Lodge shall decide by a majority vote to hold it open to the public.

The public Installation of Officers shall be performed after the Master has declared the Lodge at "off-session", and has directed the Junior Deacon to inform the Tyler to tile accordingly. The Three Great Lights, Lesser Lights, Columns and other Jewels shall remain displayed.

Any public Installation of Officers shall be Monitorial and shall conform to proper Masonic Usage deleting those parts of the ceremony not proper to be used outside of a tiled Lodge.

Officers of a Chartered Lodge must be installed as often as elected or appointed. No officer shall be installed by proxy. **Rev.1993**

**Sec. 15.09 B.L.**

**No Installation Pending Charges.** A Brother shall not be installed while charges of un-Masonic conduct are pending against him.

**Sec. 15.10 B.L.**

**Jewels and Aprons.** The jewels of Lodge Officers shall be of silver or of white metal, to be worn either suspended from a blue velvet collar or as a badge on the left breast.

The jewels of a Past Master and of the officers of a Lodge are:

- Past Master - the Blazing Sun within the Compasses extended on a Quadrant,
- Master - the Square,
- Senior Warden - the Level,
- Junior Warden - the Plumb,
- Treasurer - the Crossed Keys,
- Secretary - the Crossed Pens,
- Secretary-Treasurer - the Crossed Pens (same as Secretary),
- Chaplain - the Bible within a Circle,
- Marshal - the Baton in a Square,
- Senior Deacon - the Square and Compasses united with a Sun,

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Junior Deacon - the Square and Compasses united with a Moon,  
Stewards - the Cornucopia in a Circle,  
Organist - the Lyre in a Circle, and  
Tyler - the Crossed Swords.

The Deacons' and Stewards' rods shall be surmounted by the proper jewels in silver or white metal. The Deacons' rods shall be blue; the Stewards' rods shall be white.

The officers' aprons shall be white and should be of lambskin, fourteen inches wide and twelve inches deep, and may have sky-blue lining and edging, with the respective emblems thereon. **Rev. 1992**

**Sec. 15.11 B.L.**

**Office Tenure.** Every installed officer is entitled to hold his office until his successor is installed, unless he vacates his office by:

1. Death,
2. Resignation, but the Master cannot resign,
3. Election and installation into a vacated office of Warden, Treasurer or Secretary,
4. Suspension for a time extending beyond the next annual election,
5. Expulsion; or
6. Removal from office. **Rev. 2000**

**Sec. 15.12 B.L.**

**Filling Vacancy.** A vacancy in the office of Warden, Treasurer, or Secretary may be filled by ballot at any Stated Communication, after due notice to the members. A vacancy in an appointive office may be filled at any time.

In case the offices of Master and Wardens all become vacant, the Lodge shall apply to the Grand Master for a dispensation to hold an election. The application must be approved by two-thirds of the members present and be so certified by the Secretary. When the dispensation has been received, the members shall be notified, the election held, the results reported immediately to the Grand Secretary and the officers duly installed. **Rev. 2000**

**Sec. 15.13 B.L.**

**Powers of a Master.** The Master of a Lodge has the power to:

1. Discharge all the executive functions of the Lodge,
2. Congregate the Lodge members in an emergency; and
3. Remove any appointed officer for just cause.

**Sec. 15.14 B.L.**

**Permission to Preside.** The Master, or a Warden acting as Master, may call to the East any Master Mason and permit him to preside or confer the Degrees while the Master or acting Master is present.

**Sec. 15.15 B.L.**

**Absence of Master.** The Master shall not designate anyone to open the Lodge in his absence, to the exclusion of a Warden present. The Lodge shall not be opened for any purpose, in the absence of the Master and both Wardens, except by the Grand Master or by his special deputy.

**[Rev. 2003]**

**Sec. 15.16 B.L.**

**Vacancy in Master's Office.** In case of the death, absence or inability of the Master, or of a vacancy in his office, the Senior Warden and the Junior Warden shall in that order succeed to his prerogatives and duties for all purposes, except such as pertain to the installation of officers.

**Sec. 15.17 B.L.**

**Appeal From Master's Decision.** The only appeal from a decision of the Master, or of a Warden presiding in the absence of the Master, shall be to the Grand Master or to the Grand Lodge.

**Sec. 15.18 B.L.**

**Immediate Relief.** The Master, on application for assistance or relief when the Lodge is not in session, may draw upon the general funds of the Lodge for that purpose. The By-Laws shall specify the maximum permissible for such relief.

**Sec. 15.19 B.L.**

**Treasurer's Duties.** It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to:

1. Receive from the Secretary all monies paid into the Lodge,
2. Keep just and regular accounts thereof,
3. Pay them out by order of the Master and consent of the Lodge; and
4. Submit a financial report annually to the Lodge and transmit a copy thereof to the Grand Lodge, when requested and on such forms and in such manner as prescribed by the Grand Secretary.

**Sec. 15.20 B.L.**

**Secretary's Duties.** It shall be the duty of the Secretary to:

1. Record, under the direction of the Master, all proceedings of the Lodge proper to be written at each communication and submit the same to the Lodge as provided in Sec. 14.07 B.L.,
2. Receive all monies paid into the Lodge and promptly pay the same to the Treasurer,
3. Attest the signature of the Master to all Masonic documents, when necessary,
4. Report to the Grand Secretary on the monthly report all suspensions and expulsions, and their causes and all information pertaining to dual members being elected, granted dimits, suspended, expelled or dropped N.P.D.,
5. Prepare and send to the Grand Secretary:
  - A. A monthly return showing the dates of those elected, initiated, passed, raised, and enrolled new Masons, affiliations, reinstatements, and those dropped by death, expulsion, suspension and by N.P.D.,
  - B. A monthly return containing such other matters as may be required by the Grand Secretary; and
  - C. A year end return on a form provided by the Grand Lodge,
6. Transmit to the Grand Secretary, immediately after every election, a certificate of the names and addresses of the officers to be installed,
7. Certify and affix the seal of the Lodge to all returns and the certificates of election made to the Grand Lodge,
8. Purchase from the Grand Secretary the requisite blank forms for petitions, dimits, certificates and diplomas; and
9. Act as Secretary of a Lodge Trial Committee.

[Rev. 2003]

**Sec. 15.21 B.L.**

**Secretary-Treasurer's Duties.** When a Secretary-Treasurer is elected, it shall be his duty to perform all the duties of the Treasurer (Sec. 15.19 B.L.) and the Secretary (Sec. 15.20 B.L.).

**Sec. 15.22 B.L.**

**Secretary's Books and Accounts.** The Secretary shall keep the following books:

1. Minute and record books,
2. A Membership Register which shall contain the By-Laws and in which:
  - A. Each member shall sign his name, in the order of his admittance,
  - B. The Secretary shall record in alphabetical order, for each member of the Lodge:
    - a. Full name or names,
    - b. Present post office address,
    - c. Birthplace and Date of Birth,
    - d. Dates of initiation, passing, raising, and Master Mason proficiency, or the date of affiliation together with the name, number and location of Lodge of previous enrollment,
    - e. Age and occupation when received,
    - f. Name, number and location of any other Lodge or Lodges in which a member may also hold membership,
    - g. Dates of withdrawal, dropping from the roll, expulsion, suspension, restoration or death,
    - h. The full names of those expelled, suspended or restored; and
    - i. Member's identification number of Grand Lodge and Endowed Life Membership certificate.
3. An attendance Register, to be kept in the Tyler's Room, in which all members shall record their names, and all visitors shall record their names along with the names, numbers and locations of their respective Lodges, before entering the Lodge,
4. Account books as may be necessary to present clearly:
  - A. The account of each member of the Lodge,
  - B. The receipts of the Secretary,
  - C. The Secretary's payments to the Treasurer,
5. An updated copy of the Washington Masonic Code; and
6. All Proceedings of the Annual Communications of the Grand Lodge.

**Sec. 15.23 B.L.**

**Other Officers' Duties.** The appointive officers of a Lodge shall perform such duties as may be directed by the Master and Wardens. These duties shall not be in conflict with the By-Laws of the Lodge, the Washington Masonic Code or the Usages and General Regulations of Masonry. The appointive officers shall, in all things relating to their official duties, be subject to the direction of the Master or acting Master.

[Rev. 2003]



## Part III – Constituent Lodges

### CHAPTER 16 – FORMATION OF NEW LODGES

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- Sec. 16.02 B.L. – [Notice to Lodges](#)
- Sec. 16.03 B.L. – [Officers of a Lodge U.D.](#)
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- Sec. 16.05 B.L. – [Members](#)
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## Part III – Constituent Lodges

### CHAPTER 16- FORMATION OF NEW LODGES

#### Sec. 16.01 B.L.

**Application for Dispensation.** A new Lodge may be formed within this Jurisdiction, or in foreign territory where no Sovereign Grand Lodge exists, upon the petition of fifteen or more Master Masons, a recommendation by the nearest or most convenient Chartered Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons and granting of a dispensation by the Grand Master.

The petitioners shall be residents of this Grand Jurisdiction and each shall provide a dimit, or a certificate of good standing or the equivalent, to accompany the petition.

The recommending Lodge shall certify that the Master and Wardens named in the petition are fully competent to confer the Three Degrees of Masonry and that all of the petitioners are in good Masonic standing.

The Grand Master shall in every case satisfy himself through an examination, conducted either by himself or by a Deputy specially authorized, that the petitioners are fully competent to confer the Three Degrees of Masonry according to the Standard Work of Washington.

#### Sec. 16.02 B.L.

**Notice to Lodges.** The Grand Master, before acting upon a petition for a new Lodge, shall report the receipt of the application to each Lodge, which might be affected by the new Lodge.

#### Sec. 16.03 B.L.

**Officers of a Lodge U.D.** The officers named in the dispensation for a new Lodge shall hold their offices at the will and pleasure of the Grand Master until the expiration of the dispensation.

#### Sec. 16.04 B.L.

**Permanent Lodge Records.** The dispensation shall be copied at length upon the records of a new Lodge. The charter, when issued, shall be recorded in like manner.

#### Sec. 16.05 B.L.

**Members.** The members of a Lodge under dispensation shall consist of those Brethren who:

1. Are named in the dispensation,
2. Formally affiliate with the Lodge; and
3. Receive the Third Degree therein and qualify for enrollment.

Brethren who become members of a Lodge U.D. by affiliation or by receiving the Third Degree therein are members in the full sense of the term and entitled to vote and participate in the transaction of business in common with those named in the dispensation.

#### Sec. 16.06 B.L.

**Powers of a Lodge U.D.** A Lodge under dispensation shall have the general powers and privileges and shall perform the duties of a Chartered Lodge, except that it cannot:

1. Install its officers,
2. Discipline its members or other Masons; and
3. Be represented in Grand Lodge.

A Lodge U.D. need not have a seal.

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**Sec. 16.07 B.L.**

**Grand Lodge Dues.** A Lodge under dispensation must pay Grand Lodge dues.

**Sec. 16.08 B.L.**

**By-Laws.** A Lodge under dispensation shall have By-Laws conforming to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Grand Lodge. The By-Laws may be amended whenever necessary.

**Sec. 16.09 B.L.**

**Discipline.** All matters of charges and discipline against a member or members, except the Master, of a Lodge U.D. shall be vested in the nearest Chartered Lodge, whose Jurisdiction shall be complete, subject to appeal to the Grand Lodge.

**Sec. 16.10 B.L.**

**Master Not Subject to Lodge Discipline.** The Master of a Lodge Under Dispensation shall not be subject to discipline by any Chartered Lodge during his official term of office. In case such dispensation is annulled, or the charter is refused, the Lodge of Original Jurisdiction over him may consider preferring charges against such Master, unless the charges are of official misconduct during his term of office.

**Sec. 16.11 B.L.**

**Extension of Dispensation.** Every Lodge working under a dispensation shall, when applying for an extension of such dispensation, submit its books of record for the inspection of the Grand Lodge.

**Sec. 16.12 B.L.**

**Charter Requirements.** A Lodge under dispensation and seeking a charter shall:

1. Have a membership of at least fifteen,
2. Give proof of its member's skill and ability to perform the work, including the conferring of the Three Degrees,
3. Deliver to the Grand Lodge:
  - A. Its dispensation,
  - B. An attested transcript of all its Proceedings; and
  - C. And a copy of its By-Laws,
4. Show that it is clear of all indebtedness; and
5. Provide evidence of having secured and prepared a suitable and safe place for meeting as a Lodge.

**Sec. 16.13 B.L.**

**Application for Charter.** A Lodge U.D. applying for a charter shall deliver its dispensation, By-Laws, books of record and returns of the Lodge to the Grand Secretary on or before the 31st of May preceding the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodge response to the application may be to annul the dispensation, continue the dispensation until the next Annual Communication, or order a perpetual charter.

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**Sec. 16.14 B.L.**

**Meetings After Charter Granted.** Brethren to whom a charter shall have been granted may continue to meet and work as a Lodge under dispensation, until the Lodge shall have been constituted, unless otherwise ordered by Grand Lodge or the Grand Master.

**Sec. 16.15 B.L.**

**Constituting a Lodge.** Upon issuance of a charter, the Grand Master, or his Special Deputy, who shall be an officer of the Grand Lodge or a Past Master belonging to a Lodge in this Jurisdiction, shall convene the Brethren of the new Lodge to be formed, constitute the Lodge, and install its officers.

**Sec. 16.16 B.L.**

**Charter Members.** All members of a Lodge under dispensation at the time the charter is granted shall be charter members thereof.

**Sec. 16.17 B.L.**

**Precedence on Grand Lodge Roll.** Each Lodge shall take precedence according to the order in which it stands upon the roll of the Grand Lodge.

## Part III – Constituent Lodges

### CHAPTER 17 – LODGE MEMBERSHIP

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## Part III - Constituent Lodges

### CHAPTER 17- LODGE MEMBERSHIP

#### Sec. 17.01 B.L.

**How Acquired.** Membership in a Lodge shall be acquired only in the following manner:

1. By being a charter member,
2. By being elected, raised and enrolled; and
3. By affiliation. **Rev. 1984**

#### Sec. 17.02 B.L.

**Affiliation.** Membership by affiliation may be acquired as follows:

1. **Change of Membership.** A member in good standing of one Lodge may terminate his membership in that Lodge and affiliate with another,
2. **Reinstatement.** A member dropped for non-payment of dues for a period in excess of 24 months may petition for reinstatement with his Lodge,
3. **Restoration.** A member deprived of membership under the penal provision of the Code may apply, on an approved form, for restoration of membership with his Lodge; or
4. **Multiple Membership.** (as provided in Sec. 17.11 B.L.) **Rev. 1984**

#### Sec. 17.03 B.L.

**Affiliation Requires Good Standing.** An unaffiliated former member of a Lodge in this Jurisdiction, who has been dropped for any cause, may not petition another Lodge for membership by affiliation until he shall have been reinstated or restored to good standing in the Lodge of which he was last a member.

#### Sec. 17.04 B.L.

**Affiliation Procedure.** A change of membership from one Lodge to another may be accomplished by affiliation in the following manner:

1. A petition for affiliation must be accompanied by either the Brother's dimit from the Lodge(s) in which he last held membership or a certificate of good standing from all Lodges of which he is a member, **Rev. 2003**
2. A petitioner may be considered for membership without regard to his place of residence.
3. A petition for affiliation must take the same course as a petition for Degrees, including referral to a Committee of Investigation,
4. A petitioner may be considered for membership only after strict examination into the character and standing he maintained before the Lodge of which he is or was last a member. He must be free of indebtedness for dues or assessments and there must be no charges pending against him for Un-Masonic conduct,
5. A Brother whose petition for affiliation was accompanied by a dimit shall upon election sign the By-Laws, pay his dues and become a member of record,
6. A Brother whose petition for affiliation was accompanied by a certificate of good standing shall upon election sign the By-Laws, pay his dues, and become a member of record. The Secretary of the Lodge shall then notify the Brother's former Lodge of his election to membership upon forms provided for that purpose. **Rev. 1992**
7. A petition for affiliation may be withdrawn at any time; and

[Rev. 2003]

8. A Brother's Masonic standing is not impaired by rejection of his petition for affiliation and he may at pleasure again petition the same or any other Lodge in this Jurisdiction.

**Sec. 17.05 B.L.**

**Dimitted Mason's Petition for Affiliation.** A Brother who has dimitted from his Lodge and desires to affiliate with another Lodge must enclose his dimit with his petition for affiliation.

**Sec. 17.06 B.L.**

**Certificate of Good Standing May Precede Dimit.** A Brother who desires to change his membership may transmit, instead of a dimit, a certificate from his Lodge that he is a Master Mason in good standing and free from indebtedness to the Lodge.

Upon the petitioner being elected to membership, the Secretary of the Lodge petitioned shall immediately request a dimit from the former Lodge, using the tear-off portion of the petition for affiliation, which must be signed by the petitioner.

**Sec. 17.07 B.L.**

**Dimitting.** Any member who is in good standing, and who is not the Master, is not charged with any Masonic offense and is not indebted to the Lodge, is entitled as a matter of right to withdraw from membership therein at pleasure. A member wishing to withdraw shall make written application to the Lodge and the request shall be read at a Stated Communication after which the Master shall order a dimit to be issued to him. The dimit will terminate his membership and shall bear the date and take effect from that time.

**Sec. 17.08 B.L.**

**Duplicate Dimit.** A Brother who has lost his certificate of demission may obtain from the Secretary of the Lodge, upon request and satisfactory proof of such loss, another certificate, with the original date, and the fact of re-issuance, which shall be entered upon the record.

**Sec. 17.09 B.L.**

**Dimit After Assessment.** A member applying for a dimit at the same communication an assessment is levied - the assessment coming first in the order of business - is liable for the assessment which must be paid before the dimit is granted.

**Sec. 17.10 B.L.**

**Certificate to E.A. and F.C.** Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts shall not receive dimits but a Lodge may grant Certificates setting forth their status in the Lodge. The effect of dimits granted in other Jurisdictions to Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts is determined by the respective laws of these Jurisdictions.

**Sec. 17.11 B.L.**

**Plural Membership.**

1. A Master Mason may become a member of as many Lodges of this Jurisdiction at the same time as he deems prudent, but he shall not hold the office of Worshipful Master in more than one Lodge concurrently, nor shall he exercise the powers of Acting Master of any Lodge during his incumbency as Master or while holding the position of Acting Master of another Lodge, **Rev.1989**

[Rev. 2003]

2. An application for Plural Membership shall follow the same manner as determined in Sec. 17.04 B.L. for affiliation with a Certificate of Good Standing from each Lodge the petitioner is a member of except that no dimit shall be required of such petitioner either before or after his election to membership in the Lodge in which he is affiliating as a Plural Member,
3. Involuntary loss of membership by expulsion or suspension, or by being dropped N.P.D. in any of said Lodges shall constitute loss by expulsion or suspension, or being dropped N.P.D., as the case may be, of membership in all said Lodges, except that a member shall not be dropped N.P.D. from a Lodge in which he has Grand Lodge Endowed Life Membership or in an approved Life Membership Program of a Constituent Lodge,  
**Rev.1990**
4. A Master Mason may become a member of a Lodge or Lodges of a Foreign Jurisdiction.
5. Application for affiliation as a plural member shall be on a form which Lodges may obtain from the Grand Secretary, **Rev. 1989**
6. Immediately on the election of a Brother to a plural membership, the Secretary of the Lodge electing the Brother to a plural membership, shall notify the Grand Secretary, on forms provided, who shall in turn notify the Secretaries of the other Lodges in which a Brother holds membership, of such fact. Those Secretaries will then record this information upon the membership register, **Rev. 1989**
7. A dimit from plural membership shall be issued on a special dimit form, which may be obtained from the Grand Secretary,
8. Immediately on the granting of a dimit from a plural membership, the Secretary of the Lodge granting such a dimit shall notify the Grand Secretary, on forms provided, who shall in turn notify the Secretaries of the other Lodges in which the Brother holds membership, of such fact. Those Secretaries will then record this information upon the membership register, **Rev.1989**
9. In the event a Brother who holds plural membership is expelled, suspended, or dropped N.P.D. by a Lodge, the Secretary of such Lodge shall notify the Grand Secretary, on forms provided, who shall in turn notify the Secretaries of the other Lodges in which the Brother holds membership, of such fact. Those Secretaries will then record this information upon the membership register; and **Rev. 1989**
10. This section shall not apply to Honorary membership.

**Sec. 17.12 B.L.**

**Life Membership Plans.**

1. No Lodge shall adopt any Membership Plan except the plan sponsored and adopted by Grand Lodge in June, 1979, for use in the Lodges, **Rev. 1988**
2. Life Membership Plans existing in the Lodges prior to June, 1979, may continue to operate as before and may be amended, with the amendment becoming effective upon approval of the Grand Lodge Committee on Finance. No amendment shall deprive the holder of any life membership of vested legal rights thereunder,
3. Any member in good standing of this Grand Jurisdiction may purchase an Endowed Life Membership through the Grand Lodge Sponsored Plan and be hereby relieved from further payment of dues, but not assessments. Provisions of the Grand Lodge Sponsored Plan are as follows:

[Rev. 2003]



- A. The purchase price for Endowed Life Memberships shall not be less than:
- Age 18 to 35, inclusive       \$450
  - Age 36 to 45, inclusive       400
  - Age 46 to 55, inclusive       300
  - Age 56 to 65, inclusive       250
  - Age 66 and over               200
- B. A Lodge shall adopt a scale of prices which, at its option, may be larger than the minimum specified above, **Rev. 1988**
- C. An applicant may at his option, in order to enlarge the account of his Lodge, contribute a larger sum than is required,
- D. All checks for Endowed Life Memberships should be made payable to the Grand Lodge F&AM of Washington, to avoid distorting a Lodge's financial account.
- E. A Lodge may collect and retain from each applicant for Endowed Life Membership, in addition to the price thereof, his regular dues for the first year of enrollment in the Grand Lodge Plan,
- F. All sums received by Lodges for Endowed Life Memberships under the Grand Lodge Plan shall be immediately transmitted to the Grand Secretary, who shall issue each Lodge a certificate declaring that each Endowed Life Membership is held by the Grand Lodge in trust for the Lodge,
- G. The Lodge member paying the required fees shall receive an Endowed Life Membership Certificate under seal of the Grand Lodge,
- H. The holder of an Endowed Life Membership Certificate, except such that has been purchased by the Lodge which shall remain with the Lodge, may voluntarily transfer to another Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction, whereupon the Grand Secretary, upon notice thereof, shall transfer on the books of the Endowed Life Membership Fund, to the credit of the new Lodge of membership, **Rev. 1991**
- I. The holder of an Endowed Life Membership Certificate in a Lodge which becomes dissolved shall, upon affiliation with another Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, have his Endowed Life Membership transferred in the same manner as for a voluntary transfer,
- J. All money in the Endowed Life Membership Fund to the credit of two or more Lodges which consolidate shall be combined to the credit of the Consolidated Lodge,
- K. A holder's Endowed Life Membership rights shall not be transferred if he dimitts to any other Grand Jurisdiction. The fees paid for his endowed life membership shall remain in the endowed Life Membership Fund to the credit of his former Lodge,
- L. The holder of a Life or Endowed Life Membership Certificate is subject to all the laws, rules and regulations as provided in the Washington Masonic Code, and loss of membership by suspension or expulsion shall automatically nullify his life or endowed life membership and any claim to any portion of any fees paid for such Life or Endowed Life Membership. The Lodge of which he was last a member shall continue to receive the income from such funds except such Endowed Life Memberships that have been purchased by the Lodge shall remain with the Lodge that purchased them, **Rev. 1991**

[Rev. 2003]

- M. Memorial Life Membership Donations for any Mason, in good standing at the time of his death, may be made by any Mason, Lodge, or relative in any amount. Certificates will be issued for donations in the amount of the minimum fee of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) or more; and **Rev. 1992**
- N. A Memorial donation in the name of any person of a member's choice may be made to the Endowed Life Membership Fund and credited to the member's Lodge. An appropriate Certificate will be issued for donations in the amount of the minimum fee of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) or more. This list of Memorial Donations will be kept separate from the Lodge Members Memorial when posted in the Lodge. **Rev. 1992**

**Sec. 17.13 B.L.**

**Honorary Membership.** A Lodge may, in its discretion, elect to Honorary Membership any Master Mason in good standing who has rendered exceptional service to Masonry. Such election shall be by secret ballot at a Stated Communication at least one month after notice of the proposed election is given in open Lodge. Approval must be by a two-thirds vote. The Brother's continuance as an Honorary Member shall be contingent upon his remaining in good standing.

Honorary Membership, when conferred upon a Master Mason not a member of the Lodge, shall confer all rights of membership in the Lodge except that of voting and holding office other than Chaplain, Organist or Tyler.

**Sec. 17.14 B.L.**

**Non-Payment of Dues (N.P.D.).** The annual dues of members of Lodges shall be payable in advance of the first day of January of each year. Any member who has not paid his dues for the current year on or before December 31st thereof, and who has not been granted a remission of his dues or an extension for a definite period in which to pay his dues, shall cease to be a member of the Lodge and his name must be dropped from the roll.

**Sec. 17.15 B.L.**

**Notice to Delinquents.** It shall be a duty of the Secretary of each Lodge on or about September 1st of each year to notify in writing each member of said Lodge who has not paid his current dues. The notice shall inform the member that his dues are delinquent and that he will be dropped from the roll of membership if his dues are not paid on or before December 31st of that year.

**Sec. 17.16 B.L.**

**Committee to Interview Delinquents.** The Secretary shall report to the Master, at the first Stated Communication in November, the names of all members who have not paid their current dues. The Master shall appoint a committee to personally or otherwise interview each delinquent member to ascertain the cause of the delinquency and to report to the Lodge at the Stated Communication next preceding December 31<sup>st</sup> of that year.

**Sec. 17.17 B.L.**

**Fee Due if Delinquency Not Reported.** A Lodge must pay the annual Grand Lodge fees on any member who, although delinquent through December 31<sup>st</sup>, was not so reported on the Lodge's December report. Further, the Lodge shall continue to pay the Grand Lodge dues on such member until the Lodge's annual report shall properly include the member's name in the tabulation of delinquents.

**[Rev. 2003]**

**Sec. 17.18 B.L.**

**Assessments and Loans.** The indebtedness for which a member's name may be dropped from the roll may be, in whole or in part, for assessment lawfully levied by the Lodge but shall not be for non-payment of money lent to him by the Lodge.

**Sec. 17.19 B.L.**

**Status After Membership Lapse.** A Mason whose membership lapses for non-payment of dues or assessments ceases to be a member of the Lodge. His status is that of an unaffiliated Mason without a dimit. He shall be reinstated at his request if, within 24 months after becoming unaffiliated, he shall:

1. Notify the Lodge of his desire to resume membership,
2. Pay or obtain the remission of the amount owed at the time his name was dropped; and
3. Pay the dues for the year in which he is reinstated.

A Mason unaffiliated for more than 24 months because of non-payment of dues or assessments, can obtain membership only through a petition for reinstatement which shall be processed in the same manner as a petition for affiliation.

**Sec. 17.20 B.L.**

**Certificate of N.P.D.** A Mason whose name has been dropped from the roll of a Lodge for non-payment of dues or assessments shall be entitled to receive from the Secretary a Certificate showing:

1. His name was dropped for non-payment of dues or assessments,
2. The date his name was dropped,
3. State of his account at the time his name was dropped; and
4. State of his account at the date of the Certificate.

**Sec. 17.21 B.L.**

**Non-Payment Not Penal Offense.** A member shall not be suspended or expelled for non-payment of dues or assessments.

**Sec. 17.22 B.L.**

**Length of Membership Recognition.**

1. Length of membership in the Masonic Fraternity may be recognized for 25, 40, and 50 years and for each 5- year increment after 50 years. Each Mason who shall have been affiliated with a Lodge in this Jurisdiction, or one or more Lodges of Jurisdictions recognized by the Grand Lodge of Washington, for an eligible period of time from the date he was enrolled as a Master Mason, may be presented with the appropriate card and lapel emblem of uniform design as approved by the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary. The card and lapel emblem shall be supplied to the Lodges of this Jurisdiction at cost,

**Rev. 1998**

2. Eligibility of members must be verified by Grand Lodge office records. Time in excess of six months between dimit and affiliation, time lost as a result of action by a Trial Committee, and time dropped for N.P.D. shall be deducted in calculating membership time,

**[Rev. 2003]**

3. No loss of time shall be chargeable against a Brother who was a signer on a Petition for Dispensation to form a new Lodge and whose membership record indicates there was a loss of time between the date of his dimit and the date the Dispensation was granted for the new Lodge. Should the Dispensation to form a new Lodge be subsequently disapproved, there shall be no loss of time charged to the signer if, within one year from the date the Dispensation was denied, the signer of the Petition shall affiliate with a regular Lodge of this Jurisdiction,
4. No loss of time shall be chargeable against a Brother who was dropped for N.P.D. prior to 1945 due to the Great Depression of the 1930s nor the period of World War II, provided it is recommended by his Lodge and approved by the Grand Master,
5. No loss of time shall be charged for time restored as a result of appeal from action of a Lodge or Grand Master's Trial Committee which has reversed, annulled or modified the penalty imposed; and
6. The presentation may be made at the will and pleasure of the Lodge during the month of eligibility or any time thereafter. A Mason of 50 years, or longer membership, shall be eligible for recognition any time after January 1 of the year in which he becomes eligible.

**Rev. 1998**

**Sec. 17.23 B.L.**

**Waiver of Dues.**

1. **Permanent.** By a vote of its members at a stated communication, a Lodge may waive an enrolled Master Mason's dues if it is determined that his financial condition or personal circumstances make it unlikely that he will ever be able to pay his dues or assessments to the Lodge. Such Masons shall be exempt from paying Grand Lodge per capita fees and dues as per Secs. 7.03 B.L., 7.04 B.L. and 7.05 B.L.; and **Rev. 1996**
2. **Temporary.** By a vote of its members at a stated communication, a Lodge may exempt a member from paying his dues should it be determined that temporarily he is unable to meet his financial obligations to the Lodge. Such temporary waiver from dues does not exempt the Lodge from paying Grand Lodge per capita fees, dues and assessments.

**[Rev. 2003]**

## Part III – Constituent Lodges

### CHAPTER 18 – PETITIONERS FOR DEGREES

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[Rev. 2003]

## Part III Constituent Lodges

### CHAPTER 18- PETITIONERS FOR DEGREES

#### Sec. 18.01 B.L.

**Prerequisite to Initiation.** A Lodge shall not initiate any man unless it shall have received a petition from him.

#### Sec. 18.02 B.L.

**Qualifications.** Every petitioner in order to be eligible for the degrees of Masonry must:

1. Be at least eighteen years of age,
2. Have the senses of a man, especially those of Hearing, Seeing and Feeling;
3. Be a believer in a Supreme Being,
4. Be capable of Reading and Writing; and
5. Possess no disability in his body that would render him incapable of conforming reasonably what the Degrees respectively require of him.

No provision of this Section shall be set aside, dispensed with or suspended by the Grand Master or by the Grand Lodge. **Rev. 1994**

#### Sec. 18.03 B.L.

**Sole Test.** The Lodge shall itself determine a petitioner's physical qualifications by the sole test of whether any disability in his body renders him incapable of conforming reasonably to what the several degrees require of him.

#### Sec. 18.04 B.L.

**Statewide (Concurrent) Jurisdiction.** A qualified petitioner residing anywhere within this Grand Jurisdiction may petition any Lodge within the Jurisdiction.

#### Sec. 18.05 B.L.

**Residence Requirement.** A Lodge shall not knowingly receive a petition unless the petitioner shall have been an actual resident within this Jurisdiction for at least six months preceding the date of his petition. Such Masonic residence shall mean the permanent or continuous abiding place or home of the petitioner. Legal or voting residence is not the test. The Grand Master shall not by his dispensation authorize a Lodge to disregard the residence requirement of a petitioner.

**Rev. 1995**

#### Sec. 18.06 B.L.

**Lodge May Require Longer Residence.** A Lodge may, by its By-Laws, require residence longer than six months. **Rev. 1995**

#### Sec. 18.07 B. L.

**Settled Abode Necessary.** A person without a settled abode, but moving from one place to another in the pursuit of his business, is not eligible as a petitioner for the Degrees.

**[Rev. 2003]**

**Sec. 18.08 B. L.**

**Exception to Half-Year Residence.** The requirement of a half-year's residence before petitioning a Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction shall not apply to:

1. A seafaring man whose home is on board ship. Such a person must petition a Lodge situated in a regular port of call for his ship,
2. A person who is, and for six months next preceding the date of petition has been, in the United States military,
3. A person otherwise eligible, entering the Armed Services of the United States, he being considered temporarily absent from home,
4. A person who for six months next preceding the date of his petition has been in the Armed Services and has maintained his continuous abiding place and home within the Grand Jurisdiction, and
5. An actual resident of this Grand Jurisdiction who is in attendance as a student at any College, School or University.

**Sec. 18.09. B.L.**

**Petition.** Every petitioner for the Degrees or for affiliation shall complete in its entirety an appropriate form which the Lodge shall obtain from the Grand Lodge.

Each petition shall be signed by three Master Masons who are members of the Lodge or if the petitioner is recent to the area, but well known in another area of the state, then the petition may be signed by members of a Lodge in that area. The petition shall be accompanied by the required fees. A petition can be presented only at a Stated Communication and the acceptance shall be noted in the minutes. **Rev. 1991**

**Sec. 18.10 B L.**

**Misrepresentation.** It shall be a Masonic offense if a Mason shall be found to have made any misrepresentation to the Lodge in which he shall have been initiated or to a Committee of Investigation appointed by such Lodge. (See also Sec. 27.10 B.L.)

**Sec. 18.11 B.L.**

**Fees.**

1. Fees for the **Degrees** shall include:
  - A. The amount fixed by the By-Laws of the Lodge but in no case less than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00),
  - B. A contribution of Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) to the Grand Lodge General Fund,
  - C. A contribution of Five Dollars (\$5.00) to the Endowment Fund of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association,
  - D. A contribution of Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) to the Charity Fund; and
  - E. A contribution of Five Dollars (\$5.00) to the Masonic Scholarship Endowment Fund.
2. Fees for **Affiliation** shall include:
  - A The amount fixed by the By-Laws of the Lodge; and
  - B A contribution of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) to the Grand Lodge General Fund when the affiliation is from a foreign Jurisdiction, unless the petitioner has, through previous membership, already contributed to the Masonic Home Fund, the Masonic Home Endowment Fund or the General Fund of the Grand Lodge of Washington.

**[Rev. 2003]**

**Sec. 18.12 B.L.**

**Date of Petition.** The date a petition shall be considered received and presented shall be the first time it is read at a Stated Communication of the Lodge regardless of the date which may appear upon its face. **Rev. 1993**

**Sec. 18.13 B.L.**

**When Jurisdiction Acquired.** Jurisdiction over a petitioner is acquired at the time the petition is presented and accepted.

**Sec. 18.14 B.L.**

**Waiver to Another Grand Jurisdiction.** A Lodge receiving an application for a waiver to allow a resident to petition a Lodge of another Grand Jurisdiction shall process the application for waiver exactly as a petition for the Degrees.

**Sec. 18.15 B.L.**

**Waiver to Complete the Degrees.** A Mason who has received the First Degree, or the First and Second Degrees, in a Lodge in this or any other Jurisdiction, and has obtained from such Lodge a waiver of Jurisdiction may petition any Lodge of this Jurisdiction, pay the required fee and be considered a petitioner for the Degrees. His election and subsequent raising shall entitle him to become an enrolled member of that Lodge.

**Sec. 18.16 B.L.**

**Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft of Extinct Chartered Lodge.** An Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft who received his Degree or Degrees in a Lodge which later ceased to exist in this Jurisdiction, or in any Jurisdiction in fraternal relations with this Grand Lodge, shall be entitled to petition a Lodge in this Jurisdiction for the remaining Degree or Degrees.

The petition shall be accompanied by:

1. A certificate from the Grand Secretary of the Jurisdiction in which the candidate was initiated or passed, confirming that the Lodge no longer exists; and
2. The fees required for the remaining Degree or Degrees by the Lodge receiving the petition.

**Sec. 18.17 B.L.**

**Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft of Extinct Lodge Under Dispensation.** An Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft made by a Lodge Under Dispensation which shall have ceased to exist, may petition any Lodge within this Jurisdiction for the remaining Degree or Degrees; and, if elected therein, he becomes a member of such Lodge on receiving the Third Degree and becoming enrolled. **Rev. 1988**

[Rev. 2003]



## Part III – Constituent Lodges

### CHAPTER 19 – COURSE OF PETITIONS

- Sec. 19.01 B.L. – [Action Upon a Petition](#)
- Sec. 19.02 B.L. – [Receiving Petition by Mistake](#)
- Sec. 19.03 B.L. – [Petition Withdrawal](#)
- Sec. 19.04 B.L. – [Return of Fees](#)
- Sec. 19.05 B.L. – [Residence Change Before Election](#)
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- Sec. 19.07 B.L. – [Balloting](#)
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- Sec. 19.10 B.L. – [Balloting Not to be Postponed](#)
- Sec. 19.11 B.L. – [One Ballot for Degrees](#)
- Sec. 19.12 B.L. – [Correcting Error in Ballot](#)
- Sec. 19.13 B.L. – [Reballot When First Degree Delayed](#)
- Sec. 19.14 B.L. – [Secrecy of Ballot and Penalty for Violation](#)
- Sec. 19.15 B.L. – [Petition After Rejection](#)

## Part III - Constituent Lodges

### CHAPTER 19- COURSE OF PETITIONS

#### Sec. 19.01 B.L.

**Action Upon a Petition.** Action upon a petition for the Degrees or for affiliation shall be in the following manner:

1. A petition shall be presented and accepted only at a Stated Communication. No vote of acceptance shall be taken,
2. Upon acceptance, the petition shall be referred to an Investigating Committee of three Lodge members,
3. The Investigating Committee shall deposit its report with the Lodge Secretary at a subsequent Stated Communication after referral of the petition. The Lodge Secretary will present the investigating committee's report. In case of a vacancy in the committee, the Master may fill the vacancy and receive the report at that Communication, **Rev. 2003**
4. The investigation report shall be signed by at least two members of the committee; and
5. Regardless of whether the committee report is favorable or unfavorable, a ballot is still necessary. The rejection of a petition can be effected only by a ballot.

#### Sec. 19.02 B.L.

**Receiving Petition by Mistake.** A petition which has been received by mistake and has not been balloted upon shall be returned and this shall not constitute a rejection.

The petitioner may at any time present a proper petition to any Lodge in this Jurisdiction without reference to the former petition. **Rev. 1992**

#### Sec. 19.03 B.L.

**Petition Withdrawal.** A petition for the Degrees cannot be withdrawn after having been presented and accepted by the Lodge.

A petition for affiliation may be withdrawn and the Lodge, upon receiving a written request, shall return the petition and any fees accompanying it.

#### Sec. 19.04 B.L.

**Return of Fees.** All fees accompanying a petition for the Degrees shall be returned when:

1. A petition is balloted upon and rejected,
2. The Lodge is directed by the Grand Master to return the fees for cause shown after the petitioner has been elected to receive the Degrees but has not been initiated; or
3. The members present at a Stated Communication decide by majority vote to return the fees in response to a written request from a petitioner whose petition previously received a favorable ballot but who has not received the Preparatory Lecture of the First Degree.

#### Sec. 19.05 B.L.

**Residence Change Before Election.** A petitioner for the Degrees who changes his residence before being elected to receive the Degrees shall continue to be under the Jurisdiction of that Lodge for a period of six months from the date of acceptance of the petition. If thereafter he petitions for the Degrees in a Lodge at his acquired place of residence, the time limit of his necessary residence there shall date from the time of his arrival.

[Rev. 2003]

**Sec. 19.06 B.L.**

**Residence Change After Election.** A candidate remains under the jurisdiction of the Lodge electing him even though he may change his residence without receiving any of the Degrees. He can at any time within six months receive the Degrees in the Lodge which elected him although his residence has been changed. If he has not received the First Degree within six months, he remains under the Jurisdiction of the Lodge electing him and his petition must be re-balloted unless delay is due to the Lodge, in which case the Grand Master may grant an extension not exceeding six months.

**Sec. 19.07 B.L.**

**Balloting.** A ballot on a petition for the Degrees or for Affiliation shall be taken only at a Stated Communication; and unless the ballot be unanimous in its favor, the petition shall be declared rejected.

**Sec. 19.08 B.L.**

**No Discussion on Petition.** No discussion upon the merits of a petition shall be allowed in Lodge.

**Sec. 19.09 B.L.**

**Every Member Must Vote.** Every member present at any balloting for the Degrees or for affiliation must vote unless excused by unanimous consent.

**Sec. 19.10 B.L.**

**Balloting Not to be Postponed.** The balloting on a petition shall not be postponed except for a brief period to allow the Tyler to vote. When once commenced the ballot must be completed and result thereof declared.

When the door is tiled by a Brother who is entitled to vote, the ballot may be suspended for a brief period as follows: After the last vote has been cast the ballot is suspended, the Tyler is then relieved and enters immediately. The ballot is then resumed for the Tyler's vote, after which the ballot is declared closed. **Rev. 1990**

**Sec. 19.11 B.L.**

**One Ballot for Degrees.** A Lodge shall not spread a ballot more than once upon a petition for the Degrees except:

1. In the case where an elected petitioner fails for any reason to receive the First Degree within six months from the date of his election, or
2. To correct an announced error.

**Sec. 19.12 B.L.**

**Correcting Error in Ballot.** When the petition of a candidate for the Degrees has been rejected by a Lodge through mistake or misapprehension, the Lodge may correct the error at the same Stated Communication in the following manner:

1. The member or members who have balloted in the negative by mistake or misapprehension shall announce the same in open Lodge,
2. If the number so announcing, whether one or more, shall correspond with the number of negative ballots, the ballot may be spread again; and

[Rev. 2003]

3. When a ballot has resulted unfavorably and has been spread a second time to determine whether a mistake has occurred, it shall not be spread a third time for that purpose.

**Sec. 19.13 B.L.**

**Re-ballot When First Degree Delayed.** A candidate who has been elected to receive the Degrees shall present himself to receive the First Degree within six months. If he shall fail to do so, a new ballot shall be held at a Stated Communication and a favorable ballot must result before the First Degree can be conferred.

If the failure to confer the First Degree within six months shall be the fault of the Lodge, the Grand Master, on request, may issue a dispensation extending the time for a period not exceeding six months.

**Sec. 19.14 B.L.**

**Secrecy of Ballot and Penalty for Violation.** Except to announce in open Lodge that he has cast a negative ballot by mistake or misapprehension, any Brother who shall make known in any way the type of ballot cast by himself or by another, or shall make any comment whatsoever regarding the type or number of ballots cast on a petition for the Degrees or for Affiliation, shall be deemed guilty of a Masonic offense and on conviction shall be suspended or expelled.

**Sec.19.15 B.L.**

**Petition After Rejection.** A Lodge which has rejected a petitioner for the degrees shall not accept another petition from him until the expiration of one year after such rejection; nor shall any other Lodge in this Jurisdiction accept a petition from a rejected petitioner until:

1. One year has expired following the rejection; and
2. The petition has been reported to the rejecting Lodge and full information requested regarding the character of the petitioner and his qualifications to receive the Degrees. If a diligent effort to obtain the information has produced no answer within ninety days, the Lodge may proceed to act upon the petition.

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## Part III – Constituent Lodges

### CHAPTER 20 – CONFERRING OF DEGREES

- Sec. 20.01 B.L. – [Rules on Conferring](#)
- Sec. 20.02 B.L. – [Right to Object](#)
- Sec. 20.03 B.L. – [Objection to Initiation](#)
- Sec. 20.04 B.L. – [Objection to Advancement](#)
- Sec. 20.05 B.L. – [Defect After Initiation](#)
- Sec. 20.06 B.L. – [Degrees by Courtesy](#)
- Sec. 20.07 B.L. – [Degrees by Courtesy for Foreign Lodge](#)
- Sec. 20.08 B.L. – [Material of Foreign Lodge](#)
- Sec. 20.09 B.L. – [Objection to Degrees by Courtesy](#)
- Sec. 20.10 B.L. – [Proficiency in Degrees](#)

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## Part III - Constituent Lodges

### CHAPTER 20- CONFERRING OF DEGREES

#### Sec. 20.01 B.L.

**Rules on Conferring.** A Lodge shall observe the following rules when conferring Degrees:

1. Each Degree or portion of a Degree may be conferred upon not more than three candidates at a time,
2. Constituent Lodges shall not confer Degrees upon more than fifteen candidates on one calendar day,
3. All Sections and Portions thereof and Lecture of each Degree must be conferred at the same Communication or Communications of the Lodge on the same calendar day,
4. The Lectures, including the Middle Chamber Lecture, and the Charges may be delivered to more than one candidate at a time; and
5. Notwithstanding any provision or requirement to the contrary, a Constituent Lodge or Lodges may complete unfinished Degree work or confer any or all of the Degrees on any number of candidates in a single day or more at a Special Communication of the Grand Lodge opened by the Grand Master for such purpose provided such candidates have been regularly elected by a Lodge to receive the Degrees of Masonry. **Rev. 2000**

#### Sec. 20.02 B.L.

**Right to Object.** Any member of a Lodge has a right to object to the initiation or advancement of a candidate. The right to object shall not be denied a Brother who:

1. Reported favorably as a member of the petitioner's investigating committee,
2. Participated in a favorable ballot at the petitioner's election; or
3. Was in attendance at the Communication but absent from the Lodge-Room when the ballot was spread.

#### Sec. 20.03 B.L.

**Objection to Initiation.** A candidate's initiation shall be deferred if following his election to receive the Degrees and before initiation, the Master receives an objection from a member of the Lodge.

If the objection is afterwards withdrawn, the initiation may proceed, but if the objection is not withdrawn within sixty days, it shall have the effect of a rejection by ballot and shall be so recorded by the Secretary. The Master shall not at any time divulge the name of the objector.

#### Sec. 20.04 B.L.

**Objection to Advancement.** An objection to the advancement of an Entered Apprentice or a Fellowcraft may be made by any member of the Lodge or by any Lodge in whose Jurisdiction the candidate formerly resided.

The objection shall be assigned to a committee with power to inquire into the cause thereof. The committee's report shall be given at the next Stated Communication, unless further time be given.

The Lodge, after receiving the committee's report, shall resolve the objection in the following manner:

1. If the report assigns no cause for the objection, the Lodge may confer the Degree or Degrees, as if no objection had been made,

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2. If the report assigns a cause for the objection, the Brother objected to shall be informed thereof and shall be given an opportunity to be heard before the committee and before the Lodge. The Lodge will then vote on a motion to declare the objection not based on a Masonic principle or not sufficient to warrant the objection to advancement,
  - A. If two-thirds of the members present vote in favor of the motion, the Lodge may proceed to confer the Degree or Degrees; or
  - B. If less than two-thirds of the members vote in favor of the motion, the objection will be sustained. The Master then shall direct the Junior Warden to prefer charges based on the cause for the objection and shall put the Brother on trial. If the Brother is acquitted the Lodge may confer the Degree or Degrees without further petition.

**Sec. 20.05 B.L.**

**Defect After Initiation.** A candidate physically qualified when initiated, and thereafter suffering a physical disability shall not thereby become disqualified to receive the remaining Degree or Degrees.

**Sec. 20.06 B.L.**

**Degrees by Courtesy.** A Lodge having elected a petitioner to receive the Degrees, may request another Lodge to confer one or more of the Degrees. No petition, investigation or ballot shall be necessary in the conferring Lodge. The candidate shall become a member of the Lodge which elected him.

**Sec. 20.07 B.L.**

**Degrees by Courtesy for Foreign Lodge.** A request for courtesy conferral of Degrees from a Lodge in another Grand Jurisdiction shall be forwarded to the Grand Secretary for verification of the regularity of the Lodge making the request. If the regularity of the Lodge is confirmed, the courtesy work may proceed without any further investigation.

**Sec. 20.08 B.L.**

**Material of Foreign Lodge.** No Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft of any Lodge outside of this Jurisdiction shall be passed or raised in a Lodge of this Jurisdiction, unless permission of the Lodge in which he was initiated or passed shall have been obtained if that Lodge is in existence.

**Sec. 20.09 B.L.**

**Objection to Degrees by Courtesy.** A Lodge consenting to confer the Degrees by courtesy shall not proceed after objection is made by a member of the Lodge unless the objection be withdrawn, but shall withdraw the consent and so notify the requesting Lodge.

**Sec. 20.10 B.L.**

**Proficiency in the Degrees.** No candidate shall be passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft nor raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason without proof of proficiency in the preceding Degree. As a minimum, a candidate must be able to demonstrate knowledge of the obligation, signs, words, and grips and all modes of recognition of each Degree.

The Lodge shall be the sole judge of the proficiency of the candidate in the preceding Degree, which shall be ascertained by examination, either in open Lodge or by a committee appointed by the Master of the Lodge and recorded by the Secretary.

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The candidate may be offered the New Candidate Education Program approved by the Grand Lodge in place of the Standard Posting Lecture as proof of proficiency at the option of the Lodge.

Regardless of which method of determining proficiency is selected, every candidate progressing through the Degrees will be furnished a copy of the New Candidate Education Program by his Lodge. **Rev. 2001**

After being raised as a Master Mason the Brother shall pay his dues for the current year as established in the Lodge By-Laws and sign the By-Laws, whereupon he becomes an enrolled member of the Lodge. **Rev. 2000**

**[Rev. 2003]**



## Part III – Constituent Lodges

### CHAPTER 21 – PROPERTY AND FINANCE

- Sec. 21.01 Const. – [Property of Demised Lodge](#)
- Sec. 21.02 B.L. – [May Levy Assessment](#)
- Sec. 21.03 B.L. – [Incurring Debt for Another Lodge](#)
- Sec. 21.04 B.L. – [Funds not to be Distributed](#)
- Sec. 21.05 B.L. – [Real Property](#)
- Sec. 21.06 B.L. – [Borrowing for Building Purposes](#)
- Sec. 21.06 B.L. – [Approval of Lodge Hall Plans](#)
- Sec. 21.08 B.L. – [Title Holding Corporations](#)
- Sec. 21.09 B.L. – [Borrowing Money](#)
- Sec. 21.10 B.L. – [Report of Corporations](#)
- Sec. 21.11 B.L. – [Administering Scholarships](#)

[Rev. 2003]

## Part III - Constituent Lodges

### CHAPTER 21- PROPERTY AND FINANCE

#### Sec. 21.01 Const.

**Property of Demised Lodge.** The books, papers, jewels, funds, furniture and all other property of any Lodge under this Jurisdiction shall, upon demise of the Lodge, vest in and belong to this Grand Lodge subject to the legal and equitable rights of creditors of such demised Lodge in and to such properties.

It shall be the duty of the last Presiding Officer, the Secretary and the Treasurer to surrender the same without delay to the Grand Secretary. In case of real property the proper officers shall have the title conveyed to the Grand Lodge.

#### Sec. 21.02 B.L.

**May Levy Assessment.** A Lodge may levy upon its members, in addition to its regular dues, a tax or assessment for strictly Masonic purposes or to pay off its floating indebtedness. Vote on such levy must be at a Stated Communication after ten days' notice. An adopted tax or assessment assumes the nature of dues and the failure of a member to pay the levy is the same as non-payment of dues.

#### Sec. 21.03 B.L.

**Incurring Debt for Another Lodge.** No Lodge shall incur indebtedness for another Lodge without authority from the latter to do so.

#### Sec. 21.04 B.L.

**Funds not to be Distributed.** No Lodge shall distribute its funds among its members.

#### Sec. 21.05 B.L.

**Real Property.** A Lodge may acquire and hold real property for its use and benefit. It may constitute the Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden as a continuing Board of Trustees to take and hold such property in trust for it, with the power of sale, lease, mortgage or other disposition, when so authorized by a two-thirds vote of all the members present at a Stated Communication of the Lodge after four weeks' notice thereof.

No Lodge shall acquire any real property by means of purchase, donation, and inheritance or by any other means until such property has been inspected for toxic wastes or other contaminants. Upon completion of such inspection, reports of the same shall be forwarded to the Committee on Finance for approval. **Rev. 1993**

#### Sec. 21.06 B.L.

**Borrowing for Building Purposes.** No Lodge, either in its name or in the name of an association or corporation, shall undertake to borrow money for the purposes of construction of any Lodge building or site thereof without the written approval of the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge Committee on Finance.

[Rev. 2003]

**Sec. 21.07 B.L.**

**Approval of Lodge Hall Plans.** All planning for new Masonic Lodge Halls and major remodeling which involves structural design of existing Masonic buildings, and/or major remodeling in the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) or more (cash or equivalent) shall be submitted to the Grand Master and the Committee on Finance, together with the financing plan, for approval prior to commencement of any such building program. **Rev. 1997**

**Sec. 21.08 B.L.**

**Title Holding Corporations.**

1. A Mason, or a group of Masons, may organize or support an incorporated body for the purpose of holding title to Lodge property under the following conditions:
  - A. Adopt Articles of Incorporation and Corporation By-Laws on forms specified by the Grand Lodge,
  - B. Submit the forms, in quintuplicate. to the Grand Secretary. The Grand Secretary shall transmit the copies to the Committee on Jurisprudence who, after signatures of approval, shall forward the forms to the Grand Master. If disapproved by the Committee the forms will be returned to the incorporators for changes; and
  - C. Corporation By-Laws, approved by the Grand Master, shall be effective immediately but subject to confirmation by the Grand Lodge at the next Annual Communication. A copy of the Articles of Incorporation and Corporation By-Laws shall be transmitted to the Grand Secretary so as to become a matter of record. The original Articles of Incorporation and Corporation By-Laws, and one copy, shall be returned to the Corporation.
2. The Articles of Incorporation and Corporation By-Laws may provide for sharing of ownership, management and control of real and personal property by and for the benefit of both Masons and non-Masons, or by and for the benefit of a Constituent Lodge or of Masons only, regardless of profit motive or tax-exempt status, provided, however, that no Lodge shall transfer its right, title or interest in any real or personal property to any such title-holding corporation whose Articles of Incorporation do not specifically provide that all net assets of such corporation shall be distributed to the transferring Lodge, or to the Grand Lodge, upon dissolution of such corporation,
3. Amendments to Articles of Incorporation and Corporation By-Laws must be submitted in quintuplicate for the approval of the Grand Master and the Committee on Jurisprudence on forms approved by them; and
4. All accumulated annual corporate income, in excess of cash reserve necessary to pay:
  - annual expenses of operation
  - maintenance and repairs
  - taxes and insurance
  - other current expensesshall be distributed to the Lodge(s) based upon its share of ownership of the corporation; and
5. To maintain the separate identity of the Lodge and Title-Holding Corporation, the incumbent Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, and Junior Warden shall be ineligible to serve as officers of the Corporation except as members of the Board of Trustees.

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**[Rev.2003]**

**Sec. 21.09 B.L.**

**Borrowing Money.** A title holding corporation shall not borrow money without first securing the written approval of the Grand Master and the Committee on Finance.

**Sec. 21.10 B.L.**

**Reports of Corporations.** The Grand Master shall have the power to require any corporation formed under the provisions of this Chapter, either heretofore or hereafter, to render such reports concerning its activities, receipts, expenditures and plans of procedure as will enable him to make report and recommendation to the Grand Lodge.

**Sec. 21.11 B.L.**

**Administering Scholarships.** Lodges and individual Masons may, subject to the approval of the Grand Master and the Committee on Jurisprudence, form Corporations or Foundations to administer scholarships for the education of deserving persons.

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**Part III – Constituent Lodges**

**CHAPTER 22 – MASONIC RELIEF**

Sec. 22.01 B.L. – [Lodge Charity](#)

Sec. 22.02 B.L. – [Immediate Relief](#)

Sec. 22.03 B.L. – [Charity and Relief Fund](#)

Sec. 22.04 B.L. – [Voluntary Relief Organizations](#)

Sec. 22.05 B.L. – [Relief](#)

Sec. 22.06 B.L. – [Relief to Sojourner](#)

Sec. 22.07 B.L. – [Relief Reimbursement Not Due](#)

## Part III – Constituent Lodges

### CHAPTER 22 – MASONIC RELIEF

#### Sec. 22.01 B.L.

**Lodge Charity.** A Lodge shall be the sole judge of Masonic charity. The Grand Lodge shall not invade the rights of a Lodge to appropriate funds for relief work.

#### Sec. 22.02 B.L.

**Immediate Relief.** A Master may draw upon the funds of the Lodge in response to an application for assistance or relief when the Lodge is not in session. The Lodge By-Laws shall specify the maximum amount permissible for such relief.

#### Sec. 22.03 B.L.

**Charity and Relief Fund.** A Lodge may, by a provision in its By-Laws, create a special fund for charitable and relief purposes. The By-Laws shall specify the conditions and restrictions for receiving, holding and administering trust funds for such purposes.

#### Sec. 22.04 B.L.

**Voluntary Relief Organizations.** A board of relief may be established by a Lodge, or by individual Brethren. A Masonic Relief Association may be established by agreement between two or more Lodges. Such Boards and Associations shall be guided by just and equitable principles of benevolence for dispensing charitable relief.

Boards and Associations shall publish and issue to each member Lodge an annual financial statement summarizing:

- ...cash receipts,
- ...cash disbursements,
- ...profit and/or loss; and
- ...assets on hand.

#### Sec. 22.05 B.L.

##### **Relief.**

1. A Lodge is under no obligation to pay the debts of a deceased member,
2. A Mason's former wife has no claim on Masonry after she is legally separated from her husband,
3. The wife and minor children of a Mason who has been suspended or expelled are not entitled to Masonic relief while he is under the sentence, nor after his death, should he die without being reinstated; and
4. A Lodge is under no obligation to extend Masonic aid or privileges to Non-Affiliated Masons who shall have resided within the Jurisdiction of the Lodge for one year without affiliating with the Lodge and contributing to its dues.

#### Sec. 22.06 B.L.

**Relief to Sojourner.** Any person claiming to be a Mason from a Lodge in another Grand Jurisdiction and applying for visitation to a Lodge in this Jurisdiction or seeking monetary or other assistance from the Lodge shall be required, in the absence of personal avouchment, to exhibit a properly attested diploma, certificate, or other documentary evidence of his Masonic standing, if demanded by any member of the Lodge. [Rev. 2003]

**Sec. 22.07 B.L.**

**Relief Reimbursement Not Due.** A Lodge or brother Mason has no right to claim reimbursement for charity bestowed or relief given to the sick, needy or distressed or for expenses voluntarily incurred in the burial of the Fraternal Dead.

**[Rev. 2003]**

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**Part III – Constituent Lodges**

**CHAPTER 23 – FUNERAL SERVICES**

Sec. 23.01 B.L. – [General Provisions](#)

Sec. 23.02 B.L. – [Lodge of Sorrow](#)

Sec. 23.03 B.L. – [Funeral Procession](#)

Sec. 23.04 B.L. – [Service at the Grave](#)

Sec. 23.05 B.L. – [Funeral Service Without Opening Lodge](#)

## Part III – Constituent Lodges

### CHAPTER 23 – FUNERAL SERVICES

#### Sec.23.01 B.L.

##### General Provisions.

1. A Masonic burial service may be requested by a Brother in his lifetime or by a near relative after his death. It is a privilege, not an absolute right. It is for the Lodge or the Master to determine,
2. The service may be extended to Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Masons who have not taken their proficiency on the Third Degree; as well as to non-affiliated Masons in good standing and to members of the Lodge at the discretion of the Worshipful Master,
3. The Brethren shall be properly clothed, and none but Masons in good standing shall assume our funeral habiliments,
4. A Lodge shall not attend a funeral in Masonic clothing unless properly requested. If it is desired and so requested by near relatives, the Lodge may attend a funeral service in a Body and clothed as Masons, without having any part in the service whatsoever,
5. The Master shall officiate in a Masonic funeral ceremony or, in his absence, a Warden or a competent Brother called by him to preside, during all of which the Lodge shall remain open on the Third Degree or as a Lodge of Sorrow; and
6. The Master may, for the purpose of holding a Masonic funeral service, open his Lodge in the Lodge room of another Constituent Lodge in this Jurisdiction, or in any convenient, safe place.

#### Sec. 23.02 B.L.

**Lodge of Sorrow.** The Master, on vote of a Lodge, may open a Lodge of Sorrow, which will remain open only during his term of office, for the purpose of conducting Masonic funeral rites.

#### Sec. 23.03 B.L.

**Funeral Procession.** A Lodge which has been invited to officiate at the burial of a Brother shall have entire charge of the funeral procession. Lodges in attendance shall form an escort with the members of the Lodge-in-charge immediately in front of the hearse and the other Lodges preceding.

If societies composed solely of Masons are invited to take part in the procession, they shall serve as an escort to the Lodge-in-charge, and shall follow the musicians. Societies not so composed shall follow the mourners.

The pall-bearers should be Master Masons, but in the event of extenuating circumstances, as many as three Non-Masons may act in that capacity.

Marshal

The order of procession shall be as follows:

The Tyler, with drawn sword,  
Musicians,  
Stewards, with white rods,  
Master Masons,  
Treasurer and Secretary,  
Senior and Junior Wardens,  
Past Masters,  
The Bible Bearer,

(The Bible, Square and Compasses on a cushion, covered with black cloth, carried, when practicable, by the oldest member of the Lodge, and supported by the Deacons with crossed rods);

The Chaplain, and the attending clergyman, if a Mason

The Master;

\* C \*

\* O \*

\* F \*

Pall Bearers;

\* F \*

Pall Bearers;

\* I \*

\* N \*

\* \* \*

(Upon the coffin, a Masonic apron)

The Mourners.

**Sec. 23.04 B.L.**

**Service at the Grave.** The Officer officiating at the grave and delivering the funeral ritual shall be a Master Mason.

No rule of Masonic propriety requires the uncovering of the head during funeral services in the open air, except when the blessing of Deity is invoked.

After the Masonic service has ended, there shall be no further service at the grave, except that there will be no objection to the pronouncement of a benediction by an ordained minister selected by the bereaved or the rendition of military honors, or both.

**Sec. 23.05 B.L.**

**Funeral Service Without Opening Lodge.** A funeral may be conducted in accordance with our ritual service without opening a Lodge of Masons when the death of a Mason sojourning in this Grand Jurisdiction occurs, providing his home Lodge has authorized a Masonic funeral for him and a Grand Master has given general authorization to a Masonic Relief Association to perform such a service.

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**Part III – Constituent Lodges**

**CHAPTER 24 – CONSOLIDATION**

Sec. 24.01 B.L. – [How Effected](#)

Sec. 24.02 B.L. – [Charter After Consolidation](#)

Sec. 24.03 B.L. – [Property](#)

## Part III – Constituent Lodges

### CHAPTER 24 – CONSOLIDATION

#### Sec. 24.01 B.L.

**How Effected.** Any two or more Lodges may consolidate their memberships into one Lodge. The proposition for such consolidation shall be presented at a Stated Communication of each interested Lodge and shall be acted upon only at a subsequent Stated Communication of each Lodge after due notice shall have been given to the members.

A consolidation shall be effected only by a three-fourths affirmative vote of the members present in each Lodge when the proposition is acted upon. The vote may be by show of hands or by secret ballot.

#### Sec. 24.02 B.L.

**Charter After Consolidation.** The Grand Lodge or the Grand Master shall be officially informed of any consolidation and provided with the name and number of the consolidated lodge and the names of the officers.

Consolidating Lodges must adopt the number of one of the Lodges and may retain both the number and name of such Lodge, in which case no new charter need be issued and such Lodge need not be reconstituted, but an endorsement of the consolidation shall be entered on the charter so retained.

A new special charter shall be issued without fee when consolidating Lodges retain the number of one of the Lodges but not the corresponding name and such new Lodge shall be constituted as provided for in Section 16.15 B.L. **Rev. 1987**

The new charter shall show:

1. The number of one of the consolidating Lodges,
2. Such name as shall have been selected,
3. The names of the new officers; and
4. An endorsement bearing the seal of the Grand Lodge and countersigned by the Grand Secretary shall be affixed to the new charter showing the original date of issue of the Lodge number selected by the Consolidating Lodges. This date will then be fixed as the date when the Consolidated Lodges lineage and history shall have commenced. Where a Lodge consolidation has already occurred, the Grand Lodge shall issue, without fee, the endorsement and affix it to the Lodge Charter as requested by the Lodge involved. **Rev.1990**

All original charters not endorsed for continued use shall be returned to the Grand Secretary.

#### Sec. 24.03 B.L.

**Property.** The title to all property and effects of Lodges that unite shall be vested in the Consolidated Lodge. **Rev. 1987**

**Part III – Constituent lodges**

**CHAPTER 25 – DISSOLUTION OF LODGES –  
SUSPENSION OF CHARTER**

- Sec. 25.01 B.L. – [How Dissolved](#)
- Sec. 25.02 B.L. – [Surrender of Charter](#)
- Sec. 25.03 B.L. – [Forfeiture of Charter](#)
- Sec. 25.04 B.L. – [Basis of Forfeiture](#)
- Sec. 25.05 B.L. – [Surrender of Property](#)
- Sec. 25.06 B.L. – [Suspension of Charter](#)

## Part III – Constituent Lodges

### CHAPTER 25 – DISSOLUTION OF LODGES – SUSPENSION OF CHARTER

#### Sec.25.01 B.L.

**How Dissolved.** A Lodge may be dissolved by:

1. Voluntary surrender of its charter, when such surrender shall have been accepted by the Grand Lodge,
2. Ceasing to meet for six months and being declared dormant by the Grand Lodge; and
3. Forfeiture of its charter by order of the Grand Lodge.

#### Sec. 25.02 B.L.

**Surrender of Charter.** A Lodge may adopt a resolution to surrender its charter, but the resolution will be defeated if seven or more duly qualified members vote in opposition to the surrender. Such resolution shall be considered only after due notice shall have been given at a Stated Communication that the resolution will be presented at the next succeeding Stated Communication.

A properly adopted act of surrender shall become final when accepted and approved by the Grand Lodge.

#### Sec. 25.03 B.L.

**Forfeiture of Charter.** The charter of a Lodge can be declared forfeited by the Grand Lodge upon charges regularly made at an Annual Communication. Due notice of the charges shall be given to the Lodge and an opportunity afforded for the Lodge to be heard in its defense.

#### Sec. 25.04 B.L.

**Basis for Forfeiture.** The charges for which a Lodge may be ordered to forfeit its charter are:

1. Insolent defiance to the authority of the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge,
2. Departure from the Original Plan of Masonry and the Ancient Landmarks,
3. Disobedience to the Constitution or the By-Laws,
4. Neglecting for two years to make returns and pay dues; and
5. Willful and inexcusable neglect to be represented in the Grand Lodge.

#### Sec. 25.05 B.L.

**Surrender of Property.** A Lodge which has become dormant or whose charter has been surrendered or forfeited shall deliver forthwith to the Grand Master or to his Special Deputy its charter, books, papers, jewels, furniture, monies and other property, which shall then vest in the Grand Lodge, subject to all legal and equitable rights of creditors of such demised Lodge in and to such properties.

The last Master, Secretary and Treasurer of the Lodge shall be responsible for the surrender of the properties. Any member of a Lodge who shall refuse to make such surrender shall be liable to Masonic discipline for violating the By-Laws and Regulations of the Grand Lodge.

All money accruing from the property of the Lodge shall be paid into the Treasury of the Grand Lodge.

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**Sec. 25.06 B.L.**

**Suspension of Charter.** The charter of a Lodge may be suspended by the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master, at any time, upon proper cause shown. Suspension, when ordered by the Grand Master, shall not extend beyond the next Annual Communication.

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**Part IV – Disciplinary Code**

**CHAPTER 26 – CHARGES AND PRETRIAL PROCEDURE**

- Sec. 26.01 B.L. – [Preferring of Charges](#)
- Sec. 26.02 B.L. – [Junior Warden to Prefer Charges](#)
- Sec. 26.03 B.L. – [Disposition of Charges](#)
- Sec. 26.04 B.L. – [Citation](#)
- Sec. 26.05 B.L. – [Service](#)
- Sec. 26.06 B.L. – [Return of Service](#)

**[Rev. 2003]**

## Part IV – Disciplinary Code

### CHAPTER 26 – CHARGES AND PRETRIAL PROCEDURE

#### Sec. 26.01 B.L.

##### **Preferring of Charges.** Charges against an offending Brother:

1. May be preferred by any member of a Lodge,
2. Shall not be received from a non-affiliate,
3. Shall not be considered or received if the charge involves:
  - A. Matters of a political or sectarian character; or
  - B. Private legal rights, monetary or otherwise, unless clearly specifying fraud,
4. Must be in writing specifying with reasonable certainty the character of the alleged offense and the time and place of its commission; and
5. May be in the form as provided in suggested trial form No. 15 “Charges for Un-Masonic Conduct” supplied by the Grand Secretary or on a form substantially the same. **Rev. 1993**

#### Sec. 26.02 B.L.

**Junior Warden to Prefer Charges.** It shall be the duty of the Junior Warden in the absence of another accuser, to take steps to prefer charges against an offending Brother and bring him to trial. In case of death, disability or disqualification of the Junior Warden, that duty shall devolve upon the Senior Warden; however the Master may direct any member of the Lodge to prefer the charges for and on behalf of the Lodge.

#### Sec. 26.03 B.L.

##### **Disposition of Charges.**

1. All charges preferred by the Junior or Senior Warden or under the direction of the Master of the Lodge shall be filed with the Secretary of the Lodge,
2. All charges preferred by a member of the Lodge in his individual capacity shall be first lodged with the Master,
3. Charges lodged with the Master involving exclusively a private wrong as between accuser and accused shall be delivered to a Committee of Reconciliation consisting of three members of the Lodge to be appointed by the Master. The committee’s duty shall be to make every reasonable effort to compose or adjust such wrong and report the result of their efforts to the Master. No record shall be made of such appointments on the records of the Lodge,
4. If the Committee on Reconciliation composes or adjusts the controversy between the accuser and the accused, the charges with an endorsement thereon to that effect and signed by the committee shall be returned to the Master and delivered by him to the accuser. No record of the charges or of the reconciliation of same shall be made upon the records of the Lodge,
5. The Master shall file with the Secretary of the Lodge charges which:
  - A. Are of a general nature not involving exclusively a private wrong, or
  - B. Involve exclusively a private wrong that a Committee of Reconciliation has reported cannot be adjusted,
6. The Secretary shall present and read the charges to the Lodge at the Stated Communication following the filing of the charges with him,

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7. The Lodge shall, at the Communication when the charges are presented and read, vote upon the question of whether or not the charges as drawn constitute a Masonic offense. If a majority of the members present vote that the charges do constitute a Masonic offense, the charges shall be deemed accepted by the Lodge. In the event that the charges are not accepted, any Mason feeling aggrieved thereby, may appeal from the decision of the Lodge to the Grand Lodge, if in session, otherwise to the Grand Master, solely upon the question of whether or not the charge as drawn constitutes a Masonic offense.

The Grand Master having received an appeal from an aggrieved Mason under the provisions of this section and having determined that the charges do constitute a Masonic offense, shall remand the charges to the Lodge and direct that it proceed with a Masonic trial by whatever trial forum it chooses. If the charges are not found to constitute a Masonic offense, the Grand Master shall notify both the Lodge and the aggrieved Mason of his decision; and **Rev. 1992**

8. When the Lodge accepts charges they shall not be withdrawn except for cause shown and by a favorable vote of two thirds of the members present at a Stated Communication.

#### **Sec. 26.04 B.L.**

**Citation.** The Worshipful Master, upon the acceptance of charges by the Lodge, shall instruct the Secretary to cite the accused to appear and answer the charges. The citation shall include:

1. A copy of the charges as accepted by the Lodge,
2. The time and place assigned for the trial; and
3. A summons for the accused to appear and answer the charges.

#### **Sec. 26.05 B.L.**

**Service.** Service of the citation with accompanying copy of charges shall be deemed complete when made by either of the following procedures:

1. **Personal Service.** By:
  - A. Delivering a copy of the citation and the charges directly to the accused; or
  - B. Leaving a sealed envelope addressed to the accused, containing a copy of the citation and charges, at the accused's usual place of abode with a person of suitable age and discretion residing therein.
2. **Constructive Service.** When the whereabouts of the accused and his usual place of abode are unknown, service shall be made by depositing the citation and a copy of the charges in a postage pre-paid envelope in a U. S. Post Office within this Grand Jurisdiction, addressed to the accused at his last known post office address.

#### **Sec. 26.06 B.L.**

**Return of Service.** Proof of service of the citation and copy of charges shall be filed with the Secretary of the Lodge issuing the citation. This service report shall be on official Lodge letterhead and in a format as provided in suggested trial form No. 14 "Certificate of Service of Citation and Copy of Charges" supplied by the Grand Secretary or in substantially the same format and shall be signed by the Brother making such service, over the name and number of the Lodge. **Rev. 1993**

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## Part IV – Disciplinary Code

### CHAPTER 27 – DISCIPLINARY POWER OF A LODGE

- Sec. 27.01 Const. – [Masonic Conduct](#)
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## Part IV – Disciplinary Code

### Chapter 27 – DISCIPLINARY POWER OF A LODGE

#### Sec. 27.01 Const.

**Masonic Conduct.** A Mason's conduct is judged as that of a Master Mason and subject to the discipline as provided in the Washington Masonic Code.

#### Sec. 27.02 Const.

**Classes of Masonic Offenses.** Masonic offenses are of two classes:

1. Those acts which are morally wrong in themselves; and
2. Those acts which are wrongful only because they are expressly prohibited or enjoined.

#### Sec. 27.03 B.L.

**Power to Exercise Discipline.**

1. Every Chartered Lodge has a right to exercise discipline over its members wherever residing for any violation of Masonic Law,
2. A Lodge's disciplinary power shall also extend over all unaffiliated as well as Affiliated Masons residing or sojourning within the Territorial Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge; and
3. Disciplinary power of the Lodge shall not include charges of official misconduct during his term of office to:
  - A. The Grand Master,
  - B. The incumbent Master of the Lodge; and
  - C. A Past Master

#### Sec. 27.04 B.L.

**When Disciplinary Jurisdiction in Question.** If two or more Lodges seek to prefer the same charges for a violation of Masonic Law involving an Un-affiliated Mason or a Mason from another Grand Jurisdiction, the Lodge whose Jurisdiction first attaches shall retain it to the exclusion of the others.

#### Sec. 27.05 B.L.

**Lodge Shall Choose the Trial Forum.** A Lodge at the time of its acceptance of charges shall by a majority vote by show of hands determine whether the trial on the charges shall be by the Lodge or by a Grand Master's Committee.

#### Sec. 27.06 B.L.

**Trial May be in Lodge or Committee.** A Lodge, upon accepting the charges and determining that the trial of the charges shall be by the Lodge, shall immediately determine by a majority vote by show of hands whether the evidence shall be taken in open Lodge or before a Lodge Trial Committee.

The Master shall instruct the Secretary of the Lodge to cite the accused to appear and answer the complaint or charges at the designated time and place.

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**Sec. 27.07 B.L.**

**Flagrant Offense.** The Master of a Lodge, when a Mason present has committed a flagrant offense while the Lodge is in session, may dispense with the provisions of the law requiring formal charges and notice, and may order the offending Brother to show cause instantly why he should not be punished for the offense.

**Sec. 27.08 B.L.**

**Further Charges Against Suspended Mason.** A suspended Mason, charged with Un-Masonic conduct not included within the charge or charges for which he was so suspended, and which conduct, if proved, would justify a further punishment or a punishment greater than that which he is undergoing, may be arraigned for trial and, if found guilty, may suffer additional penalty.

**Sec. 27.09 B.L.**

**E.A. and F.C. Must Stand Trial.** The names of Entered Apprentices or Fellowcrafts shall not be dropped from the roll, nor shall they be suspended or expelled without charges, notice, trial and judgment.

**Sec. 27.10 B.L.**

**Misrepresentation by Petitioner or Candidate.** If a Mason shall be charged at any time with having made any misrepresentation to the Lodge in which he was initiated or to a Committee of Investigation appointed by such Lodge, or that he used any concealment or deceit in relation to his initiation, he may be tried for that purpose. If found guilty, he may be punished by suspension or expulsion.

**Sec. 27.11 B.L.**

**Lodge to Relinquish Jurisdiction.** Upon the Lodge electing to have the accused tried by a Grand Master's Committee, the Lodge shall be without Jurisdiction to proceed further in the matter.

The Secretary of the Lodge shall thereupon transmit to the Grand Secretary for delivery to the Grand Master:

1. A certified copy of the charges,
2. Return of service; and
3. Notice of election by the Lodge to have the accused tried by a Grand Master's Committee.

Nothing in this Section shall deprive the Lodge, up to the time of final judgment, of its power to withdraw the charges.

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## Part IV – Disciplinary Code

### CHAPTER 28 – PROVISIONS COMMON TO ALL MASONIC TRIALS

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## Part IV – Disciplinary Code

### CHAPTER 28 – PROVISIONS COMMON TO ALL MASONIC TRIALS

#### Sec. 28.01 B.L.

**Trial Tribunals.** A Lodge, a Lodge Trial Committee and a Grand Master's Committee, as the case may be, shall have power to:

1. Fix the time and place of all hearings,
2. Hear all evidence,
3. Adjourn from time to time,
4. Cause its Secretary to issue summons for the attendance of witnesses, at the request of either party to the charges,
5. Cause summons to be served by the Tyler of the Lodge or other designated member of the Lodge; and
6. Issue Commissions for the taking of depositions of witnesses who are Non-Masons or are unable to attend the hearings.

A Commission for the taking of a deposition should be issued to a member of the Fraternity, if practicable. Otherwise to a discreet person authorized by the civil law to administer oaths.

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#### Sec. 28.02 B.L.

**Appearance of Accused.** The appearance of the accused for proceedings upon charges of un-Masonic conduct shall be in one of the following manners:

1. By his personal appearance at time and place fixed for trial of which he shall be notified,
2. By the authorized appearance for him of any Master Mason in good standing, as counsel, at such time and place; or
3. By his written communication, or that of his counsel on in his behalf, filed with the Secretary of the Lodge or of the Grand Master's Committee, as the case may be. The filing must be at or before the designated time and in it he may state his objections to the charges, or plead guilty or not guilty, or set forth any matter in extenuation of the offense charged.

#### Sec. 28.03 B.L.

**Plea of the Accused.** At the time fixed by the Master or the Grand Master's Committee for the trial, the charges shall be read to the accused and his plea or answer thereto entered upon the records of the proceedings.

If the accused pleads guilty to the charges or any part thereof, the ballot shall not be spread on such charges or part and the Lodge or the Grand Master's Committee shall determine only the punishment to be inflicted.

If the accused pleads innocent to part or all of the charges, the trial must proceed and evidence shall be taken upon all charges to which the plea of not guilty applies.

#### Sec. 28.04 B.L.

**Failure of the Accused to Appear.** The accused may by his voluntary absence waive his right to attend.

A trial whether by Lodge or by a Grand Master's Committee shall proceed, in the absence of the accused, upon proof of due service upon him of citation together with a copy of

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the charges and notice of the time and place of the trial.

The due service, in either case, must be at least ten days prior to the date fixed for the trial, if served within this Grand Jurisdiction and at least twenty days if served without.

**Sec. 28.05 B.L.**

**Timely Notice of Hearings.** The accuser and the accused shall have timely written notice and opportunity to attend in person or by counsel, and examine and cross-examine all witnesses at all hearings including the taking of all depositions under commission.

**Sec. 28.06 B.L.**

**Testimony to Be Reduced to Writing.** All testimony given before a Lodge Trial Committee and, in case of an appeal, all testimony taken in open Lodge or before a Grand Master's Committee shall be reduced to writing. A competent stenographer, being a Master Mason, may be employed for that purpose.

**Sec. 28.07 B.L.**

**Testimony by Honor or by Oath.** Testimony given by a Mason shall be given upon his honor. Testimony by a Non-Mason shall be upon an oath administered by:

1. A member of the Lodge who is authorized by civil law to administer oaths, or
2. By the Worshipful Master or Secretary of the Lodge or the Chairman of the Grand Master's Trial Commission as applicable. **Rev. 1994**

**Sec. 28.08 B.L.**

**Prosecuting Officer.** The Junior Warden, or other member of the Lodge as directed by the Master, shall prosecute all charges preferred by order of the Lodge.

**Sec. 28.09 B.L.**

**Visitors.** No visiting Brother shall be permitted to sit in attendance at any trial except by consent of the accuser, accused and the Lodge before whom testimony is being given. When so permitted the visitor shall take no part in the conduct of such hearing.

Only the accuser, the accused, their respective counsel, prosecuting officer, the Secretary of the Lodge and witnesses while testifying, shall be present at the hearing before a Lodge Trial Committee or a Grand Master's Committee.

**Sec. 28.10 B.L.**

**Verdict in Criminal Proceeding.** A guilty verdict in a criminal proceeding is, on the face of it, evidence and creates a presumption of fact that a crime has been committed. However that is not conclusive evidence of the Masonic guilt or innocence of an accused when tried upon charges made in a Lodge for an offense requiring proof of the same acts. An admission of guilt or the preponderance of evidence in such criminal proceedings may establish a basis for the finding of the Lodge or Grand Master's Committee, as the case may be. Nothing herein shall prevent or restrain the Grand Master from determining that certain convictions, if proved, inherently give rise to a finding of Un-Masonic conduct and authorize the Grand Master to order a Masonic trial.

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**Sec. 28.11 B.L.**

**Withdrawal of Accuser and Accused.** The accuser and accused with their respective counsel, at close of taking testimony and when argument of counsel is concluded, shall withdraw from the Lodge, Lodge Trial Committee or the Grand Master's Committee, as the case may be, during determination of verdict and judgment.

Withdrawal shall not apply to the Junior Warden or other person officially designated to prefer charges, when the trial is in open Lodge.

**Sec. 28.12 B.L.**

**Penalties.** The penalties that may be imposed for violation of Masonic Law shall be:

1. Expulsion,
2. Suspension from all rights and privileges of Masonry which shall be for a time definite or indefinite; and
3. Reprimand or Censure.

While under judgment of suspension, definite, or indefinite the offending Brother shall be deprived of all Lodge and Grand Lodge privileges. He has no rights except the right of appeal.

**Sec. 28.13 B.L.**

**Expense of Trial.** The expense incurred in conducting a Masonic trial shall be paid in the first instance by the Lodge, but may be taxed as costs against one or both of the parties to the controversy, as may be determined by the judgment rendered; but such costs shall not be taxed against an acquitted Brother.

**Sec. 28.14 B.L.**

**Notice of Judgment.** The accused shall be notified by the Secretary of the Lodge of the judgment rendered and, in case of appeal, of the action of the Grand Lodge. In case of acquittal he shall be notified in open Lodge.

**Sec. 28.15 B.L.**

**New Trial.** A Lodge or a Grand Master's Committee, when accused has been convicted of the charges, may set aside its judgment and grant a new trial upon application of the accused or upon its own motion, for an error at the trial prejudicial to the accused, or for other good cause.

**Sec. 28.16 B.L.**

**Judgment of Expulsion.** All judgments of expulsion by Grand Master's Trial Committees or by Lodges, if appealed, shall be referred to the Grand Lodge.

The proceedings that a Grand Master's Committee has filed with the Grand Secretary and the transcript of proceedings which the Secretary of a Lodge shall transmit to the Grand Secretary and shall be referred to the Committee on Grievances and Appeals for its report and recommendation to the Grand Lodge in session for its final action.

**Sec. 28.17 B.L.**

**Minutes of Lodge to Show Judgment.** Upon receipt of a copy of judgment from a Grand Master's Committee, the Secretary of a Lodge shall enter the judgment into the minutes of the Lodge at its next Stated Communication.

Such judgment shall thereupon have the same force and effect as a judgment of the Lodge, subject to the right of appeal by the accused in case of a conviction.

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## Part IV – Disciplinary Code

### CHAPTER 29 – ORIGINAL JURISDICTION IN GRAND LODGE

- Sec. 29.01 B.L. – [Invoking Grand Lodge Jurisdiction](#)
- Sec. 29.02 B.L. – [Grand Master May Suspend or Depose](#)
- Sec. 29.03 B.L. – [Citation](#)
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## Part IV – Disciplinary Code

### CHAPTER 29 – ORIGINAL JURISDICTION IN GRAND LODGE

#### Sec. 29.01 B.L.

**Invoking Grand Lodge Jurisdiction.** Original Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge may be invoked by the filing of complaint or charges with the Grand Secretary, who shall notify the Grand Master and cause a copy of the complaint or charges to be served upon the party or parties complained against.

#### Sec. 29.02 B.L.

**Grand Master May Suspend or Depose.** The Grand Master, upon finding reasonable grounds for the filing of a complaint or charges against a Brother who is an officer of the Grand Lodge or of a Constituent Lodge may:

1. Suspend him from all Masonic privileges, or
2. Depose him from the functions of his office, which shall not deprive him of the rights and privileges of membership.

#### Sec. 29.03 B.L.

**Citation.** The Grand Master, upon finding reasonable grounds for the filing of a complaint or charges in the Grand Lodge, shall cause a citation to be served by the Grand Secretary upon the party or parties complained against. The citation shall specify the complaint or charges and shall order the accused to appear and answer the same before a Grand Masters Trial Committee. A minimum of twenty days shall have expired following the date of service of the citation before such Trial Committee shall meet. (See Sec. 26.05 B.L. for Service of Citation.) **Rev. 1993**

#### Sec. 29.04 B.L.

**Witnesses.** The Grand Secretary shall, at the request of any of the parties to the complaint or charges, issue summons for the attendance of witnesses and he may cause the summons to be served through the Master of the Lodge nearest the residence of each witness. The expense of service of summons and of attendance of the witnesses shall be paid in the first instance by the party causing such summons to issue, unless otherwise directed by the Grand Master.

#### Sec. 29.05 B.L.

**Referral to Committee.** The Grand Lodge may, by a majority vote, decide to try the parties complained against in open session or to refer the complaint or charges to the Committee on Grievances and Appeals to hear and report the evidence thereon with its recommendations to the Grand Lodge for final action.

#### Sec. 29.06 B.L.

**Judgment.** The Grand Lodge, upon conclusion of the trial in open session or upon report of the Committee on Grievances and Appeals, shall render judgment as the justice of the case may require, including the penalty to be imposed, if the accused be found guilty.

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**Sec. 29.07 B.L.**

**Summary Punishment.** In every case where a flagrant offense is committed by any Mason present while the Grand Lodge is at labor, the rules requiring notice and delay will be dispensed with and the Grand Master may order the offending Brother to show cause instantly why he should not be punished.

**Sec. 29.08 B.L.**

**Penalties.** The penalties that may be imposed for a violation of Masonic law shall be:

1. Expulsion, provided that no judgment of expulsion shall be rendered except upon a two-thirds vote of the Grand Lodge in favor thereof,
2. Suspension from all rights and privileges of Masonry, which shall be for a time, definite or indefinite, during which the offending Brother shall be deprived of all Lodge and Grand Lodge privileges; and
3. Reprimand or Censure.

**Sec. 29.09 B.L.**

**Notice of Judgment.** The Grand Secretary shall furnish all parties to the complaint or charges with a copy of the judgment of the Grand Lodge rendered with respect thereto.

**Sec. 29.10 B.L.**

**Official Announcements.** The proceedings of the Grand Lodge are the official announcements of its judgments. All Masons shall be deemed to have notice of the judgment when the proceedings of the Grand Lodge are published.

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**CHAPTER 30 – TRIAL BY LODGE**

**Sec. 30.01 B.L. – [Appointment of Lodge Trial Committee](#)**

**Sec. 30.02 B.L. – [Report of Committee](#)**

**Sec. 30.03 B.L. – [Verdict of the Lodge](#)**

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**Sec. 30.05 B.L. – [Disqualification of Master or Wardens](#)**

**Sec. 30.06 B.L. – [Notice of Disqualification](#)**

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## Part IV – Disciplinary Code

### CHAPTER 30 – TRIAL BY LODGE

#### Sec. 30.01 B.L.

**Appointment of Lodge Trial Committee.** The Master of a Lodge who has determined that evidence shall be taken before a Lodge Trial Committee shall thereupon appoint such a committee consisting of three members of the Lodge, preferably Past Masters, designating one the Chairman. The Master shall appoint a replacement to fill any vacancy occurring on a Lodge Trial Committee.

The Secretary of the Lodge shall act as Secretary of the Lodge Trial Committee. He shall attend all meetings of such committee and shall keep a true and correct record of all its proceedings; but he shall be without voice or vote.

#### Sec. 30.02 B.L.

**Report of Committee.** A Lodge Trial Committee, at the close of all the testimony and upon return of all Commissions issued to take depositions, shall report to the Lodge as soon as practical. The report shall include all of the proceedings, a transcript of all testimony and depositions received in evidence, together with the committee's findings and conclusions for final action by the Lodge.

#### Sec. 30.03 B.L.

**Verdict of the Lodge.** The Lodge shall determine, by written ballot upon each count, if the accused is guilty or not. A guilty verdict shall be declared if two-thirds of the members present so vote.

The vote shall occur immediately after:

1. In the event that the Lodge Trial Committee was appointed, the reading of the Trial Committee's report at a Stated Communication, or a Special Communication to which all members of the Lodge have been summoned, and depositions taken; and
2. In the event of trial in open Lodge, after the close of testimony and the argument of council for respective parties.

#### Sec. 30.04 B.L.

**Judgment.** If the accused be found guilty, the Lodge will immediately determine the penalty unless a new trial is granted by the Lodge and, if not, the Master shall, without motion, put to vote by written ballot the **highest degree of punishment**, i.e. expulsion.

Every member present must vote and a two-thirds vote is necessary to expel or suspend. If the vote for expulsion is lost, the Master will put to vote in like manner the **next highest order of punishment**, i.e. indefinite suspension; and if that be lost he shall put to vote in like manner the **next highest order of punishment**, suspension for time specified. If two-thirds of the members present fail to expel or suspend, the Master shall reprimand the guilty brother in open Lodge.

Provided, that in case of an appeal, no judgment of expulsion shall become effective unless approved by a two-thirds vote of the Grand Lodge, and no judgment of suspension shall become effective unless approved by a majority of the Grand Lodge. **Rev. 1991**

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**Sec. 30.05 B.L.**

**Disqualification of Master or Wardens.** It may occur that the Master will be absent at the time of a trial or that he will disqualify himself from discharging his trial duties by reason of prejudice, bias or personal interest in the result of the trial.

If that shall occur, the Senior Warden shall perform the Master's trial duties, and in case of the Senior Warden's absence or like disqualification, then the Junior Warden shall perform such duties. In case the Master and both Wardens are absent or disqualified, a Special Deputy of the Grand Master shall perform such duties.

**Sec. 30.06 B.L.**

**Notice of Disqualification.** Notice of Disqualification shall be lodged with the Secretary of the Lodge by the Master; Senior Warden or Junior Warden. The Secretary shall thereupon notify the Senior or Junior Warden or, through the Grand Secretary the Grand Master; as the case may require, of such absence and/or disqualification.

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**Part IV – Disciplinary Code**

**CHAPTER 31 – TRIAL BY GRAND MASTER’S COMMITTEE**

- Sec. 31.01 B.L. – [Appointment of Grand Master’s Committee](#)
- Sec. 31.02 B.L. – [Jurisdiction of Grand Master’s Committee](#)
- Sec. 31.03 B.L. – [Convening of Grand Master’s Committee](#)
- Sec. 31.04 B.L. – [Judgment](#)
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- Sec. 31.06 B.L. – [Procedure After Judgment](#)

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## Part IV – Disciplinary Code

### CHAPTER 31 – TRIAL BY GRAND MASTER’S COMMITTEE

#### Sec. 31.01 B.L.

**Appointment of Grand Master's Committee.** The Grand Master, upon receiving the files of a case from the Grand Secretary, shall appoint a Grand Master's Committee to try the accused upon the charges. The committee shall consist of five Past Masters, members of Lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction other than the one of which the accused is a member, and designate one as the Chairman of the Committee.

The Grand Master shall direct the Grand Secretary to notify the members of their appointment and of the designation of the committee chairman, and to transmit to the chairman the files received from the Secretary of the Lodge.

The Grand Master shall fill all vacancies occurring on a Grand Master's Committee.

#### Sec. 31.02 B.L.

**Jurisdiction of Grand Master's Committee.** A Grand Master's Committee shall have all the judicial powers of, and be charged with all the duties prescribed by law for a Lodge in the trial of charges, including the power to set aside its judgment and grant a new trial.

#### Sec. 31.03 B.L.

**Convening of Grand Master's Committee.** The Chairman of the Grand Master's Committee shall designate the time and place of the trial and shall instruct the Secretary of the Lodge to cite the accused to appear and answer the charges at such time and place.

The Committee shall appoint a committee member other than the chairman to be secretary and it shall be his duty to keep a true and complete record of all the proceedings.

#### Sec. 31.04 B.L.

**Judgment.** The Grand Master's Committee shall, at the close of the testimony and the reading of depositions taken by commission, and following argument of counsel for the respective parties, decide as to the guilt or innocence of the accused.

If the accused is found guilty, the Committee shall decide the penalty to be imposed and shall render judgment accordingly, including the assessment of costs against either or both parties, or without costs; provided, that no costs shall be taxed against a party acquitted.

A majority of the Committee shall constitute a quorum necessary for the conduct of the trial; but the verdict of the Committee as to the guilt or innocence of the accused and its judgment as to the penalty to be imposed shall require a majority of the full Committee in favor of such verdict and judgment.

#### Sec. 31.05 B.L.

**Force and Effect of Grand Master's Committee Judgment.** Shall have the same force and effect as a judgment of the Lodge, subject to the right of appeal by the accused in case of a conviction.

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**Sec. 31.06 B.L.**

**Procedure After Judgment.** The Grand Master's Committee, as soon as practicable, shall transmit a copy of its judgment, including a statement of costs of trial, certified by its Chairman and the Secretary, to the Secretary of the Lodge in which the charges originated.

The Secretary of the Lodge, having entered the judgment upon the records of the Lodge, shall communicate the date of such entry in writing and under seal of the Lodge, to the Chairman of the Grand Master's Committee.

At the expiration of thirty days after the date of entry of judgment upon the records of the Lodge, the Committee shall transmit to the Grand Secretary the original record of its proceedings together with all depositions offered and/or received in evidence.

The Committee shall, in case of an appeal from said judgment, transmit to the Grand Secretary the transcript of all testimony taken before it, under a Certificate signed by its Chairman and Secretary identifying such records, depositions, and transcripts of testimony, if any, together with a statement of all costs incurred in the course of the appeal.

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**CHAPTER 32 – APPEALS**

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- Sec. 32.04 B.L. – [Hearings](#)
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- Sec. 32.06 B.L. – [Judgment](#)
- Sec. 32.07 B.L. – [Failure to Affirm Original Judgment](#)
- Sec. 32.08 B.L. – [Final Record](#)
- Sec. 32.09 B.L. – [Status During Appeal](#)

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## Part IV – Disciplinary Code

### CHAPTER 32 – APPEALS

#### Sec. 32.01 B.L.

**Right of Appeal.** The accused and the accuser and also, in the event of a trial by a Grand Master's Committee, the Lodge, may within thirty days after the date of entry of judgment upon the records of the Lodge, appeal to the Grand Lodge by filing a Notice of Appeal of the judgment with the Grand Secretary, and with the Secretary of the Lodge, who shall notify all parties of such appeal.

Within sixty days after the filing of a Notice of Appeal the appellant shall file a written memorandum with the Grand Secretary and with the Secretary of the Lodge stating briefly and informally the reasons for the appeal and the points upon which appellant relies.

Upon receipt of such Notice of Appeal the Secretary of the Lodge shall, if the Lodge had the trial, forthwith transmit a copy of the proceedings in the case, including a complete transcript of the testimony and depositions taken, to the Grand Secretary.

#### Sec. 32.02 B.L.

**Jurisdiction.** Whenever an appeal shall be taken from a judgment of a Lodge or of a Grand Master's Committee, the Grand Lodge may upon investigation:

1. Dismiss the appeal, approve the findings or affirm the judgment appealed from,
2. Modify or change the judgment or impose a penalty where the Lodge or Grand Master's Committee failed to do so; or
3. Set aside the judgment for error or informality and remand the case for further proceedings.

#### Sec. 32.03 B.L.

**Referral After an Appeal.** In case of an appeal, the proceedings of the Grand Master's Committee or the transcript from the Lodge, as the case may be, shall be referred to the Committee on Grievances and Appeals who shall report the facts with their recommendation to the Grand Lodge in session for its action.

#### Sec.32.04 B.L.

**Hearings.** Hearings by the Committee on Grievances and Appeals shall be held on the day immediately preceding the opening of each Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge at the hour of ten o'clock in the forenoon at the place of meeting of the Grand Lodge for the current year. All persons desiring to be heard upon any appeal pending before the Grand Lodge shall attend at such time and place for hearing. **Rev. 1990**

#### Sec. 32.05 B.L.

**No New Evidence on Appeal.** The Committee on Grievances and Appeals shall not receive or consider any evidence other than is contained in transcript from the Lodge or in proceedings filed by the Grand Master's Committee.

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**Sec. 32.06 B.L.**

**Judgment.** Whenever the Grand Lodge shall affirm, modify or change the judgment appealed from, such action by the Grand Lodge shall be final, and upon receipt of notice thereof the Lodge shall cause the same to be entered into its minutes at its next Stated Communication.

**Sec. 32.07 B.L.**

**Failure to Affirm Original Judgment.** When the Grand Lodge, on review of a judgment of expulsion or suspension, reverses or annuls the judgment, or fails to approve a judgment of expulsion, or modifies the same, the accused shall be thereby restored to membership.

When a case is remanded for a new trial, no amendment to the original charges and specifications shall be made without giving the accused due and timely notice thereof.

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**Sec. 32.08 B.L.**

**Final Record.** The Proceedings of the Annual Communication are the official announcements of Grand Lodge judgments, of which the parties in interest have constructive notice. These Proceedings shall constitute the final record except in case of remanding for a new trial.

**Sec. 32.09 B.L.**

**Status During Appeal.** In case of appeal from a judgment of suspension or expulsion, the accused shall not be permitted to exercise any Masonic Rights (except the right of appeal from such judgment); provided, that the Grand Master may, in his discretion, permit the exercise of such Masonic Rights by the accused as the Grand Master may determine. Any such permission shall be communicated in writing by the Grand Master to the Secretary of the Lodge in which judgment was entered, and such permission shall be entered into the minutes of such Lodge.

**[Rev. 2003]**

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## Part IV – Disciplinary Code

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[Rev. 2003]

## Part IV – Disciplinary Code

### CHAPTER 33 – RESTORATION

#### Sec. 33.01 B.L.

**Restoration from Definite Suspension.** Definite suspension shall expire by limitation. A Mason who was suspended for a definite period shall become restored to membership in the Lodge from which he was suspended at the expiration of the time defined in the judgment of suspension, without vote or other action on the part of the Lodge.

If the Lodge from which he was suspended has, in the meantime ceased to exist, he may, at the expiration of the period of suspension, petition for fraternal restoration in any Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction which may restore him to its membership, or to the Grand Lodge, either of which may reinstate him to good standing in the fraternity.

A Mason under definite suspension and seeking restoration prior to the termination of his suspension, shall petition in writing to the Lodge from which he was suspended, or if that Lodge has ceased to exist, he may apply for restoration to any Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction. Upon a favorable vote of two-thirds of the members present at a Stated Communication, he shall be restored to good standing in the fraternity. **Rev. 1994**

#### Sec. 33.02 B.L.

**Restoration from Indefinite Suspension. Un-appealed.** A Mason whose suspension for an indefinite time was not appealed and who seeks restoration, shall petition in writing to the Lodge from which he was suspended. He shall be restored to membership in the Lodge, upon a favorable vote of two-thirds of the members present at a Stated Communication, following the giving of notice at a preceding Stated Communication.

If the Lodge from which the Brother was suspended has ceased to exist, the petition for restoration may be made to any Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, which may restore him to its membership, or to the Grand Lodge, which may restore him to a status of a Non-affiliated Mason [same as a Mason with a dimit]. **Rev. 1994**

#### Sec. 33.03 B.L.

**Restoration from Suspension. Appealed and Affirmed.** A Mason whose suspension for a definite or indefinite time was appealed from and affirmed by the Grand Lodge, and who seeks restoration, shall petition the Lodge from which he was suspended for its recommendation to the Grand Lodge for restoration. If the Lodge from which he was suspended has ceased to exist, he may petition any Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction for its recommendation to the Grand Lodge.

If a petition for reinstatement is supported by a two-thirds vote of the members present at a Stated Communication, following the giving of notice of such petition at a preceding Stated Communication, the petition shall be so endorsed under seal of the Lodge and transmitted to the Grand Secretary at least ten days before the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge for its action thereon.

Upon the Brother's restoration by the Grand Lodge, he becomes restored to membership in the Lodge from which he was suspended, or, if that Lodge has ceased to exist, to good standing in the fraternity.

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**Sec. 33.04 B.L.**

**Restoration from Expulsion Un-appealed.** A Mason expelled, whose case was not appealed to the Grand Lodge and who seeks restoration to the rights of Masonry without Lodge membership, shall petition the Lodge from which he was expelled for restoration.

Upon notice of his petition having been given at a preceding Stated Communication, the Lodge may, at a Stated Communication, by a two-thirds vote of the members present, restore him to such rights. A Brother so restored shall be entitled to a Certificate of that fact from the Secretary that shall serve in lieu of a regular dimit in case of a petition for membership.

In case the Lodge shall become extinct, the petition may be made directly to the Grand Lodge with a statement of the facts, and upon favorable action the Brother shall be restored to the status of a Non-Affiliated Mason.

**Sec. 33.05 B.L.**

**Restoration from Expulsion Appealed and Affirmed.** After the expulsion of a Mason shall have been affirmed by the Grand Lodge, he may seek restoration either to the status of a Non-Affiliated Mason (same status as a Mason with a dimit), or to membership in the Lodge from which he was expelled by petitioning such Lodge for its recommendation to the Grand Lodge in his behalf.

The Lodge shall give notice that such petition shall be considered and passed upon at a specified subsequent Stated Communication. At such Communication, if the petition is for restoration to the status of a Non-Affiliated Mason, a two-thirds vote in support thereof shall be sufficient for such recommendation to the Grand Lodge. If the petition is for restoration to membership in the Lodge, a unanimous vote in its favor shall be necessary for such recommendation. In either case, the petition shall be endorsed under seal in accordance with the fact, and be transmitted to the Grand Secretary at least ten days before the Communication of the Grand Lodge.

Upon favorable action by the Grand Lodge, certified to the Lodge by the Grand Secretary, the petitioner shall be restored either to the status of a Non-Affiliated Mason or to Lodge Membership, as the case may be, in accordance with the Lodge recommendation.

In case the Lodge shall become extinct, the petition may be made directly to the Grand Lodge with a statement of that fact; and upon favorable action, the Brother shall be restored to the status of a Non-Affiliated Mason. **Rev. 1994**

**Sec. 33.06 B.L.**

**Restoration from Expulsion. No Lodge Recommendation.** The Grand Lodge may consider a direct petition for restoration of an expelled Mason without any recommendation from the Lodge which expelled him. The Grand Lodge, by a two-thirds vote, shall restore the Brother to good standing as a Non-Affiliate but not to membership in the Lodge. A Brother so restored shall be entitled to a Certificate of that fact from the Grand Secretary, which shall serve in lieu of a regular dimit.

**Sec. 33.07 B.L.**

**Referral to Committee.** All petitions for restoration coming before the Grand Lodge shall be referred to the Committee on Grievances and Appeals for its report and recommendation to the Grand Lodge.

[Rev. 2003]

**Sec. 33.08 B.L.**

**Interval Between Petitions for Restoration.** After a petition asking a Lodge for restoration, or a petition asking a Lodge for a recommendation to the Grand Lodge for restoration, has once been read in the Lodge, another such petition cannot be accepted by the Lodge from the same party until expiration of one year from the date of such reading, regardless of whether the petition was rejected or withdrawn.

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1.02	1.03	5.14	7.11	8.25	5.20
1.03	1.04	5.15	7.12	8.26	5.22
1.04	1.05	5.16	7.13	8.27	5.21
1.05	12.01	5.17	7.14	8.28	5.03
1.06	12.02			8.29	5.05
1.07	12.03	6.01	8.01	8.30	5.04
1.08	12.04	6.02	8.02	8.31	1.10
1.09	1.08	6.03	8.03	8.32	1.09
1.10	1.02	6.04	8.04		
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2.01	2.01	7.01	10.01	9.01	1.06
2.02	2.02	7.02	10.02	9.02	1.07
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2.04	2.04	7.04	10.04	9.04	6.02
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2.07	2.07	7.07	10.07	9.07	6.05
2.08	2.08	7.08	10.08		
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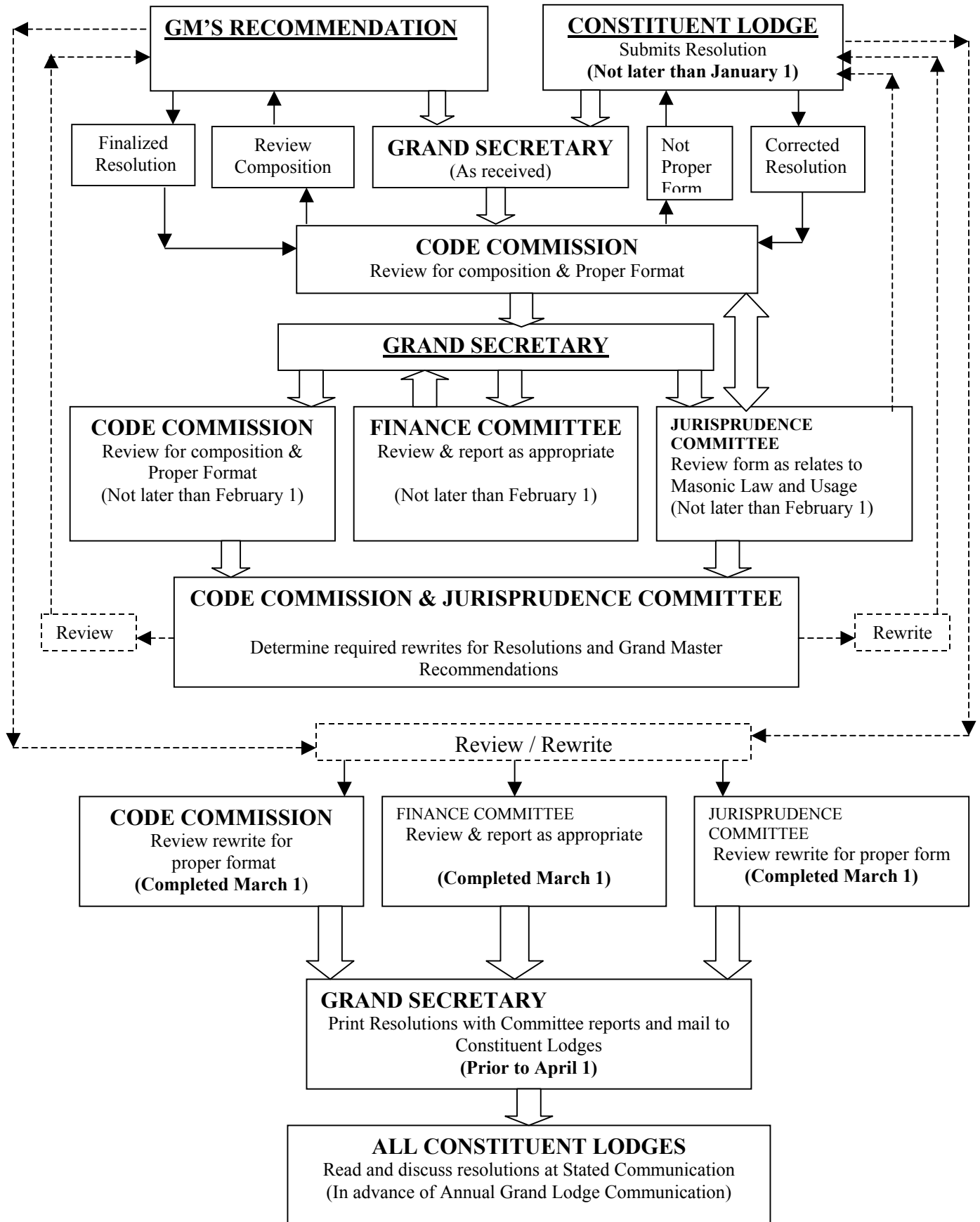
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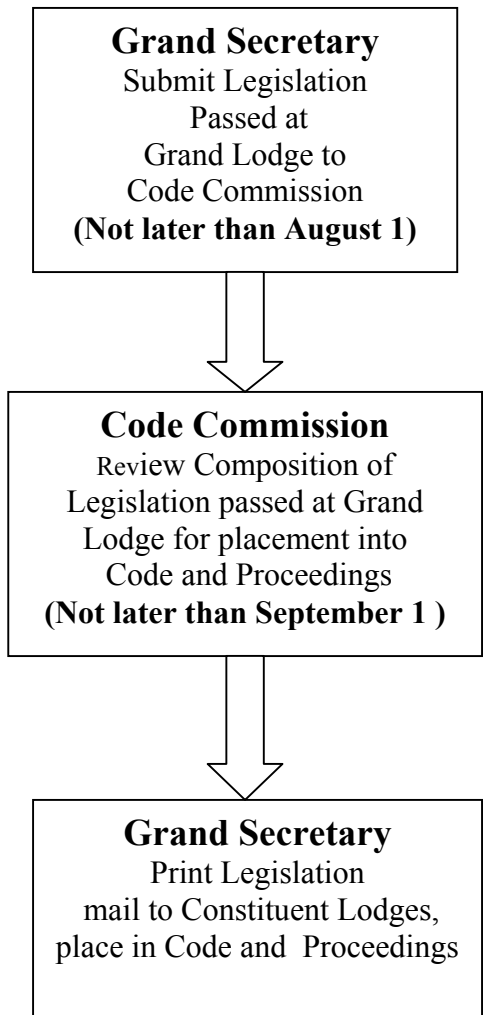
**APPENDIX B  
FLOW CHART FOR RESOLUTION & GM RECOMMENDATION**



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**APPENDIX C**

**Flow Chart-Legislation Passed**



[Rev. 2003]

**Outline of a Proper Format of a Proposed Resolution shall be as follows:**

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**Resolution [ year] -- \_\_\_\_**

**To Amend Sec. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_**

**Statement of Purpose:** Describe what this Resolution will provide or accomplish.

**Resolution:** Give statement as to the existing law, the problem or your concern and how this resolution would enhance and or make it more desirable with the proposed change.

**Whereas,** give example justification for the proposed Resolution, and

**Whereas,** give example justification for the proposed Resolution, and

**Now, therefore, Be It Resolved,** that (give Section \_\_#\_\_, Subsection \_#\_) be amended to read as follows:

[Instruction: ensure all sections to be amended in the code are covered in Resolution.]

~~(All wording to be changed shall be in Brackets and lined through.)~~

All wording to be inserted or added shall be underlined.

[Example:]

**Sec. 15.04 B.L.**

**Holding Two Offices.**

1. No Brother shall hold two offices in a Lodge at the same time except that (in) a Lodge may at its discretion elect one Brother to ~~(of less than 100 members)~~ the combined offices of Secretary and Treasurer. ~~(may be held by one Brother.)~~

2. (No Change)

**Respectfully Submitted,**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Lodge No. \_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_, **Worshipful Master**

\_\_\_\_\_, **Secretary**

**(Seal)**

## APPENDIX D

### OLD CHARGES AND REGULATIONS

WITH NOTES BY  
WILLIAM HENRY UPTON, P.G.M.

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#### I. THE MANUSCRIPT OLD CHARGES From the Thomas W. Tew MS, circa 1680<sup>1\*</sup>

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#### THE CHARGES

Every Man that is a Mason take heed right well & wisely to this Charge, if that you find Your Self Guilty of any of these that You Amend them if you be Against God & Principality's for they that he Charged must take heed that may keep these Charges: for it is Great Peril to foreswear Himself upon the book.<sup>2</sup>

1stly The first charge is that you shall be true men to God and to the holy Church, that you use no heresie or Error to Your understanding or discreet Men Teaching<sup>3</sup>

2dly You shall be true Liegeman to the King without treason or Falsehood & you shall know no treason or falsehood but you shall Amend it or Warn the King or his Councill or his Officers' thereof

3dly And also You shall be true Each one to Other, that is to say to Every Master and ffellow of the Craft of Masonry that be Masons Allowed,<sup>4</sup> And doe you to them as you would they should do to you.

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<sup>1</sup> From an unknown date prior to the 15<sup>th</sup> century to an unknown date in the 18<sup>th</sup>, when a man was made a brother of our Fraternity, a long legendary history of Masonry was read to him from a manuscript called the Book of Constitutions (Latin *constituito*, a founding originating), after which one of the elders held the Bible, and the candidate placed his hand upon it and received "his charge." This charge, though probably originally a distinct document, and older than the legendary history, was, during the period mentioned, annexed to the narrative and read from the same book, Of the MSS, used on these occasions, which are our most important source of knowledge in regard to the laws and usages of our ancient brethren, nearly seventy are now known to be in existence, and we possess printed copies of a few others which have been lost. Of the former, one (exclusive of Regius or Halliwell poem) was copied from an earlier MS, early in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, one late in the 16<sup>th</sup> (1583), thirty-nine in the 17<sup>th</sup>, twenty-one in the 18<sup>th</sup>, and a few in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. They differ among themselves in many important as well as unimportant particulars; and a full account of each MS will be found in the 1895 edition of HUGHAN'S "Old Charges." For the sake of convenience they have been named, and classified into families and branches. The version of the Charges given in the "Tew MS." Has been selected for printing in this Code for several reasons: It is one not particularly accessible to American students: it bears a very close resemblance to one used by DR. ANDERSON in preparing the version printed in Appendix C; it fairly presents the law as it existed just prior to the Grand Lodge era; and it is considered by Brothers HUGHAN and BEGEMANN (then whom none stand higher in this branch of study) one of the most important of all versions. The former says ("Old Charges" 2d ed., 105):

"Unquestionably, the Roll is one of the valuable of the versions, other than the 'Regius,' 'Cooke' and the 'Plot Family of MSS, it being closely related to the last mentioned and a connecting line between the 'William Watson' and the later Families."

Dr. BEGEMANN (in the "Zirkel-Correspondenz," as translated by Bro. G.W. SPETH in "Art Quatuor Coronatorum," ix, 20) says:

"First of all the author of the Cooke MS. Compiled with the help of 'Old Bookys of the Charges' and the current histories of his time, about 1410, a History of Masonry: this was revised and expanded about 1480 into a version which served as a model for the William Watson MS.: about 1520 or 1530 this was again revised and condensed into a version of which the Tew MS. May be considered an example: this was further revised and portions omitted to give us the version to which the Atcheson-Haven, Buchanan and Beaumont MSS. Belong: then came a last revision which produced the parent form of the majority of the manuscripts known to us, and which belong partly to the Sloane and partly to the Grand Lodge Families: from the first sprang later the Roterts family, and from the second the youngest group of all, the Spencer family."

With the remark that these revisions affected the historical narrative more than the Charges proper, we will add that the Tew MS. Is a scroll, composed of three strips of parchment, over six inches in breadth and six and one-half feet in length, contains 280 lines of writing and was copied about the year 1680 by a scribe who appears to have taken considerable pains with his work. It does not contain the "new Articles" or the "Apprentice Charge;" and the "Charges Singuler" after the "121y" are not numbered.

"—yt he amend himself towards God & principally you yt. be charged take good heed," etc. — *Hugban MS.*, circa 1680.

<sup>2</sup> # This whole introduction is wanting in many MSS., and it was probably originally not in writing. Yet, for the picture it gives of the old manner of working, a longer version may be worth printing, viz:

"It as likewise ordained yt when any mason should be made yt the saide book should be read to him, & his Charge given him, which he was to keep inviolably with an oath then to be administered to him.

"These Charges which we now rehearse to you & all other ye secrets & misterys belonging to free masons you shall faithfully & truly keep, together with ye Councell of ye Assembly or lodge, or any other lodge, or brother, or fellow. You shall not for any gift, or bribe, or reward, favour, or affection, dirrectly or indirectly, for any Cause whatsoever, devolve ye same to father or mother, brother or sister, son or daughter, wife, kindred, or relation, or any other person whatsoever, so help me God, ye hold lord & the sentence of this book. •

Then after ye oath taken & thje book kissed, ye following precepts & charges, which he or they are to keep, are to be read." — Dumfries Kilwinning MS. No. 3, circa 1690.

<sup>3</sup> We know of no version of this last clause that is smooth English; but the idea is evident: that they are not to rely upon their own understanding of religious matters, but are to be governed by the teachings of wise and discreet men — a favorite doctrine of the medieval Church.

4ly Also that Every Mason keep Councill both of Lodge & Chamber, and of the Craft and all other councells that ought to be kept by way of Masonry.

5thly Also that no Mason shall be a thief of Accessory to the thief as far forth as You doe know.

6ly Also that you be true men to the Lords & Mastrs that You serve and truly look so to his Profit and Advantage.

7thly And also you shall Call Masons your Brethren or ffellows and by no other Foule names nor take your ffellow's wife Unlawfully or Desire his Daughter Unlawfully or his Servt in Villany.

8thly And also that you pay truly for your table & for your Meat & Drink where you are Tabled.

9thly Also you shall Play no Villany in the House where you are board whereby the Craft may be slandered.

These be the Generall charges that Every Mason should hold both Mastrs and Fellows.<sup>5</sup>

And these be the Charges Singuler for Master's and Fellows.

1<sup>st</sup> That no Master shall take<sup>6</sup>

With the know himself Able in Cunning to Perform it, So that the Craft have no Slandr or disworship but that the Lord<sup>7</sup> may be well & truly served.

2ly Also that no Master take any work but that he take it reasonably so that the Lord may be truly served with his owne Good and that the Master may Live Honestly and Pay his ffellows truly as the Mannrs of the Craft Asketh.

3dly Also that no man that is a Master Mason or ffellow shall Supplant any other Man of his work (that is to say) if he have taken a Work of a Lord or Master that you put him not out Unless he be not able in Cunning to Finish the Work.

4ly Also that no Master or ffellow take any Apprentice to be Allowed his Apprentice any longer than Seven Years<sup>8</sup> & that Apprentice to be of Able birth & kindred as he ought to be.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> "Mason Allowed" was a technical expression equivalent to our "Free and Accepted Mason," distinguishing members of the Fraternity from mere stone-masons.

<sup>5</sup> There is much variety in the form of this sentence in the various versions. There has been much conjecture, but no certainty, as to the reason or theyry of the division of the Charges into two parts. One is, that one set of charges was for Masters of the Work only, and the other for both Masters and Fellows. A more probably one is that there was a theory that the "General Charges" had been prescribed – or, more probably, examined and approved – by the civil authority; while the "Charges Singuler" were made "at divers congregations by the good advice of Masters and Fellows," under the favorite Masonic claim of the right of self-government. See *Ars O.C.*, vii, 127, note 4, 131.

<sup>6</sup> "that noe Master or ffellow take," etc. – William Watson MS., 1687.

<sup>7</sup> "Lord" means employer – the person for whom the work is done.

<sup>8</sup> The Tew MS. is one of the very few versions which exactly reverse the real rule, which was that the apprenticeship must not be for *less* than seven years, as will appear in the next note.

<sup>9</sup> As in charges "4ly" and "5thly" our ancient brethren see down their idea of the Masonic law of physical qualification; and as modern writers are not agreed as to what that law is, the Code Commission has endeavored to ascertain what the original form of these two charges, by a very careful examination of all the versions of the MS. Charges with his reach – 63 in number, including all the more important versions and all the versions except those known to scholars as C 3, D 10, D 23, D 26, D 28, D 35, D 39, E 12, E 14, F 4, G 3, H 3 and H 4, some of which are of little value and others are copies of versions included in the examination. From this examination he is satisfied that the 4<sup>th</sup> charge originally read – spelling modernized – substantially as follows – the punctuation being important:

"That no Master nor Fellow take no Apprentice but for seven years; and ye Apprentice to be able, of birth freeborn, and of limbs whole as a man ought to be."

Also, that through the errors of copyists, three classes of changes crept into some versions: First – not chronologically – the words "to be learned" were inserted after the word "Apprentice" where it first occurs; as in the Cooke MS., circa 1430. These words were then corrupted (*a*) without changing their meaning, as in the Regius MS., circa 1390; and (*b*) with change of meaning, as into the words "to be allowed" in the Tew MS. Second, the idea of the words "but for seven years" (Sm. Watson MS., 1687) was more clearly expressed in some versions; as by, "for lasse terme than VII yer at the lest," in the Cooke MS.; and was lost in a very few others, as in the Buchanan (circa 1670) and the Tew. Third, the last clause was read as if punctuated thus: "And ye Apprentice to be able of birth, freeborn, and of limbs whole," etc.; and the scribe wrote "able of birth, viz.: freeborn" and other expressions, in trying to make sense of the passage, notwithstanding the error due to erroneous punctuation. "Able" probably meant the same as "able in Cunning" in charge 3. See second note under Charge 5.

5thly Also that no Master of ffellow take no Allowance to make Masons<sup>10</sup> Without of six or five at the least of ffellows to give their Assent And that they that shall be Masons be free born & of Good kindred and not a Bondman and have his right Limbs as he should have.<sup>11</sup>

6ly Also that no Masters of Fellows put no Lords Work to task that was Wont to go in Journey

7ly And also that no Mastr shall give to his ffellows above what they may Deserve so that the Lord of the Work be not Deceived by false Workmen.

8ly And also that no man slandr Another behind his back whereby he may lose his Good Name & his Worldly Goods

9ly That no ffellow within the Lodge or Without the Lodge do Minister Evill Answr to Another

10ly And also that Every one should Reverence his ffellow Eldr<sup>12</sup> and Putt him to Worship.

11ly And also that noe Mason should Play at Cards or Dice or any other Unlawful gains<sup>13</sup> of Hazard Whereby the Craft should be Slandered.

12ly Also that no Mason shall be a Common ribald in Leachery to make the Craft Slandered. And that no ffellow shall go into the towne in the Night there as is a Lodge of ffellows without some ffellow that may bear him Witness that he was in an Honest place.

[13] And also that Every Master should come to the Assembly if it be within Seven Miles about him, gif he have warning & to stand there at Award of Masters & ffellows.<sup>14</sup>

[14] And that Every Master if they have trespassed shall stand at Award of Masters & ffellows to make them Accord if they may, and if they may not Accord then to go to the Common Laws.<sup>15</sup>

[15] And also that noe Mason make Moulde nor Square nor other Rule to lend within the Lodge nor Without, how to Mould Stones Without or Mould of his owne making.<sup>16</sup>

[16] And also that Every Mason shall Receive & Cherish Strange Masons when they come to their owne Country<sup>17</sup> & Sett them to Work as the Mannr is (that is to say) if they have Mould or Stones in place he

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<sup>10</sup> We have met with no modern explanation of this curious expression, which – with the whole of Charge 5 – is missing in the Cooke MS. and some other versions. The law, whatever it was, was understood in at least four different ways by the scribe, viz.: As forbidding one to take permission [from whom?] (a.) to make Masons (Tew MS.); (b.) to be made a Mason (Watson MS.); and (c.) to be made a Master (Waistell MS., 1693); (d.) the Haddon MS. reads,

“And also that no Master, nor no Fellow take nor allow any to be made Masons without.” etc. merely an attempt to “make crooked things straight.” The recently discovered McNab MS. (dated 1722) has,

“You shall not take upon you to make any one Mason without ye privity & consent of 5 or 6 of your fellowes.”

The Haddon M.S. instead of the consent of fiver or six – or six or seven – Fellows, demands the consent of Fellows “that hath served Six or Seven years at the least.” A few other versions practically agree with this.

<sup>11</sup> By the comparison of versions mentioned in the second note on charge “4ly” above, we reach these conclusions:

First, that his charge is probably later than some others. Second, that the original form of the latter, part of it was approximately as follows:

“And that he that shall be made Mason be able, of degree freeborn and no bondsman, and that he have his right limbs as a man ought to have.”

After this came to be read as though punctuated, “able of degree, freeborn,” etc., a variety of forms – “able in all manner of degrees” (Phillipps No. 1, circa 1680), “abell in all mainer of dewties” (Aberdeen MS., 1670), “able over all Sciences” (Alnwick MS., 1701), etc., - usually followed by the words (that is to day, freeborn,” etc., were developed to account for or explain the expression “able of degree.”

<sup>12</sup> “His elder,” or “his elder fellow,” in most versions.

<sup>13</sup> “Games.” There is considerably variety in the different versions of this charge. Some say, “except at Christmas.”

<sup>14</sup> There are many variations of this charge. Seven Mss. say five miles; three say seven; four, ten; one says thirty; two say forty; and most of the others say fifty. Bro. HUGHAN considers the latter the true length of the cabletow, but we think the rule differed in districts of different size. Most versions say “Every Master and Fellow” should come. “Gif (if) he has warning” is probably a gloss. “To stand there at Award” means, “to submit to the award,” and is probably out of place in this charge, having crept in from the 14<sup>th</sup>. The Assembly was the annual meeting of all the Masters and Fellows of the Neighborhood or district. It seems to have become obsolete in England before the Grand Lodge era.

<sup>15</sup> As to “Master” see preceding note. Something has apparently dropped out of this charge; but the idea was, that if controversy had arisen, or if one had trespassed against the Craft, the brethren were to try to settle the matter at the Assembly; but if they failed, the manner was to be left to be settled by the laws of the land. See charge 20.

<sup>16</sup> The wretched success which the transcribers of nearly every version of the MS. Charges had in attempting to copy his charge would alone demonstrate that they were speculative Masons who did not know the meaning of the technical terms of the stone-masons’ trade which they transcribed. Perhaps the Carson MS., 1677, states the rule as accurately as any:

“Also that no Master nor fellow, make Nor Rule nor Square, nor Mould to no Layer, nor to sett no Layer on worke, within the Lodge or without to any Moulded Stones.”

The word “Layer” – seen in the term “brick-layer” – referred to a workman who had not learned the trade and been admitted free of the craft – a profane. “Cowan” is sometimes used in the same connection.

<sup>17</sup> Nearly every version has “when they come over the country,” or equivalent words.

Every Grand Lodge regulation which refuses recognition to unaffiliated Masons, or brothers of “unrecognized” jurisdictions, or Masons made according to the law of the place of their making but contrary to the regulations of the place they visit, is a direct violation of this very ancient charge.

shall sett him a Fortnights Work at the least and give him his Pay & if he have no Stones, you shall Refresh him with money<sup>18</sup> to the next Lodge.

[17] And also that every Mason shall serve truly his Lord for his pay & truly finish his work be it task or Journey work if he may have his pay as he Ought to have.

[18] And also that every Mason shall work truly upon the workday that he may truly Deserve his pay & receive it so that he may live honestly on the holyday.

[19] And also that you and Every Mason shall receive weekly and Godly pay of your Paymaster & that you shall have due time of travelling in the work & of rest as is Ordained by the Masts Councill.<sup>19</sup>

[20] And also that if any ffellows shall be at Discord you shall truly treat them to be Agreed shewing Favour to neither Party but Wisely & truly for both Parties and that it be in such a time that the Lords work be not hindered.<sup>20</sup>

[21] And also that if you stand Warder<sup>21</sup> or have any Power under the Mastr whom you serve You shall be true to the Mastr whom you serve & be a true Mediatr betwixt the Mr. and your ffellows to the Uttermost of your Power whilst you be in Care.

[22] Also if you stand Steward either of the Lord's Chamber or Common house you shall Give true Accts of your ffellows how it is at what time they have Accots.<sup>22</sup>

[23] And also if you have more Cunning than your Fellows that stand by you & see him in Danger to levell<sup>23</sup> his Stones and he Asketh Councill of you, you shall inform him and teach him honestly so that your Lord's Work be not Damaged.<sup>24</sup>

THESE Charges that we have Reckoned,<sup>25</sup> And all other that Doe belong to Masonry you shall keep SO HELP YOU GOD Above & by this book to your Power.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Every version of this charge which we have seen, except one – in a MS. of no authority – is very particular to state that the refreshment must be “with money.”

<sup>19</sup> “Weekly” is an effor for “meekly.” Travelling” – travailing – of course means laboring. Few versions mention a “Paymaster” or “Master’s Councill.” The words “Masts Councill” are printed “Mastr Councill” in HUGHAN’S “Old charges,” but by a typographical error, as Bro. HUGHAN authorizes me to say. The expression doubtless means “order of the Master.” The Cooke MS. reads:

“when he schalle take his pay that he take hit mekely as the tyme ys ordeynyd by the master to be done and that he fulfyll the acepcious of trauayle and of his rest y ordeyned and sett by the maister.”

<sup>20</sup> The Cooke MS. indicates more clearly that if “discorde” arose the parties were to “be styll” at the bidding of the Master until the “holy day folowyng,” when they were bound to “acorde” “at the dispocon of his felaus;” and that such Lodges of Conciliation were to be held on Sundays or other holidays, not on work days.

<sup>21</sup> “Warden.” – *Wm. Watson MS.*, 1687.

<sup>22</sup> “Alsoe if ye Stand Steward either of Lodge Chamber or of common house needs, ye Shall giue true account of ye ffellowes good how yt is dispensed, at what time they will take account.” – *Wm. Watson MS.*

The last clause means “when they wish an accounting.” “Fellowes good” means “fellows’ goods.” “Lodge (or Lord’s) Chamber or of common house” should doubtless read, “Lodge, chamber or common house.” The term “Steward” occurs in few versions.

<sup>23</sup> “lese.” – *Cooke MS.*; “Spoile.” – *Wm. Watson MS.*

<sup>24</sup> The Cooke MS. adds another reason: “that the more loue may encrease amonge hem.”

<sup>25</sup> “Rehearsd.” – *Hughan MS.*

<sup>26</sup> There is considerable variety, among the versions, in this concluding clause. The Cooke MS. ends abruptly, - “AMEN SO MOTE HIT BE.”

The Buchanan MS., circa 1680, has:

“These Charges that you haue Received you shall well and truly keepe, not disclosing the Secresy of our Lodge to man, woman, nor child: Sticke nor stone; thing moueable nor immoueable, soe god you helpe and hiss holy Doome, Amen. *ffinis.*”



## II. THE NEW ARTICLES<sup>27</sup>

From GRAND LODGE MS, No. 2, *circa* 1650

27. Noe pson of what degree Soever be accepted a Ffree Mason vnlesse he shall have a Lodge of five free Masons att ye least, whereof one to be Master or Warden of that Limitt, or division, wherein Such Lodge shall be kept and another of the Trade of ffreemasonry.<sup>28</sup>

28. that noe p'son shall be accepted a ffree Mason but Such as are of able body, honest parentage, good Reputacon, & observers of ye Lawes of the Land.

29. That noe pson hereafter which shall be accepted ffree Mason, shall be admitted into any Lodge or assembly, vntill he have brought a Certificate of ye tyme of his acception from ye Lodge yt accepted him vnto ye Master of Yt Limitt and Division, where such Lodge was kept, which said master shall Inroll ye same in pchment, in a Roll to be kept for yt purpose, and give accompt of all Such accepttions att every general assembly.

30. That every pson who is now a ffree Mason shall bringe to ye Master a note of ye tyme of his acception, to ye end ye Same may be Inrolled in such priority of place as ye pson deservs, and to the end ye whole company and fellows may the better know each other.

31. That for ye future ye Said Society, Company and ffraternity of ffree masons shall be regulated and governed by one Master<sup>29</sup> and assembly and Wardens as the said Company shall think fitt to chuse att every yearly general assembly.<sup>30</sup>

32. that noe pson shall be accepted a free mason except he be one and twenty yeares old or more.

33. That noe pson hereafter be accepted a ffree mason or know ye Secretts of ye Said Society vntill he shall first have taken ye oath of Secresie hereafter followeing.

These Articles and Charges wch I have rehearsed to yw yow shall well and truly observe & keep to yor power. Soe help yw God, & the hold Contents of this booke.<sup>31</sup>

## III. "THE APPRENTICES CHARGE"

From the WAISTELL MS., 1693

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<sup>27</sup> In 1722, when it was known that DR. ANDERSON was about to issue his Book of Constitutions (see first foot-note in appendix C), an enterprising publisher issued a book entitled –

“The Old constitutions Belonging to the Ancient and Honourable Society of Free and Accepted Masons. Taken from an Manuscript wrote about Five Hundred Years since. London: Printed and Sold by J. Roberts, in Warwick Lane. MDCCXXII.”

This book contains the “Apprentice charges,” and the “New Articles” – therein styled “Additional Orders” – which were unknown to the early MS. and were probably drawn up *early* in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Speaking of ROBERTS’ book, Bro. WILLIAM JAMES HUGHAN says:

“The ‘Additional Orders and Constitutions’ are declared to have been ‘made and agreed upon at a General Assembly held at \*\*\* on the Eighth Day of December, 1663’ but evidently this guess was not explicit enough for Dr. Anderson, as he states in ‘Constitutions’ 1738, that the Earl of St. Albans ‘held a General Assembly and Feast on St. John’s Day, 27<sup>th</sup> Dec., 1663’ (page101), when these regulations were made. One romance is as good or worthless as the other; and like the claim of Roberts, that the MS. he copied from was then about 500 years old, is only quoted now to show how Masonic ‘History’ was written at that period.” – Old Charges (Ed., 1895), 122.

“The ‘additional’ or ‘new’ articles appear to have been agreed to by some Company or body of Freemasons, having jurisdiction in one form or other over a number of Lodges, about which at the present time we are absolutely without information, and which seems to have been in part of a speculative character. \*\*\* Dr. Anderson does not refer to these ‘Articles’ in 1723, but in the second edition of 1738 he gives them, in his own way, as the Regulations made on St. John’s Day, 27<sup>th</sup> Dec., 1663. I think that the Roberts’ text was selected (and altered) by him accordingly.” – *Id.*, 124.

The MS. from which we quote in the text is considered the oldest in which these Articles are found. We have retained the numbers which the articles bear in that MS. The reader will see from Bro. HUGHAN’S observations that these Articles, unlike most of the Charges proper, were not general laws for the government of the whole Fraternity, but were local regulations.

<sup>28</sup> ANDERSON, in his version, altered the words “unless he shall have a Lodge of five free Masons att ye least,” “unless in a regular Lodge.”

<sup>29</sup> ANDERSON changed this to “One Grand Master.”

<sup>30</sup> Bro. E. CONDER, JR., has pointed out (*Hole Crafte and Fellowship of Masons*, 11; and *Ars. Q.C.*, ix. 39) the remarkable similarity of this article to a rule of the Masonic Company of London, that the Company is to be ruled by Master, Wardens and Assistants, but we think he has not shown that the rule of the Company of which he is Master is older than Grand Lodge MS. No. 2

<sup>31</sup> The oath is given in Harleian MS. No. 1942, *circa* 1650, as follows:

“I: A: B: Doe in the presence of Almighty god & my fellows & Brethren here present, promise and declare, that I will not at any time, hereafter, by any Act or Circumstance whatsoever, Directly or Indirectly, publish, discover, reveale, or make knowne any of the secrets, priviledges, or Counsellis of the ffraternity or fellowship of free masonry, which at this time, or any time hereafter, shall bee made known vnto me, soe helpe mee god & the holy contents of this booke.”

Imprms That he shall be true to God and his Holy church & the King and his mr whom he shall truly serve.

2dly That he shall not pick away his Mr. and Mrs. goods nor absent himself from their Srvice not goe from ym about his own pleasure by day or by night without licence.

3dly He shall keep Counsell in all things spoken in Lodge or chamber by any Mastr fellow or free Mason he shall not keep any disobedient argumt against any; nor disclose any secrett whereby any Difference shall arise amongst masons or fell; or apprntices but reverently to behave himself to all free masons being sworn brethren to his sd Mr.

4thly That he doe not comit Adultery nor fornication in his Mrs house wh his Mrs. Daughter or Srvant.<sup>32</sup>

5thly Hee shall not use any Carding or diceing or other unlawful games<sup>33</sup> nor haunt any Tavrns or Ailehouses there wasting his mastrs goods without License.

6thly Hee shall not Comit adultery in any mans house where he shall have worked or be Table.

7thly He shall not purloin nor stal the Goods of any prson or Consent thereto; nor willingly suffer harm or shame During his sd apprentishipp but to withstand the same to ye utmost of his power & Thereof to inform his sd maistr or some other free Mason with all possible & convenient speed.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> “With his wife, daughter, or mayd.” – *Harleian MS.*, No. 1942.

<sup>33</sup> (“Christmas Excepted).” – *Harleian MS.*, No. 1942.

<sup>34</sup> “You shall not marry or contract yourselfe to any woeman during youre Apprenticeship.” – *Harleian MS.*, No. 1942.

## APPENDIX E

### THE CHARGES OF A FREE MASON

Extracted from the ancient RECORDS of LODGES beyond 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.<sup>35</sup>

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#### THE GENERAL HEADS, VIZ

- I. OF GOD and RELIGION.
- II. Of the CIVIL MAGISTRATE E supreme and subordinate.
- III. Of LODGES.
- IV. Of MASTERS, WARDENS, FELLOWS, and APPRENTICES.
- V. Of the Management of the CRAFT in working.
- VI. Of BEHAVIOUR, 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 presence of STRANGERS NOT MASONS.
  5. At HOME and in the NEIGHBOURHOOD.
  6. Towards a STRANGE BROTHER.

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<sup>35</sup> We owe this famous version of the Old Charges to the fact that His Grace The DUKE OF MONTAGU, Grand Master 1721-2, found fault with the manuscript versions of the Constitutions (*i.e.*, Legendary History of the Fraternity) previously in use, and ordered REV. JAMES ANDERSON “to peruse, correct, and digest, into a new and metter method, the HISTORY, CHARGES and REGULATIONS of the ANCIENT FRATERNITY.” The progress of the revision is shown by the following extracts from the second (1738) edition of ANDERSON’S book?

29 Sep. 1721. – “His Grace’s *Worship* and the *Lodge* (Grand Lodge) finding Fault with all the copies of the *old Gothic Constitutions*, order’d Brother *James Anderson*, A. M. to digest the same in a new and better Method.”

27 Dec. 1721. – “MONTAGUE *Grand Master*, at the Desire of the *Lodge*, appointed 14 learned Brothers to examine Brother *Anderson*’s Manuscript, and to make Report.”

25 March 1722. – “The said *Committee* of 14 reported that they had perused Brother *Anderson*’s *Manuscript*, viz., the *History, Charges, Regulations and Master’s Song*, and after some Amendments had approv’d of it; Upon which the *Lodge* desir’d the *Grand Master* to order it to be printed.”

17 January 1722-3. – “G. Warden *Anderson* produced the *new Book of Constitutions* now in Print, which was again approv’d, with the Addition of the antient Manner of Constituting a Lodge.”

From the samples printed in Appendix B, the justness will, in part, be seen of the criticism contained in the “Approbation” mentioned below, that the manuscript versions had been –

“much interpolated, mangled, and miserably corrupted, not only with false Spelling, but even with many false Facts and gross Errors in HISTORY and CHRONOLOGY, through Length of Time, and the Ignorance of TRANSCRIBERS, in the dark illiterate Ages, before the revival of GEOMETRY and ancient ARCHITECTURE, to the great Offence of all the learned and judicious BRETHREN, whereby also the IGNORANT have been deceiv’d.”

In the historical part of his work, ANDERSON rather added to than diminished the number of “false Facts and gross Errors.” How much, if any, better he succeeded in digesting the Charges – how closely he adhered to his originals and to what extent he made alterations, and incorporated ideas of his own, - the reader can judge by comparing the Charges here printed with those given in Appendix B.

Sometime between 24 June 1722 and 17 Jan. 1722-3, an “Approbation” of Bro. ANDERSON’S work was signed by the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and Grand Wardens, and by the Masters and Wardens of twenty “particular Lodges,” and the work was then issued, bearing date 1723.

## I. Concerning GOD and RELIGION<sup>36</sup>

A Mason is oblig'd, 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 charg'd in every Country to be of the Religion of that Country or Nation, whatsoever it was, yet 'tis now thought more expedient only to oblige themselves 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 distinguish'd; whereby Masonry becomes the CENTER of UNION, and the Means of conciliating true Friendship among Persons that must else have remain'd at a perpetual Distance.<sup>37</sup>

## 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 concern'd in Plots and Conspiracies against the Peace and Welfare of the Nation, nor to behave himself undutiful to inferior Magistrates; for as Masonry hath been always injured by War, Bloodshed, and Confusion, so ancient Kings and Princes have been much dispos'd to encourage the craftsmen, because of their Peaceableness and LOYALTY, whereby they practically answer'd the Cavils of their Adversaries, and promoted the Honour of the Fraternity, who ever flourish'd in times of Peace. So that if a Brother should be a Rebel against the State, he is not be countenanc'd 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 out 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 organiz'd Society of Masons, is call'd a Lodge, and every Brother ought to belong to one, and to be subject to its BY-LAWS and the GENERAL REGULATIONS.<sup>38</sup> It is either PARTICULAR or GENERAL, and will be best understood by attending it, and by the Regulations of the GENERAL or GRAND

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Owing to its cheapness, legibility and convenient form, as well as to the sanction given it by Grand Lodge, this version quite generally – though not universally – superseded the manuscript versions in English Lodges; and it served as a shibboleth and palladium to the brethren on the Continent who upheld the cause of pure ancient Masonry against the fanciful systems which over-ran Europe in the latter half of the eighteenth century. It is equally valuable in combatting in America numerous errors which gained a footing during a century in which nearly all the history of Masonry was a sealed book even to our most earnest students. Indeed the greatness of our debt to ANDERSON'S version has created a school of writers, which is even yet exceedingly influential, which would make this version the touch-stone even where it differs from the originals which it professed to digest – in other words, who place the authority of the printed Charges of 1723 above that of the MS. Old Charges them selves. But, it seems to us, to state this claim is to show its untenableness.

In his second (1738) edition, Anderson made many changes in the Charges, thus showing that he attached no peculiar sacredness to his work, but considered it simply *one version* of the Old Charges of the Fraternity. Most of these changes we have deemed it unnecessary to note, as the Fraternity has never considered them improvements, and few if any of them appear to have been based upon any authority other than ANDERSON'S taste.

<sup>36</sup> Upon the fact that the name of God does not appear in this Charge – although it does in the corresponding charge of the MS. versions, - the Grand Orient of France, and some other bodies base their claim of a right to omit all reference to Him from their constitutions and ritual.

<sup>37</sup> This charge seems to have met with some disapproval; and Bro. JOHN PENNELL, in preparing the Book of Constitutions printed by the Grand Lodge of Ireland in 1730, omitted all of it from the words "But though" to the words "to themselves," inclusive. In ANDERSON'S 1738 edition it was changed to read as follows:

"A Mason is obliged by his Tenure to observe the Moral Law, as a true *Noachida*; and if he rightly understands the *Craft*, he will never be a Stupid Atheist, nor an Irreligious Libertin, nor act against Conscience.

"In Antient Times the *Christian Masons* were charged to comply with the Christian Usages of each Country where they travell'd or work'd; But *Masonry* being found in all Nations, even of divers Religions, they are now only charged to adhere to that Religion in which all Men agree (leaving each Brother to his own particular Opinions) that is, to be Good Men and True, Men of Honour and Honesty, by whatever Names, Religions or Persuasions they may be distinguish'd; For they all agree in the 3 great *Articles* of NOAH, enough to preserve the Cement of the Lodge. Thus *Masonry* is the Center of their Union and the happy Means of conditioning Persons that otherwise must have remain'd at a perpetual Distance."

The latter form was in force when LAURENCE DERMOTT published the first edition of his famous "Ahiman Rezon," and was adopted by him, and thus became the law of the "Ancients" or "Athol" Masons.

<sup>38</sup> Concerning this clause, which has been invoked as a justification for much coercive and unfraternal legislation, in recent times, against our unaffiliated brethren, see the Washington Correspondence Report of 1895, page 103, where it is pointed out that the clause "and every Brother ought to belong to one," etc., although consistent with the spirit of Freemasonry, when regarded merely as a general rule, was not based upon anything in the MS. Old Charges, but was one of ANDERSON'S additions; also, that it has never been regarded, in the Grand Lodge which approved it, as a mandate – to be enforced by penalties, - but as advisory only.

LODGE hereunto annex'd.<sup>39</sup> In ancient Times, no MASTER or FELLOW could be absent from it, especially when warn'd to appear at it, without incurring a severe Censure, until it appear to the MASTER and WARDENS, that pure Necessity hinder'd him.

The Persons admitted Members of a LODGE must be good and true Men, freeborn, and of mature and discreet Age, no Bondmen, no Women, nor 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 despis'd: 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,<sup>40</sup> 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 qualify'd, 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 LODGES, according to his Merit.

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<sup>39</sup> *No footnote is printed, though one is indicated.*

<sup>40</sup> It will be noticed that at this time, 1723, - or even in 1738 - the apprentice of a Mason was not necessarily a "Brother" or "Entered Apprentice." Among the numerous changes in this Charge made by ANDERSON in 1738, was a clause reading,

"and that, when of Age and Expert, he (the 'Prentice') may become an *Enter'd Prentice*, or a *Free-Mason* of the lowest Degree, and upon his due improvements a *Fellow-Craft* and a *Master-Mason*, capable to undertake a *Lord's Work*."

Another change makes the Charge declare that, "The WARDENS are chosen from among the *Master-Masons*;" and that, in extraordinary cases, one who has not been a Warden may be Master of a Lodge. Another declares,

"But no Number without 3 *Master-Masons* can form a *Lodge*."

Another declares that the Grand Master must have been Master of a Lodge.

No Brother can be a Warden until he has pass'd the part of the 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 nobly born, or a GENTLEMEN 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 chuse 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 obey'd 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 confirm'd by Custom, shall be observ'd.

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 call'd 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.

#### 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, nor to talk of anything impertinent or unseemingly, 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; not use any unbecoming Language upon any Pretence whatsoever; but to pay due Reverence to your MASTER, WARDENS, and FELLOWS, and put them to worship.

If 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 referr'd, unless a LORD'S WORK be hinder'd the mean while, 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 less any Quarrels about RELIGION, or NATIONS, or STATE POLICY, we being only, as MASONS of the CATHOLICK RELIGION above mention'd; we are also of all NATIONS, TONGUES, KINDREDS, and LANGUAGES,<sup>41</sup> and are resolv'd against ALL POLITICKS, as what never yet conduc'd to the Welfare of the Lodge, nor ever will. this CHARGE has been always strictly enjoin'd and observ'd; but especially

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<sup>41</sup> In the 1738 edition, this reads:

“of all Nations upon the Square, Level and Plumb; and like our Predecessors in all Ages, we are resolv'd against political Disputes, as contrary to the Peace and Welfare of the Lodge.”

ever since the REFORMATION in BRITAIN, or the Dissent and Secession of these Nations from the COMMUNION of ROME.

3. BEHAVIOR when BRETHREN meet without STRANGERS, but not in a LODGE FORM'D

You are to salute one another in a courteous manner, as you will be instructed, calling each other BROTHER, freely giving mutual Instruction 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 deserv'd 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 deliver 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 Neighbors know the CONCERNS of the LODGE, &c. but wisely to consult your own Honour, and that of the ANCIENT BROTHERHOOD, for Reasons not to be mention'd 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 of Gluttony or Drunkenness, that your Families be not neglected or injured, nor you disabled from working.

6. BEHAVIOUR towards a STRANGE Brother

You are cautiously examine him, in such a Method as Prudence shall direct you, that you may not be impos'd 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 employ him some Days, or else recommend him to be employ'd. 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 Cape-stone, 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 is 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,<sup>42</sup> 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 LAW-SUITS, 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 Meditation, which ought to be thankfully submitted to by the contending Brethren; and if that Submission is impracticable, they

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<sup>42</sup> There are many changes in this Charge in the 1738 edition, and at this point the following appears:

“For if the Affair is only between Masons and about Masonry, Law-Suits ought to be prevented by the good Advice of prudent Brethren, who are the best Referees of such Differences.”

must however carry on their PROCESS or LAW-SUIT without Wrath or Rancor (not in the common way) saying or doing nothing which may hinder BROTHERLY LOVE, and good Offices to be renew'd and continu'd; 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.



## APPENDIX F

### OLD REGULATIONS OF 1721

#### GENERAL REGULATIONS<sup>43</sup>

Compiled first by Mr. GEORGE PAYNE, ANNO 1720, when he was GRAND-MASTER, and approv'd by the GRAND-LODGE on ST. 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. Josia		were chosen by the
		Villeneau		Lodge
and	{	Mr. Thos.	}	GRAND-
		Morris, Jun.		WARDENS

And now, by the Command of our said RIGHT WORSHIPFUL GRAND-MASTER MONTAGU, the AUTHOR of this BOOK has compar'd them with, and reduc'd them to the ancient RECORDS and immemorial USAGES 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.<sup>44</sup>

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.<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>43</sup> About all that is known of the origin of these Regulations is stated in their title. They were printed in ANDERSON'S "Constitutions." 1723. Originally styled "General Regulations," they are usually cited as "the Old Regulations," for the reason that ANDERSON in his second (1738) edition, after making various changes to them, printed in parallel columns with them what he denominated, "The NEW REGULATIONS, or the Alterations, Improvements, and Explications of the OLD, made by several *Grand Lodges*, since the first *Edition*."

The more important of these New Regulations – some of them merely comments by ANDERSON – are printed as foot-notes in the following pages, and marked "*New Reg.*, 1738." See note on Regulation XXXIX.

<sup>44</sup> "THAT is, only when the G. WARDENS are absent: For the *G. Master* cannot deprive 'em of their Office without shewing Cause fairly appearing to the *G. Lodge* according to the *Old Regulation* XVIII, so that if they are present in a *particular Lodge* with the *Grand Master*, they must act as WARDENS there." – *New Reg.*, 1738

<sup>45</sup> "On 25 Nov. 1723. It was agreed, (But was neglected to be recorded.) that if a *Master* of a particular *Lodge* is deposed or demits, the *Senior Warden* shall forthwith fill the *Master's* Chair till the next Time of chusing; and ever since, in the *Master's* absence, he fills the Chair, even tho' a *former Master* be present." – *New Reg.*, 1738.

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 List of all the LODGES in Town, and the usual Times and Places of their forming,<sup>46</sup> 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.<sup>47</sup>

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 Enquiry into the Reputation and Capacity of the CANDIDATE; unless by the Dispensation aforesaid.<sup>48</sup>

VI. But no Man can be enter'd 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 propose'd, and their Consent is formally ask'd by the MASTER,<sup>49</sup> 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 impos'd 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 cloath the LODGE, that is, all the Brethren present, and to deposit something for the Relief of indigent and decay'd 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 lodg'd with the MASTER *or* WARDENS, or the CASHIER, if the members think fit to chuse one.<sup>50</sup>

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; not 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 other 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.<sup>51</sup>

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<sup>46</sup> "On 21 Nov. 1724. If a *particular* Lodge remove to a *New Place* for their Stated Meeting, the *Officers* shall immediately signify the same to the *Secretary*." – *New Reg*, 1738. See note under Regulation IX.

<sup>47</sup> "On 27 Dec., 1727. The *Precedency of Lodges* is grounded on the Seniority of their *Constitution*." – *New Reg*., 1738.

<sup>48</sup> "On 19 Feb. 1724. No Brother shall belong to more than one Lodge within the Bills of Morality (tho' he may visit them all) except the Members of a *foreign* Lodge.

But this *Regulation* is neglected for several Reasons, and now obsolete." – *New Reg*. 1738.

LAWRENCE DERMOTT, in a note on a "Short Charge" appended to the Old Charges in the Masonic Code of the "Ancients," bases the objection to dual membership on the ground that a Mason is "not to neglect his own necessary Avocations for the sake of Masonry," saying:

"Here you are to understand that a Mason ought not to belong to a number of lodges at one time, nor run from lodge to lodge, or otherwise, after Masons or Masonry, whereby his business or family may be neglected; but yet every Mason is subject to all the bye-laws of his lodge, which he is strictly and constantly to obey; - for the attendance and dues of one lodge, can never prejudice neither him nor his family. – *Ahiman Rezon*, 1764, p. 36.

<sup>49</sup> But if they know the Candidate, they don't require a Dispensation." – *New Reg*., 1738.

<sup>50</sup> "On 19 Feb. 1724. No *Visitor*, however skill'd in Masonry, shall be admitted into a *Lodge*. unless he is personally known or well vouched and recommended by one of that Lodge present.

"But it was found inconvenient to insist upon *Unanimity* in several Cases: And therefore the *Grand Masters* have allow'd the *Lodges* to admit a member, if not above 3 *Ballots* are against him; though some *Lodges* desire no such *Allowance*." – *New Reg*., 1738.

– The earliest record or a Grand Master's "allowing" what the law should not be allowed. See the remainder of Regulation VI.

<sup>51</sup> After a reference to the Grand Lodge's "General Charity," first proposed in 1724, ANDERSON adds:

"Only *particular* Lodges are not limited, but may take their own Method for *Charity*." – *New Reg*., 1739.

<sup>51</sup> In other words, they must not, without authority, set up a new Lodge. That this Regulation is not aimed at individual withdrawals, but at the formation of unauthorized Lodges by "sets or numbers of brethren," sufficiently appears in the remainder of the Regulation, as well as the following notes thereon:

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 form'd, 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 signify'd to the OTHER LODGES, as the Custom is when a NEW LODGE is to be register'd 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 admonish'd by the MASTER or WARDENS in a FORM'D LODGE; and if he will not refrain his Impudence, and obediently submit to the Advice of the Brethren, and reform what gives them Offense, he shall be dealt with according to the BY-LAWS of that particular LODGE, or else in such a manner as the QUARTERLY COMMUNICATIONS shall in their great Prudence think fit; for which a NEW REGULATION may afterwards be made.<sup>52</sup>

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“On 25 April 1723. Every Brother concern'd in making Masons clandestinely, shall not be allow'd to visit *any Lodge* till he has made due Submission, even tho' the Brothers so made may be allow'd.

“On 19 Feb. 1724. None who form a *Stated Lodge* without the *G. Master's* Leave shall be admitted into *regular* Lodges, till they make Submission and obtain Grace.

“On 21 Nov. 1724. If any Brethren *form a Lodge* without Leave, and shall irregularly make *New Brothers*, they shall not be admitted into any *regular* Lodge, nor not as *visitors*, till they render a good Reason or make due Submission

“On 31 March 1735. Seeing that some *extraneous* Brothers have been made lately in a Clandestine Manner, that is in no *regular* Lodge nor by any Authority or Dispensation from the *G. Master*, and upon small unworthy Considerations, to the Dishonour of the *Craft*:

“The *Grand Lodge* decreed, that no Person so made, nor any concern'd in making him, shall be a *Grand Officer*, nor an *Officer* of a particular *Lodge*, nor shall any such partake of the General *Charity*, if they should come to want it.” – *New Reg.*, 1738.

<sup>52</sup>“On 25 Jan. 1738, the *Grand Lodge* made the following REGULATION:

“Whereas Disputes have arisen about the *Removal of Lodges* from One House to Another, and it has been question'd in whom that Power is vested; it is hereby declar'd,

“That *no Lodge* shall be removed without the *Master's* Knowledge; that no Motion be made for removing in the *Master's* Absence; and that if the Motion be *seconded* or *thirded*, the *Master* shall order Summons to every individual Member, specifying the Business, and appointing a Day for Hearing and Determining the Affair, at least Ten Days before; and that the Determination shall be made by the *Majority*, provided the *Master* be one of *that* Majority; but if he be of the *Minority* against Removing, the *Lodge* shall not be removed unless the *Majority* consists of full *Two Thirds* of the Members present.

“But if the *Master* shall refuse to direct such Summons, either of the *Wardens*, may do it; and if the *Master* neglects to attend on the Day fix'd, the *Warden* may preside in determining the Affair in the Manner prescribed; but they shall not in the *Master's* Absence, enter upon any other Cause but what is particularly mention'd in the *Summons*; and if the *Lodge* is thus regularly order'd to be removed, the *Master* or *Wardens* shall send Notice thereof to the *Secretary* of the *G. Lodge* for publishing the same at the next *Quarterly Communications*.” – *New Reg.* 1738. See note under Regulation III.

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 mention'd, 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 FREE-MASONS, some Members out of EVERY LODGE shall be deputed to visit the OTHER LODGES as often as shall be thought convenient.

XII. The GRAND-LODGE consists of, and is form'd by the MASTERS and WARDENS of all the regular particular LODGES upon Record,<sup>53</sup> with the GRAND-MASTER at their Head, and his DEPUTY on his Left-hand, and the GRAND WARDENS in their proper Places;<sup>54</sup> 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 allow'd to vote, nor even give his Opinion, without Leave of the GRAND-LODGE ask'd and given, or unless it be duly ask'd by the said Lodge.

All Matters are to be determin'd 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 discours'd of and transacted: APPRENTICES must be admitted MASTERS and FELLOW-CRAFT only here, unless by a Dispensation.<sup>55</sup> Here also all the 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

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<sup>53</sup> That is, upon the "Record" or roll of the Grand Lodge. There were other "regular particular Lodges" in existence in England at this time

"On 25 Nov. 1723. No *New Lodge* is own'd, nor their *officers* admitted into the *G. Lodge*, unless it be regularly constituted and register'd. – *New Reg.*, 1738.

<sup>54</sup> the "New Regulations" state that Past Grand Masters were made members of the Grand Lodge. 21 Nov. 1724; Past Deputy Grand Masters, 28 Feb. 1725-6; and Past Grand Wardens, 10 May 1727.

"On 25 June 1728, *Masters* and *Wardens* of Lodges shall never attend the *G. Lodge* without their *Jewels* and *Clothing*.

"On 26 Nov. 1728. • • • If any Officer cannot attend, he may send a *Brother* of that *Lodge* (but not a mere *Enter'd Prentice*) with his *Jewel*, to supply his Room and support the Honour of his *Lodge*." – *New Reg.*, 1738.

<sup>55</sup> It is not known when this rule was made, if prior to 1721, for the minutes of the Grand Lodge do not begin until 24 June 1723; ;nor how accurately ANDERSON gave it in the Old Regulation, for the term "Fellow-Craft" is a Scottish one and was unknown to English Masonry until introduced by Anderson. The term "admitted Masters" had reference, in operative Masonry, to the occasion when the apprentice, having served seven years in learning his trade, and given proof of his proficiency, as released from his indenture, and recognized as a master of his trade. Much has been written concerning the inferences to be drawn from this Regulation and the three expressions quoted below, upon the subject of Masonic "degrees" in 1723, 1725 and 1738. See Washington Correspondence Report, 1895, pp.21, 131, 168. The minutes of the Grand Lodge of 27 (*sic*) Nov. 1725 are quoted as follows in GOULD'S *History*, Chap. XVII:

"A motion being made that such part of the 13<sup>th</sup> Article of the Genl. Regulations relating to the making of Masts only at a Quarterly Court may be repealed, and that the Mast. of Each Lodge, with the consent of his Wardens and the Majority of the Brethren, being Masts., may make Masts at their discretion. Agreed, *Nem. Con.*"

ANDERSON'S version of this is as follows:

"On 22 [sic] Nov. 1725, the *Master* of a Lodge with his *Wardens* and a competent *Number* of the Lodge assembled in due Form, can make *Masters* and *Fellows* at Discretion." – *New Reg.*, 1738.

In the 1738 edition he changed the Old Regulation and made it read as follows:

"*Apprentices* must be admitted *Fellow Crafts* and *Masters* only here, unless by a *Dispensation* from the *Grand Master*."

Names of all the Members of each LODGE;<sup>56</sup> and all the Affairs of the GRAND-LODGE that are proper to be written.

They shall also consider of the most proudent 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 BRETHERN.

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 any thing, especially what concerns his Office. To him shall be committed all Money, rais'd 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 sign'd, as the GRAND LODGE shall afterward agree to in a NEW REGULATION: But he shall not vote in chusing 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 every thing except in chusing 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 allow'd or desir'd.

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 up any emergent Occasion.

Another Brother (who must be a FELLOW-CRAFT<sup>57</sup>) 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 explain'd 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 be both absent, then the present MASTER of a LODGE, that has been the longest a Free-Mason, shall take the Chair, and preside as Grand Master Pro Tempore;<sup>58</sup> 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,<sup>59</sup> whose Places are to be

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<sup>56</sup> On 19 Feb. 1724, The *Officers* of particular *Lodges* shall bring to the *G. Lodge* the *Lists* of all the Members of their respective *Lodges* to be in the *G. Lodge Book*." – *New Reg.*, 1738.

<sup>57</sup> Among the changes which ANDERSON quietly made in the text of the *Old Regulations*, in the 1738 edition, was the substitution of "*Master-Mason*" for "*Fellow-Craft*" in the accounts of Clerks and Tyler. The reason was that in earlier times "Master" always meant Master of a Lodge, except when a Fellow was referred to as master of his trade; but before 1738 our present nomenclature had become established.

<sup>58</sup> "In the *first Edition*, the Right of the G. WARDENS was omitted in this *Regulation*; and it has been since found that the *Old Lodges* never put into the Chair the *Master* of a particular *Lodge*, bur when there was no *Grand Warden* in company, *present* nor *former*, and that in such a Case a *Grand Officer* always took place of any *Master* of a *Lodge* that has not been a *G. Officer*.

"Therefore in Case of the Absence of all *G. Masters* and *Deputies*; the present *Sen. G. WARDEN* fills the Chair; and in his Absence the present *Jun. G. WARDEN*, and in his Absence the *oldest former G. WARDEN* in Company; and if no *Former G. Officer* be found, then the *oldest Free-Mason* who is now the *Master* of a *Lodge*.

"But to avoid Dispute, the *G. Master* usually gives a particular Commission under his Hand and Seal of Office, countersigned by the *Secretary*, to the *Senior G. Warden*, or in his Absence, to the *Junior*, to act as *D. G. Master* when the *Deputy* is not in Town." – *New Reg.*, 1738.

<sup>59</sup> "Soon after the *first Edition* of the *Book of Constitutions*, the GRAND LODGE finding it was always the ancient Usage that oldest *former G. WARDENS* supplied the Places of those of the Year when absent, the *G. Master* ever since has order'd them to take place immediately and act as *G.*

supply'd by two FELLOW-CRAFT of the same LODGE, call'd forth to act, or sent thither by the particular MASTER thereof; or if by him omitted, then they shall be call'd by the GRAND-MASTER, that so the GRAND-LODGE may be always compleat.

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 honourably discharg'd his GRAND OFFICE, he returns to that Post or Station in his particular LODGE, from which he was call'd to officiate above.

XVIII. If the DEPUTY GRAND-MASTER be sick, or necessarily absent, the GRAND-MASTER may chuse any FELLOW-CRAFT he pleases to be his DEPUTY PRO TEMPORE.<sup>60</sup> But he that is chosen DEPUTY at the GRAND-LODGE, and the GRAND-WARDENS too, cannot be discharg'd 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 chuse another DEPUTY immediately; and the said GRAND-LODGE shall chuse other WARDENS in that case, that Harmony and Peace may be preserv'd.

XIX. If the GRAND-MASTER should abuse his Power, and render himself un-worthy 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,<sup>61</sup> or any other way should be render'd incapable of discharging his Office, the DEPUTY, or in his Absence, the SENIOR GRAND-WARDEN, or in his Absence the JUNIOR, or in his Absence any three Present MASTERS of LODGES, shall join to congregate the GRAND-LODGE immediately, to advise together upon that 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 can refuse, then the NEXT LAST, and so backward; But if no former GRAND-MASTER can be

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*Wardens pro tempore*; which they have always done in the Absence of the *G. Wardens* for the Year, except when they have waived their Privileges for that time, to honour some Brother whom they thought more fit for the present Service.

“But if no *former Grand Wardens* are in Company, the GRAND MASTER, or *He* that *presides*, calls forth whom he pleases to act as *Grand Warden pro tempore*.” – *New Reg.*, 1738.

<sup>60</sup> “The *Senior G. WARDEN* how ever supplies the DEPUTY'S Place, the Junior acts as the SENIOR, the *oldest* former *G. Warden* as the JUNIOR, also the *oldest Mason* as above.” – *New Reg.*, 1738.

<sup>61</sup> A law term, meaning, outside the jurisdiction.

found, then the DEPUTY shall act as PRINCIPAL, until another is chosen; or if there is no DEPUTY, then the oldest MASTER.

XXII. The BRETHREN of all the LODGES in and about LONDON and WESTMINSTER,<sup>62</sup> shall meet at an ANNUAL COMMUNICATION and FEAST, in some convenient Place, on ST. JOHN BAPTIST'S DAY, or else on ST. JOHN EVANGELIST'S DAY as the GRAND- LODGE shall think fit by a NEW REGULATION, having of late Years met on ST. JOHN BAPTIST'S DAY:<sup>63</sup> 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 dropt 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 St. JOHN'S DAY; or if it be SUNDAY, then on the next Day, in order to chuse 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 Custom of MASONS, then the GRAND-WARDENS shall have the care of preparing the TICKETS, seal'd with the GRAND MASTER'S Seal, of disposing of the tickets, of receiving the Money for the Tickets, of buying the Materials of the FEAST, of finding out a proper and convenient Place to feast in; and of every other thing that concerns the Entertainment.<sup>64</sup>

But that the Work may not be too burthensome to the two GRAND-WARDENS, and that all Matters may be expediently and safely managed, the GRAND-MASTER, or his DEPUTY, shall have the 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 interpose 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 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 experienc'd and discreet FELLOW-CRAFT of his LODGE, to compose a COMMITTEE, consisting of one from every LODGE, 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 Reasons thereof, to avoid Mistakes; that so no true Brother may be debarr'd, nor a

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<sup>62</sup> "Or any Brethren round the Globe, who are True and Faithful, at the Place appointed, til they have built a Place of their own." - *New Reg.*, 1739.

<sup>63</sup> "On 29 January 1730-1. It was ordain'd that no particular Lodge shall have a separate Feast on the Day of the General Feast." - *New Reg.*, 1738.

<sup>64</sup> "On 28 April 1724. The G. Lodge ordain'd that at the Feast, the Stewards shall open no wine till Dinner be laid on the Tables; that the Members of each Lodge shall sit together as much as possible; That after Eight a Clock at Night, the Stewards shall not be oblig'd to furnish any Wine or other Liquors; and that either the Money or Tickets shall be return'd to the Stewards." *New Reg.*, - 1738.

false Brother or meer Pretender, admitted. This COMMITTEE must meet very early on ST. JOHN'S DAY at the Place, even before any Persons come with Tickets.

XXVI. The GRAND-MASTER shall appoint two or more TRUSTY BRETHERN 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 they 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.<sup>65</sup>

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.<sup>66</sup> And this is done in order,

1. To receive any APPEALS duly lodg'd, 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 delay'd till after the NEW GRAND-MASTER is elected; and if it cannot be decided after Dinner, it may be delay'd, and referr'd to a PARTICULAR COMMITTEE, that shall quietly adjust it, and make Report to the next QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION, that Brotherly-Love may be preserv'd.

2. To prevent any Difference or Disgust which may be fear'd 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 discuss'd, 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 call'd 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 discover'd but by the Election it self.<sup>67</sup>

XXX. Then the MASTER and WARDENS, and all the Brethren, may converse promiscuously, or as they please to sort together, until the Dinner coming in, when every Brother takes his Seat at Table.

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<sup>65</sup> As early as 1735 this Grand Lodge, taking a step which has been generally regarded as a very wide departure from ancient usages, erected certain favored individuals into a body called the "Stewards Lodge," which, in consideration of its furnishing the annual feast as its own expense, was accorded extraordinary privileges. The feast was then put in charge of the "Stewards Lodge," and much of Regulations XXII-XXVII became obsolete.

<sup>66</sup> "In ancient Times the *Master, Wardens, and Fellows* on St. John's Day met either in a *Monastery*, or on the *Top* of the highest *Hill* near them, by Peep of Day; And having there chosen their *New G. Officers*, they descended walking in due Form to the *Place* of the *Feast*, either a *Monastery*, or the House of an *Eminent Mason*, or some large House of Entertainment as they thought best tyled.

"But of late they go in *Coaches*. • • • ." – *New Reg.*, 1738.

Possibly it is well to caution the young reader that BRO. ANDERSON is supposed to have possessed many of the qualities of a successful romancer.

<sup>67</sup> "This old Regulation was found inconvenient; Therefore at the *Assembly* on 27 Dec. 1720, it was agreed that the *New G. Master* should by the *Present* be propos'd to the *G. Lodge* at their Communication, some time before the Day of the *Annual Feast*; and that if he was approv'd then, or no Objection made, he was to be forthwith saluted *G. MASTER Elect*, if there; or if absent, his Health was to be toasted as such; and that as such he was to march to the *Feast* on the *present G. MASTER'S* Left Hand. • • • Therefore

"Now, before Dinner, there is no *Election*, but on a *Recognizing* of the former Approbation of the *New G. Master*, which is soon done." – *New Reg.*, 1738.



XXXI. Some time after Dinner, the GRAND-LODGE is form'd, 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 desir'd and allow'd.<sup>68</sup>

XXXII. If the GRAND MASTER of last Year has consented with the MASTERS 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, &c. 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 salute him in due Form. And all the Brethren shall for a few Minutes have leave to declare their Satisfaction, Pleasure and Congratulations.

XXXIII. But if either the MASTER, and WARDENS have not in private, this Day before Dinner, nor the Day before, desir'd the LAST GRAND-MASTER to continue in the MASTERSHIP another Year; or if he, when desir'd, has not consented: Then

The LAST GRAND-MASTER shall nominate his Successor for the Year ensuing, who, if unanimously approv'd by the GRAND-LODGE, and if there present, shall be proclaim'd, saluted, and congratulated the NEW GRAND-MASTER as above hinted, and immediately install'd by the LAST GRAND-MASTER, according to Usage.<sup>69</sup>

XXXIV. But if that Nomination is not unanimously approv'd, 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 proclaim'd, saluted, and congratulated, as above hinted, and forthwith install'd by the LAST GRAND-MASTER, according to Usage.

XXXV. The LAST GRAND-MASTER thus continued, or the NEW GRAND-MASTER thus install'd, shall next nominate and appoint his DEPUTY Grand-Master, either the last or a new one, who shall be also declar'd, saluted and congratulated as above hinted.

The GRAND-MASTER shall also nominate the New GRAND-WARDENS, and if unanimously approv'd by the GRAND-LODGE, shall be declar'd, 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 their 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 chuse by Ballot, is, by Sickness or other necessary Occasion, absent from the GRAND-FEAST, he cannot be proclaim'd 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 consider'd and finish'd, or else referr'd to the Consideration of the GRAND-LODGE at their next COMMUNICATION, stated or occasional, When that is over,

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<sup>68</sup> "This *old Method* was found inconvenient: Therefore as the whole *Assembly* sit together at Dinner in the Form of a *Grand Lodge*, there is no Alteration, but the *Members* of the *G. Lodge* continue promiscuous in their Seats." – *New Reg.*, 1738.

<sup>69</sup> DERMOTT changed this to, "according to ancient usage," and added the following foot-note: "This is a most noble and grand Ceremony, but cannot be described in Writing, nor ever known to any but Master-Masons." – *Ahiman Rezon*, 1764, p. 81.

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.<sup>70</sup>

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 LAND-MARKS BE CAREFULLY PRESERV'D, 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 install'd, be solemnly desir'd; as it was desir'd and obtained for these REGULATIONS when propos'd by the GRAND LODGE, to about 150 Brethren, on ST. JOHN BAPTIST'S DAY, 1721.<sup>71</sup>

## POSTSCRIPT

Here follows the manner of constituting a NEW LODGE, as practis'd by his GRACE the DUKE of WHARTON, the present RIGHT WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER, according to the ancient Usages of MASONS.

A NEW LODGE, for avoiding many Irregularities, should be solemnly constituted by the GRAND-MASTER, with is DEPUTY and WARDENS; or in the GRAND-MASTER'S Absence, the DEPUTY shall act for his WORSHIP, and shall chuse some MASTER of a LODGE to assist him; or in case the deputy is absent, the GRAND-MASTER shall call forth some MASTER of a LODGE to act as DEPUTY PRO TEMPORE.

The Candidates, or the new Master and Wardens, yet among the FELLOW-CRAFT,<sup>72</sup> the GRAND-MASTER shall ask his DEPUTY if he has examin'd them, and finds the Candidate MASTER well skill'd in the NOBLE SCIENCE and the ROYAL ART, and duly instructed in our MYSTERIES, &c.

And the DEPUTY answering in the affirmative, he shall (by the GRAND-MASTER'S Order) take the CANDIDATE from among his Fellows, and present him to the GRAND-MASTER; saying, RIGHT WORSHIPFUL GRAND-MASTER, the BRETHREN HERE DESIRE TO BE FORM'D INTO A NEW Lodge, AND I PRESENT THIS MY WORTHY Brother TO BE THEIR Master, WHOM I KNOW TO BE OF GOOD MORALS AND GREAT SKILL, TRUE AND TRUSTY, AND A LOVER OF THE WHOLE Fraternity, WHERESOEVER DISPERS'D OVER THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

Then the GRAND-MASTER, placing the CANDIDATE on his left Hand, having ask'd and obtain'd the unanimous Consent of all the Brethren, shall say, I CONSTITUTE AND FORM THESE GOOD BRETHREN INTO A NEW Lodge, AND APPOINT YOU THE Master OF IT, NOT DOUBTING OF YOUR CAPACITY AND CARE TO PRESERVE THE Cement OF THE LODGE, &c. with some other Expressions that are proper and usual on that Occasion, but not proper to be written.

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<sup>70</sup> "After the Oration, the 5 publick *Healths* may be toasted; and before or after each, a *Masons Song* with the best Instruments of Musick.

<sup>71</sup> "Other Things relating to the *Chartes &c.*, of the G. MASTER, are best known to the *Fraternity*." – *New Reg.*, 1738.

<sup>72</sup> "On 24 June 1723, at the Feast, the G. LODGE before Dinner made this RESOLUTION that it is not in the Power of any Man or Body of Man to make any Alteration or Innovation in the Body of Masonry, without the Consent first obtain'd of the G. LODGE. And on 25 Nov. 1723, the G. LODGE in Ample Form resolved, that any G. Lodge duly met has a Power to amend or explain any of the printed Regulations in the Book of Constitutions, while they break not in upon the antient Rules of the Fraternity.

*But that no Alterations shall be made in this Printed Book of Constitutions without Leave of the G. Lodge.*

Accordingly,

"All of the Alterations or New REGULATIONS above written are only for amending or explaining the OLD REGULATIONS for the Good of *Masonry*, without breaking in upon the ancient *Rules of the Fraternity*, still preserving the *Old Land Marks*; and were made at several Times as Occasion offer'd by the GRAND LODGE; who have an inherent Power of amending what may be thought inconvenient, and ample Authority of making NEW REGULATIONS for the Good of *Masonry*, without the Consent of *All the Brethren* at the *Grand Annual Feast*; which has not been disputed since the said 24 June 1721, for the *Members* of the G. LODGE are truly the Representatives of *All the Fraternity*, according to OLD REGULATION X." – *New Reg.*, 1738.

It should be borne in mind that the above – especially all after the word "Accordingly" – is the statement of BRO. ANDERSON, not of the Grand Lodge.

<sup>72</sup> See last note on Regulation XIII, *supra*.

Upon this the DEPUTY shall rehearse the CHARGES of a MASTER, and the GRAND-MASTER shall ask the CANDIDATE, saying, DO YOU SUBMIT TO THESE Charges, as Masters HAVE DONE IN ALL AGES? And the CANDIDATE signifying his cordial Submission thereunto, the GRAND-MASTER shall, by certain significant Ceremonies and ancient Usages, install him, and present him with the CONSTITUTIONS, the LODGE-BOOK, and the INSTRUMENTS of his Office, not all together, but one after another; and after each of them, the GRAND-MASTER or his DEPUTY, shall rehearse the short and pithy CHARGE that is suitable to the thing presented.

After this, the members of this NEW LODGE, bowing all together to the GRAND-MASTER, shall return his WORSHIP thanks, and immediately do their HOMAGE to their NEW MASTER, and signify their Promise of Subjection and Obedience to him by the usual CONGRATULATION.

The DEPUTY and the GRAND-WARDENS, and any other Brethren present, that are not Members of this NEW LODGE, shall next congratulate the NEW MASTER; and he shall return his becoming Acknowledgements to the GRAND-MASTER first, and to the rest in their Order.

THEN the GRAND-MASTER desires the NEW MASTER to enter immediately upon the Exercise of his Office, in chusing his Wardens: And the NEW MASTER calling forth two FELLOW-CRAFT, presents them to the GRAND-MASTER for his Approbation, and to the NEW Lodge for their Consent. And that being granted,

The SENIOR or JUNIOR GRAND-WARDEN, or some other Brother for him, shall rehearse the CHARGES of WARDENS; and the CANDIDATES being solemnly ask'd by the NEW MASTER, shall signify their Submission thereunto.

Upon which the NEW MASTER, presenting them with the INSTRUMENTS of their OFFICE, shall, in due Form, install them in their proper Places; and the Brethren of that NEW LODGE shall signify their Obedience to the New WARDENS by the usual CONGRATULATION.

And this Lodge being thus compleatly constituted, shall be register'd in the GRAND-MASTER'S Book, and by his Order notify'd to the OTHER LODGES.

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## APPENDIX G

### ORDERS OF ALNWICK LODGE 1701<sup>73</sup>

Orders to be observed by the company and fellowship of Free Masons att A Lodge held att Alnwick Sepr 29 1701 being the Genll head meeting day

- |                 |  |   |   |   |
|-----------------|--|---|---|---|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | First it is ordered by the said ffellowship thatt there shall be yearly Two Wardens Chosen upon the said Twenty Ninth of Sepr being the feast of St. Michaell the Archangell, which Wardens shall be Elected and Appoynted by the most consent of the fellowship.  |   |   |   |
| 2d              | Itm thatt the said Wardens Receive, commence and Sue all such penaltyes and fforfeitures and fines, as shall in any wise be amongst the Said ffellowship, and shall render and yield up a Just Account att the Years End of all Such fines and forfeitures as shall come to their hands, or oftener if need require, or if theMaster |   |   |   |
|                 | and ffellows List to call for them,  | ≤ | s | d |
|                 | ffor every such offense to pay   | 0 | 6 | 8 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Itm Thatt noe Mason shall take any worke by task or by day, other then the Kions work butt thatt att the Least he shall make Thre or ffour of his ffellows acquainted therewith, for to take   | ≤ | s | d |
|                 | this part; paying for every such Offence   | 3 | 6 | 8 |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Itm Thatt noe Mason shall take any work that any of his ffellows is in hand with all to pay for Every such Offence   | ≤ | s | d |
|                 | the Sume of  | 1 | 6 | 8 |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | Itm Thatt noe Mason shall take any Apprentice, butt he must Enter him and give him his Charge within one whole Year after. Not soe doing the Master shall pay for  | ≤ | s | d |
|                 | Every such Offence   | 0 | 3 | 4 |
| 6               | Itm That every Master ffor Entring his Apprentice shall pay  | ≤ | s | d |
|                 |  | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| 7               | Itm Thatt Every Mason when he is warned by the Wardens, or other of the Company and shall not come to the place Appoynted, Except he have a Reasonable   |   |   |   |
|                 | cause to shew the Master and   | ≤ | s | d |
|                 | Wardens to the contrary: Nott soe doeing   | 0 | 6 | 8 |
|                 | shall pay  |   |   |   |

<sup>73</sup> From the *fac simile* reproduction issued by the Newcastle College of Rosicrucians in 1895.

Alnwick Lodge was remarkable in three respects: First, in that the beginning of the eighteenth century it was one of the few Lodges composed wholly of operative masons. It retained its operative character to the last, although speculative Masons were received as visitors. Second, it did not unite with either of the three English Grand Lodges, or with its nearer neighbor, the Grand Lodge of Scotland, but was still independent at the date when its minute book ends, - 1757. Third, -

“These Lodge Regulations [the ‘Orders’ in the text], in connection with Minutes, are the oldest preserved in this country [England], though nothing like so old as those possessed by several existing Scottish Lodges. Their value and importance are not likely to be over estimated, even by the most appreciative student.” – *Introduction to fac-simile reproduction*, by WILLIAM JAMES HUGHAN.

- 8 Itm Thatt noe Mason shall Thou<sup>74</sup> his ffellow or give him the Lye or any ways contend with him, or give him any other name in the place of meeting then Brother or ffellow or hold any disobedient Argument against any of the company reproachfully  $\leq$  s d  
ffor every such Offence shall pay 0 0 6
- 9 Itm There shall noe Apprentice after he has Served Seven years be Admitted or Accepted butt upon the ffeast of St. Michael the Archangell paying to the Mastr and  $\leq$  s d  
Wardens 0 6 8
- 10<sup>th</sup> Itm If any Mason either in the place of meeting or att work among his ffellows, Swear or take Gods name in vain,  $\leq$  s d  
that he or they soe offending shall pay for every 0 0 9  
time
- 11 Itm Thatt if any Fellow or Fellows shall att any time or times discover his Mastrs secretts or his owne be it nott onely spoken in the Lodge or without or the Secrets or councill of his ffellows, thatt may Extend to the damage of any of his Fellows, or to any of their good names; whereby the Science may be ill spoken off,  $\leq$  s d  
ffor Every such offence shall pay 1 6 8
- 12 Itm Thatt noe Fellow of Fellows within this Lodge shall att any time or times call or hold Assemblys to make any Mason or Masons free: Nott Acquainting the Mastr or Wardens  $\leq$  s d  
therewith For Every time soe offending shall pay 3 6 8
- 13 Itm Thatt noe Rough Layers or any other thatt has nott served their time, or Admitted Masons shall work within the Lodge any work of Masonry whatsoever (Except under a Mastr)  $\leq$  s d  
for Every such Offence shall pay 3 13 4
- 14 Itm Thatt all ffellows being younger shall give his Elder ffellows the honor due to their degree and Standing, Alsoe thatt the Mastr Wardons and all the Fellows of this Lodge doe promish severally and respectively to performe all and every the Orders above named, and to stand by Each other, (butt more Particularly to the Wardons and their Successors) in Sueing for all and Every the forfeitures of our said Brethren, contrary to any of the Said Orders demand thereof being the first made.

[Signed by the Master, two Wardens, and many others.]

<sup>74</sup> That is, by addressing him as “thee” or “thou,” treat him like a menial or a child.

## APPENDIX H

### OLD RULES OF THE GRAND LODGE AT YORK 1725, NO. 8<sup>75</sup>

Articles agreed to be kept and observed by the Antient Society of Freemasons in the City of York, and to be subscribed by every Member thereof at their Admittance into the said Society.

Imprimis. – That every first Wednesday in the month a Lodge shall be held at the house of a Brother according as their turn shall fall out.

2. - All Subscribers to these Articles not appearing at the monthly Lodge, shall forfeit Sixpence each time.

3. - If any Brother appear at a Lodge that is not a Subscriber to these Articles, he shall pay over and above his club the sum of one shilling.

4. - The bowl shall be filled at the monthly Lodges with Punch once, Ale, Bread, Cheese, and Tobacco in common, but if anything more shall be called for by any Brother, either for eating or drinking, that Brother so calling shall pay for it himself besides his club.

5. - The Master or Deputy shall be obliged to call for a Bill exactly at ten o'clock, if they meet in the evening, and discharge it.

6. - None to be admitted to the making of a Brother but such as have subscribed to these articles.

7. - Timely notice shall be given to all the Subscribers when a Brother or Brothers are to be made.

8. - Any Brother or Brothers presuming to call a Lodge with a design to make a Mason or Masons, without the Master or Deputy, or one of the deputed, for every such offence shall forfeit the sum of Five Pounds.

9. - Any Brother that shall interrupt the Examination of a Brother shall forfeit one shilling.

10. - Clerk's Salary for keeping the Books and Accounts shall be one Shilling to be paid him by each Brother at his admittance, and at each of the two Grand days he shall receive such gratuity as the Company shall think proper.

11. - A Steward to be chose for keeping the Stock at the Grand Lodge, at Christmas, and the Accounts to be passed three days after each Lodge.

12. - If any dispute arise, the Master shall silence them by a knock of the Mallet; any Brother that shall presume to disobey shall immediately be obliged to leave the Company, or forfeit five Shillings.

13. - An Hour shall be set apart to talk Masonry.

14. - No person shall be admitted into the Lodge but after having been strictly examined.

15. - No more persons shall be admitted as Brothers of this Society that shall keep a Public-House.

16. - That these Articles, shall at Lodges be laid upon the Table, to be perused by the Members, and also when any new Brothers are made, the Clerk shall publicly read them.

17. - Every new Brother at his admittance shall pay to the Waits as their Salary, the sum of two Shillings, the money to be lodged in the Steward's hands, and paid to them at each of the Grand days.

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<sup>75</sup> Reprinted from Hughan's "History of Freemasonry in York." The title is the endorsement on the sheet of parchment on which the rules are written. "No. 8" probably means that the document was the eighth item on a certain inventory of the Lodge's property. The body referred to was the old Lodge at York which, after the establishment of a Grand Lodge in London in 1717, affected the title of Grand Lodge of All England. While the rules were probably revised and compiled in 1725, probably most of them were what we would call by-laws of the Lodge long prior to that date.

18. - The Bidder of the Society shall receive of each new Brother at his admittance the sum of one Shilling as his Salary.
19. - No money shall be expended out of the Stock after the hour of ten, as in the fifth Article.  
[Signed by "Ed. Bell, Master," and 87 Members.]



## APPENDIX I

### THE ANCIENT LANDMARKS

The rituals and literature of Freemasonry contain many allusions to “THE ANCIENT LANDMARKS”, the immemorial usages and customs, the foundation stones upon which modern Freemasonry has been erected. A noted American Masonic scholar, Dr. Albert G. Mackey, formulated a list of twenty-five landmarks. Opinion as to the validity of his list is not unanimous. Some Grand Lodges adopted his twenty-five, some as many as fifty, others fewer in number. Bro. Roscoe Pound, a Past Deputy Grand Master of Massachusetts, and for many years Dean of the School of Law at Harvard, promulgated a list of seven.

The Grand Lodge of Washington never officially adopted a list of Ancient Landmarks. The following lists are included here as educational material only, in order that the origins and traditions, the usages and customs, the heritage of our Fraternity may be preserved.

THE ANCIENT LANDMARKS as formulated by Dr. Albert G. Mackey:

1. The modes or recognition.
2. The division of symbolic Masonry into three degrees.
3. The legend of the Third Degree.
4. The government of the Fraternity by a Grand Master elected from the body of the Craft
5. The prerogative of the Grand Master to preside over any assembly of the Craft.
6. The prerogative of the Grand Master to grant dispensation for conferring degrees irregular times.
7. The prerogative of the Grand Master to grant dispensations for the opening and holding of Lodges.
8. The prerogative of the Grand Master to make Masons at sight. (SEE NOTE BELOW).
9. The necessity for Masons to congregate in Lodges.
10. The government of every Lodge by a Master and two Wardens.
11. The necessity of every Lodge when congregated being duly tyled.
12. The right of every Mason to be represented in all general meetings of the Craft and to instruct his representatives.
13. The right of every Mason to appeal from the decision of his Brethren, in Lodge convened, to the Grand Lodge or General Assembly of Masons.
14. The right of every Mason to visit and sit in every regular Lodge. (SEE NOTE BELOW).
15. No visitor unknown to some Brother present as a Mason can enter a Lodge without undergoing an examination.
16. No Lodge can interfere in the business of another Lodge.
17. Every Freemason is amenable to the Laws and Regulations of the Masonic Jurisdiction which he resides.
18. Every candidate must be a man, freeborn and of lawful age.
19. Every Mason must believe in the existence of God as the Grand Architect of the Universe.
20. Every Mason must believe in a resurrection to a future life.
21. The “Book of the Law” is an indispensable part of the furniture of every Masonic Lodge.
22. That all men in the sight of God are equal and meet in the Lodge on one common level.

23. The secrecy of the Institution.
24. That Freemasonry consists of a Speculative Science founded on an Operative art.
25. The Landmarks of Masonry can never be changed.

NOTE: 8. MAKING MASONS AT SIGHT. This ancient custom, still observed in many jurisdictions, is not recognized by the Washington Masonic Code.

NOTE: 14. An objection may be made to visitors. Washington Masonic Code, Sec. 13.10 B.L.

THE ANCIENT LANDMARKS as enunciated by Dr. Roscoe Pound in an address to the Conference of Grand Masters in North America, Washington, D.C., February 20, 1952:

1. Belief in God.
2. Belief in the persistence of personality, I.e., the immortality of the soul.
3. A “Book of the Law” as an indispensable part of the furniture of the Lodge.
4. The Legend of the Third Degree.
5. Secrecy.
6. The symbolism of the operative art.
7. A Mason must be a man, freeborn, and of age.

## APPENDIX J

### GENEALOGY OF THE GRAND LODGE OF WASHINGTON

Prepared by W. Bro. Howard A. Hanson (87, 281)

The accompanying chart is a graphic outline of the genealogy of the Grand Lodge of Washington, extending back to five foreign Grand Jurisdictions—the Grand Lodge of England (Moderns), the Grand Lodge of Ireland, the Grand Lodge of Scotland, Mother Kilwinning Grand Lodge and the Grand Lodge of England According to old Institutions, also known as the Ancients, the Schismatics, the Atholls and as the Ancient York Masons.

The modern Grand Lodge system dates from the organization of the Grand Lodge of England (Moderns), in 1717. The earlier period had been one of Operative Masonry, later admitting Speculative Masons. By 1717 there existed, under the Old Customs, Lodges of Operative Masons, of both Operative and Speculative Masons and of purely Speculative Masons.

The new system spread rapidly, but the old Customs continued for a long time, especially in the British Colonies. Instances of the Old Customs appear in the genealogy of the Grand Lodge of Washington. The development of American Masonic jurisprudence has been a process of slow growth. The history of the formation of the American Lodges and Grand Lodges in our chain of Masonic genealogy must be read in the light of the customs and jurisprudence of the time.

The Grand Lodge of Washington was organized at Olympia, December 8, 1858, by representatives of four Lodges holding charters from the Grand Lodge of Oregon:

Olympia Lodge, No. 5 (now No. 1), at Olympia, chartered June 14, 1853;  
Steilacoom Lodge, No. 8 (now No. 2), at Steilacoom, chartered June 13, 1854;  
Grand Mound Lodge, No. 21 (later No. 3), at Grand Mound, chartered July 13, 1858 (charter surrendered September 19, 1868), and  
Washington Lodge No. 22 (now No. 4), at Vancouver, chartered July 13, 1858.

The Grand Lodge of Oregon was organized at Oregon City, August 16, 1851, by representatives of three Lodges, one chartered by the Grand Lodge of Missouri and two by the Grand Lodge of California. The Grand Lodge of California was organized at Sacramento, April 19, 1850, by representatives of three Lodges chartered by the Grand Lodges of Missouri, District of Columbia and Connecticut; the representatives of two more Lodges holding Dispensations from the Grand Lodge of New Jersey and the Grand Lodge of Louisiana (A.Y.M.) being seated as Masons in the Convention, holding offices and participating in the formation of the Grand Lodge.

The genealogy of the Grand Lodge of Washington extends through the Grand Lodges of Oregon, California, Missouri, Tennessee, North Carolina (State), North Carolina (Provincial), Connecticut, Massachusetts (English Constitution), Massachusetts (Scottish Constitution), New York (English Constitution), New Jersey, District of Columbia, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Louisiana (A.Y.M.), Mississippi and Kentucky and to the five foreign Grand Lodges above mentioned.

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Our earliest Masonic connections with these foreign Grand Lodges extend to:

The Grand Lodge of England (Moderns), in the Deputation, dated April 13, 1733, appointing Henry Price, of Boston, as Provincial Grand Master of New England;

The Grand Lodge of Scotland, in the Warrant, dated December 1, 1755, for Kilwinning Crosse Lodge, at Port Royal, Virginia;

The Grand Lodge of England (Ancients), in the Warrant, dated June 7, 1758, for Lodge No. 69, at Philadelphia;

The Grand Lodge of Ireland, in the Warrant, dated May 3, 1759, for Lodge No. 322, in the 29th Regt., which, at the time of the organization of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts (Scottish Constitution), was stationed at Boston and participated in the formation of that Grand Lodge; and

Mother Kilwinning Grand Lodge, in the Warrant, dated about 1767, for Tappahannock Lodge, at Tappahannock, Virginia.

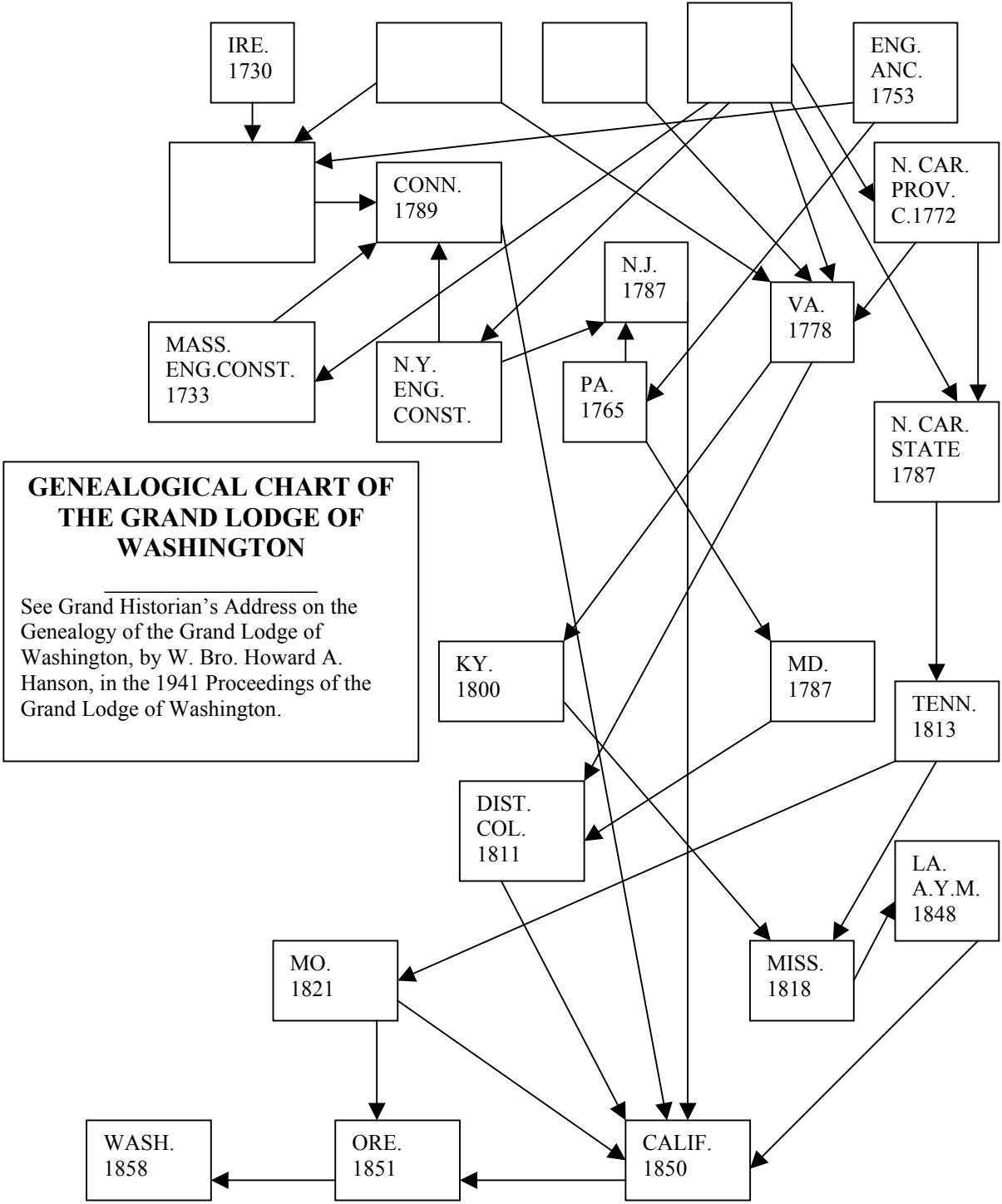
The genealogy of the Grand Lodge of Washington covers a period of nearly three hundred and fifty years, extending back to the formation of the modern Grand Lodge system, in 1717, and on through the Old Customs to the Lodge at Kilwinning, whose records date from before 1598, the oldest known records of Operative Masonry. Within this span of time the known history of Masonry is found. Back of it lie the Legends of the Craft.

### **Genealogy of the Washington Grand Lodge Seal.**

1. At its first Communication, on December 8, 1858, the Grand Lodge authorized the appointment of a committee “to procure a suitable seal for use of the Grand Lodge and at as early a day as practicable” (Proceed. Const. Conv. 15). The first facsimile of the Grand Lodge seal appears in the certificate of the Grand Lodge Secretary to the transcript of the Grand Lodge Proceedings of its second Annual Communication (1859, I, 2) following appropriation of \$50.00 for its purchase (1859, I, 58). The Grand Secretary reported at the third Annual Communication an expenditure for the Seal of \$46.00 and \$4.75 for expressage (1860, I, 116). It was not until the adoption of the Code of 1913 (Sec. 41) that the design of the Seal as originally shown, 1859, I, 2, except elimination of the abbreviation “Tery.” upon Washington becoming a state (1890, VIII, 170) was formally adopted by Grand Lodge. How the motto “Exitus acta probat” came to be selected as the motto of Grand Lodge is not disclosed by any of the Proceedings. Possibly it was taken from the maxim “exitus acta probat; finis, non pugna, coronat” – “The result justifies the acts; the termination, not the trial, crowns the victory.” (Adams Gloss.)

2. On the suggestion of R.: W.: Brother Baldrey, the Code Commission made research for the source of the motto on our Grand Lodge Seal; correspondence between the Code Commission and Sol Bloom, Associate Director, and Prof. Albert Bushnell Hart, Historian of the United States Commission for the Celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Birth of George Washington, disclosed the fact that the motto was used by George Washington and his ancestors in England in connection with the Coat of Arms and Crest confirmed to Lawrence Washington of Sulgrave and his descendants by the Garter King of Arms in 1593.

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**WASHINGTON MASONIC CODE**  
**2003**  
**RULINGS AND DECISIONS**

The Rulings and Decisions of the Grand Masters, sustained, over-ruled, or modified by action of the Annual Communications of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Washington occupy an important place in Masonic history and demonstrate how they are applied to the various provisions of the Washington Masonic Code.

The Rulings and Decisions are placed in the Code for information only and should only be used for that purpose. They are organized by the applicable Section Numbers of the Washington Masonic Code. The page numbers at the end of each Ruling and Decision following the year are page numbers of the Proceedings for the year shown.

The 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 Code Commission have reviewed the Rulings and Decisions as printed in 1995 and in cooperation with the Jurisprudence Committee, the following are Rulings and Decisions, which we believe will assist the brethren in understanding the Washington Masonic Code.

**Chapter 1**

**1.02 Supreme Jurisdiction.**

**1. Unrecognized Grand Bodies.** Application for visitation to the Grand Lodge a man claiming membership in a Lodge under charter from a Grand Lodge in Pennsylvania other than the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania recognized by Grand Lodge of Washington. Denied. 1872, pg 244.

**1.04 Powers.**

**(B) Executive**

**1. Issuing Dimit.** The Grand Lodge, in dimitting its Past Grand Master, a member of Olympia Lodge, clearly assumed the exercise of a power which belongs solely to a Lodge and thereby infringed on the privileges and dignities of the Lodge. Committee Report adopted. 1864, pg 375.

**2. Recalling Charter.** The Grand Lodge instructed (sic) the Grand Master to recall the charter of a Lodge. 1886, pg 478.

**3. Correcting Error in Charter.** The Grand Lodge has power and legal right to correct any error inadvertently made in the issuing of a charter. Committee Report adopted. 1895, pg 20, 1.

**4. Method to Use in Changing Name.** Resolution of Grand Lodge authorizing change of name and changing charter accordingly adopted. 1939, pg 26, 105, 229.

**(C) Judicial.**

**1. Between Different Jurisdictions.** The Grand Lodge has original jurisdiction of charges by a present member of California Lodge (formerly member of Washington Lodge) against a member of the Washington Lodge as a controversy between members of different Lodges. Committee Report. 1865, pg 480, 481.

**2. Lodge May Try Deputy Grand Master.** Charges against Deputy Grand Master may be preferred in and tried by Lodge of which he is a member. Report

Jurisprudence Committee approved. 1871, pg 327, 345, 355, 358. ( See W.M.C. Sec. 27.03 Disciplinary Power of a Lodge )

**3. Action by Grand Master Does Not Preclude.** Failure of Grand Master upon hearing to suspend a Master does not preclude Grand Lodge from trying him. Resolution adopted. 1873, pg 158.

**4. Between Different Jurisdictions.** Grand Lodge entertained original jurisdiction of controversy between Lodge in Washington and Oregon. Committee Report adopted. 1884, pg 21, 60.

**5. Not of Private Civil Matters.** On protest of Past Master of Lodge that it threatened violation of terms of lease of its hall. Grand Lodge had no Jurisdiction and dismissed protest. Committee Report adopted. 1895, pg198.

**6. Procedure.** Charges against a Master of a Lodge were referred to the Grand Master by Grand Lodge, to be, by him, settled as justice might require. 1895, pg 197; 1896, pg 21, 25, 29, 30.

**7. Procedure.** That Grand Master in his Annual Address reported that the Worshipful Master of a Lodge had showed marked discourtesy toward the Grand Lodge; referred to Committee on Grievances and Appeals, which recommended three month's suspension which was by Grand Lodge amended to "censure." Committee Report as amended, adopted. 1896, pg 23, 30, 72, 74.

**8. Over Members of Grand Lodge.** Recommended that a late Master of a Lodge be reprimanded for discourteous conduct in words and actions toward the Grand Master. Committee Report adopted. 1909, pg 73.

**9. Jurisdiction.** Grand Lodge has no original jurisdiction of charges against a late Master of a Lodge whose term has expired. Committee Report adopted. 1916, pg 460, 504, 515. (The offense charged was un-Masonic conduct committed during the accused's term of office and within the Jurisdiction of his Lodge, but the specified conduct was not in line with his official duties. Ed.)

**10. Insufficiency of Charges.** Complaining that elected and installed Master had removed permanently from the State, and charging Master has proven unsatisfactory and failed in his duty as Master to promote the general good of the order. Did not charge a Masonic offense. Decision Grand Master approved. 1924, pg 304, 412.

**11. When Not Attaching.** When the case was improperly before the Grand Lodge, no proper notice of appeal had been given; and also because the difficulty had since been amicably settled between the parties, the whole subject matter was dismissed. 1860, pg 131.

**12. Error Below, When No Appeal.** An error on question of parliamentary law by the Worshipful Master in the exercise of his prerogative to rule and govern his Lodge, will not be considered by Grand Lodge in absence of an appeal. Committee Report adopted. 1900, pg 64. (See W.M.C. Sec. 15.17)

## **1.05 Divisions of Masonic Law.**

**1. Secrecy Enjoined.** Permission to a newspaper to announce through its columns the number of applicants seeking the Degrees before a Lodge is positively forbidden and should never occur. Ruling Grand Master, 1890, pg 164.

**2. No Calling Off to Subsequent Day.** A Lodge having met on Saturday cannot "call off" and reassemble on Monday as a part of the same meeting. Decision Grand Master approved. 1899, pg 339, 368.

**3. Concordant Orders, Allied Bodies.** No concordant or so-called allied body has any right to any information of any kind respecting any proceedings, business, or affairs of a



Masonic Lodge. Decision Grand Master approved. 1924, pg 303, 393, 412-413; Decision Grand Master approved. 1954, pg 384, 428, Reaffirmed and as modified; 1955, pg 31, 143.

**4. Effective Date of Enactments.** All enactments of Grand Lodge become effective on the date of close of the Annual Communication at which enacted, unless otherwise provided in the law itself. Decision Grand Master approved. 1926, pg 278, 365.

**5. Advertising So-Called Higher Degrees.** Grand Master ordered a Lodge to take off their stationery all advertisements about certain so-called higher orders. Decision Grand Master approved. 1931, pg 33, 61.

**6. Membership in So-Called Clandestine Scottish Rite.** A Mason does not lose his membership in the Order by reason of joining a so-called clandestine Scottish Rite. Officially, Masonry knows nothing beyond the three Degrees, and membership therein is no more affected by such joining than by joining a church or a club, unless there is in connection with the joining some Masonic offense which renders him subject to discipline at the hands of the Lodge. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1932, pg 373, 474.

**7. Dual Membership in Unrecognized Lodge.** Merely petitioning for dual membership in a Lodge not recognized by the Grand Lodge of Washington does not of itself work a forfeiture of membership in Washington Lodge. Decision of Grand Master to contrary disapproved. 1953, pg 46, 94. Jurisprudence Committee reported that a member of a Washington Lodge who obtained such membership in an unrecognized Lodge might be subject to charge of un-Masonic conduct. Report adopted. 1953, pg 94.

**8. Disclosure of Information.** No concordant or so-called allied body has any right to information of any kind respecting any proceedings, business or affairs of a Masonic Lodge, but the Lodge may disclose such information if it desires. Decision Grand Master approved. 1924, pg 393, 412-413; 1954, pg 384, 428; 1955, pg 31, 143.

**9. Disclosure of Information.** It is within the prerogative of the Master to determine whether a mailing list of the Lodge shall be furnished to a concordant body. Decision Grand Master approved. 1957, pg 46, 182.

**10. Unrecognized Grand Lodge.** One claiming membership in a Lodge of an unrecognized Grand Lodge cannot visit a Washington Lodge. Decision Grand Master approved. 1958, pg 436, 515.

**11. Visitation to Unrecognized Lodge.** It is illegal to visit or converse Masonically with a Lodge of a Jurisdiction not recognized by Washington. Decision Grand Master approved. 1958, pg 438, 515.

**12. Affiliation from Unrecognized Lodge.** It was illegal for Lodge to affiliate a petitioner upon a dimit from a Lodge of an unrecognized foreign Jurisdiction and such an action cannot be healed. Decision Grand Master approved. 1958, pg 439, 515.

**13. Degree Work by Concordant Body.** Grand Master ruled members of Concordant Body, as Masons, may not confer a Degree or Degrees on a Sunday. Decision Grand Master approved. 1965, pg 41, 124-125.

### **1.09 Recognition of Foreign Grand Lodges.**

**1, Visiting in Another Jurisdiction.** Ruled that when visiting a Lodge in another Jurisdiction and a Mason from a non-recognized Masonic Jurisdiction is present that as a guest in that Jurisdiction we are, after all, subject to their Masonic Law for the time we are there. Decision of Grand Master approved. 1990, pg 14-15, 36.

## Chapter 2

### 2.01 List and Title.

**1. Past Master Retaining Membership.** Past Master of chartered Lodge in this Jurisdiction signing a petition for a Lodge Under Dispensation retains his membership in Grand Lodge. Decision of Grand Master concurred in. 1893, pg 354, 382, 383.

**2. Past Master Membership in Grand Lodge.** A Past Master of a chartered Lodge of this Jurisdiction, upon transfer of membership to another Lodge of this Jurisdiction, retains his membership in Grand Lodge. Decision of Grand Master concurred in. 1893, pg 353, 382, 383.

### 2.09 Vacancies.

**1, Appointing of Past Grand Master to Convene Grand Lodge While Grand Master is Out of This Jurisdiction.** Action of Grand Master disapproved. 1979, pg 26, 36.

**2. Title of Acting Grand Master.** On the death of Grand Master in office, the Deputy Grand Master assumes the duties and has the title of “Deputy Grand Master acting as Grand Master,” and closes a Lodge in ample form. Ruling approved. 1944, pg 425, 511.

## Chapter 3

### 3.01 Grand Master’s Powers.

**1. Postponing Communications of Grand Lodge.** It is not within the power of the Grand Master during the recess of the Grand Lodge to set aside the Constitution by making a change in the time of holding a regular session at which the annual business is to be done. Committee Report. 1862, pg 220, 239.

**2. Enjoining Lodge Trial.** A letter of the Grand Master interdicting a Lodge from proceeding to try a case over which they clearly had sole and exclusive control, subject only to the Grand Lodge, was not in accordance with Masonic Law and which, if persisted in and established as a precedent would be injurious to the best interests of Masonry. Committee Report adopted. 1867, pg 57, 113.

**3. Delegating Dispensing Power.** Grand Secretary instructed to issue a commission or letter of authority to Deputy Grand Master authorizing him to grant in name of Grand Master such dispensations as in his judgment might be allowed to certain Lodges. Ruling Grand Master. 1873, pg 137.

**4. Vacating result of Lodge Trial.** A most extraordinary proceeding of a Lodge sentencing a member to one year’s suspension, without trial or ballot whether guilty or not guilty, drew from the Grand Master a mandate disapproving and setting aside action of the Lodge. Sustained by Grand Lodge. 1873, pg 141, 160; 1874, pg 279.

**5. High Commission.** Construction of the Law. “During the recess of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master alone is authorized to construe the Constitution for the information and instruction of the Craft.” Report of High Commission. 1887, pg 36, 49.

**6. Numbering the New Lodges.** Grand Master has no power to order that a new Lodge be given the earlier number of a defunct Lodge. 1891, pg 369; 1892, pg 32, 71.

**7. Appointing New Officers Lodge U.D.** Worshipful Master named in dispensation of a Lodge U.D. asked to be relieved; on account of removal, Grand Master appointed a new Junior Warden and advanced the other officers. Ruling Grand Master. 1894, pg 12.

**8. Charter Correction.** Grand Master authorized the correction of an inadvertent error in numbering Lodge in a Charter. Concurred in. 1894, pg 14, 34.

**9. Charter Alteration.** Grand Master authorized change of name of place of meeting, in a charter, to correspond with the change of name of that place by the U.S. P.O. Department. Concurred in. 1896, pg 16, 30.

**10. Grand Representative.** Resolution that Grand Master suggest to Grand Masters of other Jurisdictions that the appointment of new Representatives in place of any who may be absent from three successive Annual Communications of this Grand Lodge; and that the Grand Master request the Grand Master of each Jurisdiction in which our Representative may be absent from three successive Annual Communications to recommend some other Brother for appointment of our Representative near that Jurisdiction. Adopted. 1913, pg 345; 1949, pg 100-101, 185-186.

**11. Grand Representative.** The appointment of Grand Representatives is a prerogative of Grand Master, not subject to review by Grand Lodge. Committee Report adopted. 1918, pg 274.

**12. Special Deputy, Not to be of Foreign Jurisdiction.** Refusal of Grand Master to appoint as his special deputy a member of a foreign Jurisdiction, to open Grand Lodge and lay cornerstone. Approved. 1924, pg 302, 412.

**13. Imposing Fine.** A Grand Master has no authority to assess a fine against a Lodge for Installation of officers on Sunday. Committee Report approved. 1926, pg 277, 369.

**14. Stated Communication of Lodge.** The Grand Master has no authority to change date of Lodge meeting prior to its By-Laws. Approved. 1928, pg 390,444. 1943 , pg 27, 79; Reaffirmed Approved 1945, pg 33, 144; Reaffirmed Approved 1949, pg 46, 47; Reaffirmed Approved 1955, pg 33, 143.; Reaffirmed Approved 1956, pg 386, 531; Reaffirmed approved 1964, pg 363, 592, 593.

**15. Extending Time for Payment of Grand Lodge Dues.** The Grand Master has no power to extend the time for payment of Grand Lodge dues. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1932, pg 374, 474.

**16. Review of Judgment of Lodge Finance Committee.** Grand Master should not review judgment of Lodge finance committee as to whether proper or improper where judgment made in good faith and within function of that committee. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1934, pg 366, 471.

**17. Dispensation Permitting Presentation of Resolution to be Voted Upon Suspending Lodge By-Law.** Grand Master has no power to grant a dispensation to permit resolution suspending a Lodge By-Law to be voted upon at a Stated Communication adopting that By-Law, where such By-Law was valid. Decision Grand Master approved. 1934, pg 376, 471.

**18. Healing Work.** The Grand Master's "dictum" that work illegally done at a meeting held in violation of the Washington Masonic Code be "healed" is sufficient to heal such work. Decision of Grand Master approved. 1943, pg 30, 79.

**19. Masonic Clubs.** The Grand Master inherently possesses, by nature of his office and the powers conferred upon him and by virtue of the fact that he is the Grand Master of all Masons in Washington, full and adequate authority to take such measures of control or any action against Masonic clubs which he deems necessary or proper for the welfare of Masonry in this Grand Jurisdiction. Report of Jurisprudence Committee adopted. 1948, pg 521-522.

**20. Masonic Clubs.** Grand Master refused permission to form a Masonic Club. Ruling of Grand Master approved with statement that control over Masonic Clubs by the Grand Master is one of his inherent powers, to be exercised at his discretion, and no policy should be adopted which might impair the Grand Master in the exercise of that inherent power. 1949, pg 47, 173.

**21. Power to Declare Body Un-Masonic.** The Grand Master inherently possesses, by the nature of his office and the powers and duties conferred upon him as Grand Master and as the executive officer of this Grand Lodge, full and adequate authority to take such measures of

control over, or any action against, any body requiring Masonic standing as a prerequisite to membership therein, which he deems necessary or proper for the welfare or protection of Masonry in this Grand Jurisdiction. Resolution adopted. 1951, pg 122, 200.

**22. Foreign Masonic Law.** The Grand Master declined to pass upon a question with reference to California Masonic Law. Decision of Grand Master approved. 1953, pg 49, 91.

**23. Just Cause for Deposition of Master.** Grand Master properly removed Master of a Lodge under the following circumstances: The ballot on a petition for Degrees was twice dark; the Master then permitted discussion on the ballot in Lodge; a third ballot was taken which was clear; a timely objection to initiation was made; the Master thereupon, disregarding all of the foregoing, took the petitioner through the Entered Apprentice Degree work. Decision of Grand Master approved. 1955, pg 22, 34, 139, 143.

**24. Ordering of Trial.** Where false information was given on petition of E.A. for remaining Degrees, Lodge was ordered by Grand Master to prefer charges. Decision of Grand Master approved. 1955, pg 34, 145.

**25. Healing Illegal Affiliation.** It was illegal for a Lodge to affiliate a petitioner upon a dimit from an unrecognized foreign Jurisdiction, and such action cannot be healed by Grand Master. Decision of Grand Master approved. 1958, pg 439, 515.

**26. Just Cause for Deposition of Master.** His arrest on an assault charge and his admission of the charge were just cause for the deposition of a Worshipful Master. Decision of Grand Master approved. 1961, pg 32, 98.

**27. Master Restored to Good Standing.** Grand Master ruled that a dimit could not be issued to, nor could a deposed Worshipful Master be requested to request one, prior to substantiating reason for removal from office and until cause had been heard by Lodge and Grand Master's Trial Committee. 1965, pg 47, 126.

**28. Degree Work by Concordant Body.** Grand Master ruled members of Concordant Body, as Masons, may not confer a Degree on a Sunday. Decision of Grand Master approved. 1965, pg 41, 124-125.

**29. Masonic Pet Cemetery.** Permission granted Olympia Lodge, No. 1, to establish a pet cemetery in the City of Tumwater, the matter of financing not being involved. Dec. of Grand Master approved. 1965, pg 30, 121.

**30. Masonic Associations.** That the formation, by the King County Masonic Library Association, of a so-called "King County College of Masonic Knowledge" and that permission to form such a group and to use the word "Masonic" was denied. Decision of the Grand Master approved. 1969, pg39, 47.

**31. Masonic Clubs.** Grand Master refused to approve or disapprove the forming of a club of Master Masons in a remote area of Alaska. Decision of the Grand Master approved. 1971, pg 41. Reaffirmed, 1977.

**32. Formation of Credit Union.** Disapproved formation of a credit union by a Masonic Service Bureau. Decision of Grand Master approved. 1971, pg 41-42.

**33. Masonic Service Bureau.** Grand Master approved establishment of a Masonic Service Bureau in Spokane. Decision of Grand Master approved. 1972, pg 36, 50.

**34. Powers and Duties of Grand Master.** Believing that the Grand Lodge had again been challenged by a Concordant Body, the Grand Master ruled that the authority to establish standards of conduct over all Masons in this Jurisdiction is vested solely in the Grand Lodge and not in a Concordant Body, however styled, requiring Masonic standing as a prerequisite to membership therein. Decision of Grand Master approved. 1977, pg 24, 34.

**35. DeMolay Funds to Revert.** Ruled that the funds of a defunct DeMolay Chapter be returned to the Executive Officer of DeMolay of Washington by the Lodge holding the funds, no Lodge or Appendant body which sponsors a DeMolay Chapter, Job's Daughters Bethel, or Rainbow Assembly can confiscate the assets or property of a defunct Chapter, Bethel or

Assembly. The property of a defunct Chapter, Bethel, or Assembly reverts to the parent organization, which in this case, is to the Executive Officer of DeMolay of the State of Washington. Decision of Grand Master approved. 1980, pg 30, 42.

**36. Reduction of Sentence.** Ruled that it not within the power of Grand Master to reduce sentence imposed on Brother found guilty in Masonic trial. Decision of Grand Master approved. 1992, pg 32, 41.

**37. Grand Master Suspension Vacated.** Grand Master suspended several brethren for Un-Masonic conduct. Appeal to the Grievances and Appeals Committee and concurrence of the Jurisprudence Committee the Grand Master rescinded the sentences and based upon the findings of the Grand Master's Commission Masonic Trials were ordered. Report of the Grievances and Appeals Committee Accepted. 2002, pg 27, 89.

### **3.02 Grand Master's Duties.**

**1. Deputy to Constitute Lodge.** Grand Master cannot deputize a Master Mason to constitute a Lodge. His deputy must be a Past Master belonging to a Lodge or an Officer of Grand Lodge. Decision of Grand Master approved. 1901, pg 196, 231.

**2. Discipline.** Grand Master issued letter of reprimand to a member of this Grand Lodge who had presided at the installation of officers of the unrecognized Grand Lodge of Alaska. Decision of Grand Master approved. 1981, pg 26, 38-39.

**3. Pardon Granted.** Grand Master requested pardon of errors leading to reprimand (See Decision No. 2, above) of member of this Grand Lodge who had presided at the installation of officers of then unrecognized Grand Lodge of Alaska in 1981. Request of Grand Master approved. 1990, pg 15-16, 37.

## **Chapter 5**

### **5.01 Amendments.**

**1. Resolution to be Presented in a Regular Manner.** A Grand Lodge magazine shall not be published nor any funds be expended for the same without a Resolution being drafted and presented in the regular manner. Decision Grand Master approved. 1985, pg 38, 52-53.

### **5.03 Number of Votes.**

**1. Representation Rights – Who May Vote Proxy.** Grand Master's decision that a Worshipful Master may authorize a Brother to exercise proxy disapproved. Committee on Jurisprudence held that, while a Lodge is entitled to be represented at Grand Lodge by its three principal officers or their proxies, the right to assign one to cast such a proxy ballot is not transferable; the Worshipful Master cannot appoint one to represent any officer except himself, and in the event of the demise of a Warden, the right to cast a ballot, normally an attribute of that office, does not attach to the Brother serving as a pro tempore Warden. Report of Committee on Jurisprudence adopted. 1976, pg 38, 55-56

### **5.06 Time Limit.**

**1. Presentation of Resolutions by Committee on Jurisprudence.** Resolutions to extend the time of submitting Resolutions as remedial legislation held to be an inherent right of the Committee on Jurisprudence. Report of Jurisprudence Committee adopted. 1964, pg 417, 502-503.

## 5.16 Speaker to Stand.

**1. Right of Proxy to Speak.** One not a member of Grand Lodge but carrying the proxies of the Lodge has the privilege of speaking on the floor of Grand Lodge. Decision of the Grand Master approved. 1955, pg 33, 143.

## Chapter 6

### 6.01 Standard Work.

**1. Affirmation in Lieu of Oath.** A candidate for the Degree, being a Quaker, the Obligation at the Altar may be an affirmation in lieu of an oath. Committee on Jurisprudence dissenting from ruling of Grand Master. Report of Committee on Jurisprudence adopted. 1883, pg 343, 385.

**2. Only Standard Work.** A Brother cannot accept any position of Master without consenting to give the obligation as directed by Grand Lodge. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1893, pg 354, 382, 383.

**3. Tyler, Leaving Post.** The Tyler has no right, without permission of the Master, to leave his post to take part in the discussion in Lodge Room. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1893, pg 335, 382, 383.

**4. Changing Standard Work.** No change can be made in the Standard Work except by changing the Constitution. Ruling Grand Master Van Patten, recommending an amendment to Constitution. 1905, pg 26. Committee on Jurisprudence against adoption of proposed amendment adopted. 1905, pg 73.

**5. Without Express Authority.** Grand Lodge over-ruled Jurisprudence Committee's adverse report regarding a Resolution which expressly authorized a Lodge to use work of B.C. on a F.C. 1905, pg 70, 77; 1912, pg 17, 93.

**6. Work in Foreign Jurisdiction.** Refused to grant dispensation for Lodges of this Jurisdiction to confer Master Mason Degree in Idaho. Decision Grand Master approved. 1924, pg 298, 404.

**7. Foreign Work.** Denial by Grand Master of permission to allow officers of foreign Lodges to occupy stations in our Lodges and confer Degrees using other than our Standard Work. Decision Grand Master approved. 1929, pg 30, 92.

#### **8. Degree Teams.**

**(A)** Degree team not under direction of a constituted Lodge serves no good purpose and prostitutes our ritualistic ceremony, which is the property and prerogatives of constituted Lodges, to purposes of other organizations;

**(B)** Degree team composed of officers and members of a Lodge seeking engagements to fill stations and places in other Lodges serve some good purpose by the exchange of fraternal visits, unless desire for individual or collective notoriety is impelling motive. This latter type of team is to be greatly condemned.

Address of Grand Master approved. 1929, pg 20, 92.

**9. Funeral Service.** Lodges must use the funeral service adopted by the Grand Lodge in June, 1930, and printed in the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the Washington Monitor until such time as the Grand Lodge adopts a change or modification of that service. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1933, pg 18, 93.

**10. Optional Funeral Service.** The Funeral Service compiled by W. Bro. J.W.A. Myers of the Masonic Service Bureau of Seattle and submitted to the Grand Lodge authorized for use by the Lodges as an optional service. Recommendation of Grand Master and Committee on Jurisprudence adopted. 1935, pg 28, 133-135; approved 1948, pg 394, 516.

**11. Addition to Ceremony.** Resolution adopted by Grand Lodge required that ciphers of the Standard Work not be identified by name as of this Grand Jurisdiction and pursuant to that the Grand Lecturer was directed to destroy those introductory pages in existing ciphers which bore the approval of the Grand Lodge of Washington. Thereafter, for several years, a paragraph was added to Installation Ceremony at direction of the Grand Lecturer relating to whom the Lodge ciphers were to be entrusted. Report of Committee on Jurisprudence held that this constituted a change in the Standard Work and recommended the paragraph be discontinued. Report of Committee on Jurisprudence adopted. 1938, pg 477.514.

**12. Exemplification of Foreign Work.** Use of foreign work permissible if foreign Lodge does not meet as a Lodge in this Jurisdiction but officers merely exemplify the foreign work. Report Jurisprudence Committee approved. 1939, pg 38, 169.

**13. Change in the Standard Work. Charge.** Charge must be given, and may be read or recited from memory. Resolution introduced 1942, pg 557. Adopted by 2/3 vote 1943. pg 113-114.

**14. Degrees by Foreign Lodge.** Permission by Grand Master at request of Grand Master of foreign Jurisdiction to Lodge of that foreign Jurisdiction to set up its Lodge in Washington and confer Degrees on its candidates only. Permission Grand Master approved. 1945, pg 51, 145.

**15. Respecting Exchange of Visits Between British Columbia and Washington Lodges.** Grand Master ruled:

(A) A British Columbia Lodge cannot close a Washington Lodge on B.C. work. Our Grand Jurisdiction only recognizes our own standard procedure for opening and closing of our own Lodges.

(B) A British Columbia Lodge cannot confer any part of our Degree work in their form on one of our candidates. The conferring of Degrees on our candidates must conform in all respects to our Standard Work.

(C) Whether a British Columbia Lodge can confer a Degree on one of their candidates in one of our Lodges must depend upon B.C. law. It would be ineffective for any purpose so far as one of our candidates is concerned.  
Ruling Grand Master approved. 1945, pg 51, 145.

**16. Standard Work and Exemplified Work.** A Degree Team of Brothers from Foreign Jurisdiction cannot in one of our Lodges confer Degrees on one of our candidates according to the work or ritual of another Jurisdiction; but that the work of another Jurisdiction may be “exemplified” for the purpose of show or instruction, but not for the conferring of an actual Degree on a real candidate. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1945, pg 51, 145.

**17. Degrees in Foreign Jurisdiction.** Grand Master has no power to grant dispensation to Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction to confer Degree in a foreign Jurisdiction upon a candidate of a foreign Jurisdiction Lodge; our constituent Lodge has no power to so confer Degrees. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1945, pg 51, 145. (See No. 19 below for exceptions.)

**18. Exemplification of Work in Foreign Jurisdiction.** It is permissible for one of our Lodges to exemplify Washington work in a foreign Jurisdiction provided there is no obligation from the foreign Grand Lodge. Decision Grand Master approved. 1950, pg 416, 568; 1951, pg 37, 145.

**19. Conferring Work in Foreign Jurisdiction.** Permission granted to Washington Lodge to confer Washington work in B.C. Lodge upon a B.C. candidate if permitted by laws of B.C. Permission Grand Master approved. 1951, pg 37, 145.

**20. Omission of Prayers.** There can be no deviation from ritual by omitting the opening and closing prayers. Decision Grand Master approved. 1953, pg 47, 91.

**21. Wearing of Hat.** The Master removes his hat when another is presiding in the East and the one actually presiding should wear the hat. Decision Grand Master approved. 1953, pg 48, 94.

**22. Admission to Meeting.** A member who, because of long absence, is unknown to any person in his Lodge cannot be vouched for by the Secretary but must stand examination or produce satisfactory evidence that he is a member of the Lodge. Decision Grand Master approved. 1953, pg 48, 91.

**23. Foreign Work.** Permission refused to allow Degree team from Idaho Lodge to confer Degree work in Washington according to Idaho work. Decision Grand Master approved. 1954, pg 380, 428.

**24. Exemplification of the Work is Not Conferral.** Permission to exemplify a Degree is not permission to confer a Degree. Report of Jurisprudence Committee adopted. 1955, pg 192.

**25. Free from Restraint.** Direction that the Lodge be free from restraint until the sound of the gavel in the East is used at a time when the Master desires to give a break in ordinary routine of the Lodge; Lodge is still at labor, Master is presiding, necessary salutations and alarms are given, but the Brethren are free from ordinary restraints which prevail when ceremonies are in progress or business is before the Lodge. Decision Grand Master approved. 1956, pg 431, 534.

**26. Conferring Work in Foreign Jurisdiction.** Unnecessary to obtain permission of Grand Master for members of a Washington Lodge to accept invitation to use our ritual in conferring work in Oregon Lodge upon Oregon candidate; such is exclusively within jurisdiction of Grand Lodge of Oregon. Decision Grand Master approved. 1956, pg 433, 534.

**27. Foreign Work by Degree Team.** B.C. Degree team conferring B.C. work in Washington upon a B.C. candidate must come here under sponsorship of a B.C. Lodge and with the permission of Grand Master of B.C. Permission Grand Master approved. 1958, pg 434, 515.

**28. Visitation to Unrecognized Lodge.** It is illegal to visit or converse Masonically with a Lodge of a Jurisdiction not recognized by Washington. Decision Grand Master approved. 1958, pg 438, 515.

**29. Symbolic Degrees.** The Symbolic Degrees of Free and Accepted Masons are the sovereign property of the Constituted Lodges and under the direction of the Worshipful Master. Decision Grand Master approved. 1969, pg 38-39, 45-46.

**30. Degree Teams.** "Degree Teams," working directly or indirectly under the name or auspices of so-called Appendant or concordant organizations or clubs, having as their primary purpose, expressed or implied, and using this means to increase the membership of their respective organizations, are to cease, desist and disband. Decision Grand Master approved. 1969, pg 38-39, 45-46.

**31. Degree Teams.** Refused permission for Shrine Ritual Section of Afifi Temple to confer Second Section of Third Degree. Decision Grand Master approved. 1970, pg 45, 69.

**32. Degree Teams.** Refused request from Scottish Rite to establish Degree team outside the auspices of a symbolic Lodge. Decision Grand Master approved. 1971, pg 41.

**33. Past Masters Degree.** The ceremony of the Past Masters Degree is not a part of or recognized by the Grand Lodge or Washington. Decision Grand Master approved. 1976, pg 45, 54.

**34. Use of Monitor and Ciphers.** At a point in time when the Worshipful Master raps the gavel for the officers to repair to their Stations and Places, the ciphers, or any part thereof, shall be prohibited from use in the Lodge while at Labor during a Stated or Special Communication. The lectures shall be committed to memory. The Washington Monitor can be used for prompting purposes only and then by only one person. Decision Grand Master approved. 1985, pg 38, 53.

**35. Monitorial Work in Public.** Granted permission to a Lodge to conduct the Monitorial Flag Ceremony at a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce. Decision Grand Master approved. 1990, pg 26, 39.



**36. Visitors Participating in Work.** Ruled that permitting participation in the activities of the Lodge by a visitor is the prerogative of the presiding Master. All work must conform to the Standard Work as prescribed in Sec. 6.01 Constitution. Decision Grand Master approved. 1991, pg 32, 41.

**37. Improper to Perform Standard Work in the Presence of Non-Masons.** Ruled as improper the closing of a Special Communication of Grand Lodge with non-members present and certain portions of the Standard Work deleted, including giving of the signs. All Lodges conduct their ritual precisely in accordance with our Standard Work and that implies without deletion of the signs or any other portion of the ritual. If anything falls within the admonition that we adhere to “Immemorial usage” it is when the Lodge is at Labor, and it must be to close, and the ritual as expressed in the ciphers is employed that only Masons be in attendance. Report of Jurisprudence Committee approved. 1991, pg 40.

## **6.02 Ciphers.**

**1. Essential Secrets of Freemasonry.** These are signs, grips, words, and all modes of recognition, together with all other parts of ritual having direct bearing thereon. Decision Grand Master approved. 1936, pg 407, 460.

## **6.03 Certificate of Proficiency.**

**1. To Foreign Mason.** The Custodian can issue certificate of proficiency to members of a foreign Jurisdiction. Decision Grand Master approved. 1928, pg 386, 444.

**2. Extent of Examination.** Examination shall include opening and closing in all Degrees, transfer of labor from one Degree to another, the preparation, introduction, reception, initiation, passing, raising, and all lectures in each Degree. Report Grand Master approved. 1939, pg 36, 168.

## **Chapter 7**

### **7.03 Revenue for the General Fund.**

**1. Remission, U.D. Lodges.** Recommended that the dues and per capita tax of Lodges U.D. be not remitted owing to the bad precedent such procedure would establish. Finance Committee Report adopted. 1891, pg 371.

**2. Definition, “Indigent,” “Remitted.”** The word “indigent” applies only to such brethren as are supported and cared for by the Lodge on account of inability to help themselves and does not apply to brethren who have been granted further time to pay arrearages of dues. The word “remitted” does not apply to brethren who have been granted further time for payment of dues, but to brethren whose dues have been remitted on account of indigence and who are never expected to pay the same. Decision concurred in. 1895, pg 157, 203.

**3. Names Illegally Dropped from Roll.** Lodges reporting members dropped from roll subsequent to the time provided by By-Laws of the Grand Lodge shall “be held for Grand Lodge dues on such members until it be shown that such members were delinquent in the sum required upon the date provided” by such By-Laws. Resolution adopted. 1897, pg 200, 201.

**4. No Fraction of Year Considered.** Grand Lodge dues for fiscal year payable in full, no reduction to be made because report covers only eight months of Lodge work. Decision Grand Master approved. 1902, pg 22, 52.

**5. Grand Lodge Dues Not to be Charged Twice in One Year.** Lodges (U.D.) having paid Grand Lodge dues in June for work done while under dispensation should not be required to pay on the same members in making annual returns the December following. Decision Grand Master approved. 1904, pg 16, 42, 53.

**6. Indigent Members.** Lodge exempt from Grand Lodge dues only on indigent members whose dues have been remitted because of inability to pay. Decision Grand Master approved. 1933, pg 19, 93.

**7. Permissible Charges.** No item of expense after applicant becomes a guest of the Masonic Retirement Center can be charged against the Lodge. Report Jurisprudence Committee approved. 1939, pg 36, 169.

**8. Honorary Members.** A Lodge need not pay Grand Lodge dues on an honorary member unless he is also an active member of that Lodge. Decision of Grand Master approved. 1953, pg 48, 91.

**9. Adjustments in Grand Lodge and M.R.C. Dues.** Held that the statute of limitations could not be considered in allowing credits or making extra charges in correcting errors in Annual Returns. Decision of Grand Master approved. 1964, pg 368, 592-593.

#### **7.04 Revenue for the Charity Fund.**

**1. Degree Out of Time on Foreign Courtesy Candidate – No Dispensation Fee.** Provision for dispensation fee is not applicable for dispensation to confer Degree out of time as courtesy on candidate of another Grand Jurisdiction. Decision of Grand Master approved. 1943, pg 46, 81.

**2. Dispensation Fees.** Fee for dispensation to confer Degree out of time on candidate in Armed Forces is payable by the Lodge. Ruling of Grand Master approved. 1943, pg 46, 81.

**3. Dispensation, Waiver of Fee.** Grand Master is without authority to waive fee for dispensation to hold special election for the Master, as power to waive rests in Grand Lodge only. Permission of Grand Master reversed. 1945, pg 33, 144.

**4. Degrees Out of Time by Foreign Lodge.** Lodge in foreign jurisdiction may confer Degrees by courtesy out-of-time on Washington candidate without dispensation from Grand Master. Ruling of Grand Master approved. 1945, pg 46, 145.

**5. Dispensation. Return of Fees.** Where Lodge requested and received dispensation for conferring two Degrees out-of-time but Degrees were never conferred, Grand Master authorized return of fees to Lodge as act of courtesy but not as a matter of right, as receiving dispensation constituted consideration for the fees. Ruling of Grand Master approved. 1945, pg 56, 145.

**6. Dispensation. Fees.** Wherever a Lodge confers Degrees without first obtaining dispensation from Grand Master under this section, Grand Master may heal the irregularities but dispensation fee must be paid by Lodge in each instance. Ruling of Grand Master approved. 1945, pg 58, 148.

#### **7.11 Masonic Home Endowment Fund.**

**1. Expenses of Sale of Property.** The expenses incurred in connection with the sale of property received for the benefit of Masonic Home Endowment Fund shall be paid out of the proceeds received there from. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1943, pg 28, 79.

## Chapter 8

### 8.01 Standing Committees.

**1. Removing Committeemen.** The Grand Master has authority to remove a member of Standing Committee of Grand Lodge. Committee Report approved. 1926, pg 399, 400.

## Chapter 9

### 9.01 Communications.

**1. In Absence of Officers, Grand Lodge, How Opened.** The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and Junior Grand Warden being absent, the Senior Grand Warden called Grand Lodge to order and at his request a Past Grand Master assumed the duties of the Grand East. 1879, pg 417.

**2. Lay Cornerstone for Fraternity House.** Invitation declined to lay cornerstone for Acacia Fraternity House at Washington State University, as such does not come within the category acceptable as Grand Lodge function. Decision of Grand Master approved. 1964, pg 368, 592-593.

**3. Attendance at Grand Lodge.** Ruled that the Grand Lodge is not a symbolic or constituent Lodge, Grand Lodge is a unique entity, a Communication. It is, therefore, not subject to the same rules. As it applies to attendance at Grand Lodge, any regular Mason can attend Grand Lodge, subject only to the Grand Master. This Grand Lodge recognized Prince Hall Masons of Washington as regular and they are, therefore, entitled to visit and sit in Grand Lodge as any other regular Mason. Decision of Grand Master approved. 1991, pg 32, 41

### 9.05 Continuing Proceedings.

**1. Right of Proxy to Speak.** One not a member of Grand Lodge, but carrying the proxies of the Lodge, has the privilege of speaking on the floor of Grand Lodge. Decision of Grand Master approved. 1955, pg 33, 143.

## Chapter 11

### 11.03 Referrals.

**1. Diverting Grand Lodge Funds.** The Funds (of Grand Lodge) contributed by the brethren within this Jurisdiction cannot be rightfully appropriated to the erection of Masonic Temples in other Jurisdictions. Finance Committee Report adopted. 1881, pg 41.

**2. Aid to Georgia Warm Springs Foundation.** The Grand Lodge could not officially take part in this endowment. Ruling of Grand Master approved. 1934, pg 366, 471.

## Chapter 12

### 12.01 Use of Masonic Name and Emblem.

**1. "Masonic" Life Insurance.** Soliciting life insurance from members for Masonic Life Insurance Association on the statement that it is Masonic and has the approval of this Grand Lodge is a violation of Sec. 12.01. Decision Grand Master approved. 1923, pg 33, 138.

- 2. Masonic Dances.** Use of the word “Masonic” in connection with dances not under auspices of Lodge is a violation of Sec. 12.01. Decision Grand Master approved 1933, pg 19, 93.
- 3. Approval of Publication by Grand Master Not Official Recognition .** Approval of a publication by Grand Master does not constitute official recognition by Grand Lodge. Permission of Grand Master modified. 1951, pg 37-38, 145-146.
- 4. Dedication of Masonic Section of Privately Owned Cemetery.** There can be no Masonic dedication of a portion of a privately owned cemetery, neither the Grand Lodge nor any constituent Lodge owning any part thereof. Refusal of permission by Grand Master approved. 1954, XXVIII, 380, 428. Reaffirmed. 1956, pg 424, 534.
- 5. Display of Emblem.** It is consensus of Grand Lodge that wearing or displaying of an emblem consisting of a cane and two balls is vulgar, lacking in good taste and not consistent with Masonic propriety. Resolution adopted. 1958, pg 477, 534.
- 6. Advertising.** It is improper for a Lodge to use a flag upon the staff of which is engraved the name of the firm desiring to present such flag to the Lodge. Decision Grand Master approved. 1961, pg 29, 98.
- 7. Use of Masonic Emblem.** Granted permission to use the Masonic emblem on appointment books so long as no commercial advertisement was used on the books or in connection with the sale of said books. This was contingent upon the proceeds of sale of the books being used for Temple maintenance and/or accessories. Decision Grand Master approved. Reaffirmed 1968, pg 42, 48; 1969, pg 39, 49.
- 8. Listing of Masonic Affiliations.** Ruled that a candidate for political office may publicly list his Masonic affiliations. Decision Grand Master approved. 1970, pg 50, 72-73.
- 9. Use of the Word Masonic.** Permission granted King County Masonic Library Association, Incorporated, to use the word “Masonic” in their title. Decision Grand Master approved. 1970, pg 54, 76.
- 10. Use of the Word Masonic.** Permission to use the word “Masonic” in employment service. Decision Grand Master disapproved. 1972, pg 36, 53.
- 11. Use of Masonic Emblem.** Permission granted to use Square and Compasses on a Masonic publication. Decision Grand Master approved. 1972, pg 36, 47.
- 12. Display of Emblem.** Letter requesting permission to fly pennant with the emblem on flag pole; to display Masonic emblem in floral shop, and on pleasure boats. Permission of the Grand Master disapproved. 1972, pg 36, 51.
- 13. Use of Masonic Name and Emblem.** Refused permission to use Square and Compasses and the words “Masonic” or “Masonry” in or on a publication with no restrictions on advertising. Decision Grand Master approved. 1973, pg 39, 48.
- 14. Use of Masonic Name and Emblem.** Refused permission to use Square and Compasses or the words “Mason” or “Masonic” in the title of a Scottish Rite bulletin. Decision Grand Master approved. 1973, pg 39, 48.
- 15. Use of Word Masonic.** Refused permission to use words “Masonic” or words “For Masons Only” or “For Masons and their families only” to promote a variety show. Decision Grand Master approved. 1973, pg 39, 48.
- 16. Use of Word Masonic.** Refused permission to use word “Masonic” in relation to name of a service club. Decision Grand Master approved. 1981, pg 26, 38.
- 17. Permission to Place Sign.** Granted permission to place a sign with the name of the Lodge on the perimeter fence of a new youth baseball field provided there is no advertising in connection with the Masonic sign. Decision Grand Master approved. 1989, pg 37, 51-52.
- 18. Use of the Word Masonic.** Granted permission to Masonic Hall Association to use the word “Masonic” in a shirt logo for parks and recreation softball team which is sponsored by association. Decision Grand Master approved. 1989, pg 39, 51-52.

**19. Use of Masonic Emblem.** Granted permission to Lodge to place the Masonic Square and Compasses on a D.A.R.E. pamphlet in the fight against drug and alcohol abuse at the grade school level. Decision Grand Master approved. 1989, pg 39, 51-52.

**20. Use of the Word Masonic.** Granted permission for use of the word Masonic in the name of the bus service operated solely for the Masonic family with the stipulation that periodic reports be made to the Grand Master to monitor its operations. Decision Grand Master approved. 1989, pg 40, 51-52.

**21. Use of Lodge Name and Number.** Granted permission to Lodge to use the Lodge name and number in advertising their salmon barbecue. Decision Grand Master approved. 1990, pg 25, 39.

**22. Use of Masonic Emblem and Word.** Granted permission to use the word Masonic and the Square and Compasses in connection with a Fun Run which raises money for cancer research. Decision Grand Master approved. 1990, pg 25, 39.

**23. Use of Masonic Emblem and Word.** Granted permission to display the Lodge name, the word Masonic, and the Square and compasses in conjunction with fundraising booth at fair. Decision Grand Master approved. 1990, pg 25, 39.

**24. Use of Masonic Emblem.** Granted permission to use the Masonic logo on bumper stickers promoting an anti-drug theme. Decision Grand Master approved. 1990, pg 25, 39.

**25. Use of Masonic Emblem.** Granted permission to use the Square and Compasses on bumper stickers promoting Masonic pride and Americanism. Decision Grand Master approved. 1990, pg 25, 39.

**26. Use of Lodge Name but Not Masonic Emblem.** Granted permission to sponsor a Little League Baseball Team and to place a sign at the play field with the Lodge name but not the Square and Compasses. Decision Grand Master approved. 1990, pg 26, 39.

**27. Use of Masonic Emblem and Word.** Granted permission to use the Masonic emblem and word Masonic in connection with the proposed Bill Paul Horn Memorial Masonic Medal. Permission granted subject to provision that periodic reports be submitted to the Grand Master to monitor operations. Decision Grand Master approved. 1990, pg 26, 39.

**28. Use of Masonic Emblem.** Granted permission to use the Masonic emblem on polo shirts which would be for sale as a fund raiser for the Lodge. Decision Grand Master approved. 1990, pg 26, 39.

**29. Use of Word Masonic.** Refused permission to travel agency to use the words Mason or Masonic in promoting tour through the agency. Decision Grand Master approved. 1990, pg 26, 39.

**30. Use of Masonic Word.** Granted permission to a Lodge to advertise the Masonic Memorial Park on city busses. The Masonic logo would not be used. Decision Grand Master approved. 1991, pg 28, 42.

**31. Use of Masonic Word.** Granted permission to a Lodge to use the word Masonic in connection with the Lodge's participation in a highway project. Decision Grand Master approved. 1991, pg 28, 42.

**32. Use of Masonic Emblem.** Denied permission to Candy Kitchen to use Masonic logo in production of chocolate confection to be sold commercially unless the candy was offered exclusively to members of the Lodges. Decision of Grand Master approved. 1991, pg 31, 43.

**33. Use of Masonic Word.** Denied permission for the use of the words "Masonic Youth" as the coffee stop project was sponsored by an Amaranth Court. Decision Grand Master approved. 1991, pg 31, 43.

**34. Use of Masonic Word.** Granted permission to Royal Arch Masons of Washington Children's Heart Foundation to use the words "Mason(s)" or "Masonic" in connection with its activities. Decision Grand Master approved. 1991, pg 29, 43.

**35. Use of Masonic Emblem.** Granted permission to Lodge to sponsor Little League Baseball team and a bowling team and to use Masonic emblem on uniforms. Decision Grand Master approved. 1992, pg 29, 40.

**36. Use of Masonic Emblem and Word “Lodge.”** Denied permission to a Master Mason to use the Masonic emblem and the term Lodge, however spelled (Loge, Lodgia, Logia), or a number combined with the term Lodge for a self-styled Masonic study group. Decision Grand Master approved. 1993, pg 31, 40.

## **12.02 Business or Begging Letters.**

**1. For Charitable Organizations.** Grand Master denied permission to a woman to circularize the Lodges to secure funds for some charitable organizations. Decision Grand Master approved. 1931, pg 24, 135.

**2. Masonic Service Bureau.** Permission granted to circularize Lodge in King County to Masonic Service Bureau of Seattle. Decision Grand Master approved. 1931, pg 24, 133.

**3. Century of Progress Exposition.** Permission granted District Deputy of the Grand Master of Grand Lodge of Illinois, representing Visitors’ Tourist Service, Inc., to distribute literature concerning a matter which has the express approval of the Grand Lodge of Illinois. Decision Grand Master approved. 1933, pg 17, 94.

**4. George Washington University.** One of the allied bodies of Masonry having given the University a million dollars to help endow a School of Government, the Grand Master granted the University permission to announce to our constituent Lodges by circular letter the program of the school. Decision Grand Master approved. 1934, pg 368, 471.

**5. Raising Funds Through Dance.** It is proper for Master of Lodge to circularize members calling attention to Masonic benefit dance for relief purposes. Decision of the Grand Master approved. 1939, pg 38, 168.

**6. Seattle World’s Fair.** Permission granted to officers of King County Lodges to solicit funds from Constituent Lodges to establish a Masonic Hospitality Lounge at the Seattle World’s Fair. Decision of Grand Master approved. 1962, pg 328, 340, 487, 489.

**7. Raising Funds Through Dance.** Improper for Lodge to send dance tickets to members of other Lodges soliciting funds for a new temple. Decision of Grand Master approved. 1962, pg 341, 489.

**8. Soliciting Funds.** Granted permission to solicit financial support for School Awards Program from members of Lodges within a District. Decision Grand Master approved. 1970, pg 56.

**9. Soliciting Funds.** Granted permission for a Lodge to solicit their members for funds to complete their temple. Decision Grand Master approved. 1970, pg 56.

**10. Soliciting Funds.** The Grand Master ruled that a letter asking for contributions for Youth Recognition Night of District 31 is not classed as a begging letter under Sec. 12.02 W.M.C. Decision of Grand Master disapproved. 1977, as Sec. 12,02 specifically provides any letter seeking funds from any Lodge or Mason must first receive approval of the Grand Lodge or Grand Master and such approval shall appear on the face of such letter. Report of Jurisprudence Committee adopted. 1977, pg 23, 34.

**11. Fund Raising.** Granted permission to Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington to sell William H. Upton Commemorative Buttons to our Lodges using their letterhead with a mast saying “Land Acquisition Committee.” Decision Grand Master approved. 1991, pg 32, 41.

**12. Advertisement for Political Candidate.** Ruled that Lodge erred in distributing with Lodge Trestle board an advertisement and a request for contributions for a judicial (non-partisan) candidate. Decision Grand Master approved. 1993, pg 25, 40.

## 12.04 Lotteries.

**1. Lodges Not to Sponsor Gambling.** Refused permission for Lodge to sponsor directly or indirectly through a group a Casino Night and/or pull-tabs. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1979, pg 27.

## 12.05 Incorporation of Lodges.

**1. No Exception by Dispensation.** Grand Master cannot authorize a Lodge to incorporate. Decision Grand Master approved. 1899, pg 338, 368.

**2. Restrictions in Incorporating.** Petition of a Lodge for leave to incorporate, with restrictions as to reversion of property to Grand Lodge upon dissolution. Granted. 1915, pg 312, 340.

**3. Dispensations – Incorporating Lodges.** Refusal to grant permission to a Lodge to incorporate without the consent of Grand Lodge approved. 1922, pg 479, 531.

**4. By-Law.** The Grand Master declined to approve a By-Law providing for organization of a corporation to hold title to the Lodge property as contrary to W.M.C. Sec. 21.05 and Sec. 12.06, approved. 1924, pg 300.

**5. Incorporation of a Lodge.** Grand Master has no power to permit a Lodge to incorporate; such permission can be granted by the Grand Lodge itself. Decision Grand Master approved. 1956, pg 392, 532.

### **6. Lodges Incorporated by Special Acts of Territorial Legislature.**

#### **(A) On Oregon List (A.F.&A.M.):**

Olympia Lodge, No. 5	1854
Steilacoom Lodge, No. 8	1857, Dec. 21, 1859

#### **(B) On Washington List (F.&A.M.):**

Olympia Lodge, No. 1	Dec. 21, 1859
Steilacoom Lodge, No. 2	Jan. 24, 1863
Washington Lodge, No. 4	Jan. 11, 1865
Franklin Lodge, No. 5	Jan. 24, 1861
Port Townsend Lodge, No. 6	Dec. 15, 1859
Walla Walla Lodge, No. 7	Jan. 30, 1864
Kane Lodge, No. 8	Jan. 16, 1865
St. John's Lodge, No. 9	Jan. 21, 1865
Mount Moriah Lodge, No.11	Jan. 21, 1865

See: Act of February 25, 1891, Session Laws of the State of Washington, page 73, applicable to all of the above Lodges authorizing the holding of property without limit as to extent or amount.

## Chapter 13

### 13.01 Authority to Hold Lodge.

**1. Destruction of Charter.** Where Charter is destroyed, as by fire, or has disappeared, Lodge loses no rights or privileges and it may continue to meet, perform its usual functions, and do work under dispensation from the Grand Master pending issuance of duplicate charter which may be ordered by Grand Master. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1881, pg 11, 36; 1889, pg 11, 37; 1894, pg 13; 1905, pg 25-26; 1907, pg 231, 284; 1909, pg 15, 26, 73; 1915, pg 279, 311.

**2. Framing Charter.** Custom is against framing Charter and suspending it in Lodge room. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1895, pg 156, 203.

**3. Defective Charter.** When Charter recited wrong name for Junior Warden, the Junior Warden-elect installed and a new corrected Charter thereafter issued; work under defective Charter ruled legal. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1904, pg 8, 57.

**4. Invasion by Foreign Lodge.** Not permissible for a foreign Lodge to confer the Degrees in a Lodge in this Jurisdiction. Decision Grand Master approved. 1907, pg 227, 305. (See also W.M.C. Sec. 6.01)

**5. Conferring Degrees by Masonic Club.** Masonic Club cannot confer Degrees. No group of Masons may open a meeting on any Degree of Masonry, except Lodges regularly constituted or under dispensation. Decision Grand Master approved. 1948, pg 393, 516.

**6. Display of Copy of Charter.** It is permissible to frame and display a photo static copy of the Charter in the Lodge hall at times when custom permits. Decision Grand Master approved. 1951, pg 43, 147. (See W.M.C. Rulings and Decisions Sec. 13.01 Ruling No. 2, above. Note: a framed photo static copy does not dispense with the necessity of presence of Charter itself at all Communications.)

### **13.02 Lodge Membership.**

**1. Equality of Membership.** No member of a Lodge can object to presence in the Lodge room of another member of that Lodge. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1893, pg 355, 382, 383.

### **13.03 Sunday Labor.**

**1. Calling Off Saturday Night.** A Lodge calling off on Saturday night cannot resume labor and confer Degree on following day. Decision Grand Master approved. 1880, pg 575, 618, 621.

**2. Installation- Fixed Day of the Month.** A By-Law providing Lodge should meet on Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> each year for installation disapproved, as that day must sometime fall on Sunday. 1907, pg 228, 284.

**3. Installation.** There can be no installation of Officers on Sunday. Decision Grand Master approved. 1915, pg 278, 339.

**4. Installation and Reception.** Grand Master permitted Lodge to meet on Sunday to receive Grand Master and install DDGM. Action of Grand Master disapproved. 1937, pg 25, 86.

**5. Initiation.** A Lodge cannot meet on Sunday to initiate a candidate. Decision Grand Master approved. 1943, pg 30, 79.

### **13.04 Proper Time For Business.**

**1. Quorum for Lodge of Master Masons.** While by our Constitution it requires 7 members to constitute a Lodge, 3 members are a quorum in the Third Degree, 5 in the Second Degree, and 7 in the First Degree, for the dispatch of business. Decision Grand Master to contrary disapproved. 1895, pg 155, 203-204.

### **13.06 Change of Meeting Place. Regular Meetings.**

**1. Removal of Lodge.** Dispensation denied Lodge to take charter and jewels to town of another Lodge site and there hold meetings in Lodge room of such other Lodge without latter's consent. Approved. 1896, pg 17, 70.



**2. Lodge Not to Travel.** A Lodge cannot, unless specially authorized by some clause in its charter, upon paying a friendly visit to another Lodge, open in the Lodge room of such other Lodge and there confer Degree upon its own candidates. Decision Grand Master approved. 1899, pg 339, 368.

**3. Public Installation in Opera House.** Dispensation granted Lodge to hold public installation in local opera house. Approved. 1905, pg 20, 73. (See W.M.C. Sec. 13.06. 2B.)

**4. Unsafe Place.** Refused permission to a Lodge to change its place of meeting to a hall when doors contained wickets or peep holes. Approved. 1918, pg 200, 248.

**5. Meeting in a Cave.** Refused to grant dispensation to Lodge to meet with other Lodges in a cave and confer the Third Degree. Decision Grand Master Approved. 1922, pg 478, 531. Reaffirmed, Approved, 1924, pg 298, 404

**6. Working in Foreign Jurisdiction.** Refused to grant dispensation to a Lodge of this Jurisdiction to confer Master Mason Degree in Idaho. Approved. 1924, pg 298, 404. (See W.M.C. Sec. 6.01)

**7. Occasional Change of Meeting Place.** Refused to grant dispensation for Lodge at Mabton to hold meetings "once in a while" at Bickleton, where sixteen (out of fifty-eight) of their members lived, distance between the two places being twenty-eight miles. Approved. 1928, pg 391, 444.

**8. Change of Meeting Place.** Refused to grant dispensation to open Des Moines Lodge (nearer Masonic Home) at Masonic Home at Des Moines in order that Delta Lodge could confer Third Degree on one of its own candidates employed at the Home. Approved. 1928, pg 390, 444.

**9. Change of Meeting Place.** Dispensations and permissions for Lodges to meet to receive Grand Master and also in emergency in halls and places other than regular meeting place. Approved. 1937, pg 27, 86; 1938, pg 424, 505. Reaffirmed approved 1942, pg 486, 520.

**10. Lodge Cannot Open in Two Locations at One Time.** Lodge cannot open itself in two different halls simultaneously and then confer parts of a Degree on two different candidates, bringing them together into one place to complete the work. Such practice would be a departure from established precedents and open the door for serious violations of the Code and Ancient Landmarks. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1945, pg 58, 147.

**11. Meeting Place.** Permission granted by Deputy Grand Master (in absence of Grand Master) to Longview Lodge to hold their meeting at the hall of Kelso Lodge due to cracking walls of Lodge hall. Permission Deputy Grand Master approved. 1949, pg 45, 171.

**12. Meeting Place.** Blanket permission refused to permit a Lodge to meet in any one of certain school buildings to meet any emergency which might arise. Decision Grand Master approved. 1949, pg 47, 172.

**13. Meeting Place.** A dispensation to confer the Master Mason Degree on a candidate in his home is a violation of the fundamental principles touching the conferring of Degrees, deviates from the Landmarks of Masonry, violates positive Code provision. (See W.M.C. Sec. 13.06.) Action of Grand Master in issuing dispensation disapproved. 1952, pg 478, 579.; Reaffirmed Decision Grand Master approved. 1962. pg 329, 487

**14. Fiftieth Anniversary Not an Emergency.** Fiftieth anniversary of a Lodge is not such an emergency preventing it from meeting in its regular place of meeting as will justify Grand Master in permitting it to meet elsewhere. Permission granted by Grand Master disapproved. 1955, pg 27, 141. (1959 amendment of W.M.C. Sec. 13.06 allows Grand Master discretion in granting such permission.)

**15. Funeral Service in Foreign Jurisdiction.** It is proper for a Lodge to open in this Jurisdiction and then, with the permission of the Grand Master of a foreign Jurisdiction, to travel to that foreign Jurisdiction there to conduct a funeral service for one of its members. Decision Grand Master approved. 1962, pg 29, 98.

**16. Hold Meetings in Open-Air Places.** Permission refused two Lodges to meet in open air places and confer Third Degree. Decision Grand Master approved. 1964, pg 363, 592-593. (W.M.C. Sec. 13.06 2B, amended in 1972, allows Grand Master discretion to grant dispensations for such meetings.)

**17. Meeting Place.** Refused permission for a Lodge to continue to meet in a temporary meeting place. Decision Grand Master approved. 1970, pg 45, 69-70.

**18. Meeting Place.** Refused permission for a Lodge to hold a Stated Communication at a restaurant. Decision Grand Master approved. 1990, pg 26, 38.

**19. Meeting Place.** Refused permission for a Lodge to move its Charter to another Lodge to confer Degree upon a candidate as a Charter already existed for a Masonic Lodge to do Masonic work. Decision Grand Master approved. 1990, pg 27, 38.

**20. Indefinite.** Temporary Meeting Place. Refused permission for a Lodge to meet on a temporary (trial) period in another Masonic hall, the Lodge having sold its building and forced to vacate. Decision Grand Master approved. 1993, pg 31, 40.

### **13.07 Public Appearance as Masons.**

**1. Burial of Dead.** Master Masons appear in public clothed as such only for the burial of the dead. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1895, pg 156, 203.

**2. Appearing With Other Orders.** Refused to grant dispensation to a Lodge to appear as such in a demonstration with other Orders, and participate in the proceedings. Approved. 1922, pg 30, 92.

**3. Divine Services.** Masons in Masonic clothing cannot participate in dedication of communion table, even though granted permission so to attend divine service. Decision Grand Master approved. 1941, pg 52, 103.

**4. Masonic Offense.** Charge of un-Masonic conduct that the accused wore Masonic apron in public for the conduct of a purported Masonic funeral, but for which the Lodge was not opened, constituted Masonic offense. Decision Grand Master approved. 1956, pg 421, 534. Decision Grand Master Approved Reaffirmed 1965, pg 48, 126, 127; 1970, pg 51,74.

**5. Wearing Masonic Clothing.** Permission denied Lodge to wear Masonic clothing when they had no part in funeral service. Decision Grand Master approved. 1964, pg 367, 592-593.

**6. Attendance Clothed as Masons.** Granted permission for members of Lodges in District No. 31 to be clothed as Masons while attending Wreath Laying Ceremony sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution. Decision Grand Master approved. 1981, pg 26, 38.

**7. Attendance Clothed as Masons.** Granted Permission for members of a Lodge to participate, clothed as Masons, in the public non-Masonic dedication of an elementary school. Decision Grand Master approved. 1990, pg 24, 38.

**8. Wearing Masonic Clothing.** Refused permission for members to wear Masonic aprons during conduct of Fair Booth. Decision Grand Master approved. 1990, pg 26, 38.

**9. Wearing Masonic Clothing.** Refused permission for members of a Lodge to appear clothed as Masons while conducting the Flag Ceremony for local Chamber of Commerce. Decision Grand Master approved. 1990, pg 27, 38.

**10. Wearing Masonic Clothing.** Denied permission for a Lodge to attend a commerce show clothed as Masons. Decision Grand Master approved. 1991, pg 31, 43.

**11. Wearing Masonic Clothing.** Granted permission to a Brother to simulate an actual Masonic Lodge during a Mozart Festival which included performance of part of the opera "The Magic Flute." Decision Grand Master approved. 1991, pg 29, 43.

**12. Wearing Masonic Clothing.** Granted permission to Lodge to attend 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Boy Scout Troop clothed as Masons. Decision Grand Master approved. 1992, pg 29, 40.

### **13.09 Admitting Visitors.**

**1. Dimit Essential Value.** Dimit is only evidence of a cessation of membership in Lodge issuing it and a Brother is no longer obligated to pay dues to that particular Lodge. Decision Grand Master approved. 1863, pg 263, 309.

**2. Examination Essential.** A dimit alone is not evidence of identity of its holder or of his Masonic status; there must be an examination. Decision Grand Master sustained. 1867, pg 59, 118.

**3. Visitation of Member of Unrecognized Grand Lodge.** An application for visitation was presented to Grand Lodge by a member of a Lodge chartered by the First African Grand Lodge of U.S. of Pennsylvania and was denied as our Grand Lodge recognized but one Grand Lodge in Pennsylvania, to which the applicant did not claim to owe allegiance. 1872, pg 17.

**4. Visiting Mason.** A visiting Mason, a member of a regular Lodge in Nova Scotia, is entitled to full recognition and consideration – the color line is nowhere drawn in this Jurisdiction. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1898, pg 13, 138.

**5. Evidential Value of Seal of Lodge.** A seal of a Lodge is sufficient proof of the Masonic character of such body. Opinion Grand Master approved. 1899, pg 13, 44.

**6. Committee of Two.** Visitors must be examined by a committee of two. Decision Grand Master approved. 1923, pg 31, 38.

#### **7. Lodges of Instruction.**

**(A)** Brother who has sat with one claiming to be a Mason in a “Lodge of Instruction” from a foreign Jurisdiction may not vouch for such a person in a regular Lodge and latter must stand examination by a committee and the examination under W.M.C. Sec. 13.13, for the purpose of Masonic conversation only and not for personal avouchment.

**(B)** In Masonic clubs such as “Lodges of Instruction” a document of a foreign Jurisdiction, even though it states on its face that examination is not required, is not recognized in this Jurisdiction and the proof of Masonic membership should satisfy W.M.C. Sec. 13.13 and “not fall much short” of the requirements in this chapter. Grand Master warned of the importance of this problem where Masonic clubs are being formed for proficiency purposes and advised that the clubs should be as careful as any Lodges, as they will be doing those things which should be done only under the protection of adequate tiling and proper examination.

Ruling of Grand Master approved. 1945, pg 50, 145.

**8. Visitor from Unrecognized Jurisdiction.** One claiming membership in a Lodge of an unrecognized Grand Jurisdiction cannot visit a Washington Lodge. Decision Grand Master approved. 1958, pg 436, 515.

**9. Visitors at Grand Lodge Not Subject to Same Rules.** Ruled that the Grand Lodge is not a symbolic or constituent Lodge. Grand Lodge is a unique entity, a Communication. It is, therefore, not subject to the same rules. As it applies to attendance at Grand Lodge, any regular Mason may attend Grand Lodge, subject only to the Grand Master. Decision Grand Master approved. 1991, pg 32, 41.

### **13.10 Objection to Visitor.**

**1. Disregarding Objection.** Master did wrong in disregarding objection of member to visitation. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1885, pg 224, 256.

**2. Unanimous Consent.** An unaffiliated Mason with a valid dimit, has not the right but only the privilege of visitation, which can be exercised by the unanimous consent of members of the Lodge then present. Decision Grand Master approved. 1887, pg 24, 26.

**3. Single Objection Bars Visitors.** The objection of a single member of the Lodge bars a visiting brother. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1893, pg 355, 382, 383.

**4. Objection to Advancement.** Effect of. An E.A. of a foreign Jurisdiction recognized by this Grand Lodge has the same rights which pertain to an E.A. receiving his Degree in this state; objection to his advancement in a Lodge in this Jurisdiction does not impair his status as an E.A. with right of visitation in an E.A. Lodge. Decision Grand Master approved. 1905, pg 24, 73.

**5. No Appeal From Objection.** This chapter makes it clear that visitors in a Lodge are received only subject to the right of any member of the Lodge to object to their visit without assigning any reason for such objection, and visitors so objected to have no appeal from the decision of the Lodge. Committee Report adopted. 1916, pg 527.

**6. Blanket Objection.** A blanket objection by a member of a Lodge to the presence of all visitors, without naming any visitor, is a valid objection and all visitors must be included. Decision Grand Master approved. 1950, pg 418, 568.

## Chapter 14

### 14.02 Powers of Lodges.

**1. Quorum.** Not less than three members necessary for a Lodge meeting, one of whom must possess proper authority to call and open Lodge, and unless present, the Lodge cannot open except by Grand Master or his deputy. Decision Grand Master approved. 1863, pg 263, 309.

**2. Business on Any Regular Communication.** The election of officers being held on a regular Communication, any other business may be transacted at such meeting. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1888, pg 267, 288, 294.

**3. Extent of Powers.** Modern Lodges possess all the powers and rights which were possessed by Masonic Lodges before Grand Lodges or written constitutions existed, except such powers and rights as have been expressly delegated by them to Grand Lodge Committee Report. 1893, pg 381-382, 383.

**4. Quorum.** While by our Constitution it requires 7 members to constitute a Lodge, 3 members are a quorum in the Third Degree, 5 in the Second Degree, and 7 in the First Degree for the dispatch of business. Decision Grand Master to contrary disapproved. 1895, pg 155, 203-204.

**5. Communication with Foreign Bodies.** A Lodge in this Jurisdiction has a right to correspond with a foreign body but must not do anything inadvertently which might be construed as recognizing it as a Masonic Lodge. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1899, pg 339, 368.

**6. Remission of Debt.** See W.M.C. Rulings and Decisions Sec. 21.04, Decision No. 1. 1919, pg 415, 465.

**7. Extra-territorial Appropriation of Funds.** A Lodge cannot donate its funds to pay off indebtedness on a Masonic Temple in a foreign Jurisdiction. Decision Grand Master approved. 1923, pg 30, 138.

**8. Life Membership.** A By-Law providing for life membership in form of paid-up annual membership. Approved. 1924, pg 300, 389.

**9. Board of Trustees Prohibited.** Lodge By-Law creating Board of Trustees with power to invest Lodge funds, supervise Lodge actions in matters of finance disapproved. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1926, pg 262, 330.

**10. Restricting Powers of Masters.** Action of Grand Master in disapproving By-Laws of Lodge:

- (A) Creating advisory committee to which all matters had to be referred before presentation to Lodge;
- (B) Restricting power of Master to appoint members to a specified committee;
- (C) Permitting payment of initiation fee on installments.

Recommendation of Committee on By-Laws approved. 1931, pg 15, 119.

**11. Membership on Defense Council.** A Lodge cannot be represented on a local defense council. Decision Grand Master approved. 1941, pg 51, 103.

**12. Prohibited Lodge Activities.** Grand Master ruled a Lodge cannot take part in such activities as “organizing a home guard.” Approved. 1943, pg 25, 79.

**13. Conferring Degrees by Masonic Club Prohibited.** Masonic Club cannot confer Degrees. No group of Masons may open a meeting on any Degree of Masonry except Lodges regularly constituted or under dispensation. Decision Grand Master approved. 1948, pg 393, 516.

**14. Advertising and Promotion.** Permission refused to use Lodge funds as donation to committee to promote new industry and advertise a city. Approved. 1954, pg 381, 428.

**15. Honorary Past Master.** A Lodge has the power to elect a member an honorary Past Master. It may follow such procedures as it desires but it is recommended that the procedure set forth in W.M.C. chapter 18.13 be adopted. Decision Grand Master approved. 1945, pg 44, 145.

**16. Honorary Past Master.** A Lodge cannot, posthumously, elect a deceased Junior Warden as an honorary Past Master. Decision Grand Master approved. 1955, pg 31, 143.

**17. Initiation of Petitioner Over Objection.** Where Masonic Lodge, over timely objection, nevertheless took petitioner through the initiation ceremony, petitioner did not become a member of Masonic Lodge. Decision Grand Master approved. 1955, pg 34, 143.

**18. Honorary Past Master.** One may be elected honorary Past Master by a 2/3 vote. Decision Grand Master approved. 1958, pg 438, 515.

**19. Honorary Past Master.** By-Law provisions relating to election of honorary member does not apply to election of honorary Past Master. Decision Grand Master approved. 1959, pg 53, 219.

**20. Lodge Funds.** Improper to use Lodge funds to mail a letter to Masons of the area calling attention to a school election where Lodge did not approve such a letter. Decision Grand Master approved. 1959, pg 54, 219.

**21. Sale of Merchandise.** Masonic building corporation may properly advertise legitimate merchandise for sale and that the proceeds would be used for Temple expenses. Decision Grand Master approved. 1962, pg 341, 489.

**22. Advertising in DeMolay Publication.** Improper for Lodge to enter into agreement to buy advertising space. Decision Grand Master approved. 1964, pg 366, 592-593.

**23. Use of Lodge Funds.** Lodge could not use its funds for a community library. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1968, pg 42, 48.

**24. Use of Lodge Funds.** Lodges could not contribute Lodge funds for support of old people’s home in foreign jurisdiction. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1971, pg 41, 56.

**25. DeMolay Funds.** Grand Master ruled that the funds of a defunct DeMolay Chapter be returned to the Executive Officer of DeMolay of Washington by the Lodge holding the funds, as no Lodge or Appendant Body which sponsors a DeMolay Chapter, Job’s Daughters Bethel, or Rainbow Assembly can confiscate the assets or property of a defunct Chapter, Bethel, or Assembly. The property of a defunct Chapter, Bethel, or Assembly reverts to the parent organization, which in this case is to the Executive Officer of the DeMolay of the State of Washington. Decision Grand Master approved. 1980, pg 30, 42.

**26. Distribution of Trestle Board.** Lodge could, with the approval of the Lodge, distribute its trestle board to the three youth groups. Decision Grand Master approved. 1984, pg 30, 41.

**27. Sponsorship of Little League Team.** Granted permission to a Lodge to sponsor a little league ball team. Decision Grand Master approved. 1987, pg 29, 44.

**28. Sponsorship of Rainbow.** Granted permission to a Lodge to sponsor a Rainbow Assembly, no other local sponsorship available, provided a favorable vote of the Lodge is obtained. Decision Grand Master approved. 1989, pg 40, 51.

**29. Sponsorship of Pageant Candidate.** Denied permission to a Lodge to sponsor a young lady in a local pageant. 1989, pg 41, 52.

**30. Membership in Chamber of Commerce.** Denied permission to Lodge Temple Board to become an associate member of a Chamber of Commerce. 1989, pg 40, 52.

**31. Membership in Convention/Visitor's Bureau.** Granted permission to Lodge to join Convention and Visitor's Bureau. Decision Grand Master approved. 1992, pg 29, 40.

#### **14. 03 By-Laws.**

**1. Not to be Suspended.** A Lodge cannot suspend its By-Laws to enable it to act in accordance with an amendment to Grand Lodge By-Laws. If Lodge By-Law inconsistent with Grand Lodge law, it is null and void. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1895, pg 155, 203.

**2. Compulsory Payment Funeral Expenses.** A By-Law of Lodge compelling Lodge to furnish funeral expenses for a deceased brother is not un-Masonic under our law, but advised repeal of By-Law. Decision Grand Master 1898, pg 12; Committee Report concurring in statements as to the absence of provisions in our written law and also his advice to repeal By-Law, but holding such By-Law violates unwritten law of Masonry, adopted. 1898, pg 44.

**3. Amendment.** The power and authority of Lodges to "enact" By-Laws, which is recognized in this paragraph, includes the power to amend them. Decision Grand Master approved. 1899, pg 337, 368.

**4. Must Amend Entire By-Law.** Recommended that no amendment to By-Laws be approved by Grand Master unless whole section as amended be submitted to him. Committee Report adopted. 1906, pg 59.

**5. Providing Posting Notices of Petition.** By-Laws providing for posting notice in Lodge room of petition for Degrees or affiliation disapproved as a contravention of our law. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1907, pg 228, 284.

**6. Meeting Date and Hour Cannot Be Changed.** Grand Master has no power to grant dispensation to hold Lodge communication at time other than date and hour fixed in By-Laws. 1912, pg 17, 93; 1928, pg 390, 444; 1949, 46, 172. Reaffirmed 1955, pg 33, 143.

**7. Duplication of Grand Lodge By-Laws.** Recommendation of Committee on By-Laws that By-Laws containing vast amounts of matter which is copy of W.M.C. be not approved. Concurred in by Grand Lodge. 1915, pg 347.

**8. Meeting Place.** Lodge By-Laws cannot provide that "until said hall is ready for occupancy, Lodge may meet in a secure place at discretion of Worshipful Master," as it conflicts with W.M.C. Sec. 16.12, Decision Grand Master approved 1919, pg 413, 447.

**9. Restricting Master's Powers.** By-Law providing Master and Wardens a Charity Committee with \$25.00 limit on account of relief disapproved as limiting the power of Master to extend relief. Ruling Grand Master 1919, pg 413. Reaffirmed 1920, pg 92.

**10. Management of Lodge Property.** The Grand Master disapproved By-Laws of a Lodge providing a board of trustees to manage and invest funds, dispense charity, etc. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1926, pg 262, 330.

**11. Fee for Affiliation.** By-Laws of a Lodge providing for an affiliation fee of \$9.00 in case of non-residents of this Jurisdiction, and no fee at all in case of residents of this Jurisdiction, on recommendation of By-Laws Committee disapproved. 1927, pg 175.

**12. Suspension of By-Laws.** In election of officers of Lodges the “mines,” i.e. its By-Laws, may not be suspended. Decision fm 1927, pg 27; Committee on Jurisprudence recommendation that Decision Grand Master be approved and its opinion that not even Grand Master can suspend By-Laws of Lodge adopted. 1927, pg 178.

**13. Trust Company to Hold Title.** A Lodge may not provide by By-Law that the Lodge may appoint a trust company to hold title of Lodge’s real property in trust. By-Laws Committee Report adopted. 1928, pg 488.

**14. Funeral Service Elsewhere Than in Lodge Room.** 1890, pg 183. See W.M.C. Sec.24.01 (6).

**15. By-Laws Held Invalid.**

(A) A Lodge cannot legally charge a fee for affiliation in one instance and make an exception in another.

(B) A By-Law of a Lodge providing a standing committee of 15 or more, including its principal officer, to investigate candidates for the Degrees and petitions for affiliation, is in violation of W.M.C. Sec.19.01 (2).

(C) A Lodge by a By-Law cannot legally prefer one member over another in the matter of making application of funds received from life membership

(D) By-Law of a Lodge providing that the treasurer of the Lodge Relief Fund, elected by the Lodge, and not the Lodge Treasurer, shall be the Custodian of Relief Funds is in conflict with W.M.C. Sec. 15.01 and 15.21.

Report Jurisprudence Committee adopted. 1931, pg 178.

**16. By-Law Held Invalid.** A Lodge By-Law providing a fee of \$25.00 for affiliation of a brother from outside of concurrent Jurisdiction held in conflict with action of Grand Lodge in 1931. Report of Committee on By-Laws approved. 1933, pg 121, 178.

**17. Setting Aside By-Laws.** Grand Master allowed Lodge to meet out of temple, to allow bills, read communications, receive and ballot on petitions, on date other than that fixed by By-Laws for Stated Communication. Action of Grand Master disapproved. 1937, pg 26, 86.

**18. Setting Aside or Holding in Abeyance.** When laws are once approved by Grand Master, they may not be set aside for a definite time or held in abeyance. Decision Grand Master approved. 1953, pg 47, 91.

**19. Re-Introduction of Previously Defeated Amendments.** No particular time need elapse before a previously defeated amendment to the By-Laws may be re-introduced and voted upon. Decision Grand Master approved. 1954, pg 381, 428.

**20. Empowering Worshipful Master to “Call” Stated Communication.** Grand Master disapproved By-Law empowering Master to call Stated Communication during summer months. Action of Grand Master approved. 1956, pg 382, 552.

**21. Blanket Extension of Time for Payment of Dues.** Grand Master disapproved By-Law granting every member blanket of one year for payment of dues prior to dropping from roll. Action of Grand Master approved. 1956, pg 383, 552.

**22. Initiation Fees Included as Dues.** Grand Master disapproved By-Law providing initiation fee (the minimum under W.M.C. Sec.18.11 should include 2 years’ dues. Action of Grand Master approved. 1956, pg 423, 534.

**23. Amendments.** By-Laws of Lodge provided that proposed amendment should lie over until subsequent communication for ballot. Grand Master ruled that at second communication, the original proposal might be amended in any respect germane to the original proposal. Dec Grand Master approved. 1956, pg 423, 534.

**24. Language of By-Laws Controlling.** Language of amendment to By-Laws adopted by Lodge controls, notwithstanding that it does not express the intention of the drafter of the amendment. Decision Grand Master approved. 1956, pg 430, 534.

**25. Application of By-Law.** By-Law provision relating to election of honorary member does not apply to election of honorary Past Master. Decision Grand Master approved. 1959, pg 53, 219.

**26. Validity of Ballot for Amending By-Laws.** Specific By-Laws of Lodge will determine validity and should be strictly followed. Decision Grand Master approved. 1964, pg 366, 592-593.

**27. Notification of Members of Proposed Changes in By-Laws.** Ruled that notice in the Masonic Tribune of proposed By-Law changes was proper notice to comply with W.M.C. Chapter 16.03, since all members of the Lodge receive the paper, the Lodge being a 100% subscriber. Decision Grand Master approved. 1970, pg 50, 72.

**28. Notification of Members of Proposed Changes in By-Laws.** Ruled that notice in the Masonic Tribune of proposed By-Law changes was not proper notice to comply with Sec. 14.03 W.M.C. as it is not a suitable substitute for written notice to each member. Decision Grand Master approved. 1971, pg 42, 56. Report of Jurisprudence cited deterioration of Second Class Mail handling, acknowledged previous year's action was contradictory, but held that Grand Master was right to determine that first class mail was superior form for notifying all members of proposed By-Law changes.

**29. Dues and Assessments.** Grand Master ruled that an amendment to a Lodge's By-Laws is legal and the fact that the Grand Lodge dues are added to the regular dues and considered an assessment by the Lodge does not negate or nullify that section. Decision Grand Master approved. 1977, pg 23, 34.

#### **14. 04 Communications.**

**1. Visitors in Stations on Opening.** It is lawful to open Lodge with visiting brethren in Warden's stations, when Worshipful Master is present with Charter and quorum. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1895, pg 154, 203.

**2. Changing Date of Hour of Stated Communication.** Grand Master has no power to grant dispensation changing either date or hour of Stated Communication as fixed by Lodge By-Laws. 1912, pg 17, 93; 1917, pg 14, 63; 1928, pg 390, 44; 1936, pg 407, 460; 1943, pg 27, 29; 1946, pg 388, 443; 1949, pg 46, 172; 1972, pg 37, 51.

**3. By-Laws Must Fix Dates of Communications.** Dates of Stated Communication of a Lodge must definitely be fixed in By-Laws which cannot contain a provision that the Worshipful Master can "call" Stated Communications. Decision Deputy Grand Master approved. 1943, pg 45, 81.

#### **14.07 Minutes of Meetings.**

**1. Signing.** Recommended that all recorded proceedings of the Lodges, when approved, be signed by Master and Secretary. Committee Report adopted. 1875, pg 496.

**2. Failure to Keep.** The legality of a Degree is not affected by failure to record it properly. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1893, pg 353, 382, 383.

**3. Of All Meetings.** A Lodge voted to hold a special meeting to receive the Grand Master and at such meeting, in the absence of the Worshipful Master, the Senior Warden presided; at the following Stated Communication, the Master being present, the minutes of the special meeting were read but not approved on the ruling of the Worshipful Master that the special meeting was held without call from him. On appeal to the Grand Master, the special



meeting was held regular, and if the proposed minutes stated the facts, they should be approved. Committee Report adopted. 1896, pg 23, 72, 74.

#### **14. 08 Annual Reports.**

**1. Adjustments in Grand Lodge and M.R.C. Dues.** Held that the statute of limitations could not be considered in allowing credits and making extra charges in correcting errors in Annual Returns. Decision Grand Master approved. 1964, pg 368, 592-593.

#### **14. 09 Lodge Representation in Grand Lodge.**

**1. Attendance at Grand Lodge Imperative.** Attendance upon meetings of Grand Lodge is an essential part of the duties of Masters and Wardens to represent their Lodge at all meetings of Grand Lodge and should be performed like any other duty of their offices, upon their faith and honor as Masons. Committee Report adopted. 1863, pg 306.

**2. Membership in Lodge Necessary.** One who had been expelled and thereafter restored by the Grand Lodge, having the status of a non-affiliate, could not represent a Lodge which had erroneously elected him Senior Warden while holding that status. Committee Report adopted. 1880, pg 572, 607, 609, 624, 625.

#### **14.10 Lodge Communication During Grand Lodge.**

**1. Special Lodge Communication During Grand Lodge.** Grand Lodge granted constituent Lodge special dispensation to hold Special Communication during Grand Lodge Annual Communication so that the Lodge could spread ballot on petition for advancement. 1864, pg 370.

**2. Lodge Communication During Grand Lodge.** The power to grant a constituent Lodge permission to meet during session of the Grand Lodge resides only in the Grand Lodge. Permission granted by the Grand Master to Lodge to meet while Grand Lodge in session denied in report of Committee on Jurisprudence. Committee then recommended that Grand Lodge grant permission. Jurisprudence Committee Report adopted. 1942, pg 486, 520.

**3. Lodge Communication During Grand Lodge.** Grand Master is without authority to grant permission to Lodge to hold Special Communication during Grand Lodge Annual Communication as that power rests in Grand Lodge only, if Grand Lodge is in session. Permission of Grand Master reversed. 1945, pg 34, 144.

### **Chapter 15**

#### **15.02 Who May Vote.**

**1. Rights Under Charges Pending.** Right of a brother to participate in work of Lodge unimpaired while charges against him are pending but undetermined. Decision Grand Master approved. 1900, pg 21, 63.

**2. Right to Vote.** One who has not been examined in the Third Degree and has not paid dues is not entitled to vote at the annual election of officers. Decision Grand Master approved. 1948, pg 392, 516.

**3. Election, Null and Void.** Grand Master ruled that election of a Brother to the office of Junior Warden prior to enrollment in the Lodge was illegal. Decision Grand Master approved. 1977, pg 20-21, 23, 34.

### 15.03 Officer Qualification.

**1. Pending Charges Do Not Disqualify for Election to Office.** Fact that charges of un-Masonic conduct are pending against a member does not disqualify him for election to office in Lodge. Ruling of Grand Master to contrary disapproved. 1888, pg 267, 288, 294.

**2. Residence Not Qualification for Office.** A Worshipful Master-Elect, if otherwise qualified, is eligible to be installed though living in the Jurisdiction of another Lodge. Decision Grand Master approved. 1907, pg 227,305.

**3. Residence.** It is unlawful for a Lodge to adopt a By-Law that would make residence in the territorial limits of the Lodge a prerequisite to holding office. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1932, pg 374, 474.

**4. When Dual Membership Disqualifies for Office.** See Note No. 1, Rulings and Decisions, W.M.C. Sec. 17.11, 1935, pg 23, 123.

**5. Right to Hold Office.** One who has not been examined in the Third Degree and has not paid dues cannot be installed into an office. Decision Grand Master approved. 1948, pg 392, 516

**6. Residence Not Qualification for Office.** A Senior Warden may be elected Master although he temporarily resides in another Grand Jurisdiction. Decision Grand Master approved. 1955, pg 32, 143.

**7. Bankruptcy No Disqualification for Office.** Going through bankruptcy does not disqualify the Junior Warden from being elected Senior Warden. Decision of Grand Master approved. 1959, pg 53, 221.

**8. Failure to Pay Current Dues No Disqualification for Holding Office.** A brother is in good standing until dropped under W.M.C. Sec. 17.14 (or expelled or suspended) and may hold office even though he has not paid his dues for the current year. Decision Grand Master approved. 1959, pg 55, 219

### 15. 04 Holding Two Offices.

**1. Finance Committee of Lodge Membership.** Improper for Master to appoint Treasurer and Secretary as members of the Lodge. Decision Grand Master. 1875, pg 564.

**2. Holding Office of Worshipful Master and Senior Warden in Two Lodges at the Same Time.** Ruled that Brother, elected and installed Senior Warden in one Lodge, and having been elected and installed Worshipful Master in another Lodge, the office of Senior Warden in the one Lodge be declared vacant. Decision Grand Master approved. 1992, pg 32, 41.

### 15. 05 When to Elect Officers.

**1. No Advancing Date of Election by Grand Master.** Grand Master cannot authorize a Lodge to hold its annual election prior to date prescribed by Sec. 15.05 W.M.C. Decision Grand Master approved. 1899, pg 338, 368.

**2. Election, When Void.** Member elected Worshipful Master was automatically dropped N.P.D., notwithstanding that the Secretary had failed to comply with W.M.C. Sec. 17.14 and 17.15 the election was void. Decision Grand Master approved. 1928, pg 386, 444.

**3. Lodges Undergoing Consolidation.** Two Lodges, having voted to consolidate, were not bound by provisions of the W.M.C. regarding annual elections of officers. Meeting for election, choosing a Lodge name, and adoption of By-Laws governed by provisions of W.M.C. Chapter 16 rather than 15. Decision Grand Master approved. 1976, pg 25, 54.

## **15.06 Election.**

**1. When Election Void.** Senior Warden and Junior Warden did not receive a majority of votes cast in election, and Grand Master declared election void. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1909, pg 30, 57, 58.

## **15.07 Failure to Elect.**

**1. Election Out of Time.** Action of Lodge attempting to elect officers out of time without dispensation, held reprehensible. While Grand Lodge condemned such proceedings the good of the Craft rendered necessary recognition of officers so elected, and their election, though out of time, was declared valid. Resolution adopted. 1972, pg 26.

**2. Junior Warden Expelled.** Dispensation denied by Grand Master to Lodge to hold an election for station of Junior Warden who had been expelled. Approved. 1931, pg 20, 135.

**3. Elect New Worshipful Master.** Dispensation refused to elect a new Worshipful Master, the Worshipful Master having removed from jurisdiction after installation. Decision Grand Master approved. 1942, pg 487, 519.

**4. Worshipful Master-Elect Joined Armed Forces.** Dispensation granted to elect Worshipful Master where Worshipful Master-elect joined the Armed Forces and failed to appear for installation. Decision Grand Master approved. 1944, pg 408, 506.

**5. Elect the Three Principal Officers.** Permission granted to elect Worshipful Master and/or Senior Warden and Junior Warden when Master-elect failed to be installed. Decision Grand Master approved. 1946, pg 393.

**6. Elect the Three Principal Officers.** Where Master-elect died and Senior Warden-elect and Junior Warden-elect refused to be installed into their offices, it was proper to grant dispensation to elect Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, and Junior Warden. Decision Grand Master approved. 1959, pg 25, 208.

**7. Elect New Worshipful Master.** Where Worshipful Master-elect became ill and refused to be installed, a special election of officers should be held. Decision Grand Master approved. 1961, pg 30, 98.

## **15.08 Installations.**

**1. When Not to be Installed.** Eminently proper to refuse to install as Senior Warden a member too drunk to be present at installation. Decision Grand Master approved. 1881, pg 14, 36.

**2. Dispensation to Install Junior Warden Out of Time.** Dispensation granted to install Junior Warden out of time on account of his illness and inability to attend scheduled Lodge installation. Decision Grand Master approved. 1884, pg 14, 44.

**3. Joint Installation- Each Lodge to Open.** When there is a joint installation, each participating Lodge must open in the third degree. Dec. GM Approved. 1923, pg 30,137,138. Dec. GM Approved, Reaffirmed 1954, pg 382, 428

**4. Master-Elect to be Installed First.** No installation of officers is proper unless Worshipful Master is first installed. Decision Grand Master approved. 1928, pg 386, 444; 1935, pg 133-135.

**5. Secretary-Elect Properly Declined Installation.** The Secretary-elect properly refused to be installed until the books and records of the Lodge were in proper shape. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1929, pg 22, 95.

**6. Who May Install.** Any Past Master eligible to act as installing officer upon request of presiding officer. Report Jurisprudence Committee approved. 1939, pg 38, 169.

**7. Installation, Public.** A public installation cannot be held in a room where Lodge is at Labor in Third Degree. Lodge must be opened in Third Degree. If the installation is public, the ceremony must be held either:

(A) In a separate room from that in which the Lodge was opened, or:

(B) The Lodge must be called to refreshment.

Decision Grand Master approved. 1941, pg 54, 103.

**8. Place of Installation.** Permission granted to hold installation in a school auditorium provided Lodge was opened in its Lodge room, went to refreshment for the purposes of installation, and then returned to its Lodge room for closing. Permission of Grand Master approved. 1950, pg 403, 565; Dec. GM Approved, Reaffirmed 1950, pg 403,565; Dec. GM Approved, Reaffirmed 1957, pg 49,182

**9. Installing Officer.** Only a Master or a Past Master may install the Master-elect. Decision Grand Master approved. 1956, pg 425, 534.

**10. Objection to Installation.** It is duty of Master to determine in the first instance validity of objection to installation of appointive officer. If the objection charges on its face a Masonic offense, and if there are reasonable grounds for believing the charges are true, Master should defer installation pending filing of formal charges of un-Masonic conduct. If charges are not preferred in a reasonable amount of time, Master may either order that the officer be installed or revoke the appointment. Decision Grand Master approved. 1956, pg 426, 534.

**11. Validation of Untimely, Irregular Installation.** Order of Grand Master validating action of Lodge installing subordinate elective and appointive officers in absence of Master-elect and installing Worshipful Master at succeeding communication disapproved, as without authority on part of Grand Master. Recommendation that Grand Lodge validate action of Lodge and that officers installed be declared to be regular officers. Report Jurisprudence Committee adopted. 1934, pg 369, 471.

**12. Installing Officers.** Ruled that Installing Chaplain shall be a Mason. Decision Grand Master approved. 1970, pg 50, 73-74.

**13. Objection to Installation.** Ruled that an Installing Officer or other Mason could not level a valid objection to the installation of a Lodge officer except for the following reasons:

(A) The Brother is not in good standing because he had been dropped for non-payment of dues.

(B) The Brother is an honorary member only, and is ineligible for the office into which he is to be installed.

(C) The Brother is currently under suspension or expulsion.

(D) Masonic charges are pending against the Brother.

(E) The Brother objecting is prepared to file charges of un-Masonic conduct at the stated meeting preceding the Public or Tiled Installation, against that Brother who is to be installed.

Decision Grand Master approved; Report Grievances & Appeals approved. 1997.

#### **15.09 No Installation Pending Charges.**

**1. Oral Objection Insufficient.** An oral objection to the installation of Junior Warden should be disregarded. Decision Grand Master approved. 1924, pg 303, 412.

#### **15.10 Jewels and Aprons.**

**1. Proper and Improper Masonic Apparel.** It is improper to wear, in a constituted Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, or at any public function of said Lodge, i.e., funerals, public installations, divine services, cornerstone laying or temple dedication ceremonies, the fez,

hats, caps, uniforms, or other apparel of the Appendant or concordant organizations with the understanding that:

(A) It does not preclude Grand Lodge Officers of Washington from wearing their aprons and jewels;

(B) Visiting Master Masons from other jurisdictions will be permitted to wear such Mason's aprons and jewels as are authorized by their respective Grand Lodges; and

(C) Members, Past Masters, and Officers of constituent Lodges of the Grand Lodge of Washington may wear such aprons and jewels to which they are entitled.

Decision Grand Master approved. 1969, pg 39, 46-47.

## **15.12 Filling Vacancy.**

**1. Special Election for Senior Warden.** Grand Master granted Lodge dispensation to hold special election for the purpose of filling the office of Senior Warden as the position had been declared vacant by the Grand Master when Brother was elected a principal officer in two Lodges simultaneously. (See W.M.C. Rulings and Decisions Sec.15.04, Decision No. 3.) Decision Grand Master approved. 1992, pg 32, 40.

**2. Secretary Refused to be Installed.** Grand Master ruled that a vacancy existed when an elected Secretary refused to be installed and ordered that Lodge records be surrendered to the Worshipful Master and a new election, after due notice, be conducted to fill such vacancy. Decision Grand Master approved. 1993, pg 32, 40.

## **15.13 Powers of Master.**

**1. Ruling of Worshipful Master.** A Worshipful Master may rule that a motion to contribute funds to a service bureau for non-Masonic purpose is out of order. Decision Grand Master approved. 1930, pg 334, 493.

**2. Ruling of Appointive Officer – Just Cause.** Failure of appointive officer to pay assessment due Lodge, or his presence in a Lodge meeting while intoxicated, are just causes for his removal from office by Worshipful Master. 1941, pg 55, 103.

**3. Worshipful Master Cannot “Call” A Stated Communication.** Worshipful Master cannot be given authority in By-Laws to “call” Stated Communication at any other time than fixed in the By-Laws. Decision Deputy Grand Master approved. 1943, pg 45, 81.

**4. Deposed Master.** A deposed Master cannot conduct a Masonic funeral. Decision Grand Master approved. 1953, pg 50, 91.

**5. Determination of Objection to Installation.** See W.M.C. Rulings and Decisions Sec. 15.08, Ruling No. 9.

**6. Disclosure of Information.** It is within the prerogative of the Master to determine whether a mailing list of the Lodge shall be furnished to a concordant body. Decision Grand Master approved. 1957, pg 46, 182.

**7. Visitors May Participate in Work.** Ruled that permitting participation in the activities of the Lodge is the prerogative of the presiding Master. All work must conform to the Standard Work as prescribed in W.M.C. Sec. 6.01. Decision Grand Master approved. 1991, pg 32, 41.

## **15.14 Permission to Preside.**

**1. Past Master Presiding.** In the absence of the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden may open Lodge, call a Past Master to the Chair, leave Lodge room, returning to deliver lecture and

close Lodge, when Junior Warden present at all times. Decision Grand Master approved. 1922, pg 479, 531.

**2. Wearing of Hat.** The Master removes his hat when another is presiding in the East and the one actually presiding should wear the hat. Decision Grand Master approved. 1953, pg 48, 94.

### **15.15 Absence of Master.**

**1. No Exception for Funeral Service.** Lodge cannot be opened for funeral ceremony in absence of Master and both Wardens, except by Grand Master or his Deputy. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1895, pg 154, 203.

**2. Special Deputy Sparingly Used.** Appointment of Deputy of Grand Master to hold Special and Stated Communications of Lodge, Master and Wardens being absent, should be resorted to only in cases of continued absence from jurisdiction or sickness of Master and Wardens. Committee Report approved. 1911, pg 312, 313.

**3. No Blanket Authority.** Grand Master denied permission to three Lodges for blanket authority for a P.M. to convene a Lodge in the absence of the Master and Wardens for the purpose of conducting funeral services. Decision Grand Master approved. 1965, pg 30, 31, 122.

### **15.19 Treasurer's Duties.**

**1. Accounts.** Treasurer must keep books showing credits, debits, and balances, and accounts must be kept separate from his own. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1938, pg 428, 506.

### **15.20 Secretary's Duties.**

**1. To Draw Warrants.** Secretary of Lodge must draw warrant for bill presented, approved, and ordered paid by a vote of the Lodge (some members not voting). Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1903, pg 257, 311.

**2. Delinquent Secretary Discipline.** Grand Secretary being unable to secure annual return from Lodge and Master of Lodge being unable to get the books of the Lodge from the Secretary, charges ordered preferred against Secretary for violation of duty and insolent defiance to the Master. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1904, pg 17, 37.

**3. Reporting Legally Dead Member.** A member disappeared for seven years or more may be reported as dead, but Secretary should report to Grand Secretary the date of his last known address so that Grand Lodge records may show that he is presumptively or legally dead. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1935, pg 23, 133.

**4. Reporting Legally Dead Member, E.A. or F.C.** Same ruling regarding Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft Masons. Decision Grand Master approved. 1938, pg 427, 505.

**5. Holding Check.** Secretary reprimanded for not cashing check for fees at time petition was received. Decision Grand Master approved. 1940, pg 496, 503, 591.

**6. Changes in Forms.** Approval given to make such changes in various forms as may be required to have them coincide with present Chapters of the Washington Masonic Code. Suggested changes in other forms to be referred to incoming Grand Master, and after further study during the ensuing year, present desired legislation. Report Jurisprudence Commission approved. 1963, pg 42-43, 200-201.

## 15.23 Other Officers' Duties.

1. **Tyler Leaving Post.** See W.M.C. Sec. 6.01, Rulings and Decisions, No. 3; and Sec. 19.09, Rulings and Decisions, No. 1.

2. **Signing Tyler's Register.** It is not compulsory that all members and visitors sign the Tyler's Register. Ruling Grand Master disapproved. 1963, pg 42, 47.

## Chapter 16

### 16.01 Application for Dispensation.

1. **Character of Petitioners.** A Lodge has no right to recommend brethren to form a new Lodge near it if they would not receive in their own Lodge one who is known to be unfit; it is the duty of recommending Lodge to see that his name is stricken from petition. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1893, pg 355, 382, 383.

2. **Limited to Masons of This Jurisdiction.** The certificate of "good Masonic standing" applies only to members of this Jurisdiction. Decision Grand Master approved. 1936, pg 408, 460.

3. **Dual Membership in Lodge U.D.** Petition for dual membership accompanied by certificate of good standing from Secretary of petitioner's Lodge can be presented in lieu of dimit in formation of new Lodge. Decision Grand Master approved. 1936, pg 408, 460.

4. **Name Stricken from Petition.** One of petitioners for a new Lodge U.D., refusing to submit to an examination by the other brethren, standing solely on his dimit, his name was ordered stricken from petition and dispensation. Ruling Grand Master. 1890, pg 161.

5. **Foreign Territory.** Refusal to grant dispensation to foreign Lodges in Hawaiian Island, that territory being developed by California. Grand Lodge approved. 1919, pg 412, 465.

6. **Foreign Territory.** Application to establish a German Masonic Lodge refused by Grand Master. 1882, pg 95.

7. **No Lodge of Past Masters.** Grand Master refused a dispensation to form Lodge of Past Masters. Decision Grand Master approved. 1937, pg 23, 84.

8. **Military Lodges.** Refusal of Grand Master to grant dispensation to form a Lodge at A.P.O. 944, as this Grand Lodge has consistently refused charters to Army and Navy Lodges and there was too much doubt as to what activity, if any, would continue in such Lodge following the war. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1945, pg 57, 145.

### 16.03 Officers of a Lodge U.D.

1. **Special Election.** At unanimous request of members of newly chartered Lodge, the Worshipful Master and Senior Warden having changed their residences to distant localities, Grand Master ordered new election of officers. Ruling Grand Master. 1864, pg 341.

2. **Expense of Constituting a Lodge.** New Lodges ought to bear in mind that expense of constituting Lodge must be paid by the Lodge constituted. Address of Grand Master. 1890, pg 164.

3. **Naming New Officers.** The Worshipful Master of a Lodge U.D. requesting to be relieved from office on account of removal, at unanimous request of the Lodge, new officers were named. Ruling Grand Master. 1894, pg 12.

4. **Opening and Closing on Constituting.** A newly chartered Lodge should not be opened for purpose of being constituted, and not being open, cannot be closed as such. Decision Grand Master approved. 1926, pg 277, 365.

**5. Change of Officers U.D.** Where secretary of Lodge U.D. resigns, his successor is not elected by the Lodge but is appointed by Grand Master. Decision Grand Master to contrary disapproved. 1957, pg 48, 184.

#### **16.06 Powers of a Lodge U.D.**

**1. May Affiliate Members.** A Lodge U.D. may affiliate members. Decision Grand Master approved. 1877, pg 78, 102.

**2. Perform Funeral Service.** A Lodge U.D. can affiliate members and perform funeral ceremony. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1891, pg 338, 365, 373.

**3. Granting Dimit.** A Lodge U.D. may grant a dimit. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1895, pg 154, 203.

#### **16.12 Charter Requirements.**

**1. Suitable Place.** A frame building occupied by a family where voices can be heard throughout the building, not a safe place for a Lodge Meeting. Decision Deputy Grand Master sustained. 1866, pg 7, 30.

**2. Joint Occupancy.** Not for the best interest of the Craft to compel Lodge to procure halls for its exclusive use, where Lodge is financially unable to do so. Committee Report adopted. 1886, pg 467.

**3. Wicket in Tyler's Door.** Use of a wicket or peep hole in Tyler's door which other societies were properly using, forbidden under threat of arrest of charter. Ruling Grand Master. 1903, pg 244.; Dec. Grand Master Approved, Reaffirmed, 1918, pg 200, 248; 1923, pg 29,138

**4. Position of Preparation Room.** No objection to preparation room on the right of Lodge room if it cannot be otherwise conveniently arranged. Decision Grand Master approved. 1923, pg 32, 138.

**5. Renting Lodge Property for State Liquor Store – Unsafe Place for Meeting of Lodge.** Though renting Lodge property for a State Liquor Store does not violate Washington Masonic Code, occupancy under such renting would automatically make such premises unsuitable and unsafe place for meeting of a Lodge prescribed by W.M.C. Sec.16.12. Decision Grand Master approved. 1934, pg 367,471.

**6. Lodge Room on Ground Floor.** A Lodge room may be on the ground floor if it is a safe place and meets all Masonic requirements. Decision Grand Master approved. 1951, pg 43, 147.

#### **16.16 Charter Members.**

**1. Dimit Not to be Withdrawn.** A brother joining in petition for Lodge U.D. cannot demand his dimit filed with Grand Secretary. The brother is member of the new Lodge and can only withdraw there from as prescribed by law. Decision Grand Master approved. 1901, pg 197, 231.

**2. Ignorance of Law No Excuse.** Member of Lodge signing petition for dispensation of Lodge U.D. becoming charter member of new Lodge, thereby losing his membership in his former Lodge, is not relieved from provisions of Sec. 16.16 because of ignorance of the law. Decision Grand Master approved. 1902, pg 22, 52.

**3. Charter Members.** Only those who are members of a Lodge at the time the Charter is granted are Charter Members. Decision Grand Master approved. 1984, pg 30, 40-41.



## Chapter 17

### 17.01 Lodge Membership – How Acquired.

**1. Membership Retained, Degrees by Courtesy.** An E.A. of one of our Lodges, passed and raised by courtesy of a foreign Lodge, becomes a member of the Washington Lodge. Whether he also becomes a member of such foreign Lodge depends upon law governing latter. Opinion Grand Master approved. 1899, pg 339, 368.

**2. Lodge Membership Not Acquired by Initiation Over Objection.** Where Master of Lodge over timely objection, nevertheless took a petitioner through the initiation ceremony, he did not become a member of the Lodge. Decision Grand Master approved. 1955, pg 34, 143.

**3. Courtesy Degrees in Foreign Jurisdiction.** Where Washington candidate receives his Third Degree by courtesy of Lodge in Grand Jurisdiction which has no proficiency requirement, his membership in Washington is complete without his becoming proficient. Decision Grand Master approved. 1956, pg 431, 534.

**4. Dimit Issued Without Proper Notification.** A dimit was issued by a Lodge upon proper request. The Brother and the Grand Lodge were not advised and the Brother continued to pay dues. Restored to membership in good standing without loss of time. Decision Grand Master approved. 1985, pg 38, 52-53.

### 17. 04 Affiliation Procedure.

**1. Return of Dimit.** Dimit of non-affiliated Mason accompanying his petition should be returned to him upon Lodge refusing to entertain petition because of standing of petitioner. Decision Grand Master approved. 1874, pg 289, 324.

**2. Receipt for Dues Insufficient.** A receipt for dues will not take the place of the certificates prescribed by this Chapter. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1894, pg 16, 52, 55.

**3. Grand Orient of France.** Petition for affiliation from member of Grand Orient of France cannot be received. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1909, pg 18, 79.

**4. Certificate in Lieu of Dimit.** Grand Lodge dimit having been lost, in lieu of duplicate dimit asked for, letter of permission certificate, as issued to Lodge authorizing reception of petition upon satisfactory proof of identity of member. Decision Grand Master approved. 1911, pg 230, 312.

**5. Original or Certified Copy.** Original dimit or duplicate copy under seal of Lodge must accompany petition. Decision Grand Master approved as modified by Committee Report. 1914, pg 16, 83.

**6. Good Standing, Indebtedness on Assessments.** When an assessment by the Lodge for the purpose of retiring debt on the Lodge building has been made payable in installments over a period of years, a certificate of good standing shall, upon application, be issued to a member who has paid all installments of such assessment maturing or falling due before such application. Committee Report Adopted, 1929, pg 34, 96

**7. Accruing Dues and Assessments.** When request for dimit from a Lodge is received within a reasonable time by a Lodge issuing a certificate of good standing, although such request not received until after additional dues and as assessments were charged against the member for the ensuing year, the dimit should be granted without requiring member who was issued the certificate of good standing to pay said dues and assessments. Decision Grand Master approved. 1933, pg 20, 93.

**8. Payment of Accrued Dues.** Dues for the following, or then current year, should be paid to Lodge A when a member of Lodge A receives a certificate of good standing and therefore applies for affiliation to Lodge B so late in the year that a petition could not be acted upon until January of the following year; Lodge A declining to issue dimit until dues are paid. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1933, pg 23, 133.

**9. Dimit Not Required if Certificate Received.** Member foreign Lodge petitioned for affiliation presenting certificate of standing. No dimit ever received. Jurisprudence Committee Report dimit not petition adopted. 1937, pg 22, 84.

**10. Certificate of Good Standing.** Is issued by the Secretary without action of the Lodge if the Brother is in good standing and free from indebtedness. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1944, pg 407, 506.

**11. Absent Dimit or Certificate of Good Standing Petition Cannot be Received.** Member of Lodge in Vienna, Austria, who could produce neither dimit or certificate of good standing ineligible to petition for affiliation. Decision Deputy Grand Master approved. 1944, pg 426, 510.

**12. Dimit Does Not Outlaw.** No statute of limitations runs against a dimit and a Lodge cannot refuse petition for affiliation on grounds a dimit is too ancient. Investigation Committee should inquire into bona fides of the dimit, identity of the holder and reasons for not having presented dimit sooner. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1945, pg 55, 145.

**13. Dimit From Foreign Jurisdiction.** Petition for affiliation from foreign jurisdiction cannot be received unless foreign Grand Lodge is in fraternal relationship with Grand Lodge of Washington. Decision Grand Master approved. 1956, pg 420, 534.

**14. Dimit from Unrecognized Foreign Jurisdiction.** It was illegal for Lodge to affiliate a petitioner upon a dimit from a Lodge of an unrecognized foreign jurisdiction and such action cannot be healed. Decision of Grand Master approved. 1958, pg 439, 515.

**15. Election to Membership – When Null and Void.** Grand Master ruled that a Brother was illegally elected to membership by affiliation because he was not “clear on the books of his Lodge” and that the election was “null and void” and that his petition may be received and accepted again only after receipt of a certificate of good standing or a dimit from his former Lodge with a proper investigation. Decision Grand Master approved. 1977, pg 23-24, 34.

## **17.07 Dimitting.**

**1. Senior Warden of Lodge U.D. Cannot Dimit.** A Brother named in a dispensation for a Lodge U.D. as Senior Warden cannot dimit. He holds his office until expiration of dispensation. Decision Grand Master. 1875, pg 466.

**2. Once Granted, No Reconsideration.** Refusal of a Brother to take dimit after granting of same does not affect his status as non-affiliate; Lodge at a subsequent meeting cannot reconsider its action in granting a dimit. The Brother can only become a member again by affiliation in regular way. Decision Grand Master. 1875, pg 465; 1937, pg 23, 85.

**3. Dimit is Certificate of Freedom from Debt.** A Lodge which has issued a certificate of good standing and freedom from debt to a member to enable him to join in petition for a new Lodge cannot thereafter claim dues from him. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1881, pg 13, 36.

**4. Private Indebtedness.** Individual indebtedness of one Brother to another no grounds for withholding dimit to one otherwise entitled to it. Decision Grand Master approved. 1911, pg 230, 312.

**5. Lodge U.D. Without Seal.** A Lodge U.D. may grant a dimit, no seal being required. Decision Grand Master approved. 1915, pg 278, 339.

**6. Finality of Dimit.** Member orally applied to his Lodge for a dimit at a Stated Communication, which was formally granted by the Master. Before the dimit was issued and before Lodge was closed, the Brother recanted and desired to recall his request. Grand Master held that dimit should be issued as decision of Master was controlling; and what remained to carry decision into effect was but performance of a ministerial act. Decision Grand Master approved. 1931, pg 17, 135.

**7. Refusal to Grant Dimit – When Improper.** It was improper for a Lodge to refuse a dimit to a Brother because he declined to pay for a bond to a temple association erecting a building, such association being distinct from the Lodge. Decision Grand Master approved. 1931, pg 18, 138.

**8. Irregular Proceedings Cured.** Notwithstanding that Lodge A entered petition for affiliation without receiving a Certificate of Good Standing from Lodge B; Lodge B, without authority, subsequently issued a Certificate of Good Standing accompanied by a statement that the member owed a balance on the current year's dues. That dues balance owing was paid to Lodge B on January 2, 1932, and thereafter, Lodge A requested a dimit for the member which Lodge B refused to issue, claiming dues for 1932 had since accrued. Grand Master directed that dimit be issued. Interpretation by Committee on Jurisprudence of Grand Master's decision adopted. 1932, pg 374, 475.

**9. No Enforced Dimit.** Worshipful Master may not demand that any member of his Lodge take a dimit. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1938, pg 428, 506.

**10. Dimit.** After January 1. Brother dimitting after January 1 owes dues for current year, but Lodge may remit all or part of sum owing. Lodges may apportion dues for year by agreement. Decision Grand Master approved. 1941, pg 53, 103.

**11. Died Before Dimit Issued.** Man elected to membership in Lodge A died before Lodge B could issue dimit, remains listed member of Lodge B. Decision Grand Master approved. 1946, pg 393, 422.

**12. No Dimit for Master.** Dimit could not be issued to, nor could a deposed Worshipful Master request one, prior to substantiating reason for removal from office and until cause had been heard by Lodge or Grand Master's Trial Committee. Decision Grand Master approved. 1965, pg 47, 126.

**13. Only Member Can Request Dimit.** A father cannot request a dimit for his son. Decision Grand Master approved. 1976, pg 45, 54.

**14. Only Member Can Request Dimit.** A dimit cannot be requested under Power of Attorney by a second party. Decision Grand Master approved. 1976, pg 45, 54.

## **17.08 Duplicate Dimit.**

**1. Lost Grand Lodge Dimit.** In lieu of Grand Lodge dimit issued to a member of Lodge whose charter had been surrendered, a letter of permission or certificate was issued to a Lodge authorizing the reception of a petition on proof of the identity of the member. Decision Grand Master approved. 1911, pg 230, 312.

## **17. 11 Plural Memberships.**

**1. When Foreign Jurisdiction Excludes Dual Membership.** Application for dual membership from Master Mason of a foreign Jurisdiction which does not sanction dual membership cannot be received by Lodge of this Jurisdiction. Decision Grand Master approved. 1934, pg 366, 461.

**2. When Dual Membership Disqualifies for Office.** Member holding dual membership is not qualified to fill duties of an office which might compel him to act as Master in two Lodges at one time. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1935, pg 23, 133.

**3. Form of Petition.** A Brother erroneously petitioned for affiliation, intending to ask for dual membership. Committee reported after due investigation. Grand Master held that ballot for dual membership could proceed without further delay for investigation. Decision Grand Master approved. 1938, pg 427, 505.

**4. Dropping of Dual Member N.P.D. in Foreign Jurisdiction.** One holding dual membership in Lodge in this and in Lodge of foreign Jurisdiction who is dropped N.P.D. in that foreign Jurisdiction is considered dropped N.P.D. in this Jurisdiction. Decision Grand Master approved. 1954, pg 384, 428.

**5. Procedure on Reinstatement.** A dual member dropped N.P.D. in both Lodges could not reinstate by paying his delinquency to one Lodge only but must pay his delinquencies in both Lodges. After a lapse of 24 months he must petition both Lodges and receive a favorable ballot in each. Only after reinstatement in both Lodges may he obtain a dimit from either or both. Decision Grand Master approved. 1956, pg 428, 534.

**6. Expulsion in Foreign Jurisdiction.** Expulsion after trial in foreign Jurisdiction for conduct recognized as Masonic offense by our law constitutes expulsion from dual membership in this Jurisdiction. Decision Grand Master approved. 1957, pg 45, 182.

#### **17.12 Life Memberships.**

**1. Retiring Master.** This Chapter does not prevent a Lodge from voting a life membership to a retiring Master in recognition of his services. Decision Grand Master approved. 1959, pg 54, 219.

**2. Subject to Grand Lodge Per Capita.** Life membership plans, whether individual Lodge or Grand Lodge, as provided in the W.M.C., are plans initiated for the purpose of enabling a member to pay his dues through interest proceeds from a sum invested in perpetuity. A life membership plan, therefore, becomes another method of the payment of dues. As such, W.M.C., Sec. 17.12 (3), paragraph M applies; which further makes the individual member subject to provisions of Sec. 7.03 and 7.05, as pertains to Grand Lodge per capita and Masonic Home Fund assessments. Decision Grand Master approved. 1988, pg 44, 51-55.

**3. Fees Not Returnable if Membership Is Lost.** Grand Master ruled that, in the case of loss of membership by expulsion of an endowed life member, the fee cannot be returned to the individual or his family. Decision Grand Master approved. 1989, pg 42, 53.

#### **17.13 Honorary Membership.**

**1. Rescinding Honorary Membership.** Lodge has right to rescind its action in electing a member to honorary membership at any time. Decision Grand Master to contrary disapproved. 1894, pg 14, 52, 55.

**2. Life Membership.**

**(A)** This Chapter has no bearing on granting of life memberships by constituent Lodges.

**(B)** Provision of this Chapter as to one month's notice does not cover election of member to life membership.

Opinion Jurisprudence Committee. 1928, pg 470, 475.

### **3. Honorary Membership – Rights and Obligations.**

(A) Honorary membership conferred by Mason's own Lodge is an honorary title which does not affect the status of the member in that Lodge, adding no rights or obligations, which title the Lodge may recall at any time;

(B) If conferred on member of another Lodge it vests in the Brother all of the rights of membership in the conferring Lodge except right to vote, and incurs obligations therein which cannot be repudiated or laid aside;

(C) Such membership in other than Mason's own Lodge can only be severed by dimission or expulsion;

(D) The dimit from such membership should clearly be marked upon its face: "Honorary."

Decision Grand Master approved. 1945, pg 44, 145.

**4. Number of Lodges.** There is no limit to the number of Lodges in which one may be elected an honorary member. Decision Grand Master approved. 1953, pg 48, 91.

**5. Grand Lodge Dues.** A Lodge need not pay Grand Lodge dues on an honorary member unless he is also an active member of that Lodge. Decision Grand Master approved. 1953, pg 48, 91.

**6. Lodge Dues.** An honorary member need not pay dues unless he is also an active member of the Lodge. Decision Grand Master approved. 1953, pg 48, 91.

**7. Honorary Past Master.** By provision relating to election of honorary member does not apply to election of honorary Past Master. Decision Grand Master approved. 1959, pg 53, 219.

### **17.14 Non Payment of Dues (N.P.D.)**

**1. Vote of the Lodge Not Required.** It is not permissible for Lodge to adopt a By-Law requiring that no member shall be dropped N.P.D. unless and until dropped by vote of the Lodge. Grand Master approved. 1930, pg 335.

**2. Time Limit.** Action of Grand Master approving a By-Law of a Lodge dropping a member N.P.D. who was indebted to the Lodge for a sum greater than one year's dues as of the close of the regular communication of that Lodge next preceding the Stated Meeting for the annual election of officers was disapproved on recommendation of the Committee on By-Laws. 1931, pg 119. (See also W.M.C. Sec.17.18).

**3. Remission of Dues, When Permitted.** Remission of dues may be voted at the meeting when names of those delinquent and in danger of being dropped are read or at a previous meeting. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1932, pg 373, 474.

**4. Not Required to Pay Remitted Dues.** A member is not required to pay dues remitted by Lodge, though it would be commendable for member to do so if able. Decision Grand Master approved. 1933, pg 19, 93.

**5. Who Can Remit Dues.** Master and committee cannot remit dues of delinquent members; that power rests solely in the Lodge. Decision Grand Master approved. 1940, pg 503, 491.

**6. No Blanket Extension of Time for Payment of Dues.** Grand Master disapproved By-Law granting every member a blanket extension of one year for payment of dues prior to being dropped from roll as contrary to W.M.C. Sec.17.14, which requires Lodge to pass upon each individual case for the remission of dues or the extension of time for payment. Action Grand Master approved. 1956, pg 383, 552.

**7. Sharing Dues Upon Change of Membership.** Dues are payable in advance and become property of Lodge when paid. Lodge is not obligated to share dues with another Lodge

when a Brother changes his membership to another Lodge. Decision Grand Master approved. 1956, pg 419, 534.

**8. Remission of Dues.** Dues can be remitted only by adoption or motion or resolution that the dues of a certain named Brother or Brothers for a specific year or years be remitted. Adoption of motion that sick Brothers be carried on indigent list does not constitute remission of dues. Decision Grand Master approved. 1956, pg 432, 534.

**9. Increase of Dues After Advance Payment.** Notwithstanding a Brother has prepaid his dues beyond the current year, he is still subject to an increase of dues for the subsequent year, and his failure to pay such increase will subject him to being dropped under W.M.C. Sec. 17.14. Decision Grand Master approved. 1958, pg 436, 515. Decision Grand Master approved. 1981, pg 26, 40.

### **17.18 Assessments and Loans.**

**1. Dropping for Failure to Pay Void Assessment.** One cannot be dropped for failure to pay an assessment which was void because levied without notice in violation of W.M.C. Sec.21.02. Decision Grand Master approved. 1954, pg 383, 428.

**2. Dropping for Failure to Pay Assessment.** Dropping for failure to pay assessment should be handled in the same manner as dropping for non-payment of dues. Decision Grand Master approved. 1957, pg 47, 182.

**3. Assessment on Life Members.** Lodge may validly levy assessments against one who has purchased a life membership. Decision Grand Master approved. 1957, pg 47, 182.

### **17.19 Status After Membership Lapse.**

**1. Defunct Lodge.** Grand Lodge having remitted a member's dues to defunct Lodge, restored him to rights and privileges of Masonry and directed Grand Secretary issue him a certificate of restoration. Resolution adopted. 1884, pg 53.

**2. Status Follows Law of Jurisdiction.** The status in this Jurisdiction of a Mason of a Foreign Jurisdiction who has been suspended for N.P.D. is the same as in the Jurisdiction where suspended. Decision Grand Master approved. 1897, pg 160, 185.

**3. Irregular Participation in Lodge Work.** That a Brother who had been dropped N.P.D. acted as a teller at election did not violate election. Decision Grand Master approved. 1897, pg 159, 185.

**4. Masonic Burial.** Masons dropped N.P.D. not barred from Masonic burial. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1898, pg 12, 44.

**5. No Dues in Interim.** Member dropped N.P.D. not chargeable with dues for time between dates of dropping and application for reinstatement. Decision Grand Master approved. 1902, pg 22, 52.

**6. When Erroneously Dropped.** Member erroneously dropped N.P.D. should be restored to roll when error discovered without requiring payment of dues then standing against him. Dec. Grand Master approved. 1902, pg 22, 52.

**7. Dropped N.P.D.** A Master Mason dropped from the rolls N.P.D. ceases to be a member of a Lodge, but is entitled to rights and privileges of Masonry as unaffiliated Mason without dimit. Decision Grand Master to contrary disapproved. 1917, pg 16, 63, 64.

**8. Visitation.** Member dropped N.P.D. may visit Lodge if there is no objection and he participates in none of the rights or privileges. Decision Grand Master approved. 1931, pg 18, 135.

**9. A Deceased Brother (N.P.D.) Cannot Be Restored.** A deceased Brother, dropped N.P.D. during his lifetime, cannot be restored to membership by the Lodge. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1943, pg 27, 79.

**10. Affiliation After 24 Months.** After 24 months, member dropped N.P.D. may petition for affiliation using certificate as provided in W.M.C. Sec.17.20, in lieu of dimit. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1945, pg 46, 47, 145.

**11. Charter Member of Lodge.** Member's status as charter member of Lodge has no bearing on his rights relative to reinstatement or affiliation following being dropped N.P.D. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1945, pg 46, 145.

**12. Dues After 24 Months.** Member dropped N.P.D. applying for reinstatement or affiliation after 24 months owes Lodge only dues owed when dropped, plus current dues. Lodge erred in carrying him on the books and paying per capita tax after dropping him. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1945, pg 46, 145; Reaffirmed 1949, pg 53, 174-175.

**13. Return of Fees Upon Death.** Where Brother dropped N.P.D. petitioned for reinstatement but died prior to report and ballot, Grand Master ordered petition and fees returned to personal representative. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1945, pg 56, 145.

**14. Erroneously Dropped.** Members of the Armed Forces erroneously dropped for N.P.D. (contrary to established practice of Lodge to remit the dues of men in service) can be restored to roll by paying to Grand Lodge per capita fees without necessity of ballot even though more than 24 months have elapsed. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1946, pg 395, 442.

**15. Eligibility For Restoration.** A member convicted of a crime and sentenced to the penitentiary was thereafter dropped N.P.D. but no cognizance was taken by the Lodge of the criminal act. He is eligible to present his petition for reinstatement. Decision Grand Master approved. 1949, pg 50, 174-175.

**16. Objection to Reinstatement.** One who, within 24 months of being dropped N.P.D. pays the amount required by this Section is automatically restored to membership, notwithstanding an objection made to his reinstatement. Decision Grand Master approved. 1954, pg 381, 428.

**17. Procedure for Reinstatement.** A dual member dropped N.P.D. in both Lodges could not reinstate by paying his delinquency to one Lodge only, but must pay his delinquencies to both Lodges. After a lapse of 24 months, he must petition both Lodges and receive a favorable vote in each. Only after reinstatement in both Lodges may he receive a dimit from either or both. Decision Grand Master approved. 1956, pg 428, 534.

**18. Membership not Acquired by Irregular Procedure.** A Brother dropped N.P.D. for more than 24 months and then irregularly restored to membership upon his written request, as provided under W.M.C. Sec.17.19, does not thereby obtain membership. He must petition under provisions of W.M.C. Sec.17.03 and 17.04. Decision Grand Master approved. 1959, pg 55, 219.

**19. Reinstatement of Deceased Brother.** Member was dropped N.P.D. in 1924 and it was alleged improper application of W.M.C. Sec.17.16, the Brother being mentally incompetent at that time. Grand Master held that it would be improper after long lapse of time to attempt to correct error, if any existed. Decision Grand Master approved. 1964, pg 367, 592-593.

**20. Member Reported Dropped N.P.D.** Erroneously. Since error had never previously been reported to Grand Secretary, it was held that the Brother could be reported reinstated to continuous membership status, provided proof of error was supplied to Grand Secretary. Decision Grand Master approved. 1964. pg 367, 592-593.

### 17.23 Fifty Years' Membership Recognition.

**1. Active Affiliation.** Only years of active affiliation with a Lodge may be calculated in determining eligibility for recognition under this Section. Decision Grand Master approved. 1937, pg 23, 85.

**2. Certificate of Secretary Final.** Certificate of Secretary of Lodge as to standing of a Brother not to be impeached by affidavit of said Brother. Decision Grand Master approved. 1941, pg 52, 103.

**3. 50 Years, How Calculated.** Time out on a dimit cannot be counted in calculating 50 years' membership in a Symbolic Lodge. Ruling Deputy Grand Master approved. 1944, pg 425, 510.

**4. 50 Years, How Calculated.** One dropped N.P.D. and restored six years later cannot "bridge" the gap in his membership by payment of dues for the years in which he was unaffiliated. Decision Grand Master approved. 1954, pg 383, 428.

**5. Proof of 50 Years' Membership.** Burden of proving 50 year membership is upon the Brother applying for recognition. Decision Grand Master approved. 1958, pg 436, 515.

**6. 50 Years, How Calculated.** Where a Lodge has forfeited its charter which was later restored, period of forfeiture could not be included in computing 50 years' membership. Decision Grand Master approved. 1959, pg 52, 219.

## Chapter 18

### 18.01 Prerequisite to Initiation.

**1. Dispensation – When Necessary to Confer Degrees.** A Lodge cannot grant request of a foreign Lodge to confer the three Degrees upon a candidate elected by the latter, who had removed to Jurisdiction of local Lodge, without a Special Dispensation from Grand Master. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1891, pg 339, 365, 373.

**2. Perpetual Jurisdiction – Rejected Foreign Material.** Washington Lodge may accept petitioner having all qualifications under our law although ejected by foreign Lodge, without a waiver from latter, as we do not recognize claim by foreign Grand Lodge of perpetual jurisdiction over its rejected material. 1892, pg 30, 31; 1912, pg 13, 95; 1945, pg 55, 145.

**3. Untimely Election.** An applicant, notwithstanding an untimely election, who has received the Degrees of Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft in a regular Lodge is, to all intents and purposes, a F.C. and entitled to all the rights and privileges of that Degree. Decision Grand Master approved. 1905, pg 24, 73.

**4. Dispensation – Foreign Material.** Grand Master granted dispensation to a Lodge to receive a petition for Degrees from material of an Idaho Lodge, the latter having waived Jurisdiction with approval of the Grand Master of Idaho. Decision Grand Master disapproved. 1917, pg 13, 63, 65.

**5. Ex-Soldier.** An ex-soldier must acquire necessary residence before petitioning for Degree. Decision Deputy Grand Master approved. 1923, pg 31, 137.

**6. Foreign Material.** One elected in foreign Jurisdiction but who has never received any of the Degrees and has now removed to our Jurisdiction and established Masonic residence, may petition our Lodge for the Degrees. Decision Grand Master approved. 1948, pg 393, 516)

**7. Ineligible Petitioner.** The petitioning, election, initiation, passing, raising, and enrolling of a man ruled null and void because the Lodge had full knowledge that he was suspended from a Lodge in another Jurisdiction prior to their action. Decision Grand Master approved. 1978, pg 28, 41.



## 18.02 Qualifications.

**1. Definition: Dotage.** Dotage is weakness or imbecility of mind or understanding caused by old age which renders person incapable of understanding the ordinary affairs of life. Decision Grand Master approved. 1906, pg 16b, 80.

**2. Religious Affiliations.** While proper investigating committee to inquire into petitioner's religious affiliation, his religion is not to be a consideration in weighing his worth as a man so long as he believes in the existence of a Supreme Being. Decision Grand Master approved. 1924, pg 305, 412.

**3. Inability to Become Proficient.** Petitioner of foreign birth was initiated as E.A. in a Washington Lodge but never able to advance to F.C. because of inability to become proficient. He moved to foreign Jurisdiction and sought conferring of subsequent Degrees upon him by courtesy in foreign Jurisdiction Lodge. Grand Master instructed Lodge of this Jurisdiction that it could have candidate posted in foreign Jurisdiction Lodge and then arrange to have Degrees conferred by courtesy; but Grand Master advised Washington Lodge that it should be slow to do this as candidate's qualifications to proceed were very doubtful; and that Washington Lodge might desire to reserve to its members the decision as to his advancing as long as he was a member of this Lodge; but Lodge could issue the E.A. a certificate as provided under W.M.C. Sec.17.10 but the same should recite why candidate had not advanced in Washington Lodge. It is then up to foreign Lodge to whom he then presents the certificate to determine his Masonic destiny under the law of the foreign Jurisdiction. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1945, pg 55, 148

## 18.03 Sole Test.

**1. Lodge Sole Judge of Physical Disability.** Grand Master ruled that where one candidate had lost his right thumb, a second had lost his right arm between the shoulder and elbow and used an artificial arm, and a third was afflicted with arthritis and unable to walk more than a very short distance, in each case determining eligibility to petition is solely within the Jurisdiction of the constituent Lodge. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1945, pg 54, 145.

**2. Infantile Paralysis and Artificial Limbs.** It is the function of the Lodge to determine whether or not the petitioner:

(A) Afflicted with infantile paralysis; or

(B) Fitted with artificial limbs, can reasonably conform to the requirements of the Degrees.

Decision Grand Master approved. 1946, pg 394, 442.

**3. Deformed Right Hand.** It is for the Lodge to determine whether petitioner who has a deformed right hand so that he cannot meet grip requirements without assistance is eligible for the Degrees. Decision Grand Master approved. 1954, pg 44, 147.

**4. Lodge Must Decide.** Lodge must decide whether one who can only distinguish light from dark is physically qualified. Decision Grand Master approved. 1954, pg 382, 428.

**5. Maimed Right Hand.** It is for the Lodge to determine whether a petitioner who has a maimed right hand with only the fifth finger remaining is eligible for the degrees. Decision Grand Master approved. 1958, pg 439, 515.

## 18.04 State Wide (Concurrent) Jurisdiction.

**1. Masonic Service Bureau May List Candidates.** Grand Master ruled that Masonic Service Bureau may list the names of candidates for Degrees but must withhold from publication results of ballots. Decision Grand Master approved as amended. 1970, pg 51, 75.

## **18.05 Residence Requirement.**

**1. Itinerant Pastor.** A pastor of a church who lives in the Jurisdiction of one Lodge part of year and removes to Jurisdiction of another Lodge balance of the year lacks residence qualification to petition either Lodge. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1896, pg 18, 63.

**2. Prerequisite to Restoration.** When a resident of another Jurisdiction petitions and is elected to receive Degrees in a Lodge of this Jurisdiction and is, thereafter, expelled on account of false statements as to his residence, he cannot be restored until he becomes possessed of prerequisites to his petitioning for Degrees. Decision Grand Master approved. 1927, pg 29, 178.

**3. Temporary Employment.** A man temporarily employed at Grand Coulee Dam may properly petition a Lodge of his permanent residence for membership. Decision Grand Master approved. 1937, pg 29, 178.

**4. Temporary Employment.** A man temporarily employed in war work does not lose his Masonic residence. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1946, pg 394, 442.

**5. Residence.** Civilian employee of War Department stationed overseas but temporarily visiting his parents in Hoquiam is not eligible to petition Hoquiam Lodge even though he has always claimed Hoquiam as his place of residence. Decision Grand Master approved. 1949, pg 49, 174-175.

## **18.08 Exception to 6-Months Residence.**

**1. With Definite Residence.** Petition of seafaring man having a definite place of residence outside the Jurisdiction cannot be received. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1895, pg 155, 203.

**2. Steam Boating on Puget Sound.** Seafaring man four years at sea, claiming no place of residence engaging in service on Puget Sound steamers for five months, lacks residence qualifications to petition for Degrees. Decision Grand Master approved. 1901, pg 197, 231.

**3. Seafaring Man – Definition.** “Seafaring Man” in our law applies only to a man without a definite place of residence but whose home is on board his ship, navigating either salt or fresh water. 1895, pg 155, 203; 1897, pg 449; 1901, pg 197, 231; 1917, pg 16, 63; 1939, pg 39, 168.

**4. Who is Not a Seafaring Man.** A twenty year resident of this state, who spent the last four months at Longview while employed on river steamers traveling regularly between Portland and Astoria, whose previous residence was Walla Walla, does not come under provisions of W.M.C. Sec.18.08; further, he is no longer Masonically resident in Walla Walla and he has not acquired Masonic residence in Longview. Committee Report adopted. 1924, pg 303, 412.

**5. Students Defined.** Person “working in the mines in Idaho” not a student. Decision Grand Master approved. 1927, pg 28, 178.

**6. Seafaring Men With Residence.** A seafaring man with established residence ashore, in a foreign jurisdiction, is not eligible for Degrees in this Jurisdiction. Decision Grand Master approved. 1928, pg 386, 444.

**7. Exemption as to Residence.** A petitioner after discharge from military service is not eligible for Degrees under W.M.C. Sec.18.08. Decision Grand Master approved. 1930, pg 334.

**8. Lighthouse Keeper.** A man in the lighthouse service is not a seafaring man. Decision Grand Master approved. 1937, pg 23, 85.

**9. U.S.A. Reserve Officers.** A Reserve Officer in the U.S. Army is not within provision of W.M.C. Chapter 18.08. Decision Grand Master approved. 1938, pg 428, 506.

**10. Essential Meaning of Chapter.** This Chapter means a man who actually lives on shipboard and has no other home. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1930, pg 39, 168.

**11. Foreign Armed Service.** Waiver of requirement of one year's residence does not apply to petitioners enlisted in foreign armed service. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1943, pg 28, 79.

**12. Petitioner in Armed Force.** A petitioner in the Armed Forces stationed in Texas and not a resident of the State of Washington not eligible to petition Lodge in this Jurisdiction. Ruling Deputy Grand Master approved. 1944, pg 427, 511.

**13. Foreign Resident in Armed Forces Stationed In Washington State.** A petitioner residing in Arizona, but who had been in U.S. Navy for more than six months and now stationed in Seattle; Grand Master ruled he was eligible to petition Seattle Lodge for the Degrees. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1945, pg 52, 145.

**14. Length of Time at Station Immaterial.** Petitioner who has been in U.S. Naval or military service more than six months is eligible under this Chapter to petition any Lodge having jurisdiction over the place where he is stationed without regard to length of time he has been stationed there. Grand Master felt it was intention of W.M.C. to permit petitioner to apply to place of his station at any time regardless of length of his stay prior to petitioning so long as he had been in the service more than the required six months. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1945, pg 52, 145.

**15. Petitioner's Good Faith Concerning Residence.** Residence of man in military service primarily a matter of intention gleaned from facts relative to his place of residence at time of entering service and considering location of his wife and family, his belongings and other facts. The matter of the petitioner's good faith is one for the Investigating Committee to consider. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1945, pg 52, 145.

**16. Member of Coast Guard Not Stationed In Lodge's Jurisdiction.** A member of the Coast Guard could not petition a Tacoma Lodge because his ship was not stationed there, nor was his residence established in that city. Decision Grand Master approved. 1946, pg 394, 442.

**17. Petition to Lodge Other Than Where Stationed.** A soldier not originally a resident of this state who was transferred from outside this jurisdiction to a station in Portland, Oregon, but who thereupon took living accommodations in Vancouver, Washington, is not eligible to petition a Vancouver Lodge. Decision Grand Master approved. 1950, pg 414-415, 568.

**18. Petition to Lodge Where Stationed.** A soldier in the service six months and stationed in this Jurisdiction could petition the Lodge where he was stationed. Decision Grand Master approved. 1950, pg 414-415, 568.

**19. Jurisdiction Not Lost.** The jurisdiction of a Lodge over material not lost by entry into military or naval service of U.S. Decision Grand Master approved. 1918, pg 209, 289; 1943, pg 28-29, 79; 1950, pg 414, 468.

**20. Masonic Residence Not Altered by Service.** Rulings made by several Grand Masters that a resident of a given place in this Jurisdiction does not lose his Masonic residence by reason of absence in military service, as he is considered "temporarily absent away from home;" and he is qualified to petition a Lodge of his place of residence in this Jurisdiction. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1945, pg 51, 145; 1946, pg 396, 442; 1951, pg 45, 147.

**21. Loss of Jurisdiction.** Military serviceman stationed in Florida petitioned Washington Lodge nearest his preceding, established Masonic residence. He later purchased a home in Florida with intention of making it his permanent residence. Jurisdiction of Washington Lodge nevertheless continues for six months thereafter. Decision Grand Master approved. 1959, pg 54, 219.

**22. Loss of Jurisdiction.** Ruled that member of the military service who had not lived in this Jurisdiction for the year prior to petitioning a Washington Lodge and who left the area before action could be taken on his petition not eligible to petition for Degrees. Decision Grand Master approved. 1970, pg 45, 69-70.

## 18.09 Petition.

**1. Signing by Mark.** Petitioner for affiliation unable to sign name due to physical infirmity may make a mark witnessed by two members of the Lodge, signing as such, and so certified by secretary of the Lodge, under seal. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1936, pg 408, 460.

**2. Loans by Lodge to Perspective Candidates Improper.** Decision Grand Master approved. 1940, pg 503, 591.

**3. Petition Must be Signed by Petitioner Personally.** Signature by agent or attorney-in-fact is insufficient. Decision Grand Master approved. 1944, pg 407, 506.

**4. Who Can Sign Petition.** There is no law that would prohibit a petitioner from naming men as references that also would be asked to sign the petition. Decision Grand Master approved. 1978, pg 28, 45.

## 18.11 Fees.

**1. Fees – When the Property of the Lodge.** Fees accompanying petition become the property of the Lodge only when the candidate has been accepted. Decision Grand Master adopted as modified by Jurisprudence Committee. 1894, pg 14, 52, 55, 72.

**2. Fees Chargeable, Notwithstanding Waiver.** A Lodge conferring F.C. and M.M. Degrees must charge its prescribed fees, notwithstanding the fees of the Lodge which waived jurisdiction. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1898, pg 11, 44.

**3. Fees From Foreign Material.** The petition of an E.A. from Foreign Jurisdiction for Degrees of F.C. and M.M. in this Jurisdiction must be accompanied with sum prescribed by By-Laws of the Lodge here. No credit can be given because of full payment to his mother Lodge for Degrees. Decision Grand Master approved. 1901, pg 196, 231.

**4. No Division.** Where Lodge has elected and conferred Degrees on material of another Lodge, Grand Master has no authority to direct division of fees between Lodges. Committee Report approved. 1926, pg 277, 365.

**5. Holding Check for Fees Improper.** Secretary of Lodge reprimanded by Grand Master for holding check of petitioner until after vote on petition. Action Grand Master approved. 1940, pg 496, 503, 591.

**6. W.M.C. Chapter Takes Precedence Over Lodge By-Laws.** By-Laws of a Lodge cannot modify provision of this Chapter. Decision Grand Master approved. 1941, pg 56, 103.

**7. Contribution to George Washington Memorial.** Where petitioner was elected and received E.A. Degree before effective date of legislation requiring contribution of \$1.00 to George Washington Masonic Memorial, the fact that he received subsequent Degrees after such effective date does not render him liable for such contribution. Decision Grand Master approved. 1955, pg 31, 143.

**8. Initiation Fee Separate from Dues.** Grand Master disapproved Lodge By-Law which provided that initiation fee (the minimum permitted under W.M.C. Sec.18.11) should include two year's dues. Action Grand Master approved. 1956, pg 384, 552.

**9. Effective Date of Increase in Minimum Fee.** Increase in minimum fee for the Degrees to \$50.00 became effective on June 23, 1955, and such amount is to be collected on all petitions first read in Lodge on or after that date, notwithstanding any Lodge By-Law which might specify a lower fee. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1956, pg 419, 534.

## **18.14 Waiver to Another Grand Jurisdiction.**

**1. Waiver Solely Lodge Matter – Grand Master Lacks Power to Grant Waiver.** The waiver of jurisdiction over material is peculiarly and solely within the province of the Lodge. It alone has the legal right to grant or refuse to grant a waiver. The Grand Master has no power to determine the matter nor is his dispensation necessary for a Lodge to act. 1883, pg 342; 1895, pg 155, 203; 1896, pg 19, 63; 1901, pg 196, 231; 1906, pg 20, 81; 1923, pg 33, 138, 157.

## **18.15 Waiver to Complete the Degrees.**

**1. E.A. From Foreign Jurisdiction.** Dispensation unnecessary for Lodge to advance a brother initiated in Lodge of another Jurisdiction; the brother's home Lodge having waived jurisdiction, he must now petition the Washington Lodge for advancement and submit to ballot in same manner as other petitioners. Decision Grand Master approved. 1896, pg 19, 63.

**2. Procedure After Receiving Waiver and Permission.** Until it receives waiver and permission, Lodge petitioned has no jurisdiction. After these are received, petition must be read in Lodge, an investigating committee appointed and their report received, and the ballot spread, all as required under W.M.C. Sec.19.01. Ballot taken at the same Communication when waiver and permission are received is illegal. Decision Grand Master approved. 1956, pg 432, 534.

**3. Failure to Receive Waiver.** In the case of an Entered Apprentice from another Jurisdiction wishing to continue his progress through the remaining Degrees who had not received authorization for courtesy work or a waiver despite two year's correspondence between the respective Grand Lodges, Grand Master ruled that the Washington Lodge may receive a petition for remaining Degrees. Decision Grand Master approved. 1991, pg 31, 41.

## **Chapter 19**

### **19.01 Action Upon A Petition.**

**1. Investigation, Examination Essential.** Strict examination as to character and standing a prerequisite to admitting a Mason to membership. Decision Grand Master approved. 1863, pg 263, 309.

**2. Character of Petitioner for Affiliation.** Lodge must provide means necessary for obtaining all information respecting character of applicants, under penalty of suspension or forfeiture of charter for refusal to perform its duty, or willful neglect of it. Decision Grand Master approved. 1863, pg 263, 309.

**3. Avouchment of Affiliate Necessary.** A non-affiliate cannot petition and be received into a Lodge without due examination of lawful information. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1892, pg 33, 55, 69.

**4. Age of Dimit.** The number of years during which a Brother was a dimitted Mason does not necessarily imply that the Brother is not worthy to affiliate. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1893, pg 354, 382.

**5. Balloting Out Of Time.** Decision of Grand Master not to grant dispensation to ballot on petition out of time concurred in and commended as a precedent. Committee Report adopted. 1894, pg 34.

**6. Basis of Committee's Report.** The favorable recommendation of investigation committee may be based upon any reliable information in regard to petitioner's Masonic qualifications. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1895, pg 152, 203.

**7. Time of Report – No Exception by Dispensation.** Grand Master has no authority to authorize reception of report of investigating committee by dispensation in less time than that prescribed by W.M.C. Sec.19.01. Decision of Grand Master approved. 1899, pg 338, 368.

**8. Ballot Improper – When.** A vote on whether or not to receive a petition is improper. The Worshipful Master should refer it to a committee unless he knows petitioner disqualified. Opinion Grand Master approved. 1899, pg 340, 386.

**9. Ineligibility Precludes Ballot.** Ballot on petition for Degrees unnecessary when petitioner is ineligible, notwithstanding that ineligibility was not ascertained until report of investigating committee was received. Decision of Grand Master approved. 1902, pg 21, 52.

**10. Dispensation, Refused.** Grand Master refused to grant dispensation to receive petition of candidate, ballot, and confer E.A. Degree on the same evening. Decision Grand Master approved. 1906, pg 18, 81.

**11. Dispensation, Refused.** Grand Master refused to grant dispensation to act on petition of seafaring man on same evening as presented. Decision Grand Master approved. 1909, pg 18, 79.

**12. No Secret Committee.** A Master has no authority to appoint a secret investigating committee, and a majority of the investigating committee must sign the report. Decision Grand Master approved. 1919, pg 415, 465.

**13. Investigating Religious Affiliation.** Religious affiliation, although proper subject for inquiry by investigating committee, should not be a consideration in weighing his worth as a man, so long as he believes in the existence of a Supreme Being. Decision Grand Master approved, 1924, pg 305, 412.

**14. Action of Lodge Upon Petition- When Void.** Where a Lodge receives a petition for affiliation and votes on it at the same communication, the action is void. Decision Grand Master approved. 1930, pg 334.

**15. Time of Reporting – Withdrawal of Petition.** Investigating committee should report within a reasonable time lapse of four weeks and Worshipful Master has power to insist on report and ballot any time after four weeks; petition cannot be withdrawn except for causes set forth in W.M.C. Sec. 19.03. Decision Grand Master approved. 1932, pg 374, 474.

**16. Discharging Investigating Committee.** It is the prerogative of the Master to discharge the investigating committee for failing to function within a reasonable time and to appoint a new committee. Decision Grand Master approved. 1933, pg 19, 90.

**17. Residence Immaterial.** A former member of Chelan Valley Lodge No. 118 received a dimit in 1931 and subsequently moved to Oregon. After the passage of more than one year, Oregon Lodge refused to receive petition for affiliation on grounds that Oregon sets a one year time limit on dimit. Grand Master informed Lodge that he might apply to be restored to good standing in Chelan Valley Lodge, No. 118, notwithstanding his Oregon residence, and afterward apply for a dimit and be in good standing to apply in Oregon. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1935, pg 23, 133.

**18. Setting Aside By-Laws.** Grand Master has no power to set aside By-Laws of Lodge and to allow it to meet out of time on a date other than fixed in By-Laws for Stated Communication to allow bills and receive and ballot on petitions. Action of Grand Master to contrary disapproved. 1937, pg 26, 86.

**19. Who May Not Investigate Petitioner.** Brethren who sign petition are ineligible to serve in investigating committee. Decision Grand Master approved. 1944, pg 407, 506.

**20. Report of Investigating Committee.** Report should be read once, either in full or in summary form, and whether it should be read more than once is for the Master to decide. Decision Grand Master approved. 1957, pg 46, 182.

**21. Time for Initiation.** Candidate may receive E.A. Degree the same evening as he is elected to receive the Degrees. Decision Grand Master approved. 1959, pg 24, 219.

## **19.02 Receiving Petition By Mistake.**

**1. Status on Withdrawal of Petition.** A petition having been voluntarily returned to applicant with fees, on account of ineligibility, without ever having been reported upon and without ballot, is not a rejected petition, and applicant can petition a Lodge having jurisdiction without reference to former petition. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1898, pg 12, 44.

**2. Ineligible Petitioner, Procedure.** The petition received from a petitioner ineligible for Degrees of Masonry should be returned without ballot. Decision Grand Master approved. 1935, pg 22, 133.

## **19.03 Petition Withdrawal.**

**1. Cannot Claim Return of Fees, When.** A Brother whose advancement is stayed for cause, or fails to present himself for advancement, cannot claim a return of fees or any part thereof. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1896, pg 19, 63.

**2. Withdrawal of Petition.** An applicant cannot withdraw his petition when once received by Lodge unless petition has been received by mistake as provided in W.M.C. Sec.19.02; which chapter cannot be disregarded by the Lodge. Decision Grand Master approved. 1901, pg 198, 231.

**3. No Ballot Where Petitioner Disqualified.** A petition from one disqualified under our law must be returned without proceeding to ballot. Decision Grand Master approved. 1904, pg 15, 42, 53.

**5. Withdrawal of Petition.** A petition received and read into minutes cannot then be withdrawn. Decision Grand Master approved. 1937, pg 23, 84.

## **19.04 Return of Fees.**

**1. No Remission of Fee, Property of Lodge.** A Lodge has no right to remit initiation fee; and if the ballot is favorable and there is no question of jurisdiction, fee becomes property of the Lodge. Committee Report modifying decision Grand Master adopted. 1906, pg 16a, 81.

**2. No Remission of Fee, Property of Lodge.** Failure of candidate to take Degree after favorable action on his petition does not entitle him to a return of initiation fee. Decision Grand Master approved. 1906, pg 16B, 80.

**3. Return of Fees.** Where petitioner who had been favorably balloted upon became financially embarrassed to such an extent that extensive charitable relief might be necessitated, fee may be returned to petitioner at his request with Lodge assent without waiting for expiration of six months' wait as required by W.M.C. Sec.20.05. Decision Grand Master approved. 1937, pg 27, 87.

**4. Fees, When Not to be Returned.** A Lodge may not return the fee for initiation and the contribution to the Masonic Home Fund accompanying it "...unless the petition shall have been balloted upon..." Decision Grand Master to the contrary not concurred in. 1943, pg 24-25, 77-78.

**5. Return of Fees After Loss of Jurisdiction.** Material petitioned in July, 1944, while in the Jurisdiction of Washington Lodge but before investigating committee could act he moved to a foreign jurisdiction. More than six months following the reading and referring of the petition, the petitioner asked for the return of his petition and the Lodge asked permission to return him his fees. Grand Master ruled that fees could not be returned because of provisions of W.M.C. in general and rulings regarding men in the armed services. Upon recommendation of Jurisprudence Committee, Grand Lodge reversed Grand Master's ruling on the grounds that Washington Lodge had lost jurisdiction upon the expiration of six months, and since fees

become the property of the Lodge only after the election of a candidate to receive the Degrees, it was the duty of the Lodge to refund all fees and contributions. Ruling Grand Master disapproved. 1945, pg 58, 145.

**6. Return of Fees.** Permission granted for return of fees:

(A) Candidate who died before receiving the Degrees.

(B) Petitioner who, subsequent to his election but previous to receiving the first degree, moved to a Grand Jurisdiction which does not confer the first Degree by courtesy.

(C) A candidate who moved to a foreign Jurisdiction before being investigated or balloted upon and who has remained in that foreign jurisdiction for six months or more.

(D) A petitioner who was duly elected but was unable to take his Degrees because he was confined to an institution as a result of sickness.

Decision Grand Master approved. 1946, pg 387, 388, 443; 1949, pg 43, 169-171.

**7. Return of Fees.** Permission granted for the return of fees to widow of petitioner for reinstatement who died before ballot on petition. Decision Grand Master approved. 1948, pg 380, 515.

**8. Return of Fees.** Permission granted for return of fees for Second and Third Degrees (but not the contribution to Masonic Home Fund) when petitioner removed from this state after receiving E.A. Degree but six months had elapsed. Decision Grand Master approved. 1948, pg 381, 515; 1949, pg 53, 174-175.

**9. Return of Contribution.** Masonic Home Fund contribution was transmitted to the Grand Secretary following election of petitioner but more than six months elapsed during which he did not receive the Degrees. On re-ballot, petitioner was rejected. Permission granted to return contribution. Decision Grand Master approved. 1948, pg 383, 515.

**10. Return of Contribution.** No portion of Masonic Home Fund contribution can be returned to an E.A. who removed from this jurisdiction and desired to receive the remaining Degrees in a foreign jurisdiction. Decision Grand Master approved. 1948, pg 392, 516.

**11. Return of Fees.** Permission granted for return of fees:

(A) Petitioner ineligible to receive Degrees.

(B) After Petition was read, petitioner became ill and money was needed to defray medical expense and the loss of salary and expenses.

(C) After election but before receiving a Degree, petitioner removed to another city and became financially embarrassed.

Decision Grand Master approved. 1949, pg 42-45, 169-171.

**12. Return of Fees.** Permission to return fees refused where petition was accepted by Lodge and petitioner removed from one city in the state to another, since the investigation could still be made and the Degrees conferred by courtesy. Decision Grand Master approved. 1949, pg 46, 172.

**13. Return of Fees, Removal to Foreign Jurisdiction.** Where petitioner moved to foreign jurisdiction before Lodge received his petition and fees, they should be returned as Lodge has no jurisdiction and whether six months has elapsed is immaterial. Decision Grand Master to contrary disapproved. 1949, pg 46-47, 172-173.

**14. Return of Fees.** In the absence of a legal disqualification, insanity, or death of the petitioner which prevents the Degrees from being conferred, or barring the removal of the petitioner from this jurisdiction for over six months (as provided under W.M.C. Sec.19.05 and 19.06) the petition must go to ballot and the fees cannot be returned prior to the ballot. Decision Grand Master to the contrary disapproved. 1952, pg 477, 578.

**15. Return of Fees with a Ballot Favorable.** After a petition has been favorably voted upon, the discretion lies with the Grand Master as to whether the circumstances do or do not



justify the return of the fees, regardless of the time elapsed. Report Jurisprudence Committee adopted. 1952, pg 476, 577.

**16. Return of Fees After Loss of Jurisdiction.** Because petitioner removed from jurisdiction of Lodge after Lodge had received his petition and appointed an investigating committee, the investigation was not made. Seven and one-half months after his petition was received, he requested the return of fee. Lodge lost jurisdiction at the expiration of six months following receipt of petition and the petitioner was entitled to return of fees. Decision Grand Master approved. 1954, pg 381, 428.

**17. Status After Withdrawal of Petition and Return of Fees.** Because a petitioner who had been elected to receive Degrees became physically disabled, he was permitted to withdraw his petition and fees were returned; upon his recovery, his status became the same as if he had never petitioned for the Degrees and he could petition any Lodge having jurisdiction. Decision Grand Master approved. 1954, pg 328, 428.

**18. Return of Fees.** Permission granted to return fees in the following circumstances:

(A) Candidate died prior to receiving E.A. Degree.

(B) Prior to investigation petitioner lost his job, left the jurisdiction of the Lodge and needed money for actual living expenses.

(C) Amount segregated for F.C. and M.M. Degrees; E.A. afflicted with osteomyelitis removed permanently to California for treatment, needed funds, and California declined to confer courtesy Degrees on a civilian.

Decision Grand Master approved. 1955, pg 31, 32, 33, 143, 147.

**19. Return of Fees Before Loss of Jurisdiction.** Where, after petition is received but before investigation, petitioner moves from jurisdiction, fees cannot be returned until jurisdiction is lost by the lapse of six months. Decision Grand Master approved. 1955, pg 31, 33, 143.

Reaffirmed. Decision Grand Master approved. 1958, pg 438, 515.

**20. Return of Fees.** Permission to return fees refused:

(A) To widow of E.A. twelve years after his death.

(B) To petitioner who, before investigation, but before six months had elapsed, permanently removed to another state and six months had not elapsed since the reception of the petition.

Decision Grand Master approved. 1955, pg 31, 33, 140, 143. Reaffirmed. Decision Grand Master approved. 1958, pg 438, 515.

**21. Return of Fees After Initiation.** If By-Laws of Lodge do not segregate the fees for Degrees, a portion cannot be returned if a Brother dies after taking the E.A. Degree. Decision Grand Master approved. 1959, pg 53, 219.

**22. Return of Fees and Contributions.** Grand Master refused permission to return contributions to Masonic Home Fund and George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association paid by an E.A. who died before receiving remaining Degrees. Grand Master held that such contributions became property of Grand Lodge immediately upon election of the petitioner; Grand Master further refused permission to return any part of the fees for the F.C. and M.M. Degrees where the By-Laws of the Lodge did not provide for the segregation thereof between the several Degrees. Decision Grand Master approved. 1956, pg 390, 531.

**23. When the Grand Master's Permission for Return of Fees Unnecessary.** Where a petitioner is elected but objection is lodged under W.M.C. Sec.20.03 and not withdrawn, it has the effect of rejection by ballot; under those circumstances it is unnecessary to obtain Grand Master's permission to return fees and contributions. Decision Grand Master approved. 1956, pg 427, 534.

**24. Return of Fees Prior to Ballot.** Petitioner was not contacted by investigating committee for three months and he then advised the Lodge Secretary he wanted to withdraw his

petition. He was not entitled to return of fees and he had to submit himself to ballot. Decision Grand Master to contrary disapproved. 1959, pg 26, 211.

### **19.05 Residence Change Before Election.**

**1. Loss of Jurisdiction.** Where petitioner entered military service was transferred to another state had no family or home in jurisdiction of Lodge petitioned, and had no intention of returning there, and after six months, Lodge loss Jurisdiction. Dec. Grand Master Approved, 1956, pg 430, 534.

### **19.07 Balloting.**

**1. Irregularity in Balloting.** Sending the ballot box out of the Lodge room to permit Tyler to vote was wrong; but the favorable result of ballot cannot be annulled on such a technicality; and a motion at subsequent meeting of Lodge to declare ballot illegal should be promptly ruled out of order. Decision Grand Master approved. 1881, pg 14-17, 36.

**2. No Dispensation for Re-balloting.** When a candidate has been rejected, the Grand Master has no authority to grant permission for a re-ballot. Decision Grand Master approved. 1906, pg 16, 80.

**3. Clear Ballot is Final.** A clear ballot is final and cannot be spread again. Decision Grand Master approved. 1921, pg 253, 304.

**4. Legal Ballot.** Ballot resulting in rejection is not an illegal one because of insufficient ballots of both kinds to permit all present to vote. Decision Grand Master approved. 1924, pg 304, 412.

**5. When Void.** A ballot participated in by a visiting Brother is null and void, unless results indicate that the visitor's ballot did not affect the outcome; and when so declared null and void, it is the duty of the Master to give due notice under the seal of the Lodge to the effect that, by reason of the rejection by mistake of the petition of the candidate for the Degrees (naming him), the ballot will be spread again on his petition at a Stated Communication of the Lodge, giving the date thereof. Decision Grand Master approved. 1933, pg 19,93.

**6. Use of Multiple Ballot Boxes.** More than one ballot box may be used in balloting on candidates for Degrees either by placing them on the altar or by presenting them to the members at their seats; but each box must be identified so that members will know upon which candidate he is voting when the box is presented to him, and each box must be separately cleared and reported upon. Decision Grand Master approved. 1945, pg 54, 154.

**7. Objection to Petition for Affiliation Made After Ballot Closed.** When ballot on petition for affiliation is clear and so announced by Wardens, the petitioner is elected, even though the Master failed to declare the result because of an objection made to him by a member after the ballot was closed. Decision Grand Master approved. 1951, pg 46, 147.

**8. Effect of Irregular Ballot.** If Master Mason votes on petitions before he takes proficiency examination and signs the By-Laws and the ballot is not clear, there must be a re-ballot. Decision Grand Master approved. 1951, pg 43, 147-148.

**9. Standing of Sponsor as Affecting Ballot.** The fact that one of the signers of a petition had been dropped N.P.D. does not void the ballot and a petition received and balloted on and rejected stands. Decision Grand Master approved. 1952, pg 482, 575.

**10. Re-ballot.** Master has right to spread a second ballot if he thinks there is a possibility of error in the first negative ballot. Decision Grand Master approved. 1959, pg 51, 219.

## **19.08 No Discussion on Petition.**

**1. Ballot Not Valid.** In the case in which the race of the petitioner for the Degrees was stated prior to the ballot and was subsequently rejected, the Grand Master ruled that the petition and the ballot were invalid and the petitioner was then free to petition that Lodge or any other Lodge he might wish. Decision Grand Master approved. 1991, pg 31, 41.

## **19.10 Balloting Not to be Postponed.**

**1. Balloting by Tyler.** The door of the Lodge should not be left open at any time as an accommodation to the Tyler. However, during the program part of the meeting, upon decision of the Worshipful Master, the door may be opened as a courtesy to permit the Tyler to hear a speaker. The Tyler must remain at his station, outside the door. Decision Grand Master approved. Committee on Jurisprudence recommended disapproval of that portion of Grand Master's ruling that Tyler could not enter the Lodge to ballot. Committee Report approved. 1976, pg 45, 54

## **19.11 One Ballot For Degrees.**

**1. Rejection on New Ballot- Time for Re-balloting.** Where a new ballot is taken under this chapter and the candidate is rejected, one year must expire before another ballot can be taken. Decision Grand Master approved. 1920, pg 16, 54. (See W.M.C. Sec. 19.16.)

**2. Candidate Who Fails to Take Degrees Within Six Months.** Lodge not being at fault, a candidate who fails to take the Degrees within six months becomes a petitioner for Degrees, and Grand Master cannot grant dispensation to ballot on petition at Special Communication of Lodge. Decision Grand Master approved. 1944, pg 408 506.

**3. Must Ballot After One Year.** After lapse of one year, even though candidate is in armed forces, re-ballot on petition is necessary; Grand Master has power only to extend original time six months. Decision Grand Master approved. 1945, pg 54, 145.

**4. Re-ballot – Investigation Unnecessary.** On re-ballot after six months it is not necessary to appoint investigating committee or have the matter lay over four weeks. Decision Grand Master approved. 1946, pg 336, 442.

**5. New Ballot on Fellowcraft.** It is not necessary to have a new ballot on Fellowcraft who does not present himself for the Master Mason Degree if he meets the requirements of W.M.C. Sec. 19.11. Decision Grand Master approved. 1954, pg 383, 428.

**6. Correct Procedure Necessary.** Lodge did not follow the provisions of W.M.C. Sec.19.12 correctly, therefore the Lodge was directed to spread the ballot at the next Stated Communication. Decision Grand Master approved. 1985, pg 38, 52-53.

## **19.12 Correcting Error in Ballot.**

**1. Time Limit: Notice Required.** When there is an effort made to correct a mistake in balloting upon candidate for Degrees by re-balloting at a subsequent Stated Communication, all members present at time of the first ballot should be notified of intention to spread second ballot, but the second ballot may be spread without waiting an additional 30 days as with a petition that had just been received by the Lodge. Decision Grand Master to the contrary disapproved. 1923, pg 33, 138.

**2. Re-ballot on Petition.** Re-balloting cannot be had on a petition despite a request for same presented at a subsequent meeting signed by all members present when rejection was voted. Decision Grand Master approved. 1927, pg 27, 178.

**3. Re-ballot on Petition.** Ruling by Grand Master not approved that a petition balloted upon and rejected, as the Master of the Lodge believed, by mistake, could be resubmitted at a subsequent Stated Communication provided all members present at the first balloting were notified by letter prior to the second ballot being spread. Jurisprudence Committee reported that a petition rejected by mistake or error could only be corrected by re-balloting at the same Stated Communication under the provisions of W.M.C. Sec. 19.12. Report of Jurisprudence Committee adopted. 1992, pg 32, 41.

### **19.13 Re-ballot When First Degree Delayed.**

**1. Re-ballot Ordered.** In the case of an Entered Apprentice who had not received his first Degree before six months had elapsed from his election, but was initiated after that time limit had expired, Lodge ordered to re-ballot on his petition before proceeding to confer the Fellowcraft Degree. Decision Grand Master approved. 1991, pg 26, 43.

### **19.14 Secrecy of Ballot and Penalty for Violation.**

**1. Explanation of Adverse Ballot.** Master has no power to demand an explanation of unfavorable ballot on petition for Degrees. Decision Grand Master approved. 1954, pg 383, 428.

**2. Lodge Door Closed During Balloting.** The door of the Lodge must be closed during balloting. Decision Grand Master approved. 1976, pg 45, 54.

### **19.15 Petition After Rejection.**

**1. Notice Follows Reception of Petition.** Notice does not precede but follows reception of petition of one who has previously been rejected. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1893, pg 354, 382, 383.

**2. Duty of Rejecting Lodge.** Under W.M.C. Sec. 19.15 when a petitioner who had previously been rejected applies to another Lodge after a lapse of one year, it is the duty of any member of the rejecting Lodge who has good reason to believe the petitioner is unfit material to make the same known to his Lodge, in open Lodge. The Lodge, after considering the matter, must act upon the same and certify either its approval or disapproval of the application made to the other Lodge. The response to the second Lodge must be from the Lodge, and not a report from its Master or a committee of the Lodge. Decision Grand Master approved. 1924, pg 305, 412.

**3. Notice of Petition of One Previously Rejected.** Upon reading of petition of one previously rejected by another Lodge, formal notice must be given directly to such Lodge, requesting full information. Notice given through the medium of a bureau provided for in W.M.C. Sec. 19.15, is not sufficient. Decision Grand Master approved. 1956, pg 437, 534.

## **Chapter 20**

### **20. 01 Rules on Conferring.**

**1. Degree to Be Conferred At One Time.** An exception where candidate received first section of Third Degree but could proceed no further because of a physical condition, second section could be conferred at a subsequent communication. Decision Grand Master approved. 1920, pg 16, 53, 54.

**2. Degree To Be Conferred At One Time.** An exception where a Brother reached the Eastern Gate in the Third Degree and refused to go further but later desired to take the remainder

of Degree. The work could be completed, absent objection to advance permitted under W.M.C. Sec. 20.2 and Sec. 20.03. Decision Grand Master approved. 1921, pg 252, 304.

**3. Time For Initiation.** Candidate may receive First Degree on the same evening as he is elected to receive the Degrees. Decision Grand Master approved. 1959, pg 24, 219.

### **20.03 Objection to Initiation.**

**1. Ground for Objection.** An objection to candidate receiving the Degrees, “so long as present Master is in the chair...no objection to the candidate...but to any Degree being conferred while the present Master is in the East,” not ground within the contemplation of the statute prescribing objection to advancement. Decision Grand Master and Report of Committee on Jurisprudence, which presented additional facts, concurred in. 1895, pg 152, 153.

**2. Objections Absolute.** Fact that objections made to initiation of candidate appear to others to be frivolous does not impair the force of the objections, which is absolute. Opinion Grand Master approved. 1899, pg 340, 368.

**3. Objection by Member of Another Lodge.** Member of Lodge A placed objection with Master of Lodge B to the initiation by Lodge B of one of its candidates. Grand Master instructed Lodge B to ignore objection because:

- (A) It was not an objection to advancement under W.M.C. Sec. 20.04;
- (B) It was not made by a Lodge;
- (C) Objection did not come from a Lodge of prior residence of an E.A. or F.C.;
- (D) Objection to initiation cannot be made by member of another Lodge.

Decision Grand Master approved. 1945, pg 54, 145.

**4. Anonymous Objection.** A Master is not required to honor an anonymous objection to initiation. Decision Grand Master approved. 1953, pg 46, 91.

**5. Time for Objection.** Objection to initiation can be made at any time before candidate receives the obligation. Decision Grand Master approved. 1953, pg 46, 91.

**6. Initiation of Petitioner Over Objection.** When Lodge A, over timely objection, took petitioner through the initiation ceremony, he did not become a member of Lodge A. Decision Grand Master approved. 1955, pg 34, 143.

### **20.04 Objection to Advancement.**

**1. Objection By a Lodge.** Objections were made by the officers and members of Lodge A to the advancement of a candidate in Lodge B who had been lately a resident of the jurisdiction of Lodge A and was deemed by Lodge A to be unworthy. The Grand Master directed that the candidate not be advanced pending investigation. Decision Grand Master approved. 1883, pg 342, 360.

**2. Objection Different From Adverse Ballot.** A black ball which creates an adverse ballot does not require any explanation; objection to advancement of a candidate requires an investigation report to, and vote by the Lodge on the validity of the objection. Decision of Grand Master to the contrary not concurred in; Report of Committee on Jurisprudence adopted. 1923, pg 30, 137.

**3. Objection By Master.** At the end of the first section of the Entered Apprentice Degree, the Master objected to permitting the candidate to proceed further because the newly obligated E.A. appeared to be under the influence of alcohol. Grand Master held that, having taken the obligation, the candidate was subjected to Masonic discipline under W.M.C. Sec. 20.04, and procedures outlined therein should be followed. Decision Grand Master approved., 1948, pg 394, 516.

## 20.05 Defects after Initiation.

**1. Physical Qualifications After Initiation.** One who has received the E.A. and F.C. Degrees, notwithstanding that the middle finger of his right hand was missing, may be given Third Degree. Decision Grand Master sustained. 1878, pg 247, 265.

**2. Physical Qualifications After Initiation.** An E.A. is entitled to advancement after taking Degree although near-sighted and unable to clearly distinguish position of the lights without his glasses. A defect in vision that has been or can be remedied by an optician is not sufficient to disqualify even a petitioner for the Degrees. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1898, pg 13, 45.

**3. Physical Qualifications After Initiation.** It is proper to advance candidate when the loss of the forefinger of the right hand is not discovered until after initiation. Decision Grand Master approved. 1906, pg 16, 80.

## 20.06 Interval Between Degrees.

**1. Dispensation for Degrees Out of Time.** It is an insufficient cause for granting a dispensation to confer the Degrees out of time that the candidate is going to leave the jurisdiction. Report Committee on Jurisprudence adopted. 1895, pg 212.

**2. No Dispensation for Making A Mason at Sight.** “In Washington a Mason can be made only in the manner prescribed by our Constitution and laws,” by which the Grand Master is bound. Decision Grand Master approved. 1900, pg 25, 26; 1909, pg 33, 77-78; 1923, pg 30, 138.

**3. Dispensation to Confer All Three Degrees at One Time Not Granted.** Grand Master refused to grant dispensation to confer the three Degrees at one meeting on a seafaring man. Decision Grand Master approved. 1921, pg 247, 304.

**4. Degree Out of Time.** A separate dispensation must be issued for each Degree conferred out of time. Decision Grand Master to contrary not concurred in; Report of Committee on Jurisprudence Adopted. 1938, pg 423, 504.

**5. Degree Without Examination.** Dispensation to permit conferral of subsequent Degree cannot be issued until examination on previous Degree satisfactorily completed. Report of Committee on Jurisprudence adopted. 1939, pg 28, 167.

**6. Degree by Courtesy.** Regulations of foreign Jurisdictions do not apply to Washington Lodges conferring Degrees by Courtesy. Decision Grand Master approved. 1941, pg 57, 103.

**7. Dispensation for Degree Out of Time – Armed Forces.** Candidate “expecting to be called into service” cannot receive Degrees out of time. Decision Deputy Grand Master approved. 1943, pg 45, 80.

**8. Dispensation for Degree Out of Time by Foreign Lodge.** Lodge in foreign jurisdiction may confer Degrees by courtesy out of time on Washington candidate without dispensation from our Grand Master. Decision Grand Master approved. 1945, pg 46, 145.

**9. Dispensation, Degrees Out of Time by Courtesy, Armed Forces.** Grand Master granted permission to Washington Lodge to have F.C. Degree conferred in foreign jurisdiction by courtesy, the candidate being in the armed forces and alerted to go overseas. Decision Grand Master, as revised by Committee on Jurisprudence, approved. 1945, pg 46, 145.

**10. Dispensation for Degrees Out of Time – Armed Forces.** Where Degrees are conferred by courtesy by a Lodge of a foreign jurisdiction, the regulations of the foreign jurisdiction as to time govern. Decision Grand Master approved. 1951, pg 47, 147.

**11. Single Dispensation For Conferral of Plural Degrees Out of Time.** Grand Master refused to issue at one time a dispensation to confer the Second and Third Degrees out of time on a candidate in a military service. Decision Grand Master approved. 1956, pg 386, 531.

## 20.07 Degrees by Courtesy.

**1. No Right to Demand.** An E.A. has no right to demand to be advanced elsewhere than in his home Lodge, though the latter ought to comply with any reasonable request from him in that respect. Opinion Grand Master approved. 1899, pg 339, 368.

**2. Residence Qualification.** It is not necessary for a candidate of a foreign jurisdiction to first establish residence of one year in this Jurisdiction before a Washington Lodge may confer a Degree by courtesy upon him. Decision Grand Master approved. 1900, pg 22, 63.

## 20.09 Material of Foreign Lodge.

**1. Whose Material.** An Iowa Lodge Fellowcraft requested the Master Mason Degree be conferred by a Nebraska Lodge when he became a resident in the latter state. Before Iowa Lodge could issue a waiver, he had moved to Washington Territory, where he applied to a Lodge to receive the M.M. Degree. As the Brother had left Nebraska, the waiver issued by the Iowa Lodge in favor of the Nebraska Lodge was void. The Brother is still material of Iowa Lodge whose permission must be secured before he can be advanced in our Lodge. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1886, pg 431, 478.

**2. Jurisdiction over Foreign Material.** A Lodge in this jurisdiction cannot confer the M.M. Degree upon a F.C. of a foreign Lodge against the objection of the latter, notwithstanding a residence in this Jurisdiction of several years' standing. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1898, pg 11, 44.

**3. When Charges Pending.** A Lodge of this Jurisdiction cannot receive a petition of a F.C. of a foreign jurisdiction in which charges against him are pending. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1903, pg 258, 311.

**4. Request from Foreign Jurisdiction.** It is proper to confer the E.A. Degree by courtesy upon proper request from Grand Lodge of Texas through Grand Secretary. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1932, pg 374, 474.

## 20.11 Proficiency in the Degrees.

**1. Proof of Proficiency – Special Meeting.** A candidate may be examined and a vote taken as to his proficiency at a special meeting. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1892, pg 33, 55.

**2. Who Judges Proficiency.** The Lodge is the proper judge of proficiency of candidate seeking advancement. Decision Grand Master approved. 1900, pg 22, 63. (Note: By virtue of 1949 amendment of this Section, a committee appointed by the Master of the Lodge may determine a candidate's proficiency.)

**3. When Unable to Memorize Lectures.** Grand Master has no power to waive the requirement for proficiency. If the candidate cannot receive the Degrees because of his inability to memorize the lectures, the Lodge being ready, anxious and able to confer the Degrees when the candidate is prepared, the Lodge is under no obligation to return the fees. Decision Grand Master approved. 1935, pg 23-24, 133.

**4. Dispensations.** No dispensation can be issued allowing Degree to be conferred until candidate has become proficient in the Posting lecture of the preceding Degree. Report Committee on Jurisprudence adopted. 1938, pg 423, 504.

**5. Dispensation for Degrees Out of Time.** Requirement for proficiency must be observed in cases involving members in the armed forces receiving the Degrees out of time under special dispensation. Decision Grand Master approved. 1943, pg 18, 76; 1951, pg 47, 147.

**6. Waiver of Proficiency for Advancement.** Grand Master cannot waive the requirement of proficiency, and an E.A. who is unable to learn the lecture cannot be advanced. Decision Grand Master approved. 1948, pg 395, 516.

**7. Discipline Prior to Proficiency Examination.** A candidate who has taken the E.A. obligation is subject thereafter to discipline for any Masonic offense, whether he has taken any proficiency examination or not. Decision Grand Master to contrary disapproved. 1949, pg 53, 177-178.

**8. Lapse of Time Not a Bar to Advancement.** That several years elapse before candidate becomes proficient in the F.C. Degree is not a bar to his advancement upon his attaining proficiency and no new ballot is necessary. Decision Grand Master approved. 1954, pg 383, 428.

**9. Courtesy Degrees in Foreign Jurisdiction.** Where a Washington candidate receives his Third Degree, by courtesy of a foreign jurisdiction which has no proficiency requirement, his membership in Washington is complete without his becoming proficient. Decision Grand Master approved. 1956, pg 431, 534.

**10. Third Degree Proficiency.** Directed Worshipful Master to withdraw his order that a Brother be dropped because he had not given his proficiency in the Third Degree. Decision Grand Master approved. 1981, pg 25, 37.

## Chapter 21

### 21.02 May Levy Assessment.

**1. Receipt in Name as on Lodge Record.** Receipt for dues must be in name of member as shown by Lodge records. Decision Grand Master approved. 1907, pg 227, 305.

**2. Effect When Dues Paid in Advance.** If dues are raised, the action of Lodge is not retroactive, and additional amounts for the current year cannot be collected from members who have already paid the year's dues at the lower rate. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1932, pg 373, 474.

**3. Dropping for Non-Payment of Assessment.** An assessment can be collected only in a manner provided for collection of dues; it is unlawful for a Lodge to drop a member for failure to pay assessment except as provided in W.M.C. Sec. 17.14. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1932, pg 373, 474. (See also W.M.C. Sec. 17.18)

**4. Prior Notice To Members of Assessment.** Assessments cannot be voted without previous notice and a member cannot be dropped for non-payment of an assessment levied without notice. Decision Grand Master approved. 1954, pg 383, 428.

**5. Assessments Are Not Dues.** Levy of assessment to pay floating indebtedness is not an increase in dues and may be validly laid against the members, even though one or more of them has a paid up dues card for the year. Decision Grand Master approved. 1957, pg 47, 182.

**6. Assessment on Life Members.** Lodge may validly levy assessment against one who has purchased a life membership. Decision Grand Master approved. 1957, pg 47, 182.

### 21.04 Funds Not To Be Distributed.

**1. Remission of Debt.** When Lodge remitted payment of a note a member owed a Lodge, Grand Master held that action to be in violation of this Chapter W.M.C. However, Grand Lodge did not approve the decision of the Grand Master but decided that money loaned by a Lodge could be remitted unless that money was loaned for the purpose of paying for Lodge fees for Degrees. 1919, pg 415, 465.



**2. Fraud by Visitor.** Lodge funds cannot be used to reimburse member of Lodge who endorsed a worthless bank draft of visitor. Decision Grand Master approved. 1928, pg 385, 444.

### **21.05 Real Property.**

**1. Trust Company Not to Hold Title.** A Lodge may not adopt By-Laws which permit the Lodge to designate as trustee a separate corporation to hold title to Lodge's real property in trust. Committee on By-Laws Report adopted. 1928, pg 488.

**2. Authority of Trustees.** Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, and Junior Warden, acting as trustees of the Lodge, may sell, lease, or dispose of real property on such terms as they may deem advisable by vote of a majority of the members present at a Stated Communication of the Lodge, provided that due notice of at least four weeks has been given Lodge members of such contemplated action. Specific instructions may be imposed by vote of two-thirds of the members of the Lodge present at a Stated Meeting following such due notice of the contemplated action. Decision Grand Master approved. 1956, pg 420, 534.

**3. Notice.** Notice required by this section may be given either by announcement at a Stated Communication or by mail. Decision Grand Master approved. 1956, pg 429, 534.

### **21.06 Borrowing for Building Purposes.**

**1. Approval When Borrowing Not Contemplated.** It is unnecessary, although advisable, to secure approval for use of Lodge assets in a building program where borrowing is not contemplated. Decision Grand Master approved. 1950, pg 415, 568.

### **21.08 Title-Holding Corporations.**

**1. Articles of Incorporation Conform to State Law.** Articles of incorporation for building corporations in the State of Washington must conform to appropriate Revised Code of Washington (R.C.W.) statutes. Report Committee on Jurisprudence adopted. 1952, pg 514, 581.

**2. Lodge Hall Rental.** Selection of tenant of a Lodge hall owned by a Masonic building corporation is a policy matter for the corporation to decide. Grand Master noted that there was a pattern of renting only to recognized Masonic bodies and organizations affiliated with them, or to civic organizations of long-recognized status in the community. Decision Grand Master approved. 1957, pg 45, 182.

**3. Lodge Hall Ownership.** The joint ownership of a hall by a Masonic Lodge and other organizations, or the ownership of such a hall by a corporation, stock in which is owned partly by a Lodge and partly by other organizations, is not looked upon with favor. Decision Grand Master approved. 1957, pg 49, 182.

**4. Authority to Control Corporations.** The By-Laws of a temple corporation come under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge. Decision Grand Master approved. 1985, pg 39, 52-53.

**5. Corporation By-Laws.** The Grand Master and the Grand Lodge have the authority to control temple corporations. Decision Grand Master approved. 1935, pg 39, 52-53.

**6. Amendments to Corporation By-Laws.** To amend temple corporation By-Laws requires a majority of the entire voting stock. Decision Grand Master approved. 1985, pg 39, 52-53.

**7. Authority of Grand Master.** The Grand Master has the authority to require a temple corporation to submit its articles of incorporation and By-Laws to the Jurisprudence Committee and the Grand Master for approval. Failure to comply with such a request would constitute un-Masonic conduct. Decision Grand Master approved. 1985, pg 39, 52-53.

**8. Operation of Masonic Hall.** Denied permission to Masonic temple association to turn over operation and maintenance of its Masonic hall to Shrine club. Decision Grand Master approved. 1987, pg 29, 45.

## Chapter 22

### 22.04 Voluntary Relief Organizations.

**1. Dispensation Not Required.** Grand Master refused to grant a dispensation to form a social club because they may exist without sanction. Decision Grand Master approved. 1919, pg 411, 475.

**2. Masonic Club.** A Lodge was permitted to contribute to the support of a Masonic club provided the club was brought directly under the control of Lodges. Decision Grand Master approved. 1932, pg 47, 139.

## Chapter 23

### 23.01 Masonic Funeral Services.

**1. When Officiating Clergyman Not a Mason.** Un-Masonic of a Lodge to request a clergyman who is not a Mason to read the Masonic burial service at grave of a deceased Brother. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1871, pg 328, 351.

**2. Dedication of a Cemetery.** It is not necessary to dedicate a Masonic cemetery. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1894, pg 15, 52, 55.

**3. When a Lodge May Not Provide an Escort.** Unlawful for a Lodge, clothed as Masons, to serve as an escort attending a funeral under the direction of another organization. It must have full control of ceremonies or take no part. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1895, pg 156, 203.

**4. When A Lodge May Provide an Escort.** It is customary and proper for Lodge to escort remains of a Brother to the place of shipment when internment is to take place elsewhere. Decision Grand Master approved. 190, pg 22, 63.

**5. Use of Standard Work Mandatory.** Lodges must use the Funeral Services adopted by Grand Lodge in June 1930 and printed in the 8<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Washington Monitor until such time as the Grand Lodge adopts a change or modification of that service. Decision Grand Master approved. 1933, pg 18, 93.

**6. Optional Funeral Service Authorized.** The funeral service compiled by W.:Bro. W.A. Myers of the Masonic Service Bureau of Seattle and submitted to Grand Lodge is authorized for use by Lodges as an optional service. Recommendation of Grand Master and Report of Committee on Jurisprudence adopted. 1935, pg 28, 133-135; 1948, pg 394, 516. (See also, 1967, pg 191,

**7. Service in the Absence of Body of Deceased.** A Brother was drowned but his body was not recovered. Deputy Grand Master held that if the fact of the drowning was "so firmly established that there was no reasonable possibility of his survival" the Lodge could conduct a funeral service. Decision Deputy Grand Master approved. 1943, pg 46, 81; 1954, pg 381, 428.

**8. Masonic Offense.** When a Lodge voted not to accept charges the complaining party appealed to the Grand Master who held that when the accused knowingly and willfully conducted a Masonic Funeral without first regularly opening a Lodge of Master Masons, a Masonic offense had, in fact, been committed. Decision Grand Master approved. 1956, pg 421-422, 534-535.

**9. Service Following Cremation.** Where remains have been cremated in a foreign country and then brought here, it is proper to hold a Masonic service over the ashes. Decision Grand Master approved. 1957, pg 46, 182.

**10. Shared Funeral Services.** It is immaterial at what point the Lodge conducts the Masonic portion of a funeral service, but when it does take charge it should be in full control until the Masonic Funeral Service is ended; the Lodge has no concern about whether the benediction is under other auspices. Decision Grand Master approved. 1957, pg 47, 183; 1967, pg 191. (See W.M.C. Sec. 23.04.)

**11. Officers Necessary to Conduct Service.** There should be, at the minimum, sufficient Masons present to enable the Masonic ritual to be presented. This would include filling the positions of Worshipful Master, Chaplain, Bible Bearer, and pallbearers. Decision Grand Master approved. 1957, pg 47, 182, 183.

**12. Place of Opening Lodge for Funeral.** Improper for Master to open Lodge for funeral at his place of business and then telephone Past Master who is to conduct the service to proceed. The Master or Warden who opens the Lodge should remain throughout the ceremony. Decision Grand Master approved. 1957, pg 48, 182, 183.

**13. Service Conducted in a Foreign Jurisdiction.** It is proper for a Lodge to open in this Jurisdiction and then with the permission of the Grand Master of a Foreign Jurisdiction, to travel to that Foreign Jurisdiction and there to conduct funeral services for one of its members. Decision Grand Master approved. 1961, pg 29, 98.

**14. Funeral for M.M. Who Has Not Passed Proficiency.** It is the consensus of this Grand Lodge that at the discretion of the Master of the Lodge, a Masonic funeral may be held for a Brother who has passed away after receiving the Third Degree but before taking his Proficiency Examination. Resolution as modified by Report of Jurisprudence adopted. 1962, pg 407-408, 514.

**15. Clothed as Masons, When Inappropriate.** Grand Master denied Lodge permission to attend funeral clothed as Masons when they had no part in the funeral service. Decision Grand Master approved. 1964, pg 367, 592-593.

**16. No Blanket Advance Authority.** Grand Master refused requests from three Lodges who requested blanket authority to open Lodge for the purpose of conducting funerals but utilizing persons other than those entitled to do so. Decision Grand Master approved. 1965, pg 30-31, 122.

**17. Lodge in Sole Charge of Masonic Funeral.** A Masonic funeral ceremony must be in the complete charge of the symbolic Lodge. It is not permissible for the Commandery to participate in uniform as honor guard nor may the Commandery chapeau or Shrine fez be placed on the casket during a Masonic funeral ceremony. Decision Grand Master approved. 1976, pg 45, 54.

### **23.05 Funeral Service Without Opening Lodge.**

**1. Masonic Service Bureau May Conduct.** Authorization to conduct Masonic funerals granted to Masonic Service Bureau of Seattle. Permission Grand Master approved. 1958, pg 433, 515.

**2. Masonic Service Bureau May Conduct.** Authorization to conduct Masonic funerals granted to Vancouver Masonic Relief Association. Approved. 1958, pg 439, 515.

**3. Masonic Service Bureau May Not Conduct.** Grand Master ruled that Masonic Service Bureau of Pierce County not authorized to conduct Masonic funerals unless a Lodge had been properly opened for that purpose only. Decision Grand Master approved. 1965, pg 47, 126.

**4. Masonic Service Bureaus Authorized to Conduct Sojourner's Funeral Services.** Grand Master ruled that any Service bureau may conduct the funeral service for a sojourning

Mason without first requiring that a Lodge open a Lodge of Sorrow provided that the Lodge nearest the residence of the deceased Brother cannot perform the service. Decision Grand Master approved. 1992, pg 32, 40.

## Chapter 25

### 25.02 Surrender of Charter.

**1. Requisite Vote.** When a Lodge whose total membership numbered 27 met to vote on the issue of surrendering the Lodge's charter, there were only seven members present and, although five voted in favor and only two voted against, the Grand Secretary reported to Grand Lodge that the required number contemplated under W.M.C. Sec. 25.02 was not complied with. Report Grand Secretary approved. 1882, pg 105, 119, 121, 122.

### 25.03 Forfeiture of Charter.

**1. In Absence of Willful Disobedience.** A Lodge tried and acquitted one of its members and was ordered by the Grand Master to subject the member to a new trial, and at that trial again acquitted him. The Grand Master arrested the charter of the Lodge. Charter was restored by action of Grand Lodge as of June 24 of the then current year. Motion to restore charter adopted. 1887, pg 27, 28, 35-49, 60-62, 64.

**2. Forfeiture of Charter.** Where a Lodge had not held meetings for two years, no Grand Lodge dues had been paid during that period, its furniture had been disposed of, a large number of its members had been dropped for non-payment of dues and its charter suspended by action of the Grand Master. The action of Grand Master concurred in and recommendation of the Grand Master that the forfeiture of the charter be tried at the next Annual Grand Communication adopted. 1898, pg 22, 45.

**3. Failure to Open on Stated Communication.** No penalty accrues for failure of Lodge to open on the date of Stated Communication prescribed in By-Laws unless such failure continues over period longer than six months. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1929, pg 34, 96.

### 25.06 Suspension of Charter.

**1. Unsafe Lodge Room.** Situation of the Lodge and condition of its Lodge room not being a suitable and safe place in which to hold meetings, charter was suspended until conditions satisfactory to Grand Master. Motion before Grand Lodge carried. 1869, pg 198.

## Chapter 26

### 26.01 Preferring of Charges.

**1. Jurisdiction of Concurrent Lodge.** Refusal of a Brother's own Lodge to receive charges from a member of a Lodge having concurrent jurisdiction does not preclude the latter's Lodge from receiving and trying charges against the accused Brother. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1898, pg 11, 44.

**2. Complaint by Non-Affiliate.** If a non-affiliate complains against member of Lodge, the Worshipful Master should investigate, and if the matter is well-founded should instruct the Junior Warden to prefer charges. Decision Grand Master approved. 1911, pg 230, 312.

**3. Lodge Directed to Bring Charges by Grand Master.** A Lodge was reluctant to bring charges against a member although it was in possession of proof that he was an embezzler

and had deserted his wife and children, fearing that such action would remove financial support from his family. Member had, in consequence of his disappearance, been dropped for non-payment of dues. Grand Master directed Lodge to bring charges. Decision Grand Master approved. 1929, pg 22, 95.

**4. Lodge Directed to Bring Charges by Grand Master.** The Grand Master directed a Lodge to prefer charges against a member who was in the State Penitentiary and who had been automatically dropped for non-payment of dues. Decision Grand Master approved. 1929, pg 22, 95.

**5. Lodge Directed to Act on Charges Filed.** Member pleaded guilty to a felony and charges of un-Masonic conduct were filed against the Brother in Lodge. Lodge failed to act on those charges. Grand Master directed Junior Warden of Lodge to read the charges and the Lodge to implement proper trial procedures in consequence. Decision Grand Master approved. 1993, pg 32, 40.

## **26.02 Junior Warden to Prefer Charges.**

**1. Lodge Directed to Bring Charges by Grand Master.** When false information was given on a petition by E.A. who was candidate for remaining Degrees, Grand Master ordered Lodge to prefer charges, which duty devolved upon Junior Warden of the Lodge. Decision Grand Master approved. 1955, pg 34, 145.

## **26.03 Disposition of Charges.**

**1. Manner of Voting.** It is within the prerogative of the Master to determine whether a ball ballot or a vote by show of hands should be taken on question whether charges against a Brother should be sustained. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1888, pg 269, 288, 294.

**2. Lodge Must Accept or Reject Charges.** Charges were preferred and referred to a committee which recommended that they not be accepted since, in the opinion of the members of the committee, the accused was not guilty. Proceedings were held to be irregular and the case was ordered to be sent back to the Lodge with instructions that the Lodge and not a committee must vote to accept or reject charges. Report Committee on Grievances and Appeals adopted. 1893, pg 397, 401.

**3. Insinuation Differs From Charge of Un-Masonic Conduct.** Insinuations do not constitute charges against a Brother which shall prevent the issuance of a dimit as provided in W.M.C. Sec. 17.07. Decision Grand Master to the contrary disapproved. 1923, pg 34, 139.

**4. Record of Criminal Court.** Record of proof of convictions, fines, and jail sentences for unlawful possession of "intoxicating liquor and for operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated," justify charges of un-Masonic conduct. Decision Grand Master approved. 1924, pg 305, 412.

**5. Lodge Directed to Bring Charges by Grand Master.** In cases arising from charges which the Grand Master directed that Lodges consider against members, one Lodge voted to acquit the Brother but the accuser brought action before Grand Lodge Committee on Grievances and Appeals. That committee held that it had original jurisdiction to review the action of the Lodge and held that the Lodge had erred, voided its judgment, and remanded the case for retrial to the Lodge. In a second case, the member was found guilty by the Lodge but the Grand Master reversed the decision which was appealed to the Committee on Grievances and Appeals, which held that the Lodge had acted properly and reinstated its judgment. Committee on Jurisprudence held that the Grand Lodge, having voted to adopt the Report of the Committee on Grievances and Appeals, Jurisprudence Committee was removed from any duty to report on the matter. Reports of Jurisprudence and Grievances and Appeals adopted. 1929, pg 22, 147-149.

**6. Withdrawal of Charges After Appeal.** When, following a Masonic trial from which an appeal is made and a new trial ordered, the Lodge may vote not to accept the charges, thereby withdraw the charges, and terminate the proceedings. Decision Grand Master to contrary, disapproved. 1930, pg 334, 493.

**7. Charges, Withdrawn, May Be Considered Again.** Under this chapter of the W.M.C. charges may be preferred a second time against a member of the Lodge for an offense for which that member had been previously charged, the charges accepted by the Lodge, and then withdrawn. Decision Grand Master approved. pg 18, 93.

**8. Await Action in Civil Court.** A Lodge does not have to await the outcome of a trial in a civil court before preferring charges which cover the same controversy, but it is advisable to do so and Lodges are strongly recommended to do so. Decision Grand Master approved. 1933, pg 18, 93.

**9. Charges Withdrawn Only By Two-thirds Vote.** The declaration by the Master that the vote in favor of withdrawing charges against a member carried is null and void unless 2/3 of the members present and voting voted to withdraw the charges. Despite the Master's declaration, absent the required majority, the charges having been once accepted by the Lodge remain before the Lodge for action. Decision Grand Master approved. 1933, pg 18, 93.

**10. What Constitutes Charges.** Member of Lodge A was charged with a Masonic offense in Lodge B. Appealed to Grand Master, who held that the charges did not constitute a Masonic offense and decision of Lodge trial vacated and expunged. Decision Grand Master approved. 1969, pg 39, 47-48.

**11. Charges Received at Stated Communication.** A Lodge cannot receive charges of un-Masonic conduct at a Special Meeting. Decision Grand Master approved. 1988, pg 44, 59.

## Chapter 27

### 27.03 Power to Exercise Discipline.

**1. Non-Residents.** All complaints against Masons for fraud or other offenses should first be submitted to the Lodge to which they belong or under whose jurisdiction they reside. Decision Grand Master approved. 1865, pg 476.

**2. Charges Against Deputy Grand Master.** The Deputy Grand Master is not, by reason of his office, immune from charges and trial in a Lodge. Report of Committee on Jurisprudence adopted. 1871, pg 345, 355, 358.

**3. Recommending Unworthy Material.** It is the duty of a Lodge to discipline all members who knowingly recommend unworthy material. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1882, pg 97, 120.

**4. Double Jeopardy Not Allowed.** After acquittal a member cannot be arraigned a second time for the same offense. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1883, pg 343, 385.

**5. Discipline After Dimit Issued.** If an offending Brother resides or sojourns in the jurisdiction of a Lodge in which charges were preferred when the offense was committed, he should be disciplined whether or not he holds a dimit issued after the date of the offense. Decision Grand Master approved. 1889, pg 19,37.

**6. Jurisdiction Over Sojourning Mason.** A Lodge has a right to exercise discipline over sojourning Brother of foreign jurisdiction. Decision Grand Master approved. 1923, pg 33, 137.

**7. Service Not Required on Foreign Lodge.** A member of a foreign Lodge may be tried in Washington Lodge having jurisdiction over the accused Brother and a copy of the charges against that member need not be served on the foreign Lodge before proceeding to trial. Decision Grand Master to the contrary disapproved. 1923, pg 33, 137-138.

**8. Failure to Obey Summons.** Member of Lodge is subject to discipline for failure to respond to summons. Decision Grand Master approved. 1923, pg 31, 138.

**9. Rule of Comity.** When a member of one of our Lodges is tried in a foreign jurisdiction, jurisdiction being established, the conviction and sentence by the foreign Lodge should, by comity between Grand Jurisdictions, be recognized as in force without formality of another trial. Decision Grand Master as modified by Committee on Jurisprudence approved. 1924, pg 304, 413.

**10. Discipline Prior to Proficiency Examination.** A candidate who has taken the E.A. obligation is thereafter subject to discipline for any Masonic offense whether he has taken any proficiency examination or not. Decision Grand Master to contrary disapproved. 1949, pg 53, 177-178.

**11. Discipline for Refusal to Take Proficiency Examination.** One who refuses to present himself for examination in Third Degree Proficiency within sixty days of conferral is not subject to Masonic discipline for that reason. Decision Grand Master approved. 1949, pg 54, 177-178.

**12. Dual Membership in Unrecognized Lodge.** Merely petitioning for dual membership in a Lodge not recognized by the Grand Lodge of Washington does not of itself work for a forfeiture of membership in a Washington Lodge. However, obtaining dual membership in such an unrecognized Lodge might subject a member to charge of un-Masonic conduct. Decision Grand Master to contrary disapproved and Report of Committee on Jurisprudence adopted. 1953, pg 56, 94.

**13. Double Jeopardy.** A Brother whose acquittal was affirmed on appeal to Grand Lodge may not be tried again on the same charge. Decision Grand Master approved. 1953, pg 49, 91.

**14. Retention of Lodge Roll.** A Brother whose acquittal was affirmed on appeal to Grand Lodge must be retained on Lodge roll. Decision Grand Master approved. 1953, pg 49, 91.

**15. Rule of Comity.** Expulsion after trial by a Lodge in a foreign jurisdiction for conduct recognized as a Masonic offense by our law constitutes expulsion from dual membership in this jurisdiction. Decision Grand Master approved. 1957, pg 45, 182.

#### **27.04 Classes of Masonic Offenses.**

**1. Holding a Lottery to Induce Ticket Purchase.** It is un-Masonic to promote dance where drawing for prize is held out as inducement for purchase of ticket to the dance, possible prize to be won by lottery. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1939, pg 39, 40 168.

**2. Refusal to Take Proficiency Examination.** Refusal to present self for proficiency examination on Third Degree within sixty days of conferral does not render one subject to Masonic discipline for that reason. Decision Grand Master approved. 1949, pg 45, 177-178.

**3. Masonic Offense.** Charge of un-Masonic conduct specified that, despite Lodge not opened for the purpose of conducting Masonic Funeral Service, Brother conducted a Masonic Funeral Service clothed as a Mason. Although Lodge voted it not a Masonic offense, accuser appealed to Grand Master, who held that it was a Masonic offense to appear in public wearing a Masonic apron and to conduct a Masonic Funeral Service without opening Lodge and remanded case back to Lodge for trial. Decision Grand Master approved. 1956, pg 421-422, 534. Report Jurisprudence adopted 1956, pg 422-423, 534;

#### **27.05 Lodge Shall Choose the Trial Forum.**

**1. Change of Forum.** When the Lodge had determined that the trial would be conducted by the Lodge with evidence taken before a Lodge Trial Committee, and that committee had been

selected, the Lodge could not thereafter elect to have the trial before a Grand Master's Committee. Decision Grand Master approved. 1960, pg 471, 543.

### **27.10 Misrepresentation by Petitioner or Candidate.**

**1. Misrepresentation by E.A.** When false information was given on petition by an E.A. who was a candidate for the remaining Degrees, Grand Master ordered Lodge to prefer charges. Decision Grand Master approved. 1955, pg 34, 145.

**2. Terms of Judgment Permissive.** Grand Master ruled that the phrase, "If found guilty, he may be suspended or expelled," is permissive rather than mandatory. Which means that the Lodge is free to set its own penalty, up to and including suspension or expulsion. Decision Grand Master approved. 1990, pg 27, 38.

## **Chapter 28**

### **28.04 Trial to Proceed if Accused Voluntarily Absent.**

**1. Refusal to Appear, Procedure.** When an appeal from a judgment of expulsion by an accused had been sustained on jurisdictional grounds and the Grand Master had remanded the case to Lodge for trial, the accused refused to appear and claimed that when Grand Lodge repealed Section 234 of the W.M.C. of 1913 by Resolution in 1924, the Lodge could not try him in his absence. This resulted in a second appeal that came before the Committee on Grievances and Appeals, which held that, inasmuch as the accused's request for a trial by a properly constituted tribunal had been granted by the Grand Lodge the preceding year, it was his duty to appear and meet the charge on remanding of the case, and that failure of the accused to appear would not preclude the Lodge tribunal from proceeding and rendering judgment. Decision Grand Master and Committee Report adopted. 1926, pg 278, 374.

### **28.06 Testimony Reduced to Writing.**

**1. Written Evidence in Civil Action Inadmissible.** Depositions and sworn statements taken preliminary to litigation in civil courts and which are not entered into the record of the proceedings at trial or are taken preliminary to a civil trial which is settled out of court, withdrawn, or dismissed, are not admissible in Masonic trials as evidence. Opinion of Grand Master concurred in by Committee on Jurisprudence and Committee Report adopted. 1900, pg 22, 63.

### **28.10 Verdict in a Criminal Proceeding.**

**1. Weight of Civil Court Opinion.** Although the opinion of a civil court of review such as the Washington State Supreme Court ought to be respected by all similar courts in the land, it does not necessarily follow that their opinions, when placed before a Masonic court, should have any more weight than the mere opinion of any other set of equally intelligent men; such opinion should be accepted as merely an opinion and not as a fact bearing on the guilt or innocence of the Brother on trial. Report of Committee on Grievances and Appeals adopted. 1897, pg 195.



## **28.15 New Trial.**

**1. New Trial Ordered by Grand Master.** Grand Master set aside guilty verdict and ordered a new trial in a case in which the Lodge failed to give the accused notice of the date and time of the trial; the Master violated his agreement with the accused to inform him of the date and time of the trial; and the Master failed to summon the membership to inform them of the date and time of the trial. Action of Grand Master approved upon Report of Committee on Segregation and Reference without referral or consideration by Committees on Jurisprudence or Grievances and Appeals. 1953, pg 51, 79.

## **Chapter 30**

### **30.03 Verdict of the Lodge.**

**1. Proper Summons.** “Summoned” means summons mailed or personally served upon each member and not published, there being no provision for service by publication. Ruling Deputy Grand Master approved. 1937, pg 23, 85.

**2. Proper Summons.** The summons to members should be mailed to or personally served on each member. It should not be published in a newspaper which serves as a trestle board. Decision Grand Master approved. 1951, pg 47, 156.

**3. Reading Testimony.** All testimony taken by a Lodge Trial Committee must be read to the Lodge in full; no part may be omitted notwithstanding its length. Decision Grand Master approved. 1956, pg 436, 534.

### **30.04 Judgment.**

**1. Every Member Present Must Vote.** Every member must vote on the determination or degree of punishment to mete out to a Brother pleading guilty to charges. If a Brother requests permission of the Master to retire before a ballot is spread, it is the prerogative of the Master to grant such permission. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1888, pg 267, 288, 294.

**2. Suspended Status Follows Change of Residence.** The status of a Mason residing here, who has been suspended in another jurisdiction, is the same here as in the jurisdiction in which he was suspended. Decision Grand Master superseded by Report of Committee on Jurisprudence adopted. 1906, pg 16a, 80.

**3. Grand Master’s Power to Reduce Sentence Denied.** It is not within the powers of the Grand Master to modify or alter a sentence imposed. Decision Grand Master approved. 1992, pg 32, 41.

## **Chapter 31**

### **31.04 Judgment.**

**1. Penalty Must Be Imposed Upon Conviction.** Where a Brother is found guilty and Grand Master’s Committee fails to expel or suspend, it must impose the penalty of reprimand. Decision Grand Master approved. 1956, pg 425, 534.

## **31.06 Procedure After Judgment.**

**1. Disposition of Record Upon Withdrawal of Appeal.** Where appeal from conviction by Grand Master's Committee is withdrawn, record on appeal should, nevertheless, be retained by the Grand Secretary as permanent record. Decision Grand Master approved. 1956, pg 437, 534.

## **Chapter 32**

### **32.01 Right of Appeal.**

**1. Right Not To Be Abridged.** A Brother has a right to appeal and nothing can deprive him of that right. Payment of expenses of trial could not be made a condition upon which appeal to Grand Lodge could be sent up. Decision Grand Master concurred in. 1893, pg 382, 383.

**2. Record on Appeal.** Committee on Grievances and Appeals received from Grand Master purported charges preferred by a member of one Lodge against a member of another Lodge and reported that, in the absence of evidence that the charges had ever been presented in Lodge, in the absence of a transcript of the proceedings of the Lodge or proof of service or Notice of Appeal, the Grand Lodge could take no other action than return the papers to the Brother who filed them with the Grand Master. Committee Report adopted. 1897, pg 203.

**3. Inadequate Penalty.** When the verdict of Lodge is based upon plea of guilty and the prime object of an appeal is to increase the degree of punishment decided upon by the Lodge, such decision should be less lightly disturbed than almost any other. The Lodge having given the case fair and mature consideration, there is no reason why Grand Lodge should interfere with the decision rendered. Report of Committee on Grievances and Appeals adopted. 1902, pg 48-49.

**4. Appeal Acts as Stay of Judgment.** If the accused is found guilty he has a right to appeal immediately to prevent immediate execution of judgment. Ruling Grand Master approved. 1923, pg 35, 139.

**5. Effect of Petition for Restoration Upon Appeal.** Filing of petition for restoration waives the right of appeal to Grand Lodge, but if the petition is withdrawn prior to the date set for consideration, the right of appeal is restored, provided the appeal is made in a timely manner. Decision Grand Master approved. 1950, pg 568, 572, 575.

**6. Effect of Rejection of Petition for Restoration Upon Appeal.** One who petitions for restoration after conviction accepts the decision of the Trial Committee, and if his petition is rejected, he cannot thereafter appeal to Grand Lodge from his conviction. Decision Grand Master approved. 1950, pg 417, 568, 572-575.

**7. Right to Abandon Appeal.** An appellant to Grand Lodge has the right to abandon his appeal by filing with the Grand Secretary a notice of abandonment and withdrawal of appeal. In that event it is not necessary to report the appeal to Grand Lodge. Decision Grand Master approved. 1956, pg 437, 534-535.

**8. Disposition of Record Upon Withdrawal of Appeal.** Where appeal from conviction by Grand Master's Trial Committee is withdrawn, record on appeal should nevertheless be retained by Grand Secretary as permanent record. Decision Grand Master approved. 1956, pg 437, 534.

**9. Grand Master May Order Appeal.** Grand Master ordered an appeal be filed in a case involving a judgment based on trial procedure. Decision Grand Master approved. 1976, pg 45, 56.

### **32.06 Judgment.**

**1. Effective Date.** Where date of sentence in case on appeal is not set, sentence becomes effective on date of Report of Committee on Grievances and Appeals to Grand Lodge. Decision Grand Master approved. 1928, pg 385, 444.

**2. Finality.** When acquittal of a Brother has been affirmed on appeal to Grand Lodge, that action is final and a Brother cannot be tried again on the same charge. Decision Grand Master approved. 1953, pg 49, 91.

### **32.09 Status During Appeal.**

**1. Restoration Pending Appeal.** Restoration from suspension cannot be received while appeal by Lodge is pending before Grand Lodge. Decision Grand Master approved. 1958, pg 438, 515.

**2. Disposition of Record Upon Withdrawal of Appeal.** Where appeal from conviction by Grand Master's Trial Committee is withdrawn, record on appeal should nevertheless be retained by Grand Secretary as permanent record. Decision Grand Master approved. 1956, pg 437, 534.

## **Chapter 33**

### **33.01 Restoration From Definite Suspension.**

**1. Penalty Imposed by Grand Master's Trial Committee.** Fact that the penalty of indefinite suspension was imposed by Grand Master's Trial Committee does not prevent Lodge from restoring the Brother to membership prior to the expiration of period of suspension. Decision Grand Master approved. 1956, pg 433, 534.

### **33.02 Restoration From Indefinite Suspension Un-Appealed.**

**1. Withdrawal of Petition for Restoration.** One sentenced to indefinite suspension who has petitioned for restoration may withdraw his petition prior to the time it is acted upon by the Lodge. Decision Grand Master approved. 1950, pg 417, 568.

**2. Discussion Permitted.** A petition for restoration after sentence of indefinite suspension may be discussed in the Lodge but subject to the control of the Master. Decision Grand Master approved. 1950, pg 417, 568.

### **33.03 Restoration From Suspension Appealed and Affirmed.**

**1. Restoration Pending Appeal.** Petition for restoration cannot be received while appeal to Grand Lodge is pending. Decision Grand Master approved. 1958, pg 438, 515.

### **33.04 Restoration From Expulsion Un-appealed.**

**1. Membership in Lodge.** A two-thirds vote to restore to the rights of Masonry in one whom a Lodge had previously expelled, the case never having been before Grand Lodge on appeal, does not restore the Brother to Membership in the Lodge. Opinion of Grand Master approved. 1899, pg 340, 368.

**2. Certificate to Entered Apprentice.** An E.A. whose expulsion in 1911 was Un-appealed petitioned for restoration in 1926 and the Grand Master held as follows. When an E.A. has been expelled and such expulsion is Un-appealed from, the Lodge may restore such E.A. “to the rights of Masonry without Lodge membership” by a two-thirds vote, whereupon the Brother would be entitled to a certificate of that fact, as provided for in W.M.C. Sec. 17.10, which may be used in lieu of a dimit as set forth in W.M.C. Sec. 33.04. If membership in the same or any other Lodge is sought, a unanimous ballot must be had. Decision Grand Master approved. 1927, pg 23, 178.

**3. When Residence Qualification Necessary for Restoration.** A person residing in a foreign jurisdiction unlawfully presenting a petition to Lodge in this Jurisdiction, and in consequence of his false statements concerning his qualifications was elected, initiated, and thereafter expelled, cannot be restored until possessed of qualifications prerequisite to petitioning for Degrees. Decision Grand Master approved. 1927, pg 29, 178.

**4. When Residence Qualifications Necessary For Restoration.** One who was restored to the “rights of Masonry” in violation of Decision Number 3, W.M.C. Rulings and Decisions Sec. 33.04 above, stands as an E.A. expelled from the rights and Masonry and the action of the Lodge in restoring him is null and void. Decision Grand Master approved. 1929, pg 20, 124.

**5. Restoration Procedure for E.A.** An expelled E.A. whose case was not appealed to Grand Lodge may be restored to rights of Masonry without Lodge membership by petition to the Lodge which expelled him, as provided for in W.M.C. Sec. 33.04 if his expulsion was affirmed by Grand Lodge on appeal, his restoration is governed by provisions of W.M.C. Sec. 33.05 and 33.06. Decision Grand Master to contrary disapproved. 1932, pg 374, 474.

**6. Restoration to Rights of Masonry.** Where a member of a Lodge has been expelled for misrepresentation in his petition for Degrees as to his residential qualifications, from which sentence of expulsion no appeal has been taken, the Lodge could receive and act upon his petition for restoration to the rights of Masonry, the Grand Lodge of California consenting, and the Lodge in the town of which such member had at all times been a resident, waiving jurisdiction for that purpose. Decision Grand Master approved. 1933, pg 20, 93.

**7. Discussion Permitted.** A petition for restoration after expulsion can be discussed at discretion of Worshipful Master. Decision Grand Master approved. 1941, pg 58, 103.

### **33.05 Restoration From Expulsion Appealed and Affirmed.**

**1. Restoration of Expelled E.A. to Rights of Masonry.** An expelled E.A. whose case was appealed to the Grand Lodge and affirmed who subsequently seeks restoration to good standing in the Fraternity can, upon a favorable two-thirds vote of the Lodge so recommending to Grand Lodge, be restored by Grand Lodge to the status of an unaffiliated E.A. without a dimit. In order to be restored to membership in any Lodge and receive the two remaining Degrees, a unanimous vote of the Lodge is necessary. Decision Grand Master approved. 1946, pg 394, 442.

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RECORD OF MASONIC CHANGES  
OF THE  
WASHINGTON MASONIC CODE

**Year Made Year Made Year Made**

<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>
<u>2027</u>	<u>2028</u>	<u>2029</u>
<u>2030</u>	<u>2031</u>	<u>2032</u>
<u>2033</u>	<u>2034</u>	<u>2035</u>
<u>2036</u>	<u>2037</u>	<u>2038</u>
<u>2039</u>	<u>2040</u>	<u>2041</u>
<u>2042</u>	<u>2043</u>	<u>2044</u>
<u>2045</u>	<u>2046</u>	<u>2047</u>
<u>2048</u>	<u>2049</u>	<u>2050</u>
<u>2051</u>	<u>2052</u>	<u>2053</u>
<u>2054</u>	<u>2055</u>	<u>2056</u>
<u>2057</u>	<u>2058</u>	<u>2059</u>
<u>2060</u>	<u>2061</u>	<u>2062</u>
<u>2063</u>	<u>2064</u>	<u>2065</u>
<u>2066</u>	<u>2067</u>	<u>2068</u>
<u>2069</u>	<u>2070</u>	<u>2071</u>
<u>2072</u>	<u>2073</u>	<u>2074</u>
<u>2075</u>	<u>2076</u>	<u>2077</u>
<u>2078</u>	<u>2079</u>	<u>2080</u>