BOOK OF CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL
GRAND LODGE A.F. & A.M.
OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

2023-2024

BOOK OF CONSTITUTION

A COMPLETE CODE OF THE
STATUTES AND REGULATIONS

OF

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge

OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

Including the Charter, Constitution and
By-Laws of the Grand Lodge, Declaration of
Principles, and the Charges of a Freemason

AS EMBODIED IN THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON LAWS, AND ADOPTED BY
THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE,
WITH ALL AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
INCLUDING SESSION OF 2023

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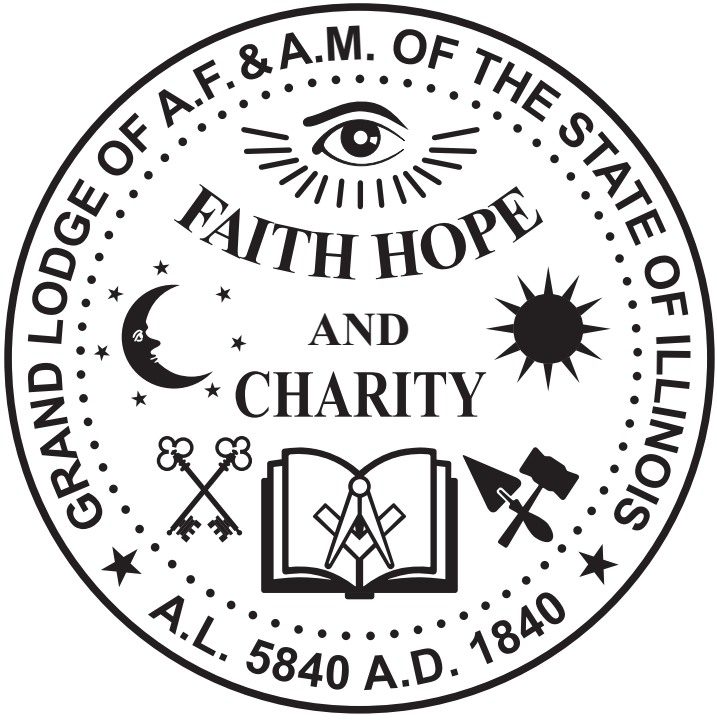
GRAND LODGE OF A.F. & A.M. OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS
FAITH HOPE
AND
CHARITY
A.L. 5840 A.D. 1840

Declaration of Principles

Freemasonry is a charitable, benevolent, educational and religious society. Its principles are proclaimed as widely as men will hear. Its only secrets are in its methods of recognition and symbolic instruction. It is charitable in that it is not organized for profit and none of its income inures to the benefit of any individual, but all is devoted to the promotion of the welfare and happiness of mankind. It is benevolent in that it teaches and exemplifies altruism as a duty. It is educational in that it teaches by prescribed ceremonials a system of morality and brotherhood based upon the Sacred Law. It is religious in that it teaches monotheism, the Volume of the Sacred Law is open upon its altar whenever a Lodge is in session, reverence for God is ever present in its ceremonials, and to its brethren are constantly addressed lessons of morality, yet it is not sectarian or theological. It is a social organization only so far as it furnishes additional inducement that men may forgather in numbers, thereby providing more material for its primary work of education, worship, and charity. Through the improvement and strengthening of the character of the individual man, Freemasonry seeks to improve the community. Thus, it impresses upon its members the principles of personal righteousness and personal responsibility, enlightens them as to those things which make for prosperous human welfare, and inspires them with that feeling of charity, or good will, toward all mankind which will move them to translate principle and conviction into action. To that end, it teaches and stands for, the worship of God; truth and justice; fraternity and philanthropy; and enlightenment and orderly liberty, civil, religious and intellectual. It charges each of its members to be true and loyal to the government of the country to which he owes allegiance and to be obedient to the law of any state in which he may be. It believes that the attainment of

these objectives are best accomplished by laying a broad basis of principle upon which men of every race, country, sect and opinion may unite rather than by setting up a restricted platform upon which only those of certain races, creeds and opinions can assemble. Believing these things, this Grand Lodge affirms its continued adherence to that ancient and approved rule of Freemasonry which forbids the discussion in Masonic meetings of creeds, politics, or other topics likely to excite personal animosities.

It further affirms its conviction that it is not only contrary to the fundamental principles of Freemasonry, but it also is dangerous to its unity, strength, usefulness and welfare, for Masonic Bodies to take action or attempt to exercise pressure or influence for or against any legislation, or in any way to attempt to procure the election or appointment of governmental officials, or to influence them, whether or not members of the Fraternity, in the performance of their official duties. The true Freemason will act in civil life according to his individual judgment and the dictates of his conscience.

THE
Charges of a Freemason

[Reprinted from the original edition, William Hunter, London, 1723]

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1. CONCERNING GOD AND RELIGION

A Mason is obliged, 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, whatever it was, yet 'tis now thought more expedient only to oblige them 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 distinguished; whereby Masonry becomes the center of union, and the means of conciliating true friendship among persons that must have remained at a perpetual distance.

2. 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 concerned in plots and conspiracies against the peace and welfare of the nation, nor to behave himself undutifully to inferior magistrates; for as Masonry hath been always injured by war, bloodshed, and confusion, so ancient kings and princes have been much disposed 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 to 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 ought 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.

3. OF LODGES.

A Lodge is a place where Masons assemble and work; hence that assembly, or duly organiz'd Society of Masons, is called a Lodge, and every brother ought to belong to one, and to be subject to its by-laws and the General Regulations. It is either particular or general, and will be best understood by attending it, and by the regulations of the General or Grand Lodge hereunto annexed. In ancient times, no Master or Fellow could be absent from it, especially when warned to appear at it, without incurring a severe censure, until it appear'd to the Master and Wardens, that pure necessity hinder'd him.

The persons admitted members of a Lodge must be good and true men, free-born, and of mature and discreet age, no bondsmen, no women, no immoral and scandalous men, but of good report.

4. 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, 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 qualified, 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 the Lodges, according to his merit.

No Brother can be a Warden until he has passed the part of a Fellow-craft; nor a Master until he has acted as a Warden, nor a 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 power to choose 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 letter.

These rulers and governors, supreme and subordinate, of the ancient Lodge, are to be obeyed in their respective stations by all the brethren, according to the Old Charges and Regulations with all humility, reverence, love, and alacrity.

5. 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 confirmed by custom shall be observed.

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.

The Master, knowing himself to be able of cunning, shall undertake the Lord's work as reasonably as possible, and truly dispend his goods as if they were his own; nor to give more wages to any Brother or Apprentice than he really may deserve.

Both the Master and the Masons receiving their wages justly, shall be faithful to the Lord and honestly finish their work, whether task or journey; nor put the work to task that hath been accustomed to journey.

None shall discover envy at the prosperity of a Brother, nor supplant him, or put him out of his work, if he be capable to finish the same; for no man can finish another's work so much to the Lord's profit, unless he be thoroughly acquainted with the designs and draughts of him that began it.

When a Fellow-craftsman is chosen Warden of the work under the Master, he shall be true both to Master and Fellows, shall carefully oversee the work in the Master's absence to the lord's profit; and his brethren shall obey him.

All Masons employ'd shall meekly receive their wages

without murmuring or mutiny, and not desert the Master till the work is finish'd.

A younger Brother shall be instructed in working, to prevent spoiling the materials for want of judgment, and for increasing and continuing of brotherly love.

All the tools used in working shall be approved by the Grand Lodge.

No laborer shall be employ'd in the proper work of Masonry; nor shall Freemasons work with those that are not free, without an urgent necessity; nor shall they teach labourers and unaccepted Masons as they should teach a Brother or Fellow.

6. 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 unseemly, 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, nor use any unbecoming language upon any pretense 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 referred unless a Lord's work be hindered 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 yourself 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 catholic religion above mention'd; we are also of all nations, tongues, kindred, and languages, and are resolved against all politicks, as what never yet conduced to the welfare of the Lodge, nor ever will. This Charge has always been strictly enjoined and observed; but especially 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 Lodge formed.***

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 the 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 deserved 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 imitated; and sometimes you shall divert a discourse, and manager 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 mentioned 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. ***Behavior towards a strange Brother.***

You are cautiously to examine him, in such a method as prudence shall direct you that you may not be imposed 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 relieve him if you can, or else direct him how he may be reliev'd; 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 capstone,

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, and patiently listening to the honest and friendly advice of Master and Fellows, when they would prevent you going to law with strangers, or would excite you to put a speedy period to all listening to the honest and friendly advice of Master and Fellows, when they would prevent you going to law with strangers, or would excite you to put a speedy period to all lawsuits, that so you may find 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 mediation, which ought to be thankfully submitted to by the contending brethren; and if that submission is impracticable, they must however carry on their process, or law-suit, without wrath and 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.

AN ACT

TO INCORPORATE THE GRAND LODGE OF ILLINOIS OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly:

SECTION 1. That the Grand Lodge of Masons of the State of Illinois be and the' same is hereby declared and constituted a body politic and corporate by the name, style and description of the "Grand Lodge of Illinois of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons."

SECTION 2. The said corporation, by the name and style aforesaid, shall have full power to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, prosecute and defend, in all manner of actions at law, or in equity in all places whatever, where legal or equitable proceedings are had. The said corporation shall have power to make such constitution and by-laws as may be deemed proper. Provided, that such constitution and by-laws shall not conflict with the Constitution and Laws of this State and of the United States.

SECTION 3. Said corporation shall have power to loan money belonging to the same and take promissory notes or other evidences for the money so loaned, which may be received in their corporate name aforesaid in all courts and places whatever where judicial proceedings are had.

SECTION 4. The said corporation by the name and style aforesaid shall be capable in law of purchasing, holding and conveying real estate for the benefit of said corporation and for no other use or benefit whatever; provided, that said corporation shall not at any one time hold property to an amount exceeding fifty thousand dollars nor real estate to an amount exceeding one thousand acres of land.

SECTION 5. For the purpose of carrying into effect the objects of this act the members of this corporation shall have power and are hereby authorized to appoint out of their number three trustees to hold their offices for the term of one year and until their successors are elected.

Approved February 20, 1847.
AUG. FRENCH

NEWTON CLOUD,
Speaker of the House of Representatives

JOSEPH B. WILLS,
Speaker of the Senate

AN ACT

TO AMEND AN ACT ENTITLED "AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE GRAND LODGE OF ILLINOIS OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS."

SECTION I. *Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly*, That the Grand Master, deputy grand master, grand wardens, grand secretary, and grand treasurer for the time being, and their successors in office, of the Grand Lodge of the State of Illinois, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, together with the masters and wardens of the several Lodges subordinate to [constituents of] said Grand Lodge, while holding said offices, shall be and the same are hereby forever declared to be a body politic and corporate, by the name, style, and description of "The Grand Lodge of the State of Illinois, Free and Accepted Masons."

SECTION 2. The said corporation, by the name and style aforesaid, shall have full power to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, prosecute and defend in all manner of actions at law or in equity, in all places where legal or equitable proceedings are had. The said corporation shall have power to make such constitution, by-laws, rules and regulations for its own government, and the management of its concerns and government of its subordinates [constituents] as shall be deemed advisable, and to alter and amend the same at pleasure. Provided, that such constitution, by-laws, rules, and regulations shall not conflict with the constitution and laws of this State and of the United States.

SECTION 3. The said corporation, by name and style aforesaid, shall be capable in law of purchasing, holding and conveying real and personal estate for the benefit of said corporation, to create a charity and educational fund, a representative fund, a library fund, and a Grand Lodge fund, and for no other use or benefits whatever: Provided, that said corporation shall not at any one time hold personal or mixed property to an amount exceeding one hundred thousand dollars, nor real estate to an amount exceeding two thousand acres of land.

SECTION 4. The said corporation shall have power to loan money belonging to the same, and take promissory notes or other evidences of debt for the money so loaned or any property sold, which may be recovered in their corporate name aforesaid, in all courts or places where judicial proceedings are held.

SECTION 5. The said corporation is also authorized to borrow money in sums not exceeding one thousand dollars at any one time, and at a rate of interest not exceeding ten per cent per annum.

SECTION 6. In the management of its business concerns, said corporation is hereby authorized to appoint such agents, officers, and attorneys for that purpose as from time to time may be deemed proper.

SECTION 7. Each subordinate [constituent] Lodge under the jurisdiction of the aforesaid Grand Lodge, now in existence or which may hereafter be chartered by the same, is also hereby declared to be a body politic and corporate by and under the name, style, and number set forth in their respective charters, and by such designation they may respectively sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, prosecute and defend against all suits arising in law or chancery, in all the courts of this state. The said subordinate [constituent] Lodges respectively shall be capable in law of purchasing or receiving, by purchase, gift, or otherwise, and of selling and conveying, real and personal estate for the benefit of said subordinate [constituent] Lodges respectively: Provided, that neither of said Lodges shall at any one time hold real estate exceeding in value thirty thousand dollars.

SECTION 8. So far as applicable the provisions of sections four, five, and six of this act shall be applicable to each of said subordinate [constituent] Lodges.

SECTION 9. In case any subordinate [constituent] Lodge under the jurisdiction of said Grand Lodge shall cease to exist or forfeit its charter, then all the estate, real and personal, together with all the records, books, papers, vouchers, furniture, jewels, seals, and fixtures belonging to such Lodge shall immediately vest in said Grand Lodge; and all personal property, books, records, papers, vouchers, jewels, seals, furniture, deeds, money, evidence of debt, leases, or mortgages belonging to said Lodge so forfeiting its charter or ceasing to exist shall be delivered over by its last secretary or treasurer of the same, or other person having custody of them, to the proper officer or agent of said Grand Lodge, on demand, and on failing to do so each and every member of such delinquent Lodge shall be liable to said Grand Lodge in an action of debt for the full value of the same.

SECTION 10. This act shall be deemed a public act and shall be liberally construed by all courts for the benefit of the corporation herein created.

SECTION 11. So much of the eleventh section of an act entitled "An act to incorporate the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Illinois and subordinate chapters under its jurisdiction," approved February 9, 1853, as required a printed copy of the proceedings of said Grand Chapter, together with a list of its officers, a list of subordinate chapters, their officers and members, to be filed annually with the secretary of state, is hereby repealed.

SECTION 12. All acts and parts of acts conflicting with this act are hereby repealed.

SECTION 13. This act to take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved February 14, 1855.

All deeds, mortgages, and other legal documents should be drawn in the name of the Lodge and not the trustees. Each Lodge is made a body corporate and politic by the act of the Legislature incorporating the Grand and Constituent Lodges. – Grand Master, 1897.

The correct corporate name of this Grand Lodge is as follows:

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons

of the State of Illinois

ACTION OF THE GRAND LODGE CHANGING THE CORPORATE NAME OF THE GRAND LODGE TO "THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

STATE OF ILLINOIS }
County of Adams } ss.

I, the undersigned Isaac Cutter, as R. W. grand secretary of the Grand Lodge of the State of Illinois, Free and Accepted Masons, do hereby certify that at the annual meeting of the said Grand Lodge, held in the city of Chicago, in the state of Illinois, on the sixth day of October, A. D. 1908, at ten o'clock a.m. on that date, pursuant to the constitution and by-laws of said corporation, the following resolution was adopted by the unanimous vote of all of the representatives of Lodges there present, being the representatives of more than seven hundred

Lodges out of a total of seven hundred and sixty-one Lodges under the jurisdiction of such Grand Lodge. Such resolution there adopted, being as follows:

Whereas, By act of the general assembly of the state of Illinois approved February 20, 1847, there was incorporated the "Grand Lodge of Illinois of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons"; and

Whereas, Also by an amendatory act of the general assembly of Illinois approved February 14, 1855, the said "Grand Lodge of Illinois of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons" was in effect re-incorporated by the name of "The Grand Lodge of the State of Illinois, Free and Accepted Masons"; and

Whereas, This Most Worshipful Grand Lodge has in all of its doings excepting its official corporate acts preserved the use of the word Ancient in its corporate name and desires to so do hereafter; and has declared in its constitution that "This Grand Lodge shall hereafter be known by the name and style of 'The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Illinois'"; be it therefore

resolved, That the name of this corporation incorporated by an act of the general assembly of Illinois entitled "An act to amend an act entitled 'An Act to incorporate the Grand Lodge of Illinois of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons,'" approved February 14, A.D. 1855, be changed from the name of "The Grand Lodge of the State of Illinois, Free and Accepted Masons," as given it in such amendatory act, to the name, style and description of "The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Illinois," and that this corporation be now and hereafter known, named and described by the name, style and description of "The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Illinois."

Isaac Carter,
(Grand Lodge Seal) Grand Secretary

STATE OF ILLINOIS }
Macoupin County } ss.

I, Alexander H. Bell, being first duly sworn, declare on oath that I am the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State of Illinois, Free and Accepted Masons, whose name is to be changed as above set forth; that I am the presiding officer of such Grand Lodge and its principal executive officer; and that I was such and was presiding

as such at said stated annual meeting of such Grand Lodge held on the sixth day of October, A.D. 1908, mentioned in the foregoing certificate.

I state that said corporation has no president and no board of trustees and no stockholders, and I further state that the statements in the foregoing certificate made by the R.W. Grand Secretary of said Grand Lodge, are true in substance and in fact.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of said corporation to be affixed this 15th day of October, A.D. 1908.

Alexander H. Bell,
(Seal) Grand Master

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 15th day of October, A.D. 1908.

John Westermeier,
(Notarial Seal) Notary Public

I, James A. Rose, as secretary of state of the state of Illinois, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of papers showing the action taken changing the name of the corporation above mentioned as therein fully set forth, and of the affidavit of Alexander H. Bell thereto attached as a part thereof.

I hereby certify that the original, of which the above is a true copy, was filed in my office on the eleventh day of November, A.D. 1908, and that the name of said corporation is thereby changed as therein set forth from the name and description of "The Grand Lodge of the State of Illinois, Free and Accepted Masons," by which said corporation has been heretofore known, to the name, style and description of "The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Illinois."

Given under my hand and the great seal of state at my office at Springfield, Illinois, on this eleventh day of November, A.D. 1908.

James A. Rose,
(Great Seal of State) Secretary of State

Recorded in full in recorder's office of Macoupin county, Illinois, wherein Alexander H. Bell, then Grand Master, then resided, in Book 239, at pages 446 and 447, on November 17, A.D. 1908.

Recorded also in recorder's office of Adams county, Illinois, wherein Isaac Cutter, then Grand Secretary, then resided, in Book 3 of Corporation Records at page 397, on November 19, A.D. 1908.

Recorded also in recorder's office of Cook county, Illinois, wherein the M.W. Grand Lodge then annually met, in book 139 of Corporation Records, at page 631 thereof, on November 27, A.D. 1908.

Notice of change of corporate names was published for three successive weeks in Macoupin, Adams and Cook counties respectively, as follows:

In Macoupin county in the Macoupin County Enquirer; first publication on November 18, 1908.

In Adams county in The Camp Point Journal; first publication on November 25, 1908.

In Cook county in the Masonic Chronicler; first publication on November 28, 1908.

FRATERNAL AND BENEVOLENT SOCIETIES UNDER SPECIAL ACTS.

(Senate Bill No. 10. Approved June 2, 1911.)

AN ACT to enable fraternal and benevolent societies incorporated by special acts of the General Assembly to take and hold property and borrow money needful and proper to serve and accomplish the purposes of their organization to the same extent as similar societies incorporated not for pecuniary profit under the general incorporation laws of this state.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the people of the state of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly: That in any case where any fraternal or benevolent society or association has been incorporated by any special act of the General Assembly of Illinois, and wherein the special act under which the same is incorporated or in any amendment thereto there is any limitation as to the amount of value of real estate or personal property which such incorporated body or any of its constituent or subordinate bodies may hold or any limitation as to the amount of money which such fraternal or benevolent society or association may borrow, that notwithstanding any such limitation, such incorporated body or any of its constituent or subordinate bodies may hold real or personal property and may borrow money of whatever amount or value may be needful, suitable and proper to serve and accomplish the purpose of its organization, and to provide for them respectively suitable places of meeting and entertainment and accommodations for their officers and members to the same extent that societies for similar purposes and organized not for pecuniary profit under the general incorporation laws of the state may own and hold property, both real and personal.

(This law is now known as the Fraternal Corporation Property and Borrowing Powers Act, 805 ILCS 145/0.01 et seq)

CONSTITUTION

of

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge

OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

of the

STATE OF ILLINOIS

Adopted October 4, 1871
Re-adopted May 22, 1914
Re-adopted January 5, 2000
With all amendments adopted including session of 2023

WhereAs, Every Grand Lodge is sovereign within its prescribed jurisdiction, and possesses the inherent power to form a constitution as the law of its Masonic action, to amend or alter the same, to enact by-laws from time to time, and to make such rules and prescribe such regulations for the administration of its constituent Lodges as will insure the prosperity thereof and promote the general good of Masonry; and,

WhereAs, Every Grand Lodge is the representative of all the Fraternity in communication therewith, and in that behalf is an absolute independent body, with supreme legislative, executive, and judicial authority; provided, always, that the ancient landmarks of the institution be held inviolate; therefore, upon these principles, which are indisputable, the Grand Lodge of Illinois does hereby ordain, establish and promulgate the following constitution for its future government:

1. This Grand Lodge shall be known as:
The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Illinois

***2.**

3. Sovereignty of the Grand Lodge:

A. The Grand Lodge is the only source of authority and exercises exclusive jurisdiction in all matters pertaining to Ancient Craft Masonry in the State of Illinois.

B. The Grand Lodge may do whatsoever may be considered necessary to the well-being and perpetuity of Ancient Craft Masonry.

C. Any organization, association or person professing to have any authority, powers or privileges in Ancient Craft Masonry, within the state of Illinois, not derived from, or recognized by, this Grand Lodge, are declared to be clandestine, and all intercourse with or recognition of them, or any of them, is prohibited.

D. The Grand Lodge may grant dispensations and charters for holding regular Lodges of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons that do not conflict with the provisions of Article 13D:

1. With the right to confer therein the several degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason, and
2. When deemed expedient and for good cause may annul, revoke, or amend such dispensation or charter or any pre-existing dispensation or charter.

E. The Grand Lodge has original, exclusive, and supreme jurisdiction:

* Article 2 was deleted 2006

1. Over all subjects of Masonic legislation and administration;
2. Including appellate, judicial, and administrative jurisdiction.
    a. From the decisions of Masters.
    b. Over the decisions and acts of Lodges.
    c. Over Lodges, officers, members, and masters for any purpose.
    d. Over controversies or grievances of a Masonic nature that may arise between Lodges or members.
    e. To fix the location of each Lodge under its jurisdiction.
    f. The Grand Lodge may make and adopt general laws and regulations for the government of the several Lodges under its jurisdiction and, at pleasure, may amend or repeal the same.
    g. The Grand Lodge may assess and collect from the several Lodges under its jurisdiction such sums of money annually as may be provided for by law and found necessary for the support and maintenance of the Grand Lodge.
    h. The Grand Lodge may supervise the state and condition of its own finances and adopt such measures in relation thereto as may be deemed necessary.
    i. The Grand Lodge may reprimand, suspend, or expel any member from its own body or any constituent Lodge for a violation of the constitution, by-laws, or regulations of the Grand Lodge or for any other un-masonic conduct, and may suspend or expel any accused Mason upon appeal.

***4. The Grand Lodge shall consist of:**

A. A Grand Master.

B. A Deputy Grand Master.

C. A Senior Grand Warden.

D. A Junior Grand Warden.

E. A Grand Treasurer.

F. A Grand Secretary.

G. A Grand Chaplain.

H. A Grand Orator.

I. A Deputy Grand Secretary.

J. A Grand Pursuivant.

K. A Grand Marshal.

L. A Grand Standard Bearer.

M. A Grand Sword Bearer.

N. A Senior Grand Deacon.

O. A Junior Grand Deacon.

P. Four (4) Grand Stewards.

Q. A Grand Tyler.

R. An Area Deputy Grand Master for each area.

S. Assistant Area Deputy Grand Masters as needed for each area

T. A District Deputy Grand Master for each district.

U. The Masters and Wardens and those appointed as proxies for the Master and Wardens of the chartered Lodges, duly constituted, under its jurisdiction.

V. The Past Grand Masters, Past Deputy Grand Masters, Past Grand Wardens, and such Past Masters of

* Article 4 was amended by adding 4S in 2008
*Article 4U was amended 2010

constituent Lodges as shall be present and are as yet members of constituent Lodges in Illinois.

5. **No grand officer shall officiate in the station to which he may be elected until he has been legally installed.**

6. **Annual Meeting:**
   A. The Grand Lodge shall hold a stated meeting once every year at such time and in such place as may be designated in its by-laws.
   B. The Grand Lodge shall not be opened unless there be present the representatives from at least twenty (20) of the chartered Lodges.
   C. No business shall be done unless there be present the representatives from at least fifty (50) of the chartered Lodges.
   D. Less than a quorum may assemble until noon of the second day, when, if less than fifty (50) chartered Lodges are represented:
      1. The Grand Master shall declare the Grand Lodge closed until the next annual meeting or
      2. Until the Grand Master, by due notice, shall again convene the Grand Lodge.
      3. The Grand Officers will hold over until such subsequent meeting.
   E. The Grand Lodge shall, at each annual meeting, consider and review the reports and doings of its Grand Officers for the past year, as well as those of the several Lodges under its jurisdiction.
   F. The Grand Lodge may establish a mileage and per diem rate for its officers, the representative highest in rank from each Lodge, and its standing and other committees, for attendance at Grand Lodge.

***7. The officers and members of the Grand Lodge shall be styled and take rank as follows:**

A. Officers:

1. Most Worshipful Grand Master.
2. Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master.
3. Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden.
4. Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden.
5. Right Worshipful Grand Treasurer.
6. Right Worshipful Grand Secretary.
7. Right Worshipful Grand Chaplain.
8. Right Worshipful Grand Orator.
9. Right Worshipful Area Deputy Grand Master.
10. Right Worshipful Assistant Area Deputy Grand Master.
11. Right Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master.
12. Worshipful Deputy Grand Secretary.
13. Worshipful Grand Pursuivant.
14. Worshipful Grand Marshal.
15. Worshipful Grand Standard Bearer.
16. Worshipful Grand Sword Bearer.
17. Worshipful Senior Grand Deacon.
18. Worshipful Junior Grand Deacon.
19. Worshipful Grand Steward.
20. Brother Grand Tyler.

* Article 7 was amended by adding A 10, B 7 & B 13 in 2008

B. Members:

1. Most Worshipful Past Grand Masters.
2. Right Worshipful Past Deputy Grand Masters.
3. Right Worshipful Past Grand Wardens.
4. Right Worshipful Past Grand Treasurers.
5. Right Worshipful Past Grand Secretaries.
6. Right Worshipful Past Area Deputy Grand Masters.
7. Right Worshipful Past Assistant Area Deputy Grand Masters.
8. Right Worshipful Past District Deputy Grand Masters.
9. Right Worshipful Representatives of other Grand Lodges.
10. Right Worshipful Grand Lecturers.
11. Worshipful Master of a Lodge.
12. Worshipful Past Master of a Lodge.
13. Senior and Junior Wardens of a Lodge

C. Title and rank may be assigned to other brethren by the Grand Master.

***8. Eligibility for Office:**

A. No brother shall be eligible to hold office in the Grand Lodge who is not a resident of the state of Illinois.

B. A brother must be a member in good standing of a chartered Lodge that is a constituent of the Grand Lodge.

C. No brother shall be eligible for any elective Grand Lodge office, representative of another Grand Lodge, Area

* Article 8 C was amended in 2008

Deputy Grand Master, Assistant Area Deputy Grand Master or District Deputy Grand Master who has not been duly installed Master of a constituent Lodge.

9. **At each annual meeting of the Grand Lodge there shall be elected, on or before the second day, by ballot:**

A. A Grand Master.

B. A Deputy Grand Master.

C. A Senior Grand Warden.

D. A Junior Grand Warden.

E. A Grand Treasurer.

F. A Grand Secretary.

G. In the case of the suggestion of only one name for an office, the Grand Lodge may elect by acclamation.

H. The Grand Master shall appoint all grand officers other than those named in Articles 9 A-F.

10. In all elections and in all questions before the Grand Lodge:

A. Each Lodge shall be entitled to three votes:

1. In case a Lodge has but one representative present he shall be entitled to three votes.

2. If two representatives are present the higher in rank shall be entitled to two votes and the lower, one vote.

3. If three representatives are present they shall be entitled to one vote each.

B. The Grand Master, to one vote.

C. The Deputy Grand Master, to one vote.

D. Each Grand Warden, to one vote.

E. The Grand Treasurer, to one vote.

F. The Grand Secretary, to one vote.

G. Each Past Grand Master, to one vote.

H. Each Past Deputy Grand Master, to one vote.

I. Each Past Grand Warden, to one vote.

J. No representative of a Lodge shall vote as Grand Officer.

K. In all votes and elections a majority shall govern unless otherwise provided by law.

L. In case a vote is taken by show of hands the Grand Master shall take the necessary steps to insure each Lodge is credited for its full representation.

M. The yeas and nays shall be ordered upon the demand of one hundred (100) representatives. In taking the yeas and nays the Lodges in their order shall be called first, the members second, and the Grand Officers last.

11. **The Grand Master has the power:**

A. To convene the Grand Lodge in special meeting in case of emergency.

B. To preside at all special and stated meetings.

C. To exercise the executive functions of the Grand Lodge when not in session.

D. To decide all questions of usage, order, and Masonic law.

E. To require the attendance of and information from any of the Grand Lodge Officers concerning their respective offices and duties.

F. To convene any Lodge within the jurisdiction and, in person or by deputy, to preside therein, inspect their proceedings, and require their conformity to Masonic rules.

G. To issue his dispensation to any regular Lodge, or in person, to make a Mason or confer any degree at will, subject only to the restraints of the ancient charges and the landmarks of Masonry.

H. To suspend the function of any Lodge for good reasons.

I. To command every Grand Officer, and to call on any of them for advice and assistance on matters and things relative to the craft.

J. In person or by proxy appointed in writing, to constitute Lodges, dedicate Masonic halls, and lay cornerstones of Masonic halls, public buildings and structures.

K. To appoint representatives, by warrant, in any other recognized Grand Lodge and receive and accredit such representatives from other Grand Lodges, but these appointments shall be limited to Masters and Past Masters and shall expire at the end of five years, unless renewed. The failure of any representative to be present at Grand Lodge for two successive years may be considered as a resignation.

L. To command the Wardens or any member of a Lodge which he may visit to act as Warden for the time being.

M. To appoint all committees authorized by the by-laws.

N. To see that the Ancient Landmarks and Charges are observed, and to do and perform the duties of Ancient Grand Master agreeably to the requirements of Masonry and this Grand Lodge.

O. To provide for thorough instruction in the work and lectures established by the Grand Lodge.

P. To issue dispensations:

1. Definition – a dispensation is a written order temporarily altering an Article of the Constitution or Code of the By-Laws for a specific reason.

2. It must contain:
    a. The Article of the Constitution or Code of the By-Laws to be affected.
    b. The signature of the Grand Master.
    c. The seal of the Grand Master.

12. Succession of Office:

A. The office of Grand Master is never vacant.

B. In case of the death, absence, or disability of the Grand Master the order of succession to the office shall be as follows:
    1. Deputy Grand Master.
    2. Senior Grand Warden.
    3. Junior Grand Warden.
    4. The Past Grand Masters, commencing with the junior.
    5. The Masters of the Lodges, commencing with the oldest Lodge.

C. In case of the death, absence, disability, or resignation of any other officer:
    1. The Grand Master shall fill any vacancy by appointment.
    2. Such appointment shall last only until the next annual stated meeting as defined in Article 6.

13. New Lodges:

A. During the recess of the Grand Lodge the Grand Master may grant dispensations for new Lodges.

B. No dispensation for a new Lodge shall be issued until the sum of one hundred dollars ($100) has been paid to the Grand Secretary, which shall be in full for dispensation

and charter fees.

C. Every petition for a new Lodge shall be

1. Signed by not less than twenty (20) Master Masons in good standing.
2. Accompanied with a plat and description of the halls and anterooms to be occupied.
3. Accompanied by a statement in regard to any other use of the same and of the ownership and use of the building in which the same are located.
4. Accompanied by a certificate from a Grand Lecturer that the proposed Worshipful Master is able to open and close a Lodge and to confer the degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason fully and correctly.

D. No dispensation or charter for a new Lodge shall be granted if the location of such proposed new Lodge shall be within the jurisdiction of any other Grand Lodge in fraternal relations with this Grand Lodge. This shall not apply to Grand Lodges granted concurrent jurisdiction by this Grand Lodge.

***14. Districts and Areas of the Grand Lodge.**

A. The Grand Master shall, each year, divide the state into districts and areas, with regard to Lodges and convenience.

1. The districts shall be defined by designating what Lodges shall constitute a district.
2. The areas shall be defined by designating what districts shall constitute an area.

B. A District Deputy Grand Master shall be appointed and commissioned annually by the Grand Master in each district.

* Article 14 was amended by adding D, D1 & D2 in 2008

1. Each District Deputy Grand Master shall be a member of a Lodge within his district.

2. The duties of said District Deputy Grand Masters shall be such as the Grand Master may generally or especially assign them, or as may be defined by law.

C. An Area Deputy Grand Master shall be appointed and commissioned annually by the Grand Master in each area.

1. Each Area Deputy Grand Master shall be a member of a Lodge within his area.

2. The duties of said Area Deputy Grand Masters shall be such as the Grand Master assigns, or as may be defined by law.

D. Assistant Area Deputy Grand Masters shall be appointed and commissioned annually as needed in each area by the Grand Master.

1. Each Assistant Area Deputy Grand Master shall be a member of a Lodge within his area.

2. The duties of the Assistant Area Deputy Grand Masters shall be such as the Grand Master or the Area Deputy Grand Master may generally or especially assign them, or as may be defined herein.

15. Should any person give to this Grand Lodge by gift, devise or conveyance any real or personal estate with any limitations or condition specified in such gift, devise or conveyance that such property so given or only the income thereof shall be used for the maintenance and support of the Illinois Masonic Home at Sullivan, or the Royal Arch Memorial Hospital at Sullivan, or the Illinois Masonic Children's Homes, or any other charity which this Grand Lodge may hereafter establish, or that the same shall be used and employed

by this Grand Lodge in any specified manner or for any specified purpose within the activities of this Grand Lodge, then this Grand Lodge hereby creates and establishes such fund and property so given to it as an endowment fund or trust fund to be used and employed only for the uses and purposes and in the manner specified in such gift, devise or conveyance, and this Grand Lodge shall be forever pledged faithfully to administer and preserve such funds and property as a trust according to the limitations and conditions of such gift, devise or conveyance. All such funds and property shall be kept and accounted for by the Grand Treasurer separate from all other funds and property of this Grand Lodge, and subject only to such administrative regulations as this Grand Lodge may impose, consistent with the conditions of such gift, devise or conveyance.

***16. This Grand Lodge shall not, nor shall any constituent Lodge in the grand jurisdiction, confer degrees, conduct Masonic ceremonies, transact business, nor record proceedings, in any language other than English.**

17. Articles 17 – 96 are left open for expansion.

97. Constitutional Amendments – This constitution may be amended in the following manner only:

A. All amendments submitted shall:

1. Contain a draft of the Article to be amended.
2. Contain a draft of the changes desired.
3. Contain a draft of the Article as amended.
4. Contain a draft of the reasons for the amendment.
5. Be signed by a least three (3) members of constituent Lodges.

* Article 16 was added in 2005

6. Be printed in the proceedings of Grand Lodge.

B. The proposed alteration, addition or amendment shall be submitted in writing to the Grand Secretary at least ninety (90) days prior to the annual meeting of the Grand Lodge.

C. The proposed amendment shall then be mailed to each Lodge in the jurisdiction at least forty-five (45) days prior to the annual meeting of the Grand Lodge.

D. At Grand Lodge, the Committee on Legislation shall report thereon.

E. If then seconded by a majority vote of the Grand Lodge, it shall be entered upon the proceedings, and in some convenient form, duly certified, shall be immediately submitted to the several constituent Lodges for their approval or rejection.

F. If approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the Lodges reporting to the Grand Secretary in writing within ninety (90) days of the close of Grand Lodge, such amendment, addition or alteration shall thenceforth be a part of the constitution, whereof the Grand Master shall cause due proclamation to be made.

***98. By-Law Amendments – The by-laws of this Grand Lodge may be amended in the following manner:**

A. All amendments submitted shall:

1. Contain a draft of the Code to be amended.
2. Contain a draft of the changes desired.
3. Contain a draft of the Code as amended.
4. Contain a draft of the reasons for the amendment.

* Article 98-3 C was amended in 2008

5. Be signed by at least three (3) members of constituent Lodges.
6. Be printed in the proceedings of Grand Lodge.

B. Grand Lodge Session:

1. To be considered for action a proposal shall have been:
   a. Submitted in writing to the Grand Secretary at least ninety (90) days prior to the annual meeting of the Grand Lodge.
   b. Mailed to each Lodge in the jurisdiction at least forty-five 45 days prior to the annual meeting of the Grand Lodge.
   c. Be seconded by twenty (20) representatives.
   d. If seconded, lie over one (1) year.
   e. The Committee on Legislation must have reported.
   f. Be adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote; it shall become a part of the by-laws.
2. Amendments may, at that time, be amended in any manner germane to the pending amendment and tending to accomplish its general purpose, and such pending amendment as thus amended may in its amended form be then considered and adopted by the Grand Lodge.
3. Immediate Amendments – action may be taken upon amendments to the By-Laws of the Grand Lodge with a view to their becoming immediately operative, in the following manner:
   a. At the discretion of the Grand Master.
   b. Before voting the Committee on Legislative must have reported.

c. Then passed by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Grand Lodge voting, such amendment shall at once become a part of the law.

99.

A. Grand Lodge regulations, rules of order, and standing resolutions may be repealed, altered, or amended at any annual meeting by a vote of three-fifths (3/5) of the legal vote present.

B. No motion or resolution establishing or amending a policy of the Grand Lodge or a general law or regulation for government of the several lodges under its jurisdiction, except those proposed by a committee of the Grand Lodge, shall be in order at any annual meeting unless it has been:

1. Submitted in writing to the Grand Secretary, signed by at least three (3) members of constituent lodges, at least ninety (90) days prior to the annual meeting of the Grand Lodge; and

2. Mailed to each lodge in the jurisdiction at least forty-five (45) days prior to the annual meeting of the Grand Lodge.

At the discretion of the Grand Master, he may refer any such motion or resolution to the committee having jurisdiction over the subject matter or to a special committee appointed by the Grand Master.

BY-LAWS
Relating to the Grand Lodge

Grand Lodge Meetings

***100.** The annual meeting of the Grand Lodge shall be held on Friday after the first Tuesday in October of each year, commencing at 9 o'clock a.m., when, if the requirements of Article 6 are complied with, the Grand Lodge may proceed to exercise the powers defined in the Constitution and transact such business and perform such duties, conformable to these by-laws, as may properly come before it; provided, that a report from the Committee on Credentials showing a constitutional number of Lodges represented shall precede any legislative action.

***101.** Special meetings of the Grand Lodge may be called as provided in Article 11A, but no business shall be transacted except such as shall have been previously stated in the call for such special meeting, which call must be sent to the Lodges at least ten days previous to said meeting.

102. Occasional meetings of the Grand Lodge may be convened by the Grand Master or by his special deputy, appointed in writing, for the purpose of constituting Lodges, dedicating halls, laying cornerstones, or other ceremonies requiring the aid of the Grand Lodge.

102A. An occasional Grand Lodge may be convened on Sunday for Masonic funerals, laying cornerstones and dedicating Masonic halls, but for no other purpose.

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* Code 100 was amended 1980

* Code 101 was amended 2003 & 2008

Election of Grand Lodge Officers

***103.** The annual election of officers of the Grand Lodge shall be held at the time and in the manner prescribed by Articles 9 and 10.

104. No brother shall hold more than one office in the

Grand Lodge at the same time.

105. In all elections in the Grand Lodge no nominating speeches for office shall be made nor shall any name suggested be seconded.

106. In case of the death or other permanent disability of any of the Grand Officers during recess of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master shall appoint some qualified and competent brother to fill the vacancy until the next annual election and installation of officers.

***107.** Electioneering in any way for one's self for office in the Grand Lodge is prohibited as un-masonic, and any member found guilty of this offense shall be ineligible for office; and, if already in office, shall forfeit the office held by him.

A. Any member who falsely represents that a member has violated Code 107 or electioneers to discredit a candidate for election shall be subject to Masonic discipline.

B. Provided; that it contains no solicitation for support, the adoption of a resolution by a subordinate Lodge stating its intent to suggest the name of one of its members for elective office in the Grand Lodge and the one-time mailing of a copy of said resolution to the secretary of each subordinate Lodge, and each Grand Lodge Officer and Committeeman, shall not be considered a violation of Code 107.

C. *Provided;* it contains no solicitation for support, a

* Code 103 was amended 2003

* Code 107 was amended 1999 by adding 107A, 107B, 107C & 107D

photograph and a resume not exceeding 250 words, of the member for whom they have adopted a resolution as provided in Code 107B will be published, at no cost to the Lodge, with the information provided the Lodges on pending legislation. Responsibility for obtaining the necessary resume form from the Grand Secretary, the accuracy of the data, and the timely submission of the form and photograph for publication, and all cost thereof, except for the publication costs, shall rest entirely with the Lodge.

D. After a Lodge has made a mailing as provided for in Code 107B, the individual named in the resolution may be introduced at any Masonic function as a candidate for the office named in the resolution and may speak or otherwise participate at any such function where he is introduced without violating Code 107, *provided*; that no solicitation for support is made.

Grand Lodge Committees

108. Before the close of each annual meeting of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master shall appoint the following standing committees, to serve for the ensuing Masonic year, viz:

A. A Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, which shall consist of no more than five members.

B. A Committee on Appeals and Grievances, which shall consist of no more than three members.

C. A Committee on Legislation, which shall consist of no more than three members.

*D. A Committee on Illinois Masonic Charities Fund, which shall consist of no more than nine members.

* Code 108D was amended 2007

*E. A Committee on Finance, which shall consist of no more than six members and the Deputy Grand Master as an ex-officio member.

F. A Committee on Masonic Correspondence, to consist of one member.

*G. A Board of Grand Examiners, which shall consist of no more than nine Grand Lecturers

H. A Committee on Credentials, which shall consist of no more than fifteen members.

I. A Committee on Petitions, which shall consist of no more than three members.

J. A Committee on Obituaries, which shall consist of one member.

K. A Committee on the Grand Master's Annual Report, which shall consist of one member.

L. A Committee on Masonic Education, which shall consist of no more than five members.

*M. An Advisory Committee on Investments, which shall consist of no more than six members.

109. The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior and Junior Grand Wardens, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Secretary shall be ex-officio, a Committee on Charity.

110. The Grand Master, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Secretary shall be ex-officio a Committee on Printing.

111. The Grand Secretary shall be *ex-officio* Grand Librarian

* Code 108E was amended 1996 & 1997
* Code 108G was amended 1978
* Code 108M was added 1979 and amended in 1996

Duties of the Grand Lodge Officers
The Grand Master

112. The Grand Master shall present, at each annual meeting of the Grand Lodge, a written report, setting forth such of his official acts and decisions during the year as he may deem proper; also, reporting 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. All edicts and decisions by the Grand Master shall have the force of law until the next meeting of the Grand Lodge.

113. The Grand Master may establish such rules of order *(not otherwise provided for)* during each session of the Grand Lodge as in his judgment, may facilitate the dispatch of business, and may abrogate or suspend the same as occasion may require.

114. The "previous question" is un-masonic; and the making or entertaining of such motion in the Grand Lodge or in any constituent Lodge in this jurisdiction is irregular and unlawful. The same rule shall apply to a motion to "lay upon the table," except for a specified limited time, within the probable duration of the current session of the Grand Lodge or of a constituent Lodge.

115. General parliamentary usage shall be in order in the Grand Lodge, or any constituent Lodge in this jurisdiction, so far as it may be consistent with the principles of Masonry, and in conformity with the by-laws, rules, and regulations of the Grand Lodge and the by-laws and rules of the constituent Lodge.

***117.** The salary of the Grand Master shall be fifteen thousand dollars per annum, payable in monthly installments;

* Code 117 was amended 1978

provided, that for such sums that he may expend for stenographer, postage and stationery and incidental expenses, the Grand Lodge may make appropriations upon presentation of itemized bills, approved by the Committee on Finance

The Deputy Grand Master and the Grand Wardens

***118.** It shall be the duty of the Deputy Grand Master and the Grand Wardens to assist the Grand Master in the discharge of his duties, as he may direct; to exercise the powers incident to the contingencies provided for in Article 12B, and to perform such other duties as are committed to them by these by-laws or the Grand Lodge.

119. (1) The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Grand Treasurer shall be ex-officio the Investment Committee, and the duty, power and authority of investing Grand Lodge funds of every kind and nature shall be vested in this Committee. The Grand Secretary shall issue vouchers in payment of such investments, when authorized in writing by the aforesaid Committee. Investments of said Grand Lodge funds, except to constituent Lodges, shall be confined to such securities as are, or may be sanctioned by the laws of the state of Illinois, as proper investments for trust funds. Said Investment Committee, in the exercise of its powers, shall also have the right, power and authority to sell any of the securities, or other personal property, owned by this Grand Lodge, and if registered, only the signatures of the Grand Master and Grand Treasurer shall be required for the purpose of such sale.

(2) Nothing in this section contained shall interfere with the provisions in any will, or in a deed of gift, under which the Grand Lodge shall receive a legacy or gift, requiring or

* Code 118 was amended 2003

directing the investment of such fund or gift in any specific securities, or directing the continuance of any investment which is the subject of a trust.

120. The Grand Master, together with the Deputy Grand Master, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Secretary, or a majority of said latter three, are hereby vested with full, complete and unrestricted power and authority to sell, transfer, exchange, mortgage, encumber, lease, partition, subdivide, dedicate, improve, manage, operate or otherwise deal with or dispose of any personal property or any real estate now or at any time hereafter owned by this Grand Lodge in its own right or for the use and benefit of its Masonic Homes, or either of them, or for other charitable purposes and not actually used for the upkeep and operation of said Homes, for such a consideration, and upon such terms and conditions as to them, in their discretion, may deem best; and in case of a sale or other disposition of personal property or real estate under and pursuant to the power and authority above granted, the Grand Master and Grand Secretary are hereby authorized and empowered to sign, seal, make, execute, acknowledge and deliver, for and on behalf of and in the name of this Grand Lodge, any and all transfers, assignments, bills of sale, deeds, conveyances, mortgages, trust deeds, leases, contracts and all other instruments and documents which the officers first above named, or a majority of them, may deem necessary and proper to consummate any sale, encumbrance, lease or other disposition of any personal property or real estate owned by this Grand Lodge, as aforesaid.

The Grand Treasurer

121. It shall be the duty of the Grand Treasurer:

A. To be present at the Grand Lodge, at all its meetings, and to attend upon the Grand Master when required, with the books and necessary papers appertaining

to his office; and also, if required by the Grand Lodge or Grand Master, to attend with such books and papers upon any committee which may be appointed to act in relation to the fiscal concerns of the Grand Lodge

B. To receive all moneys belonging to the Grand Lodge from the Grand Secretary, to give him receipts therefore, and to keep, in suitable books, a just and accurate record thereof.

C. To have in charge all cash of the Grand Lodge, and such other personal and fiscal property of the Grand Lodge as may be entrusted to his care.

D. To keep separate accounts, in detail, with each fund provided for in Codes 168 to 177.

E. For the deposit and safe keeping of its funds and securities, the Grand Treasurer, by and with the written consent of the Grand Master, and the Deputy Grand Master shall designate a bank or trust company having a capital stock of not less than two million dollars, and a surplus account of not less than one million dollars, organized and supervised either under the laws of the state of Illinois or under the laws of the United States of America. The securities of the Grand Lodge shall be deposited in trust with the bank or trust company so designated, under a trust agreement entered into between said depositary and the Grand Master and Grand Treasurer on behalf of the Grand Lodge; in which the agreement shall recite the provisions of this by-law and contain such other provisions as shall be satisfactory to the Grand Treasurer and approved in writing by the Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master. The Grand Treasurer, with the written approval of the Grand Master and the Deputy Grand Master, for such

reason as, in their discretion, shall appear to them to be good, may at any time change such depositary and select another depositary or other depositaries having the capital and surplus strength, and organized and supervised, as above provided, and remove all or any portion of such securities of the Grand Lodge to such other depositary or depositaries so selected and designated by them, to be held by such new depositary or depositaries under the terms above provided; and the Grand Treasurer shall report their action in that respect to the Grand Lodge at the first meeting next thereafter held.

F. To pay all orders from the several funds of the Grand Lodge only when signed by the Grand Master and Grand Secretary.

G. To report at each annual meeting a detailed account of his official receipts and disbursements with proper vouchers for the latter, and to present a statement of the finances generally of the Grand Lodge and a statement of the Illinois Masonic Home Fund, the Illinois Masonic Children's Home Fund, and the Special Funds, showing in detail the names of donors to the endowments of such funds and, in the item of each donor, the balance in cash, securities or other property remaining in the fund

122. The salary of the Grand Treasurer shall be three thousand dollars per annum, which shall be, in full, compensation for all his official services.

The Grand Secretary

123. It shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary:

A. To attend the Grand Lodge at all its meetings, and the Grand Master, or any committee of the Grand Lodge when required by the Grand Master, with the books and necessary papers appertaining to his office, and place

in the hands of appropriate committees all papers relative to matters of which they shall have jurisdiction.

*B. To receive and preserve all petitions, applications, appeals, and other documents addressed or belonging to the Grand Lodge; to record all transactions of the Grand Lodge which are proper to be written, and to present such unfinished or other business as may require its action at each meeting thereof.

*C. To receive all moneys due to the Grand Lodge, and all moneys, securities and property donated to the Grand Lodge, keep a correct detailed account thereof in suitable books, and pay such moneys,and deliver such securities and property within thirty days to the Grand Treasurer with information as to the fund to which they apply, and necessary information concerning the conditions attached to any donations. To receive and record, in detail, both in his general records and in a separate book especially prepared for that purpose, full information concerning any real or personal estate or interest therein offered, given, or devised to the Grand Lodge directly or through the managers of the Masonic Homes or otherwise, whether such property is subject to temporary interest of others or not, and to report each case to the Grand Master for recommendation to the Grand Lodge. To receive and record in detail full information concerning other property interests offered, given, bequeathed or devised to the Grand Lodge, directly or through others, when such property is subject to conditions under which it is not immediately available. To follow up these cases

* Code 123B was amended 1998
* Code 123C was amended 1977 and 1997 by adding C1, C2 and C3

until receipt of the amounts involved by the Grand Lodge.

(C1) The Grand Secretary shall distribute on the first day of Grand Lodge a copy of the proposed general fund budget for the next fiscal year.

(C2) The Grand Secretary shall distribute, on the first day of Grand Lodge, a report of the previous year's general fund budget and the amounts expended.

(C3) When the Grand Lodge is not in session the elected Grand Lodge Officers may, if there is an emergency, amend the budget by a majority vote. Any motion to amend shall have a stated reason. The Grand Secretary shall make printed copies available, upon request, of any such amendments and the reasons on the first day of Grand Lodge.

D. To notify all persons to whom the Grand Lodge may be justly indebted for supplies or for any service whatsoever, to present their respective claims on or before the day of meeting of the Finance Committee, if during vacation, or the same committee if during the session of the Grand Lodge.

E. To report to the Grand Lodge at each annual meeting, a detailed account of all moneys received by him during the preceding Masonic year with a detailed statement of the sources whence they were derived, and to present therewith the receipts of the Grand Treasurer therefore.

F. To keep the seal of the Grand Lodge, and affix the same, with his attestation, to all instruments emanating from that body, and to all official documents and writings of the Grand Master as he may direct; also to affix said seal to, and officially attest, any Masonic certificate, diploma, or other proper document for

the use of an individual brother, when requested by a Lodge in this jurisdiction of which said brother may be a member.

G. To conduct the correspondence of the Grand Lodge under the direction of the Grand Master and, if required, submit copies thereof at each annual meeting for inspection. To certify the facts of record as to the Masonic standing of any Illinois Freemason to the Secretary or Recorder of any Illinois York or Scottish Rite Body of Freemasons upon request therefore under seal of such body.

H. To issue notices of any special meeting ordered by the Grand Master to each Grand Officer and Lodge within the jurisdiction.

*I. To furnish each Lodge in this jurisdiction, following the close of the Grand Lodge fiscal year, as specified in Code No 168, a copy of their annual report and furnish such instructions in regard to them, as the laws and regulations of the Grand Lodge may require.

*J. To keep a record of the returns made by all chartered Lodges in this jurisdiction and to examine, during the recess of the Grand Lodge, the proceedings and work of all the chartered Lodges, as shown in the returns made to the Grand Lodge at its last annual meeting, and to compare the same with those of the preceding year, recording all errors discovered, and report the same at the next session of the Grand Lodge; also to report all Lodges in arrears for dues, or which have neglected or refused to comply with any requirements of the laws and regulations of the Grand Lodge.

* Code 123I was amended 1981 and 2005
* Code 123J was amended 1998 by adding J1, J2 and J3

(J1) To make a tabulated report, showing the number admitted, initiated, passed, raised, dimitted, deceased, rejected, reinstated, suspended, and expelled; also, showing the net increase and decrease of the membership of each Lodge for the year: also the proper amount of dues due the Grand Lodge.

(J2) To give such additional information as may be deemed necessary: provided, that an examination and comparison of the returns shall not be made with those Lodges made in any previous year.

(J3) To make a tabulated report showing the regularity of the work and proceedings; the correctness of the records and by-laws; the number admitted, initiated, passed, raised, rejected, and deceased; the number of brethren acting as members, together with the name and number of Lodges, and the locality in which they may be established.

*L. To embody, in a circular, all propositions to amend the Constitution of the Grand Lodge, or any other matter upon which it is necessary for the several Lodges to act, and transmit the same, with necessary instructions, to each Lodge in time for action. He shall include in his annual report to the Grand Lodge the result of the vote of the constituent Lodges.

*M. To cause the journal of the proceedings of each annual meeting to be printed or distributed in electronic format (unless otherwise ordered by the Grand Lodge) with all convenient dispatch, together with the names, titles and places of address of the Grand Officers and Grand Lecturers; and of such Grand Officers as are ex-officio permanent members, and of all members of committees, and such tabulated Masonic statistics as may be deemed

* Code 123L was amended 2007
* Code 123M was amended 2011

proper: provided, that none of the details of Masonic trials emanating from the committee on appeals and grievances, the name of the accused, or the offense charged, shall be published in the printed proceedings, but that the Grand Secretary shall number such cases, giving the name and number of the Lodge, and the final action of the Grand Lodge thereon.

N. To furnish every Grand Officer, elected or appointed, with a certificate, under seal, of his election or appointment.

*O. To forward one copy of the proceedings to each Lodge (upon the Lodge request) in the jurisdiction, five copies to the Grand Master, one copy to each past Grand Master, who shall be a member of some Lodge in this jurisdiction, and one copy to each Grand Officer enumerated in Article 4, one copy to each Grand Lodge in the United States and elsewhere that may be in fraternal communication with this Grand Lodge as they may request.

P. To compare with the original manuscript and carefully correct five bound copies of the proceedings, approved by the Grand Lodge, of each annual meeting; certify to the same, under the seal of the Grand Lodge, as true and correct copies, and file them among the archives thereof, with said manuscript copy.

Q. To furnish to the Committee on Masonic Correspondence the proceedings of other Grand Lodges, and all documents relating thereto, received during recess.

R. To record the substance of every charter issued by the Grand Lodge, the names of the Grand Officers signed thereto, and the names of the charter members

*Code 123O was amended 2003, 2004 & 2011

of the Lodge.

S. To act as Grand Librarian, under such regulations as may be prescribed by the Grand Lodge.

124. The Grand Secretary may recommend to the Grand Master, for appointment, a Deputy Grand Secretary, for whose official acts he shall be responsible, and who shall receive such compensation as shall be fixed by the Finance Committee and the Grand Master.

***125.** For the due performance of the duties herein before prescribed, the Grand Secretary shall receive as full compensation, the sum of forty thousand dollars per annum, payable in monthly installments; provided that for payment of sums actually expended for postage, express charges, and incidental official expenses the Grand Lodge may make appropriations, upon presentation of itemized bills, approved by the Finance Committee.

126. There shall be executed and filed with the Grand Master, before installation, a blanket position bond of the standard fidelity type, in such penal sum as may from time to time be prescribed by the Grand Master and approved by a majority of the Finance Committee, conditioned that the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer together with all of the Grand Lodge employees who handle money, securities and other property of the Grand Lodge, shall faithfully discharge their duties as prescribed by these by-laws, and shall faithfully keep and preserve all books, records, moneys, securities and things of value belonging to the Grand Lodge and coming to their hands by virtue of their office and employment, and shall faithfully account for the same when so required and shall pay over to their successors in office all such books, records, moneys and things of value. The cost of the bond shall be paid by this Grand Lodge.

* Code 125 was amended 2004, 2011 & 2023

Duties of the Appointive Grand Officers

127. It shall be the duty of the Grand Chaplain, Grand Orator, Deputy Grand Secretary, Grand Pursuivant, Grand Marshal, Grand Standard Bearer, Grand Sword Bearer, Senior Grand Deacon, Junior Grand Deacon, and the Grand Stewards to perform such services incident to their respective offices as the traditions and usages of the craft prescribe, and such as the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master may direct.

128. It shall be the duty of the Grand Tyler:

A. To guard the entrance of the Grand Lodge; report all applicants for admission to the Grand Pursuivant; announce their names and Masonic addresses, and see that all who enter are duly qualified and properly clothed.

B. To make suitable preparations for the accommodation of the Grand Lodge at all its meetings, and see that its halls and rooms are kept in a proper condition during the session.

C. To take charge of and safely keep the jewels, furniture, clothing, and paraphernalia of the Grand Lodge, during its meetings and during recess, unless otherwise provided for by the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master.

D. To serve all notices and all summonses, and perform such other duties as may be required of him by the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master.

129. The Grand Tyler shall receive for his services such compensation as the Grand Lodge may direct.

The District Deputy Grand Masters

***132.** Each District Deputy Grand Master, when duly

* Code 132 was amended 2003 and 2005

commissioned as such, shall, during his official term, be subject to the disciplinary jurisdiction of the Lodge of which he is a member, except that for his official acts he is responsible alone to the Grand Lodge or to the Grand Master.

133. Each District Deputy Grand Master shall visit every Lodge in his district at least once in each year, and thoroughly examine its records and accounts, fully inform himself as to the condition of the Lodge, and make report to the Grand Master in each case. He shall inquire into the administration of the Lodge affairs and make such suggestions to the officers as seem necessary to insure a full compliance with Grand Lodge by-laws. The District Deputy Grand Master shall perform such other duties as may from time to time be assigned to by the Grand Master. For the necessary expenses incurred by the performance of their duties an itemized bill shall be rendered to the Grand Master, who may pay the same from the Grand Lodge funds if for the performance of routine duty, or order its payment by the Lodge if for special duty.

***134.** Each District Deputy Grand Master shall make an annual report to their Area Deputy Grand Master by May 15th each year, setting forth his official acts during the year, the state of Masonry within his District, the condition of the Lodges in his district, and suggesting such measures as to him may appear conducive to the general good of the Fraternity.

The Grand Librarian

135. It shall be the duty of the Grand Librarian:

A. To take charge of the Grand Lodge Library, and have

* Code 134 was amended 2011

such volumes present at any session of the Grand Lodge as may be required for the use of the Grand Officers, committees, or members.

B. To take a receipt for every volume delivered, and in case of failure to duly return the same, to require the delinquent payment of double the amount of the value of such volume.

C. To select and, with the consent and approval of the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Wardens, and Grand Treasurer, purchase such books, charts, magazines, and other documents as may be deemed necessary and proper and procure the binding of such volumes and documents as may be deemed expedient: provided, the expense of such purchase and binding shall not exceed the sum of one hundred dollars in any one year, unless special appropriation shall be made therefor by the Grand Lodge.

D. To appoint, when necessary, a Deputy Grand Librarian, to serve only during the annual session.

The Grand Examiners

***136.** It shall be the duty of the Grand Examiners, appointed by the Grand Master, to examine without fee all applicants for certifications as Ritualist, and for commissions as Grand Lecturers, Certified Lecturers and Certified Lodge Instructors, who have been recommended by a majority vote of the Lodges of which they are members, and report to the Grand Master upon the qualifications of such applicants. The Board of Grand Examiners shall hold schools at such time and place as the Grand Master may order, and perform such other duties as he may direct.

***137.** The commissions of the Grand Examiners, Grand

* Code 136 was amended 1991 and 1998
* Code 137 was amended 1991

Lecturers, Certified Lecturers and Certified Lodge Instructors shall expire at the close of the annual meeting of the Grand Lodge, unless sooner revoked by the Grand Master. The certifications of the Ritualists shall expire five years after the date of the respective certifications and renewal shall be subject to re-examination.

***138.** No brother shall be recommended for a commission as Grand Lecturer, Certified Lecturer or Certified Lodge Instructor, unless at least two of the Grand Examiners have personal knowledge of his proficiency and have satisfied themselves of his good moral character, unblemished reputation, and exemplary habits, and of his possession of the qualifications necessary to make him a successful teacher. No brother shall act as a Certified Ritualist, Certified Lodge Instructor, Certified Lecturer, or Grand Lecturer, within the state of Illinois, without a certification or a commission from the Grand Master; nor a Grand Lecturer unless he shall be a present or actual Past Master.

***139.** The Grand Master may, at his discretion, call meetings of two or more of the Board of Grand Examiners for the purpose of examining brethren who are applicants for the recommendation of the board for certifications or commissions.

A. All applicants for certification as Ritualists shall be thoroughly examined as to their proficiency in the ritual and lectures authorized by the Grand Lodge. The Chairman of the Board of Grand Examiners may appoint at least two Grand Lecturers to examine such applicants and report to the Chairman upon the qualifications of such applicants.

*B. All applicants for commission as Certified Lodge

* Code 138 was amended 1991 and 1998
* Code 139 was amended 1991
* Code 139B was amended 1998 and 2014

Instructors shall be thoroughly examined as to their proficiency in the standard work, as authorized by the Grand Lodge, of opening, closing, reception of the District Deputy Grand Master and the entire first section of all three degrees.

*C. All applicants for commission as Grand Lecturer and Certified Lecturer, shall be thoroughly examined as to their proficiency in the work, ritual and lectures authorized by the Grand Lodge. Applicants for commission as Grand Lecturers, who were commissioned as Certified Lecturers no more than five years previously, may be excused from examination in the work, ritual and lectures.

*D. Meetings of the Board of Grand Examiners called by the Grand Master to examine applicants for commissions as Grand Lecturers, Certified Lecturers, or Certified Lodge Instructors, may continue for two days, if necessary, and members of the board attending by order of the Grand Master, shall be entitled to mileage and per diem the same as paid to members of Grand Lodge.

E. All applicants for commissions as Grand Lecturers shall be thoroughly examined as to their knowledge of the principles, laws, rules, regulations, customs and usages of the Fraternity. The Chairman of the Board of Grand Examiners may appoint at least two Grand Lecturers as overseers of such written examinations, the questions to be furnished by the Chairman and the answers to be appraised by at least two Grand Examiners.

*F. A Certified Lodge Instructor or Grand Lecturer who has been commissioned as such for twenty years,

* Code 139C was amended 1998
* Code 139D was amended 1998
* Code 139F was amended 2005

or has attained the age of sixty years and has been commissioned as such for ten consecutive years next preceding, shall, upon written request to the Board of Grand Examiners, and the approval of the Grand Master, be granted a certificate as a Certified Lodge Instructor Emeritus or Grand Lecturer Emeritus. A Certified Lodge Instructor Emeritus or Grand Lecturer Emeritus shall not be empowered to teach the standard work of the Fraternity, but he shall retain such commission for life without attendance upon any Grand Lodge School of Instruction.

*G. Certified Lodge Instructors, Certified Lecturers and Grand Lecturers shall attend Grand Lecturers schools conducted by the Board of Grand Examiners to be eligible for re-certification or re-commission by the Grand Master. The required number of school sessions to be attended for re-certification or re-commission shall be specified by the Grand Master. The Grand Master may, at his discretion, re-certify or re-commission those brethren who could not fulfill this requirement for good reason.

*H. Grand Lecturers, upon leaving the Board of Grand Examiners, may choose to revert to their Grand Lecturer's status without reexamination.

Committees and their Duties

140. All committees of the Grand Lodge shall assemble at such time and place as the Grand Master may direct and shall submit their respective reports at such time as the Grand Lodge or Grand Master may order.

* Code 139G was amended 1998
* Code 139H was added 2003

Committee on Credentials

***141.** It shall be the duty of the Committee on Credentials, at each annual meeting:

A. To examine, with care, the credentials of all Masons claiming the right of membership in the Grand Lodge.

B. To list properly the names of all Grand Officers and members; also the name of every representative, with the name and number of his Lodge, and his official position therein.

C. To require from each brother presenting himself as a proxy, a written commission, signed by the Master or Warden of his Lodge whom he represents.

D. To ascertain the distance necessarily traveled by each officer, member of, or representative to the Grand Lodge who may be entitled to mileage and per diem.

E. To record the same in tabular form, showing the name and title of the officer, member or representative; the name and number of their respective Lodges; the actual number of miles necessarily traveled from the location of his Lodge by each respectively; the actual number of days service; the amount due therefore respectively(as provided in Code 183), and enter the same upon the certificate of enrollment issued by the Committee on Credentials.

F. To refuse to enter upon the certificate of enrollment, to include in their report as entitled to mileage or per diem, the name of any representative whose Lodge as certified by the Grand Secretary, has failed to meet the requirements of Code No. 431.

G. To record the number of days of service actually

* Code 141D, E, F & G were added 2011

performed by each member of all committees and report the same to the Grand Lodge.

Committee on Legislation

142. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Legislation:

A. To consider all propositions to amend the Constitution and By-laws of the Grand Lodge after the same have been seconded by the Grand Lodge and report to the Grand Lodge its recommendation as to action thereon, also to see that such recommendations are not in conflict with existing provisions of the law.

B. To consider all decisions, for the purpose of formulation into law, by the Grand Master referred to it and to make recommendations thereon to the Grand Lodge.

Committee on Finance

143. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Finance:

*A. To retain a firm of certified public accountants to audit the books and records of the Grand Lodge. Such audit will include examining and comparing the books, papers, vouchers, and accounts of the Grand Master, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Secretary.

B. To examine and report upon all accounts and financial matters referred to them during each session and report the financial conditions of the Grand Lodge.

C. To present, before the close of each annual meeting, an estimate of the probable expenses of the ensuing year giving each class of expenditures under its proper head, and recommend such amount as they may deem necessary therefore.

* Code 143A was amended 1998

D. The Committee on Finance shall meet on the day preceding the opening of the Grand Lodge session and at such other times as the interest of the Grand Lodge may require. Such special meetings shall convene at the call of the Chairman of the Committee on Finance.

E. To audit no bill or other demand not fully authorized by the Grand Lodge or provided for in these by-laws. When any valid claim shall be found correct it shall be approved by the committee, or a majority of them, and returned to the Grand Secretary, who shall draw a warrant on the Grand Treasurer for the amount.

F. To consult with Lodges as to the desirability of erecting Masonic temples and, upon request of Lodges, to review the plans of such buildings and to advise on the method of financing their construction.

G. To recommend such other measures as may be necessary or advisable to secure the successful financial operation of constituent Lodges.

*H. To determine the mileage rate used for reimbursement of Masonic travel for approved Grand Lodge official business. The U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) issues the standard mileage rate for operating an automobile for business. The committee will determine the Masonic mileage reimbursement rate by multiplying the IRS rate by 2/3rds (66%) rounded to the nearest whole cent. This rate will be used until the IRS rate changes, at which time a recalculated Masonic mileage reimbursement rate will also then be effective.

*I. The Committee on Finance shall make a full, detailed report of its doings during the year, and submit the same to the Grand Lodge for approval.

* Code 143H was deleted 2009 & added 2010
* Code 143I was added 2009

Committee on Petitions

144. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Petitions, at each annual meeting:

A. To report upon all petitions for change of location or change of name, of any chartered Lodge.

B. To report upon all petitions to the Grand Lodge for the reinstatement of expelled Masons and those suspended by the Grand Lodge: provided, that such petitions shall be made as required by law; provided further, that no such petition shall contain anything that can be construed as an appeal from the action of any Lodge or the Master thereof.

C. To report upon all other matters which may be referred to them by the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge.

*D. To examine the returns of work, the records of proceedings, and the by-laws of Lodges under dispensation and make recommendations to the Grand Lodge as to whether the Lodge, while under dispensation, has shown such knowledge of the law and such disposition to obey it as to justify the Committee in recommending that a charter be issued.

Committee on Obituaries

145. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Obituaries to make such report relative to deceased brethren as they may deem appropriate.

Committee on Grand Master's Report

146. It shall be the duty of the Committee on the Grand Master's Report to subdivide the same and refer the several

* Code 144D was added 1998

matters therein contained to the appropriate committees and to consider and report upon all special matters therein not otherwise referable.

Committee on Jurisprudence

147. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence to consider and report to the Grand Lodge concerning such questions, documents, papers and decisions of Masonic law and usage as may be referred to them.

Committee on Appeals and Grievances

148. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Appeals and Grievances to report, with such recommendations as they may deem proper, upon all appeals from the proceedings or decisions of any Lodge, or the Master thereof, and upon all papers and documents relating to any matters of complaint or grievance appertaining to Masonic discipline, which may be referred to them.

Committee on Lodges

***149.**

Advisory Committee on Investments

***150.** It shall be the duty of the Advisory Committee on Investment:

A. To recommend to the Investment Committee, policy containing limits and goals for long term income and asset growth that will generate sufficient earnings to fund the Grand Lodge and its Charitable Entities.

B. To recommend to the Investment Committee as many

* Code 149, 149A, 149B, 149C, 149D, 149E and 149F were deleted 1998
* Code 150, 150A, 150B, 150C, 150D and 150E were added 1996

professional investment managers as the Investment Committee may determine.

C. To examine the investments of the Grand Lodge and report to the Investment Committee as to the fitness of such investments to fulfill the investment policy of the Grand Lodge.

D. To examine the performance of investment managers and financial institutions employed by the Investment Committee and report as to their performance at such times as are requested by the Investment Committee.

E. To perform such other duties as are requested by the investment committee.

***151.**

Committee on Masonic Correspondence

152. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Masonic Correspondence:

A. To examine all the printed or written proceedings or other documents emanating from other Grand Lodges in correspondence with this Grand Lodge, and report at each annual meeting whatever may seem of sufficient importance and interest to the craft.

Committee on Charity

153. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Charity to investigate all applications for assistance from the charity fund of the Grand Lodge and to draw upon the same through the Grand Treasurer for such amounts as, in their judgment, are necessary.

Committee on Masonic Education

154. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Masonic Education:

A. Conduct the Masonic educational program of the Grand Lodge under the direction of the Grand Master.

* Code 151 was deleted in 2011

B. Assist the Lodges in preparing social and educational programs and furnish necessary materials to the Lodges and individual members.

Committee on Illinois Masonic Charities Fund

***155.** It shall be the duty of the Committee on Illinois Masonic Charities Fund to devise ways and means and formulate effective plans for increasing contributions to the Endowment Funds.

Advisory Committee on Farm Land

***156.** It shall be the duty of the Advisory Committee on Farm Land:

A. To evaluate recommendations of the Farm Management firm and provide those evaluations to the investment Committee.

B. To examine the performance of the Farm Management firm employed by the Investment Committee and report as to their performance at such times as are requested by the Investment Committee.

C. To produce a document to invite proposals from firms interested in providing Farm Management at such times as are requested by the Investment Committee, evaluate the responses and provide recommendations to the Investment Committee.

D. To perform such other duties as are requested by the Investment Committee

Representatives and Their Duties

159. No one except members of or representatives to the Grand Lodge shall be admitted to the floor thereof, or permitted to speak on any matter before the Grand Lodge,

* Code 155 was amended in 2007
* Code 156 was added in 2019

without permission of the Grand Lodge or Grand Master; *provided*, however, that any Master Mason in good standing upon being properly vouched for, may occupy a seat provided for visitors.

160. Every member of the Grand Lodge making a motion or speaking to a question, shall announce his name and the number of the Lodge of which he is a member.

161. Every member entitled to vote shall, unless excused by the Grand Lodge or Grand Master, vote on all questions coming before the Grand Lodge.

***162.** Whenever the Master or Warden of a Lodge shall be unable to attend the meeting of the Grand Lodge, the officer who cannot so attend may appoint any Master Mason of his own Lodge in good standing as his proxy to represent the Lodge in Grand Lodge, and the proxy so appointed shall be entitled to the same privileges and subject to the same penalties as the officer appointing him. Such appointment shall be in writing, signed by the officer giving the proxy and recorded by the Committee on Credentials. *(See Codes 141C and 183)*

163. A brother, after taking his seat as a member, shall not be allowed to retire without permission of the Grand Lodge or Grand Master.

164. No brother shall represent more than one Lodge at the same time, either as an official representative or as a proxy. All proxies shall expire with the closing of the Grand Lodge.

* Code 162 was amended in 2007 & 2010

Grand Lodge Revenue

166. The revenue of the Grand Lodge shall be derived from the following sources, to-wit:

A. For every dispensation to form a new Lodge one hundred dollars, which shall include the fee for a charter in case the Grand Lodge shall subsequently issue the same.

*B.

*C.

D. For each member of every chartered Lodge under this jurisdiction the amount provided for in Code 435 annually.

*E. For every Master Mason whose name is upon the roll of any Lodge under dispensation, the amount provided for in Code 435 annually, the same to be paid by such Lodge under dispensation.

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* Code 166B was deleted in 2005
* Code 166C was deleted in 2005
* Code 166E was amended in 2005

167. The foregoing fees and dues shall be paid into the treasury of the Grand Lodge within thirty days after the same are received.

***168.** The Grand Lodge financial account with constituent Lodges shall commence each year on the first day of June and end on the thirty-first day of May.

Funds of Grand Lodge

***169.** All funds of the Grand Lodge shall be separately kept and accounted for by the Grand Treasurer as follows:

A. General Fund.

B. Charity Fund.

*C. Life Member Per Capita Endowment Fund

*D. Lodge Life Member Endowment Fund

Charitable Accounts

Internal Revenue Code 501 (C)(3)

*A. Illinois Masonic Charities Fund

*B. Illinois Masonic Outreach Services Fund

*C. Illinois Masonic Children's Home Fund

*D. Illinois Masonic Student Assistance Program Fund

E. Special Accounts

* Separately Incorporated, Non-For-Profit Charitable Funds

* Code 168 was amended October 1969
* Code 169 was amended in 2013

The General Fund

170. The General Fund shall consist of all fraternal revenue and monies paid into the Grand Lodge, except those belonging to or especially designated for one of the other funds.

The Charity Fund

***171.** The Charity Fund shall consist of all Fraternal revenue moneys and property received for such fund under the provision of Code 435, (including Code 166E) and Code 442, together with all other moneys or property set aside or appropriated for charitable purposes by the Grand Lodge, or given to the Grand Lodge directly or indirectly for general charitable purposes, and which is not included in any of the other funds provided by Code 169.

The Life Membership Endowment Fund

***172.** The Grand Treasurer shall maintain life membership endowment funds in accordance with the provisions of Code 265. The Grand Treasurer shall, at each annual meeting, provide a detailed account of the funds as required in Code 121G.

A. The Life Member Per Capita Endowment Fund shall consist of and include all monies allocated to benefit the Grand Lodge from the life membership fee received by the Grand Secretary under the provisions of Code 265. The Life Member Per Capita Endowment Fund shall be kept in a separate and distinct investment account under the provisions of Code 118. On or about January 1 annually the Grand Treasurer shall allocate from the income and increment from said investment to the General Fund of

* Code 171 was amended in 2013
* Code 172 was amended in 2005 and 201

the Grand Lodge four percent (4%) of the average asset balances for the trailing thirteen (13) calendar quarters.

B. The Lodge Life Member Endowment Fund shall consist of and include all monies allocated to benefit of the Lodges from the life membership fee received by the Grand Secretary under the provisions of Code 265. The endowment fund shall be kept in a separate and distinct investment account under the provisions of Code 118. On or about January 1 annually the Grand Treasurer shall allocate from the income and increment from said investment to each Lodge its pro rata share of the total amount in the Lodge Life Membership Endowment Fund at the rate of four percent (4%) of the average asset balance for the trailing thirteen (13) calendar quarters.

Grand Lodge Charitable Program Endowment Funds

***173.** All exclusively Charitable funds of the Grand Lodge shall be separately kept and accounted for by the Grand Treasurer in and under four (4) separate accounts. The Grand Lodge Charitable Program Endowment Funds shall consist of and include all monies and real and personal estate, received as an endowment, trust fund or otherwise, for the use or benefit of the charitable purposes herein enumerated or which may hereafter be established, in accordance with Article 15, including the income and increment from said property; also all monies which may be hereafter appropriated to the funds from the Grand Lodge Charity Fund. The endowments held in said funds shall be kept separate and distinct and shall be held, used and employed only for the uses and purposes and in the manner specified. The Grand Treasurer shall, at each annual meeting, provide a detailed account of each of the funds as required in Code 121G.

* Code 173 was amended in 2013

A. The Illinois Masonic Charities Fund (formerly the Illinois Masonic Homes Endowment Fund) is organized to provide and dispense charity to the Illinois Masonic Outreach Services Program Fund, the Illinois Masonic Children's Home and for such other programs and organizations which are the proper objects of Masonic Charity and benevolence, and shall consist of and include all monies and real and personal estate, received as charitable gifts, an endowment, trust fund or otherwise.

B. The Illinois Masonic Outreach Services Fund (formerly the Illinois Masonic Home Fund and its predecessor funds); shall consist of and include all monies and real and personal estate, received as an endowment, trust fund or otherwise, for the use or benefit of worthy distressed Brother Master Masons, their wives or widows (or in any other name which identifies the purpose of the donor) for the use, maintenance or support of the said Illinois Masonic Outreach Services Program.

C. The Illinois Masonic Children's Home Fund; shall consist of and include all monies and real and personal estate, received as an endowment, trust fund or otherwise, for the use or benefit of the Illinois Masonic Children's Home at LaGrange and/or Murphysboro (or in any other name which identifies the purpose of the donor) for the use, maintenance or support of the said Illinois Masonic Children's Home at LaGrange and/or Murphysboro.

D. The Illinois Masonic Student Assistance Program Fund (formerly The Masonic Foundation for the Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Among Children); shall consist of and include all monies and real and personal estate, received as an endowment, trust fund or otherwise, for the use or benefit of the Illinois Masonic

Student Assistance Program (or in any other name which identifies the purpose of the donor) for the use, maintenance or support of the said Illinois Masonic Student Assistance Program.

Special Funds

***174.** The Special Funds, shall consist of and include all real and personal property and the income and increment thereon, given, devised or bequeathed to or for the benefit of the Grand Lodge, for some specially designated purpose not included in Codes 171, 172 and 173. These Special Funds may be commingled for investment purposes in the Illinois Masonic Charities Fund or another of the Charitable Endowment Funds so long as the Special Funds are separately accounted as Restricted within the funds and until such time as the corpus of the Special Funds have been fully expended for the purpose for which the Special Funds were originally designated.

A. When any real or personal property is given, devised or bequeathed to the Grand Lodge and which thereby becomes a portion of any of the funds referred to in Code 169 and such gifts, limitation, condition or restriction regarding the use of the donation the Grand Lodge, in its discretion, may designate such donation as a portion of the endowment of the fund *(as provided in Code 169)* to which it is allocated, and the principal of such donation shall thereupon be held intact, and invested and reinvested, and the interest and increment only of the said principal be used and employed for the uses and purposes of said fund; with the proviso, that, in the event an emergency arises which in the opinion of the Grand Lodge requires the use of the principal of said donation, or any part thereof, for the uses and purposes

* Code 174 was amended in 2013

of said fund, then the Grand Lodge shall be permitted to so use the principal of said donation or any part thereof.

175. The necessary funds for the ordinary expenses of the Grand Lodge shall be appropriated annually from the general fund and shall be of such amount as may be necessary to meet the current expenses during the recess of the Grand Lodge; such appropriations to be determined as provided in Code 143C, and be approved by a vote of the Grand Lodge.

176. The Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer shall keep a separate account with each of the foregoing funds showing in detail all receipts and expenditures.

177. The unexpended balance of all appropriations at the commencement of each annual meeting shall be transferred by the Grand Treasurer to the respective funds from which the appropriations were made.

Grand Lodge Expenditures

178. No proposition contemplating the appropriation or expenditure of any money from the general fund shall be put upon its final passage until it shall have been considered and reported upon by some committee of the Grand Lodge.

179. No money shall be paid from the amount appropriated for the expenses of the Grand Lodge except in the manner provided in Code 143E.

180. No money shall be paid from the Charity Fund except as prescribed in Code 153, unless regularly appropriated by vote of the Grand Lodge.

181. No money shall be paid to Grand Lodge Officers, members, or representatives, for mileage or per diem until the close of each annual meeting, unless otherwise ordered by the Grand Lodge.

182. Every account against the Grand Lodge shall be in detail, and show upon its face each item composing the whole claim.

***183.** The Grand Officers designated in Article 4, such Past Grand Masters, Past Deputy Grand Masters and Past Grand Wardens as shall be present and shall be members of constituent Lodges in Illinois (Provided, that if any such permanent member in attendance on the session of the Grand Lodge be at the time a sojourner outside of Illinois his mileage shall be computed from the location of his Lodge), and one representative (the highest in rank) from each Lodge under this jurisdiction shall be allowed the Masonic mileage reimbursement rate as determined according to Code 143H per mile going and returning, for every mile traveled from the location of his Lodge, to be computed by the necessarily traveled route and (except the Grand Master, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Secretary) thirty dollars per day for each day's actual attendance. Members of Committees of this Grand Lodge shall receive the same mileage and per diem as representatives. No one shall receive mileage and per diem in more than one capacity.

No representative by proxy shall be allowed mileage or per diem under this Code when his Lodge is represented by a Warden thereof.

184. Any Grand Officer, representative, or member of a committee, who shall be absent during two successive sittings of the Grand Lodge, except for sickness or other good cause (of the sufficiency of which the Grand Lodge shall be the judge), or by the authority of the Grand Lodge or Grand Master, shall forfeit all claim to mileage and per diem.

185. The members of the Board of Managers of the Masonic

*Code 183 was amended 1972, 1982, 2003, 2005, 2008 & 2010

Homes shall be considered a standing committee and be entitled to mileage and per diem for attendance at Grand Lodge.

***186.** Every Grand Officer, including District Deputy Grand Masters, in the performance of any duty required of them by the Grand Master or imposed on them by law, shall be entitled to be reimbursed for any moneys actually expended in the necessary discharge of their official duties, but in all cases the claims for such reimbursement shall be subject to the requirements of Code 143E. No elected Grand Officer or any appointed Grand Officer shall incur or contract for any item of expense exceeding $5,000 without the approval, in writing, of the majority of the elected Grand Lodge Officers being first obtained and filed with the Grand Secretary.

187. All claims for delinquent mileage must be made before the close of the session of the Grand Lodge next succeeding the time when the mileage should have been allowed.

Gifts

188. Gifts of any kind to any officer or member of the Grand Lodge in open session is prohibited, except such as come officially from the Grand Lodge, or by its unanimous consent.

***189.**

* Code 186 was amended in 2001

* Code 189 was added in 2000 & deleted in 2006

BY-LAWS
Relating to the Lodges

Organization of Lodges

194. Every Lodge shall consist of a Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Secretary, Chaplain, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Senior Steward, Junior Steward, Marshal, Tyler and such other officers as its bylaws may provide for, and of as many members as it may find convenient.

195. No Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons can legally assemble in this state unless authorized to do so by dispensation from the Grand Master or a charter from The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Illinois. [A Lodge is a corporation and needs no trustees.]

Power of Lodges

196. The powers of a Lodge are such as are prescribed in its charter or letter of dispensation, by the constitution, by-laws and regulations of the Grand Lodge, the landmarks and general regulations of Masonry, and its own by-laws, when in conformity therewith, and are defined as follows:

A. The *Executive*, which relate to the direction and performance of its work, under the control of the Master who is the superior Executive Officer of the Lodge.

B. The *legislative,* which embrace all matters of legislation relative to the internal concerns of the Lodge which are not in violation of its own bylaws, the general regulations of Masonry, the constitution and by-laws of the Grand Lodge, or the orders and edicts of the Grand Master.

C. The *Judicial*, which embrace the exercise of discipline over and the settlement of difficulties between, all its own members (except the Master), and all Masons and non-affiliated brethren within its jurisdiction, subject always to a review by the Grand Lodge upon appeal.

*D. No Lodge in this state shall encumber its real estate or the improvements thereon, or the furnishings, fixtures and equipment contained therein, either directly or through an association or building corporation or otherwise, for any sum in excess of one half of the actual cost thereof, or in excess of one-half of the then present fair market value thereof, (at the time of making such encumbrance,) as fixed and determined by the independent appraisals of not less than two individuals or appraisal companies whose principal business is the making of appraisals of real estate and the improvements thereon.

***197.** All Lodges will be designated Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. The proper initials are A.F. and A.M.

Duties of Lodges

198. It shall be the duty of each Lodge:

*A. To hold at least one stated meeting in each month,

* Code 196D was amended 1982
* Code 197 was amended 2006
* Code 198A was amended 1987

provided, that any Lodge may in its by-laws provide for the omission of any or all stated meetings in any two months of each year and those falling on legal and religious holidays.

B. To annually elect and install its officers.

C. To provide for its meetings a safe and suitable room.

D. To keep a full and proper record of its transactions.

E. To make a full report there of annually to the Grand Lodge.

F. To pay its annual dues to the Grand Lodge, punctually.

G. To have a code of by-laws which shall conform to the constitution, by-laws, and regulations of the Grand Lodge, and not violate the ancient landmarks.

H. To have a suitable seal, and file an impression thereof with the Grand Secretary.

*J.

199 Every Lodge shall have all official communications from the Grand Master or Grand Secretary read in open Lodge at the stated meeting next following their receipt.

***200.** All correspondence of Lodges with Masonic bodies outside of Illinois, except in cases of emergency, shall be conducted through the office of the Grand Secretary of this Grand Lodge.

201. The discussion of political, sectarian, or other subjects not of a strictly Masonic character is prohibited in all Lodges in this jurisdiction.

***202.** The annual dues assessed by a Lodge shall be uniform

* Code 198J was deleted 2006
* Code 200 was amended 1998
* Code 202 was amended 1996 & 2011

and payable in advance on or before the first day of the year, and not less than eighteen dollars, plus the Grand Lodge dues, which shall be paid by the Lodge into the treasury of the Grand Lodge on or before the first day of July each year, each member paying the same amount, provided that no dues shall be assessed by a Lodge against a member who is mentally incompetent or is on Medicaid, or qualifies for Illinois Masonic Outreach Assistance, or who has been a Mason in good standing for fifty years or more, or who is a life member in accordance with Code 271E. No Lodge shall levy a special tax or assessment upon its members other than the dues prescribed by its By-Laws.

203. A Lodge cannot amend its by-laws by less than a two- thirds vote, nor unless the proposed amendment shall have been offered in writing at a stated meeting at least four weeks previous and all resident members notified of the proposed change and the time of action thereon, which notice shall be sent to members at least two weeks before action. *(See voting chart in Appendix)*

***204.** Appeals for aid are by Masonic usage confined to the assistance of a needy worthy brother, his widow and orphans but a Mason's charity should not be construed to be thus limited. No Mason's obligation enjoins him to contribute to assist his own or any other Lodge in erecting buildings.

205. No Lodge, officer, or member thereof shall grant a certificate or recommendation whereby any Mason may in an itinerant manner apply to Lodges or members thereof for relief.

206. A Lodge cannot append standing resolutions to its by-laws to compel its members to wait upon sick brethren, or care for and nurse their families in case of sickness, or

* Code 204 was amended 1978

furnish a substitute, and in case of refusal or neglect, assess a sum of money equivalent to such service.

207. Smoking in open Lodge is prohibited, and the Master is responsible for the strict enforcement of this by-law.

208. The care of a sick and destitute sojourning brother is a duty of Masonry, to be discharged to the extent of their ability by the Masons among whom his lot may be cast,without the expectation of pecuniary return.

209. The burial of the dead and granting of financial assistance to a sick or distressed brother, while a Masonic duty, affords no ground for a claim to reimbursement from the Lodge of which the sick, distressed or deceased brother was a member, unless such Lodge has authorized the same.

210. No Lodge or member thereof shall give, or attempt to give, the aid or countenance to any performance or entertainment that is in any manner a caricature, burlesque, parody or travesty on the work or ceremonies of Masons authorized by the Grand Lodge.

211. All Lodges are strictly forbidden to give, or attempt to give, the aid or countenance of Masonry to any lottery, gift enterprise, or to any other form of prohibited gambling.

A. Raffles – A lodge may hold one raffle per calendar year in accordance with applicable laws. The raffle drawing must be held in a public place, and shall not be held on property owned by the lodge or property owned by the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Illinois.

212. Every document or paper whatsoever, designed for Masonic use, emanating from a chartered Lodge, to be valid, shall have an impression of its seal affixed and be attested by the Master or Secretary.

***213.** No Mason under this jurisdiction shall appear in any

* Code 211 was amended in 2018
* Code 213 was amended in 2017

public procession, or in any private or public assembly, with Masonic clothing, unless under the auspices of some regular Lodge; nor shall any Lodge unless by 24-hour prior notice, except to perform or assist in some ceremony recognized as strictly Masonic, such as burying the fraternal dead, laying corner stones, dedicating Masonic halls, etc.

Meetings of Lodges

214. The meetings of Lodges are stated and special.

***215.** Stated meetings are those held at the time prescribed by the by-laws; and at such meetings all general business, such as balloting for candidates for the degrees, or for membership, election of officers, and the discussion of questions relative to the interests of the Fraternity. Stated meetings may be transacted in a Lodge of Entered Apprentices, Fellowcrafts or Master Masons at the discretion of the Worshipful Master. Only Master Masons shall be allowed to vote.

***A.** A hybrid or virtual stated meeting may be held by the Lodge for the transaction of business only with the following requirements:

1. The Lodge Virtual Meeting Monitor is responsible for the control of the members attending in the virtual platform and their name must appear in the Secretary's minutes.

2. A member must meet one of the following conditions to be allowed to participate in the virtual platform: he must live outside a minimum of fifty (50) miles from the Lodge Hall or have a medical reason for not attending in person.

3. A quorum must be present in the Lodge to open and close the meeting in correct form on the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd degree with the opening completed before any attendance is allowed in the virtual platform and closed after the virtual platform is terminated.

4. No degree work shall be allowed in any virtual meeting.

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* Code 215 was amended 2008

* Code 215A was added 2021

5. Voting in virtual meetings: Only Master Masons may vote. Any voting shall be only for business issues such as where money is being allocated or other issues affecting lodge operations and the ballot box is not needed. The shall be NO voting on membership issues such as petitions, plural memberships, degrees, etc. A separate, secure method requiring a separate log in shall be used for voting.

6. In all virtual meetings, the member participating must use audio and video so the moderator can ensure the identity of the member.

7. Care shall be taken to ensure no non-masons can see or hear the virtual meeting.

***216.** Special meetings may be called at the discretion of the Master, by giving due notice to the resident members: but no business except trials (Code 493), replace members of an investigation committee; conferring of degrees, or ceremonial observances *(including the necessary examination of candidates for advancement)* shall be transacted.

*A. No Lodge shall conduct stated or special meetings on Sunday except for Masonic funerals or open installation of Lodge Officers.

***217.** When a Lodge has been regularly opened for a special meeting on the date of a stated meeting, but earlier than the hour named in the by-laws for stated meetings, the special may be changed to a stated without going through the ceremonies of closing and again opening, but in the following manner only, viz.: At a time not less than fifteen nor more than forty-five minutes after the hour named in the by-laws for the stated meetings, the Master shall announce in open Lodge that the hour for the stated meeting having arrived, further work in the special meeting will be

* Code 216 was amended 1987
* Code 216A was amended 1988
* Code 217 was amended 2012

dispensed with and the business of the stated taken up. The records shall show that the above declaration was made by the Master, and give the names of the Officers occupying the various stations and places.

***218.** No Lodge shall remain closed beyond the time prescribed in its by-laws for holding stated meetings except by dispensation of the Grand Master.

A. Except in the case that the stated meeting falls on or near a legal holiday in which case the lodge must notify the Grand Master and reschedule the stated meeting up to one week prior to or one week after the schedule meeting date.

***219.** No Lodge shall be open on any degree unless there are present at least seven Master Masons; nor shall any balloting, examination of candidates, or other business be done (except conferring degrees) unless there are present at least five members of the Lodge qualified to vote, two of the seven may be honorary members of the Lodge, with no voting rights, and the Tyler, if honorary or member of the Lodge, may be one.

220. The Master cannot authorize anyone to open the Lodge or preside in his absence, to the exclusion of a Warden present; and in the absence of the Master and both the Wardens a Lodge cannot be opened for any purpose, nor can its business or work be carried on, except by the Grand Master or his special proxy, appointed in writing. A Master or Warden who is present on the Lodge premises shall not be considered absent under the provisions of the preceding paragraph of this code.

***221.**

222. It is irregular and unlawful for a Lodge to hold meetings for work in two separate halls at the same time.

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* Code 218 was amended 2017
* Code 219 was amended 1977, 2003, and 2017
* Code 221 was deleted 2009

223. The records of the proceedings of a Lodge, after having been regularly approved by the Lodge, shall not be altered or any part thereof expunged at any subsequent meeting, except by dispensation of the Grand Master.

***224.**

***225.** When degree work follows a stated meeting, a Lodge cannot revert back to business which requires a final vote of the Lodge.

226. The conferring of more than seven degrees by any Lodge during any one day is prohibited.

227. Lodge, when opened on any degree, may be called from labor to refreshment for a specified time, but not beyond the limits of the current day.

228. Lodges shall not appoint certain nights, naming them special nights for any particular profession, trade or organization. No degree shall be conferred in the uniform or dress of any such organization or trade.

***230.** A Lodge may change its place of meeting from one place to another place without procuring the consent of any other Lodge. Such change may be authorized by a majority vote of all members present at a stated meeting of the Lodge in the following manner: a resolution in writing that such change be made, designating the place to which such meeting place shall be changed, shall be offered to the Lodge at any stated meeting. Said resolution shall lie over for consideration until the next stated meeting of the Lodge. All members of the Lodge shall be notified by mail or e-mail that such resolution will be disposed of at the next stated meeting and such notice shall be sent at least five days

* Code 221 was deleted 2009
* Code 224 was amended 2006 & deleted 2009
* Code 225 was amended 1974
* Code 230 was amended 1974 , 2007 & 2009

before such stated meeting. *(See voting chart in APPENDIX A)* After approval to change the place of meeting by the majority vote of the Lodge, notice will be sent to the Grand Master. The Lodge may change the meeting place only after approval is granted by the Grand Master.

231. The Master may call a special meeting of the Lodge for work at any hall within its jurisdiction other than the usual place of meeting, by giving due notice to the members.

Election and Appointment of Lodge Officers

232. Every Lodge shall elect, appoint, and install its officers annually, at such times and in the manner prescribed by its by-laws.

***233.** The Master, Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary must be chosen by ballot; provided, that in case of the suggestion of only one name for an office the Lodge may elect by acclamation. The other officers may be elected by ballot, or appointed by the Master, as the by-laws may provide.

***234.** There must be a ballot for each elective office, at which each member present shall have the opportunity to vote, and a majority of the whole number of votes cast shall be necessary to a choice; provided that in case of the suggestion of only one name for an office the Lodge may elect by acclamation. *(See voting chart for method of balloting in APPENDIX A)*

235. Blank pieces of paper are neither ballots nor votes and cannot be counted as such nor have any effect upon the result. Members present and not voting on any question shall not be counted as present on that vote or ballot.

***236.** In case any Lodge shall fail to elect its officers at the time

* Code 233 was amended 1982
* Code 234 was amended 1982
* Code 236 was amended 2017

prescribed by its by-laws, it shall notify the Grand Master and hold an election as soon thereafter as may be practicable. The Lodge Secretary must then forward the results of the election to the Grand Secretary and Grand Lodge Office.

237. It is not permissible to make nominating speeches for office in a constituent Lodge, nor to second any name suggested.

238. Electioneering in any way for one's self for office in a constituent Lodge is prohibited as unmasonic, and any member found guilty of the offense shall be ineligible to office, and if already in office shall forfeit the office held by him.

Installation of Lodge Officers

***239.** The installation shall be held as soon after election as convenient, however, a Lodge electing in May must install after June 1st and prior to June 30th. All other Lodges must install within thirty-five days of election. Installation must occur at the Lodge hall or in the near vicinity thereof.

240. Officers of a chartered Lodge must be installed as often as reelected or appointed.

242. Every Lodge shall, within thirty days after the annual installation, transmit to the Grand Master, the Grand Secretary and the District Deputy Grand Master a duly certified list of the names of the newly installed officers with the dates of their election and installation, and the name and title of the installing officer.

243. Removal from the jurisdiction of a Lodge does not affect the right of an officer elect to be installed therein.

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* Code 239 was amended 1994

245. In the absence of the master-elect, the officers of a Lodge cannot be installed. The ceremonies must begin with the installation of the Master.

246. Having been legally installed, it becomes the right, as well as his privilege, of the Master to install the other officers elected and appointed, at the same meeting or as soon thereafter as practicable.

247. An Officer of a Lodge cannot legally be installed by proxy.

248. A brother is not Masonically qualified to install the officers of a Lodge unless he has been regularly installed as Master of a chartered Lodge working under the jurisdiction of some recognized Grand Lodge, and who is, at the time of exercising such official authority, an actual member, in good standing, of some regular Lodge. The installation of Lodge Officers by a brother not having legal qualifications is void.

Eligibility of Lodge Officers

***249.** A brother is not eligible to the office of Master in any chartered Lodge unless he is an actual member thereof, nor unless he has been regularly installed as a warden of some legally chartered Lodge: provided, that in case of an emergency the Lodge may elect any member not so qualified; but a brother so elected cannot be installed except by dispensation of the Grand Master. All other Officers of the Lodge except the Organist and Tyler, must be members thereof. Honorary members may be appointed to any non- elective office in the Lodge.

*A. A Master Mason who is a member in good standing in a Lodge within this Grand Jurisdiction or in

* Code 249 was amended 2004
* Code 249A was added 2008 by moving from 270A

another Grand Jurisdiction which is in fraternal relations with this Grand Jurisdiction may continue his membership in such Lodge, and also become a member of one or more chartered Lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction. If elected he shall be entitled to all rights and be subject to all obligations of a member of each Lodge to which he belongs, except he may not hold office of Master or Warden in more than one Lodge at the same time.

250. Any member of a Lodge qualified to vote in the election of officers shall be eligible to any office in the Lodge except that of Master: *provided*, that no member shall hold more than one office in the Lodge at the same time.

251. Acting as Warden of a Lodge under dispensation does not make a brother eligible to the office of Master in a chartered Lodge, but a brother nominated in the charter as Warden of a Lodge, and regularly installed, thereby becomes eligible to the office of Master.

252. The fact that charges have been preferred against a brother does not affect his eligibility for office.

253. Members of a chartered Lodge who are also members of a Lodge under dispensation may vote and hold office in both Lodges, except as provided in Code 391.

Powers and Duties of Lodge Officers

255. The duly installed Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden of the Lodge, by virtue of their office and the powers and prerogatives appertaining thereto, are the only members qualified to represent the Lodge in its corporate capacity and to be designated as Executive Officers. [A Lodge is a corporation and needs no trustees.]

Powers of the Master

256. The Master shall have power:

A. To convene his Lodge in special meeting whenever he may deem proper.

B. To preside at all meetings of his Lodge.

C. To cause to be issued all notices and summonses which may be required.

D. To appoint all the officers of the Lodge whose election is not provided for in the by-laws.

E. To appoint all committees.

F. To fill a vacancy in any office for the term of any meeting of the Lodge.

G. To discharge all the executive functions of his Lodge.

H. To represent his Lodge in Grand Lodge, even though not residing in this State.

I. To require every member of the Lodge present to vote upon all questions of a business character coming before the Lodge, unless excused, at his own request, by the master, or by vote of the majority of the members present.

[For method of balloting on petitions for degrees or for membership see Code 327]

J. To perform such other acts as by ancient usage pertain to his office which shall not contravene any of the provisions of the constitution, by-laws and regulations of the Grand Lodge.

*K. To remove from office any appointive officer who fails

*Code 256K was added 1978

to adequately discharge the functions of his office and upon due notice to the Lodge of such action to fill such vacancy.

Duties of the Master

257. It shall be the duty of the Master:

A. To convene his Lodge in stated meeting at the time prescribed by its by-laws.

B. To superintend the official acts of the officers of his Lodge and see that their respective duties are properly performed.

C. To guard carefully against any infraction of the by-laws of his Lodge, the by-laws of the Grand Lodge, or the general regulations of Masonry, and suffer no departure therefrom upon the plea of convenience or expediency, except in cases of emergency, and then only by dispensation of the Grand Master.

D. To see that proper returns of work, etc., are annually transmitted to the Grand Secretary, and that the Grand Lodge dues are paid promptly.

E. To cause summonses to issue only when the welfare of Masonry, the interest of the Lodge, or the rights of a brother demand, and to take special care that disobedience of a duly served summons be promptly followed by discipline, unless the offender render excuse for the offense satisfactory to the Lodge.

F. To cause all necessary notices to be issued in the prescribed manner and form.

G. To permit no appeal from his decision to be made to the Lodge: provided, however, any member of the Lodge may appeal from the decision of the Master to the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge.

H. To make the work and ritual practiced in his Lodge conform to the standard adopted by the Grand Lodge.

*I. To have a current copy of the Book of Constitutions and Constituent Lodge By-laws always on the pedestal in the east when the Lodge is open.

J. To convene his Lodge, when notified of the intended official visit of the Grand Master or District Deputy Grand Master, extend the appropriate courtesies, and when called upon, to submit for inspection the by-laws and records, and furnish such facilities as may be necessary for a proper discharge of the duties of the visiting official.

Duties of the Wardens

258. It shall be the duty of the Wardens to assist the Master in the discharge of his duties, and to perform such other acts as Masonic usage has assigned to their respective stations.

259. In the absence of the Master the duties of his office shall be performed by the Senior Warden, and if both the Master and Senior Warden are absent the Junior Warden shall perform the duties of the Master

***260.** A Warden cannot call a special meeting of the Lodge while his official superior is present and able to authorize a call, but a Warden presiding in the Master's absence may, while thus acting, perform any act which the Master might do were he present.

* Code 257I was amended 2006
* Code 260 was amended 1975 and 1990
* Code 262 was amended 2007 & 2011

Duties of Other Lodge Officers

***262.** The Treasurer of a Lodge is the proper custodian of all its money, securities, bonds, and other fiscal property, and they cannot be taken from his control and placed in the custody of any other person: provided, however, the Lodge, for any good cause, by a two-thirds vote at any stated meeting, may require the Treasurer to turn over to any committee or representative of the Lodge the temporary custody of all such books and property. He shall keep the funds and accounts solely in the name of the Lodge and entirely distinct from all others. All checking, savings and certificates of deposit accounts shall be deposited in a federally insured financial institution and within the current coverage limit of such insurance. The funds of the Lodge and the accounts of the Treasurer shall be audited annually by a competent committee and they shall make a report at the annual meeting of the Lodge. Funds of a Lodge can be disbursed only by written order of the Master and consent of the Lodge.

263. The Secretary, in addition to performing the duties prescribed by the ritual, shall keep a record of the time when the Lodge is opened and closed and the names of Officers, members and visitors present at each meeting.

A. The official record of members in attendance may be kept in a separate book prepared for the purpose and placed in the Tyler's room, and it shall be the duty of every member in attendance to record his name therein before entering the Lodge room. The Secretary shall enter in his minutes the names of a sufficient number of members to show that a quorum was present.

B. The Secretary may keep a record of visitors present in a separate book for that purpose placed in the Tyler's room.

C. The Secretary shall keep detailed minutes or records of all business transacted or work done at all stated and special meetings of the Lodge, including all items

* Code 262 was amended 2007 & 2011

of receipts and disbursements, in a permanently bound or loose-leaf and paged record book, and these minutes, when approved by the Lodge, shall be signed by the Master and Secretary. A detailed record of the items of receipts of dues shall be entered in a separate permanently bound or loose-leaf cash book, and when so entered in detail in such cash book, the totals in lieu of detailed items of such dues since the preceding stated meeting must be entered in the minute book. Financial records of the Lodge may be kept by the loose-leaf system.

D. The Secretary must transmit promptly to the Grand Secretary the names of all who have been raised, with date of their election, initiation, passing and raising and notice of all suspensions, expulsions, affiliations, deaths, dimits issued and reinstatements with the date of the same. He shall perform such other services pertaining to his office as are required by the Master or the customs of the Fraternity or as are designated by the by-laws of the Lodge or the Grand Lodge.

E. The Secretary may receive such compensation for his services as the Lodge shall direct.

***264.** The Secretary of each Lodge shall report to the Grand Secretary every petition for degrees promptly as the same is received by the Lodge and shall also promptly report all rejections, and shall report promptly the election to plural membership of a member of a Lodge in this or in another Grand Jurisdiction and all subsequent action affecting such membership. Such reports shall be in such form and detail as the Grand Secretary may require.

A. The Grand Secretary shall keep a record of all such reports and without delay advise the Secretary so

*Code 264 was amended 1975

reporting as to the Masonic status of each such petitioner as it appears by his records.

B. No Lodge shall take any action upon any such petition until after the receipt by the Lodge of such advice from the Grand Secretary. *(Approved copy of Form 3A/3B must be returned)*

C. Written or printed publication of the names or other information respecting such pending petitions, except as in this code expressly provided, is prohibited.

265. All other Officers of a Lodge shall perform such duties therein as may be directed by the Master not conflicting with the by-laws of the Lodge, the by-laws and regulations of the Grand Lodge, and the usages and general regulations of Masonry.

Acquirement of Lodge Membership

***266.** Membership in a Lodge may be acquired:

A. By having been named in a charter issued to a Lodge under dispensation.

B. By regularly receiving the degree of Master Mason therein, and signing the by-laws thereof, in person, or by proxy appointed in writing.

C. By a Master Mason petitioning a Lodge for affiliation, and upon due election to membership, and signing the by-laws of the Lodge, in person or by proxy appointed in writing.

D. By a Master Mason who is a member of a Lodge in another Grand Jurisdiction which is in fraternal relations with this Grand Lodge and permits plural

* Code 266 was amended 1975 and 1990

membership petitioning a Lodge for plural membership and, upon election, signing the by-laws of the Lodge in person or by proxy appointed in writing. A member holding such a membership shall be bound by the laws and regulations governing each Lodge including the payment of dues. *(If plural membership is granted, notice shall be mailed immediately to the Grand Secretary on a Form 3 card. Degree dates in the original Lodge shall be furnished as well as the date of election to plural membership).*

267. Every petition for degrees or membership contemplates membership. The by-laws of the Lodge should always be present when candidates are raised or elected to membership and a refusal to sign them deprives the petitioner of the rights of membership. If he exercises the privileges of membership he cannot thereafter deny the responsibilities thereof, and he would then be subject to discipline for refusing to sign the by-laws.

268. When a brother has changed his name in accordance with any civil law, statute or ordinance provided for such purpose he shall promptly notify the Secretary of his Lodge thereof, accompanying such notification with documentary evidence showing that his name has in fact been so changed. Upon receipt of such notification and documentary evidence the Secretary of the Lodge shall file and preserve the same and shall change the name accordingly on the Lodge records and shall promptly notify the Grand Secretary of such change.

Honorary Membership

*269. A Lodge may by unanimous ballot confer the title of honorary membership upon any Master Mason who is a member in good standing of some other regular Lodge,

* Code 269 was amended 1972 and 2000

his name having been proposed at a previously stated meeting. Such honorary member shall have the rights of regular membership, except that he shall not be subject to the payment of dues, nor shall he vote or hold any elected office in such Lodge. *(See voting chart in APPENDIX A for balloting method)*

270. Honorary membership may be terminated for good cause, by a three-fourths ballot at a stated meeting, notice having been given in open Lodge at a preceding stated meeting of such proposed action, and at least ten days' notice by mail of such intended action having been given to such honorary member. *(See voting chart in APPENDIX A for balloting method)*

***A.**

Life Membership

***271.** Life memberships are authorized in constituent Lodges, subject to the following terms and conditions:

A. Any member in good standing in a constituent Lodge who has paid all current dues and charges, may become a life member in that Lodge pursuant to the provisions of this code.

*B. The member desiring a life membership shall apply to the Secretary of his Lodge for such a membership on forms prescribed by the Grand Secretary and shall tender therewith the lesser of either (1) a sum fifteen times the annual dues of his Lodge at the time of the application., or (2) a sum equal to the amount of dues the member would have to pay until he would become eligible to become a 50 year member under

* Code 270A was added 1975, amended 1977, 1988, 1990, 1997 and moved 2008 to 249A
* Code 271 was amended 1984 and 1990
* Code 271B was amended 2002

Code 202 if such dues remained the same as the dues at the date of the application. The Lodge Secretary shall complete his part of the application and shall forward the same, together with the full fee due, to the Grand Secretary. The date of the application shall be the date the Grand Secretary certifies he received the application.

C. The application shall be signed by the applicant, and have the certificate of the Lodge Secretary and the acceptance or rejection of the Grand Secretary and such life membership shall not be deemed to be accepted by the Grand Lodge until accepted by the Grand Secretary. The application shall contain thereon the computations upon which the life membership fee is predicated and shall break such fee down into the Grand Lodge per capita fee share and the Lodge share of such fee. If the Grand Secretary determines that the fee tendered by the applicant is in excess of that required, the Grand Secretary shall have the power to correct the application and the Lodge Secretary's computations of the fee and thereupon to accept the application as corrected and to cause any excess fee to be refunded directly to the applicant. A copy of the completed and accepted life membership application or a certificate of life membership shall be furnished to the applicant and his Lodge by the Grand Secretary. These provisions shall be construed so as to permit the Grand Secretary to use computerized records.

D. After the life membership application and fee have been received and accepted by the Grand Secretary, the life membership fee shall not be refundable under any circumstances except those determined by the Grand Secretary to be mistakes of fact rendering the applicant ineligible for life membership as the date of the application.

E. A life member shall owe no further dues to the Lodge of which he is a life member and the Lodge of which he is a life member shall owe no further per capita dues to the Grand Lodge on such life member.

F. The obtaining of a life membership in one Lodge by a plural member shall have no effect on his membership in the other Lodges to which he belongs.

G. A life member may transfer his life membership to another constituent Lodge of this Grand Lodge in the manner provided for in this Code, and upon such transfer of membership, the Lodge share of his membership fee shall be transferred to the account of the Lodge to which the member transferred. If the Lodge share of the dues of the proposed new Lodge is higher than the Lodge share which would be transferred to the new Lodge, then the new Lodge may by resolution require the life member petitioning for affiliation to pay any sum less than or equal to the difference between the Lodge share for a life membership in the new Lodge at the date of such petition and the Lodge share proposed to be transferred from the old Lodge; and the petition for affiliation shall not be balloted upon until such additional sum has been paid to the Lodge. Any such additional payment shall be forwarded to the Grand Secretary to be deposited in the life membership account for the new Lodge.

*H. Any, dimit, certificate of withdrawal or certificate issued to a life member shall have endorsed thereon the fact that the holder is a life member and the amount of the Lodge share of the life membership fee which will be transferred to any constituent Lodge with which he affiliates.

I. If a life member shall be suspended or expelled,

* Code 271H was amended 2003 and 2004

and subsequently restored to good standing, his life membership shall be deemed to be also restored.

J. After the applicant's life membership has been accepted by the Grand Secretary, the life membership fee shall be paid over to the Grand Treasurer, who shall divide the fee into the Grand Lodge per capita share and the Lodge share. The Grand Lodge per capita share shall be placed in an investment account to be known as the Life Member Per Capita Fund and all income from such fund shall be paid at least annually to the General fund of the Grand Lodge. The Lodge share shall be placed in an investment account to be known as Lodge Life Member Fund. A record shall be maintained to show the amount in the fund that is credited to each Lodge and all income from said fund shall be distributed at least annually to each Lodge based on its pro rata share of the total amount in the Lodge Life Membership Fund. These two funds shall be administered in accordance with the provisions of Code 119.

K. A Lodge that deems itself to be in financial peril may petition the Grand Master to withdraw all or any part of its share of the principal of the Lodge Life Membership Fund, that represents life membership dues paid by members of said Lodge who are now deceased, and with the approval of a majority of the elected Grand Lodge Officers may permit the Lodge to withdraw said funds on such terms and conditions as the Grand Master may determine to be in the best interest of the Lodge and the Grand Treasurer shall then transfer such amount to the Lodge Treasurer and make the necessary adjustments of the records of the Lodge Life Member Fund.

*L. The trustees, with the consent of the Grand Master, may

* Code 271L was amended 2004

determine uniform procedures where under additional contributions to the life membership funds of any Lodge or of the Grand Lodge may be made by anyone, whether a Lodge, a brother or a non-Mason, and whether by gift or bequest. The trustees shall reserve the right to reject any such contribution which contains conditions incompatible with this Code 271 or would be burdensome to administer. The trustees, with the consent of the Grand Master, may at any time amend or terminate such uniform procedures and the right to make such additional contributions.

M. Applications for life membership shall be on forms prescribed by the Grand Secretary and the Grand Secretary shall provide any other forms required for the implementation of this Code.

***272.** Where life or fifty-year members have not been heard from for more than seven years, the Worshipful Master shall direct the Secretary to report the names of such missing brethren in the Grand Lodge returns as being "legally dead." Their names shall then be dropped from the rolls of active membership.

Termination of Lodge Membership

***273.** Membership in a chartered Lodge can be terminated only:

A. By dissolution of the Lodge.

B. By voluntary, formal *dimission* therefrom.

C. By death, suspension, or expulsion.

D. By a "plural member" requesting and receiving a Certificate of Withdrawal

* Code 272 was amended 2004

* Code 273 was added 1975 and amended 1990

274. The status of a brother in his Lodge cannot be changed after his death. One who is in good standing at the time of his death is entitled to Masonic burial if he made such request or if it is made by his family.

Jurisdiction of Lodges

275. Every chartered Lodge shall have certain personal and territorial jurisdiction.

276. The PERSONAL JURISDICTION of a Lodge shall extend over all its members (except its Master, or the Grand Master if a member thereof) wherever they may reside; and over its unfinished work and rejected material, wherever they may be dispersed. *Provided*, however, that the Lodge shall have no claim to jurisdiction over such rejected material after five years from the date of such rejection.

***277.** Each and every Lodge within the boundaries of the State of Illinois shall have and share territorial jurisdiction within the said boundaries of the State of Illinois.

The Qualifications of Candidates

***279.** Every candidate applying for the degrees in Masonry must be a believer in God, and capable of reading and writing in English.

280. Masonry knows no distinction of race or color. It is the mental, moral, and physical qualifications of the man that are to be considered.

281. A candidate who is unable or unwilling to express a belief in the existence of God lacks an essential qualification for the degrees in Masonry. In every such case the fee shall

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* Code 277 was amended 1974
* Code 279 was amended 1976

be returned with the information that he cannot become a Mason.

***282.** A Lodge shall not knowingly receive a petition from nor initiate a candidate who is less than eighteen years old, who does not possess the required physical requirements, nor who has not been an actual resident of the State of Illinois at least six months next preceding the date of the petition; and if any such qualified petitioner shall have been rejected by any regular Lodge in this jurisdiction, the requirements of Code 305 and Code 310 shall be complied with.

283. By the Masonic residence of an applicant for the degrees is meant a permanent settled domicile or fixed abode from choice; and, as a rule, is identical with his legal residence.

284. A man who has no fixed abode or legal residence cannot petition a Masonic Lodge in Illinois for the degrees.

286. In case any petition for the degrees shall have been rejected by a Lodge in any other grand jurisdiction, the regulations specified in Code 305, shall apply; provided, however, that if, after due diligence to communicate with such Lodge has been exercised, no reply be received to the request for permission after the period of ninety days from making such request, a Lodge may proceed to take action upon such petition without such permission.

Petitions for Degrees or Membership

***289.** Invitation to Petition:

A Petition for membership by invitation may be received by the Lodge at a stated meeting if the proposed petitioner meets all qualifications for membership and the petition is signed by three members of the Lodge, one of whom must

* Code 282 was amended 1980 and 1997

* Code 289 was amended in 2004 & 2005, 289A-J were added in 2004

have known the petitioner for a minimum of two years. If the Lodge refuses to receive the petition, the invitation becomes null and void and the Lodge relinquishes jurisdiction over him. The invitee may then be invited for membership in another Lodge or he may petition another Lodge at any time. No fee will be required for the Lodge to receive the Invitation to Petition.

A. After an Invitation to Petition has been read, it maybe received by the voice of the Lodge either tacitly or formally given or the Lodge, by a majority vote, may refuse to receive it. If the Lodge refuses to receive the petition, the invitation becomes null and void and the Lodge relinquishes jurisdiction over him. The invitee may then be invited for membership in another Lodge or he may petition another Lodge at any time.

B. Petitions by Invitation will not be assigned an investigating committee or be required to be submitted in the petitioner's handwriting.

C. The prescribed Invitation to Petition form shall be completed and signed by the recommenders and will provide the necessary information for the Lodge.

D. Codes 325 thru 338 shall govern the balloting procedure on the Invitation to Petition.

E. If the ballot on the Invitation to Petition is favorable, and the invitee chooses to join the Lodge, he will complete and submit a "Petition for Degrees" to the Lodge with the required fee within six months. He must present himself to be initiated within an additional six month period.

F. If the ballot on the Invitation to Petition is favorable, but the invitee declines the invitation, or fails to present himself within the six month period, all actions of the Lodge become null and void. The invitee remains

eligible to petition any Lodge in the future, if he so desires.

G. If the ballot on the Invitation to Petition is unfavorable (rejected) the Lodge will hold no jurisdiction over the invitee who may petition or be invited to join any Lodge at a future date.

H. The results of the ballot, elected or rejected, will become a part of the records of the Lodge.

I. A Petition for Degrees submitted to the Lodge by the invitee, after an affirmative ballot has been taken on his Invitation to Petition, will not be balloted on again.

J. Any invitee by Invitation to Petition who is unwilling to declare a belief in the existence of God, who has been convicted of a felony, who is a member of any organization, the regulations of which are incompatible with membership in the Masonic Fraternity or for whom it is known a moral, mental, physical or legal reason he should not become a free mason shall, at the invitee's request, take the course of a regular petition for degrees.

290. All petitions for degrees shall be made in writing, and signed by the applicant with his full name. He shall affirm his belief in the existence of God and shall state the following facts: The date and place of his birth; his occupation specifically; the name of his employer, if he has any, and the nature and location of the business of such employer; if his employment is stated as clerk, salesman, manager, solicitor, adjuster, or any other in definite term, the petition shall also state the particular kind of business or employment in which he is such clerk, salesman, manager, solicitor, adjuster, etc.; his place of residence, and, if the petitioner resides in a city having streets that are named and houses that are numbered, he shall state the name of his street and the number of his house. He shall also state whether he has previously made application to be made a Mason to any

Lodge. In cases where the petitioner has before petitioned to be made a Mason, he shall state the name, number, location and jurisdiction of the Lodge previously petitioned, the date as near as may be of such former petition and the disposition of such petition. The hand-written portions of each such petition shall be in the handwriting of the petitioner. The petition shall be accompanied by the fee which the by-laws of the Lodge requires.

***291.** Every petitioner shall be recommended in writing by three members of any Lodge that is under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, one of whom must be a member of the petitioned Lodge and all of whom must have personal acquaintance with the petitioner. Each petition must be read at a stated meeting and the petitioner's name, age, residence, occupation, employer, the person(s) who recommended him, and to whom the petition was referred be entered upon the records.

292. After a petition has been read it may be received by the voice of the Lodge either tacitly or formally given, or the Lodge, by a majority vote, may refuse to receive it. *(See voting chart for method of balloting in APPENDIX A)*

***293.** Every petition for degrees or membership, after it is received, shall be referred to an investigating committee of three members of the Lodge, other than those signing the petition, whose names shall be announced in open Lodge at the meeting when the petition is received. Every petition for degrees received by a Lodge but not balloted on within one year from the date of being received, shall become null and void and the fees shall be returned to the petitioner.

***294.** Each member of an investigation committee shall see the applicant personally and diligently inquire into

* Code 291 was amended 2005
* Code 293 was amended 1975 and 2004
* Code 294 was amended in 201 6

his moral, mental, physical and other qualifications and ascertain whether he has resided within the jurisdiction of the state, as required by Codes 279 and 282, and make full report thereon to the Master.

295. Each member of an investigating committee shall make private, verbal report to the Master, but the nature thereof, whether favorable or unfavorable, shall not be entered on the record.

297. Reports from fewer than all of the members of the committee appointed to investigate the character and qualifications of a petitioner shall not be sufficient. All must report before a legal ballot can be had, the Lodge being entitled to the information derived from three sources of inquiry.

298. The Master may grant a committee appointed on a petition for degrees or membership more time, and in case any member of an investigating committee fails to report, the Master may remove him and in open Lodge, appoint another brother in his place, but the ballot shall not be taken before the next stated meeting.

299. Previous to the balloting the Master must read so much of the petition as gives the candidate's name, age, occupation, and residence, together with the names of the brethren who recommended him, and those who served on the investigating committee, and announce to the Lodge the nature of the investigating committee's report, and to what extent they were agreed.

***300.** All petitions for membership shall be made in the prescribed form and signed by the applicant with his full name. The applicant shall state the name, number and location of the Lodge of which he is or was last a member;

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* Code 300 was amended 1976

the name of the Lodge in which he was made a Master Mason, and the name of the Grand Lodge under which such Lodge is or was working. He shall also state the date and place of his birth; his occupation specifically; the name of his employer, if he has any; if the occupation shall be stated as clerk, salesman, manager, solicitor, adjuster, or any indefinite term, it shall also state the particular kind of business, or employment in which he is such clerk, salesman, manager, solicitor, adjuster, etc.; his place residence, and if the petitioner resides in a city having streets that are named and houses that are numbered, he shall state the name of his street and the number of his house. The handwritten portions of each such petition shall be in the handwriting of the petitioner. Such petition shall be accompanied by a dimit or other satisfactory evidence that the petitioner has lawfully withdrawn from the Lodge of which he was last a member, or has declared his intention to withdraw therefrom in the manner prescribed by the law of the grand jurisdiction in which he is affiliated, except as provided in code 300A. If such membership has been terminated in any other manner, he must submit proof of his standing in the Fraternity. Every such petitioner shall be recommended by three members of the Lodge who vouch for him as a Master Mason, and the petition shall be read, received and referred in the same manner as petitions for degrees. If the petitioner is elected, the documentary evidence shall be filed among the records of the Lodge; if rejected, the same shall be promptly returned to the petitioner.

*A. A member petitioning for plural membership must accompany his petition by a Certificate of Good Standing or other satisfactory evidence that he is a member in

* Code 300A was added 1975 and amended 1990

good standing in a Lodge in this or in another Grand Jurisdiction which permits plural membership. *(Form PM-19G)*

301. Master Masons applying for membership shall not be required to state whether they have or have not applied to any other Lodge; nor shall the regulations concerning physical qualifications or jurisdictional residence (whether residing in this state or elsewhere) apply to Master Masons petitioning for affiliation.

302. None of the requirements of original petitions shall apply to entered apprentices or fellowcrafts seeking advancement in the Lodge in which they were initiated or passed; but Entered Apprentices or Fellowcrafts seeking advancement in any Lodge other than the one in which they may have been initiated or passed shall be subject to the laws governing original petitions and personal jurisdiction.

***304.** An Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft, after moving into the jurisdiction of Illinois, may petition any Lodge in the State of Illinois for advancement provided that the Lodge that conferred the degree or degrees upon him waives jurisdiction in favor of the Lodge petitioned. The petition shall be governed by the same rules that apply in the case of a petition for the degrees.

***305.** No Lodge shall knowingly receive a petition for degrees from an applicant who has been rejected by another Lodge nor, from an applicant who has had his progress delayed by a personal objection at any time within two years from the date of rejection, without first obtaining the consent of such Lodge in writing, granted by a unanimous ballot at a stated meeting thereof and certified under seal. The substance of the certification above mentioned shall be

* Code 304 was amended 1974
* Code 305 was amended 1979, 1999 & 2023

entered of record and a copy of the consent sent to the Grand Secretary who will note the release on the candidate's permanent record.

306. No Lodge can receive a petition for membership from a Mason holding a dimit from a Lodge working under the jurisdiction of any Grand Orient or Grand Lodge to which this Grand Lodge has not accorded recognition.

307. A petition for degrees or membership cannot be transmitted by telegraph or telephone but must be in writing.

***308.** No petition for degrees shall be withheld from action or returned, after having been received by a Lodge, without the consent of the Grand Master or by written request of the petitioner. If the petition shall be withheld from action by virtue of such consent, request or shall be balloted upon and rejected, the fee accompanying the same shall be returned to the applicant. Where a Lodge has by mistake received and referred a petition of an applicant who does not reside within the State of Illinois or of one who is disqualified, the fee shall be returned without balloting on the petition. If it shall be ascertained after the election of an applicant that he is disqualified, for any cause, the fee shall be returned to the applicant and all action of the Lodge shall become null and void.

309. The petition and the fee of a brother Master Mason applying for membership by affiliation may be withdrawn upon his written application therefor, at any time before the ballot is taken on the petition.

Waiver of Jurisdiction

***310.** Whenever a Lodge shall grant permission to any

* Code 308 was amended 1974 & 2007
* Code 310 was amended 1974

other Lodge to receive the petition of a rejected petitioner, or an Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft, over whom it shall have lawful jurisdiction, it shall thereby be held to have permanently relinquished the same, and the Lodge receiving such permission shall thereby acquire lawful jurisdiction. However, all such petitions shall be subject to the laws governing original petitions for the degrees.

312. Every request for a waiver of jurisdiction shall be read at a stated meeting and lie over until the next or some subsequent stated meeting before being acted upon. In every such case the Master may appoint a committee of investigation if he deems it desirable.

***313.** No Lodge shall request a waiver of jurisdiction over a brother who has had his advancement delayed by a personal objection, except by dispensation from the Grand Master, or unless a year has elapsed since the objection. The Lodges' refusal to grant such waiver shall not deprive the brother of the right to receive his degrees from the original Lodge.

314. In cases of waiver over Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts, the vote may be by show of hands and a majority vote is sufficient. *(See voting chart on page 170)*

***315.** No Lodge shall request a waiver of jurisdiction over a petitioner who has been rejected, except by dispensation from the Grand Master, or unless a year has elapsed since his rejection. The Lodge's refusal to grant such waiver shall not deprive the petitioner of the right to again petition the original Lodge for the degrees.

***316.** If the request of a Lodge for a waiver of jurisdiction is refused, it may in the case of a rejected petitioner, be renewed only after one year, in all other cases, including

* Code 313 was deleted 1979 and added 1999
* Code 315 was amended 1999
* Code 316 was amended 1974

unfinished work, such request may be made at pleasure though not more than three times in any one year.

317. If a Lodge grants permission to another Lodge to complete unfinished work (that is, waives jurisdiction), it thereby relinquishes its claim upon the candidate and, upon being regularly elected, receiving the degrees and signing the by-laws he becomes a member of the Lodge doing the work.

318. If a Lodge requests another to do work for it, and the work is done, the applicant becomes a member of the first Lodge, upon signing its by-laws in person or by proxy appointed in writing.

319. A Lodge may refuse to waive jurisdiction over an Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft, but if it waives jurisdiction, it cannot make conditions, pecuniary or otherwise, as to its assumption by another Lodge.

320. Action of a Lodge requesting, or consenting to, the conferring of degrees on its material by another Lodge maybe rescinded by vote of the Lodge before work is done. Action waiving jurisdiction cannot be rescinded.

321. When a Lodge waives jurisdiction over an Entered Apprentice or a Fellowcraft who has paid in advance the fees for all the degrees, it should refund that portion of the fees for which it has not given an equivalent in degrees.

***322.**

Balloting

[For method of voting on all questions see voting chart in APPENDIX A]

***325.** No ballot shall be taken on a petition for any degree or for membership at any other than a stated meeting nor in less than two weeks from the time the petition was received

* Code 322 was deleted 1979

* Code 325 was amended 1997 and 2005

and referred except by dispensation from the Grand Master, nor unless there be present at such stated meeting and voting on such petition at least five members of the Lodge

326. One clear ballot entitles the petitioner to the three degrees, but if an elected candidate, an Entered Apprentice or a Fellowcraft transfers his allegiance to another Lodge, his petition for the remaining degree or degrees must again pass the ordeal of the ballot.

327. In balloting upon petitions for degrees or for membership, the same shall be acted upon separately and every member of the Lodge present shall vote, including the Tyler, unless excused therefrom at his own request and by unanimous consent of the other members present, separately given as to each member so excused. On all other questions, the Tyler, if a member of the Lodge and absent his objection, may be excused by the Master. For the purpose of balloting only, the Master may temporarily replace the Tyler, or allow the Lodge to be tiled from inside the inner door.

328. The order of balloting does not necessarily follow the sequence in which the petitions were received.

329. The ballot shall be had upon every petition for degrees, whether the report thereon is favorable or unfavorable, unless such ballot be excused by the Grand Master or its hall appear that the Lodge cannot legally act thereon; in case of such failure to ballot, the fee shall be returned to the petitioner.

***330.** The vote to elect on petitions for degrees or for membership must be unanimous. But, if the petition for membership is made to the Lodge of which the petitioner was last a member and from which he was regularly dimitted or had withdrew as a plural member, the vote to elect on such petition for membership shall be a favorable vote of two-

* Code 327 was amended in 2023
* Code 330 was amended in 2000

thirds of the members present when the ballot is taken. *(See voting chart for method of balloting in APPENDIX A)*

331. The right of every member of a Lodge to vote by secret ballot on petitions for degrees or for membership is inherent and absolute, and the lawful and legitimate exercise of such right shall not be questioned by the Master, the Lodge, the Grand Master, or the Grand Lodge.

332. If any member shall be proved to have been actuated by unworthy motives in the exercise of his right as a voter, or shall willfully use the ballot to interrupt the legitimate labors, or mar the peace and harmony of the Lodge, or shall expose the character of his own vote before, at the time of, or after casting it, or shall attempt to ascertain the character of the vote of any other member, he shall be liable to Masonic discipline and punishment.

334. When a ballot is in progress it shall not be suspended or postponed, nor shall it be interrupted by the admission or withdrawal of any brother, but brethren should be permitted to enter or retire between ballots on different candidates.

335. No debate shall be permitted in open Lodge upon the merits or demerits of any candidate, at or before or after the time of balloting. The secret vote of each member is the only legal expression of his opinion.

***336.** After the ballot has been taken and duly examined, first by the Wardens and then by the master, the Master shall immediately announce the result thereof; provided, however, if but one negative vote appears, the Master may immediately order a second ballot or announce that a second ballot will be taken at the next stated meeting. After the second ballot has been taken the Master shall immediately announce the results thereof. If all provisions of the law

* Code 336 was amended 1982

have been complied with, the announcement by the Master of the result of the ballot shall be final and conclusive and shall not be reconsidered nor set aside by the Master or the Lodge.

337. At the conclusion of a ballot the result only, either "elected" or "rejected," shall be made known and recorded.

338. Every Lodge shall have a ballot box so constructed as to enable every member to cast his vote secretly and shall be equipped with a sufficient number of white balls and black cubes to enable every brother to express his preference freely.

Rejections

***339.** Any candidate for the degrees who has been rejected in a Lodge may, after the expiration of one year from the date of such rejection, again petition the same Lodge, if it be inexistence: *provided*, that such Lodge may waive jurisdiction, as provided in Code 305 and Code 310.

341. Any brother whose application for membership has been rejected may renew his application to the same or to any other Lodge, without regard to time or place.

342. The rejection of the petition of a brother for membership shall not affect his Masonic standing.

343. When a candidate is declared rejected the money which accompanied his petition shall be regularly withdrawn from the treasury and returned to him by the Secretary, who shall distinctly inform him of his rejection. This information shall be conveyed to him by the Secretary in person, if practicable.

***344.** If the information that a petitioner has been rejected is communicated by a Mason to any person (except the petitioner) not a Mason, the offender shall be subject to

* Code 339 was amended 1976
* Code 344 was amended 2004

Masonic discipline. Any Mason who, concealing the fact of such rejection, shall knowingly assist or recommend for initiation to any Lodge any candidate who has been rejected by a Lodge without first having lawful permission of said rejecting Lodge, shall be liable to Masonic discipline.

345. Any candidate who may receive the degrees by false representation or through deception shall be brought to trial and punished, as the Lodge may determine.

Objection to Initiation

346. Any Master Mason who is a member of a Lodge may raise well-grounded objections to the initiation or advancement of a candidate in such Lodge.

347. An objection to the initiation of a legally elected candidate, to be operative, must be made in person to the Master before the order is given to prepare him. The objector's identity shall not be revealed or his reasons be demanded by the Master or the Lodge. The fact of objection shall be recorded in the minutes of the Lodge and shall stand as a bar against the candidate for the term of one year unless sooner withdrawn by the objector. The fee, if any, accompanying the petition, shall, in such case, be immediately returned to the petitioner.

***348.** No candidate whose initiation or advancement is stayed by personal objection shall be recorded or published as rejected, however, the Lodge is required to report such stay to the Grand Secretary.

350. When the initiation of a candidate is stayed by objection, he may be initiated after the lapse of one year from the time such objection was made and entered of record, without a new petition and election, if otherwise qualified and unless objection is again made. Objection may be renewed at any

* Code 348 was amended 1999

time during the year or new objection made by the same or another member, and in either case shall hold good for one year from the time of renewal or making.

Objection to Advancement

351. Whenever objection is made by any member of a Lodge to the advancement of a brother therein to the second or third degree, the reasons therefor must be made known. The matter shall be referred by the Master to a committee with power to inquire into such reasons, who shall report thereon to the Lodge as soon as practicable. If from such report it shall appear in the opinion of the committee that the reasons assigned are insufficient and if a majority of the members present concur in such report the Lodge may confer the degree as if no objection had been made; but if the reasons assigned shall be deemed to be sufficient and a majority of the members present concur in such report, the candidate shall be entitled, upon application, to trial upon the alleged objection.

352. A brother who, in the exercise of the right of objection, is proved to be actuated by unworthy motives, or who maliciously uses it to interrupt the legitimate labors or to mar the peace and harmony of the Lodge, is liable to discipline and punishment.

***353.** Objections to either initiation or advancement, when made by a brother not a member of the Lodge having jurisdiction, shall be subject to the provisions of Code 351. If, in the case of a candidate for initiation, the committee sustains the objection and if a majority of the members present concur in such report, the initiation shall be stayed one year but the candidate shall not be entitled to a trial.

354. When objections are entertained against a brother seeking advancement and such brother demands trial, the objections

* Code 353 was amended 2006

must be formulated into written charges and the trial thereof is to be conducted as laid down in the Grand Lodge by-laws.

Fees for Degrees

***355.** No Lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge shall be permitted to confer the three degrees upon any person for a less sum than one hundred dollars, inclusive of the petition fee, required by the Lodge. A Lodge may waive any or all of the prescribed fees for Petitioning, the Entered Apprentice Degree, the Fellowcraft Degree, and the Master Mason Degree for a person currently serving on active duty in the armed forces of the United States of America.

***356.** Each Lodge shall collect the sum of $5.00 from each candidate receiving the Master Mason's degree. The sum shall be remitted to the Grand Secretary with the annual report, held by the latter in a separate fund and the amount so collected each year shall be paid by him on or before February 22 to the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association, provided, that any Lodge may elect to pay said sum from its treasury.

***357.** No Lodge shall confer any degree or admit to membership until the prescribed fee shall have been paid to the proper officer, nor shall any written or verbal promise to pay the same be received in lieu thereof, nor any portion of the fee remitted in any case, either directly or indirectly. A Lodge may waive any or all of the prescribed fees for Petitioning, the Entered Apprentice Degree, the Fellowcraft Degree, and the Master Mason Degree for a person currently serving on active duty in the armed forces of the United States of America.

358. The Secretary shall pay over to the Treasurer the fees of an applicant for the degrees as soon as received. If the

* Code 355 was amended 2006, 2007 & 2008
* Code 356 was amended 1980
* Code 357 was amended 2008

petitioner is rejected, the Lodge shall draw an order at once and return the fee to the applicant. In no case shall the Lodge use any part of the fee until the petitioner has been elected.

359. If a candidate fails to appear for initiation within one year from the date of his election, and no objection is pending, all proceedings had shall become null and void. The fee accompanying the petition shall in such case be returned to the petitioner.

Conferring Degrees

360. No Lodge shall confer any degree upon any candidate who declines to conform to any requirement of Masonry or to the rules and regulations of the Grand Lodge. No exception shall be made in favor of any particular candidate.

***361.** No candidate shall be advanced to the second or third degree until he shall have passed a satisfactory examination in open Lodge, or before a committee of three appointed by the Master, upon his Masonic proficiency, unless by dispensation by the Grand Master. The Master may declare whether the candidate has shown suitable proficiency, or the Master may, in his discretion, permit the matter to be determined by a majority vote of the members.

362. If not contrary to Lodge by-laws, a brother may be advanced at any meeting of the Lodge subsequent to the day on which he received the degree, after being duly examined in open Lodge and found proficient.

363. No candidate shall receive more than one degree on the same day, except by dispensation of the Grand Master.

*A. No Lodge shall confer the degree of Entered Apprentice on any candidate on the same date as the petitioner is elected to receive the degrees.

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* Code 361 was amended 1989
* Code 363A was added 1978

364. A Lodge may determine by a majority vote at a stated meeting whether it will confer the Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft or Master Mason degrees for another regular Lodge legally requesting the courtesy; and may also, for good cause shown, by a majority vote at a stated meeting authorize a request to some other regular Lodge, situated in Illinois or elsewhere, to confer the Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft or Master Mason degrees upon one of its duly elected candidates. No Lodge shall make any charge for conferring courtesy degrees. All fees shall be collected by the Lodge making the request.

365. No part of the work shall be omitted, abridged or shortened, nor any ritual, nor ceremonial be used save that adopted by the Grand Lodge and taught by the Board of Grand Examiners.

***A.** The Master of each Lodge shall read, or cause to be read aloud, to the Lodge just prior to the beginning of the second section of the Third Degree, whenever the Third Degree is conferred, the following statement:

> "The second section of the Third Degree constitutes a most solemn and impressive portion of our ritualistic work. In it we are taught the ultimate lessons of Masonic philosophy--victory over death and the immortality of the soul. Nothing must be allowed to impair the deep impression which should be made upon the mind of the candidate. Accordingly, the Grand Lodge forbids any levity, horseplay or roughness and insists that there be no such actions and no audible laughter or other noise in the Lodge room which might distract the attention of the candidate. Failure to comply with this Code, and any action by any officer or member in violation of or inconsistent with the language of this order shall constitute grounds for disciplinary action."

*Code 365A was added in 1973

***366.**

***367.** The explanatory parts of the Entered Apprentice Degree, the second section of the Fellowcraft's Degree, the historical account in the Master Mason's degree, and the charge in each degree may be given to more than one candidate at the same time, but all other parts of the degrees must be given in full to each candidate separately, except that with the dispensation of the Grand Master all of the Entered Apprentice, all of the Fellowcraft and all of the Master Mason with the exception of the raising of the candidate, may be given to more than one candidate at the same time.

***368.** The Official Monitor, the Officers Manual, the Book of Ceremonials, The Book of Standard Work, The Floor Work Instruction Manual and Code or Cypher containing in question and answer form the catechism in first, second and third degrees, each duly adopted at an annual session of the Grand Lodge, are the only books containing ritual or ceremonial work authorized by the Grand Lodge of Illinois. The books containing said Code or Cypher shall be under the exclusive control of the Master of each Lodge, subject to such rules and regulations as the Grand Master shall from time to time promulgate. "The use of any unauthorized code, exposé or other work purporting to set forth the esoteric work of Masonry is an offense under this code and shall upon conviction subject the offender to the severest Masonic penalty."

***A.** The Grand Lodge Book of the Standard Work and The Floor Work Instruction Manual is authorized for the use by Lodges and brethren in learning the lectures, charges, and floor work and other heretofore unprinted standard rituals. At no time will the Books be used in open Lodge, except at any meeting the Master

* Code 366 was deleted 2006
* Code 367 was amended 1979 & 2008
* Code 368 was amended 1984
* Code 368A was added 1984 & amended 2008

may appoint a prompter who may follow the ritual with the Book of Standard Work. Anyone that uses the books in any other manner than stated above will be in violation which will call for disciplinary action.

369. The use of a stereopticon or any illustration in the lecture of the Master Mason's degree previous to the marble monument is prohibited.

***370.**

371. The ritual "or work" adopted by the Grand Lodge at the annual meeting of 1962, and the Ceremonials adopted by the Grand Lodge at the annual meeting of 1931, shall hereafter be subject to change only by the formal affirmative action of the Grand Lodge by two-thirds vote at our annual meeting.

Lodge Visitation

***372.** It is a privilege of every Master Mason in good standing to visit a Lodge; subject, however, to the right of the Lodge, whether chartered or under dispensation, or any member thereof to object to his admission as a visitor. In every case of objection to visitation, the Master retains the authority to sustain or overrule such objection.

***373.** The privilege to visit is possessed equally by all who have been made a Master Mason in a constituent Lodge in this jurisdiction or a Master Mason from a Lodge that is a constituent of any Grand Lodge recognized as legitimate by the Grand Lodge of Illinois, and who remain in good standing.

374. No visitor shall be admitted to any Lodge under this jurisdiction unless lawfully vouched for as a Master Mason

* Code 370 was deleted 1988
* Code 372 was amended 2008
* Code 373 was amended 2008

in good standing. If not so vouched for he shall be required to furnish documentary evidence as to the name and number of his Lodge and to take the test oath in addition to strict trial and due examination of his knowledge of Masonry.

***A.** An Entered Apprentice Mason can, upon request by his poster, receive permission to visit any Lodge of Entered Apprentice Masons under this jurisdiction from the Worshipful Master and subject to the right of the Lodge to object to his admission as a visitor.

***B.** A Fellowcraft Mason can, upon request of his poster, receive permission to visit any Lodge of Entered Apprentices or Fellowcrafts under this jurisdiction from the Worshipful Master and subject to the right of the Lodge to object to his admission as a visitor.

375. The legal information necessary to enable one Mason to vouch for another may be acquired by sitting together in a regularly constituted Lodge of Masons, by an examination authorized by the proper officer of a Lodge, or by one Mason definitely stating to another whom he knows to be a Mason that he vouches for a third then present with them as a Mason in good standing. This information may be passed along indefinitely as long as the conditions herein stated are met.

***376.**

***377.**

378. A member of a Lodge cannot be disciplined for objecting to the presence of a brother who is not a member, nor shall the objector's reasons be required.

379. Objection made to the Master by a member to a proposed visitor is not valid during the absence of the objector.

* Code 374A and 374B was added 1978
* Code 376 was deleted 1979
* Code 377 was deleted 1979

380. A member cannot, by objection, exclude a District Deputy Grand Master who is making an official visit.

381. A candidate upon whom a degree is being conferred for another Lodge, after a request to confer the degree has been regularly made and acted upon by the Lodge, is not a visitor and cannot be excluded by objection.

382. There shall be provided by the Grand Secretary a form of receipt for dues to be used by all Lodges. One side of this receipt shall show the name and number of the Lodge of which the brother is a member and the date to which his dues are paid. On the other side there shall be the certificate of the Grand Secretary that the Lodge of which the brother is a member is a regularly chartered Lodge of Illinois. This certificate shall be attested by a facsimile of the seal of the Grand Lodge and the signature of the Grand Secretary both printed thereon. The form of receipt and certificate shall be substantially as follows:

Ancient Free & Accepted Masons of Illinois

This is to Certify that for the year

2011

Member's Signature

_____

is a member in good and regular standing

Secretary

I,_____, Grand Secretary of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Illinois, A. F. & A. M. of the State of Illinois, do hereby certify that the Lodge named on the reverse side of this certificate is regularly chartered by The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Illinois, and its members, when in good standing in said Lodge, are entitled to all the privileges and courtesies of visitation given by Lodges whose governing bodies are recognized by this Grand Lodge as regular Grand Lodges Masonic.

Grand Secretary

Dimits and Resignations

383. Every application for a dimit shall be made in writing, signed by the applicant and read in open Lodge at the first stated meeting after it is received by the Secretary, when, if the applicant's dues are paid to the date of said stated meeting, and there are no charges pending against him a dimit shall be granted and a record made thereof. Failure of a Lodge to hold its stated meeting as provided in the by-laws, shall not subject an applicant who is qualified to receive his dimit to the further payment of dues. The dimit shall state the date and place of the holder's birth, and the date of his election, initiation, passing, raising, and dimission, as well as the name of the Lodge doing the work.

384. An applicant for dimission may withdraw his application at any moment before the announcement that the dimit is granted has been made, but the request to withdraw must be filed in writing.

***A.** A plural member cannot apply for a dimit from any Lodge in which he holds membership. In order to terminate membership in any Lodge a request for Withdrawal Certificate must be made to the Lodge in which he desires to terminate his membership. If his dues are paid to the date of the request and no charges are pending against him, the certificate shall be issued at the stated meeting at which the request is read.

385. A dimit shall bear the date it is granted as shown by the Lodge record and membership ceases on that date.

***A.** A Certificate of Withdrawal as a plural member shall bear the date it is granted as shown by the Lodge record and membership as a plural member ceases on that date.

* Code 384A was added 1975 and amended 1990
* Code 385A was added 1975 and amended 1990

386. A dimitted brother shall be entitled to a certificate of his dimission attested by the Secretary and under the seal of the Lodge. Should the Secretary neglect to furnish such certificate or the brother refuse to receive the same, such neglect or refusal shall not in any manner invalidate the joint action of the applicant and the Lodge. The form of such certificate shall be substantially as prescribed by the Grand Lodge.

387. If any brother shall lose the certificate of his dimission the Secretary of the Lodge shall, upon request and satisfactory proof of such loss, furnish him another certificate with the original date, and the fact of re-issuance which shall be entered upon the Lodge record.

388. Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts shall not receive dimits, but a Lodge may grant them a certificate setting forth their status in the Lodge.

389. A brother who has been tried on charges of un-masonic conduct and acquitted, but in whose case an appeal is pending, shall not be permitted to dimit until the case is finally decided.

390. A brother having been elected Master or Warden, but not installed, is not debarred a dimit.

***391.** The Master of a chartered Lodge shall not resign, dimit or take part in the formation of a Lodge under dispensation during his official term: provided, that in case a Master becomes physically or mentally disqualified to perform the duties of his office or has permanently removed from its jurisdiction, the Lodge may certify the fact to the Grand Master, who in his discretion may declare a vacancy or grant a dispensation authorizing

*Code 391 was amended 2005

resignation or dimit and order an election to fill the vacancy. The resignation of any other elected officer may be accepted by the Lodge. The vacancy shall be filled by special election, held under authority of a dispensation from the Grand Master.

392. Resignations of appointive officers of a Lodge may for good reasons be received, and the vacancies filled by the Master.

393. No Lodge shall issue a dimit to a brother who has been legally declared insane until his legal disabilities are removed.

Transfer of Membership

394. When a brother desires to transfer his membership to another Lodge he shall accompany his petition for affiliation with a written application to his Lodge for his dimit. The petition shall take the same course as a petition for affiliation which is accompanied by a dimit. If the ballot is favorable, the Secretary of the Lodge petitioned shall promptly mail the application for dimit to the Lodge of which the applicant is a member. If the brother is entitled to a dimit as provided in Code 383, it shall be issued and immediately forwarded to the Lodge which elected him to membership, and when received, The Secretary thereof shall file it with the petition and enter the brother's name as a member of the Lodge petitioned, as of even date with the certificate of dimit. If the ballot is not favorable his application for dimit shall be returned to him. The election of the brother under the provisions of this Code shall be of no force or effect until the dimit is issued. If the transfer of membership is not completed within six months from the date of his election, all proceedings had shall become null and void. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent any member from applying for a dimit and presenting it with a petition for affiliation. The method of transferring membership authorized by this section may also be used to transfer

membership between Illinois Lodges and Lodges of any other jurisdiction which will permit such procedure.

*A. An Entered Apprentice or a Fellowcraft moving from the location of his Lodge should be advised that he may petition any Lodge which is in fraternal relations with this Grand Lodge for advancement, provided the Lodge which conferred the degree or degrees waives jurisdiction in favor of that Lodge.

Non-Affiliated Masons

395. It is contrary to the usages and precepts of the Masonic Fraternity for a brother to remain unaffiliated without endeavoring to become a member of some Lodge.

396. A brother holding a dimit or a certificate of good standing in the fraternity for one year, shall not, thereafter, be entitled to any of the rights and privileges of Masonry; provided, that the holder of a dimit or a certificate of good standing in the Fraternity may at any time, even after the expiration of such term of one year, petition for affiliation. Nothing herein shall be construed to deprive a Lodge or any member thereof of the right to render to a nonaffiliated Mason during such term of one year, aid and assistance, Masonic burial, or any fraternal courtesy (except the privileges of the Lodge, when objection is made) they may deem just and proper. If in such cases relief is extended or any privileges granted it shall be done as a courtesy and not accorded as a right.

397. Non-affiliated Masons shall be subject to the discipline of the Lodge in whose jurisdiction they may reside for any violation of moral or Masonic law.

* Code 394A was added 1974 and amended 1998

Special Dispensations

***399.** All applications to the Grand Master for dispensations to confer any degree shall emanate from a Lodge at a stated meeting and be concurred in by the unanimous vote of the members present at such meeting. Such application shall set forth fully and clearly the emergency, be signed by the Master and Secretary, and accompanied by the required fee.

400. All applications for dispensation for special purposes, not otherwise provided for, may emanate from the Master.

***401.**

402. Every dispensation shall be entered upon the records of the Lodge, and prompt report made to the Grand Master of whatever is done by authority thereof.

Lodges Under Dispensation

***403.** The formation of new Lodges shall be subject to the provisions of Article 13.

404. All applications for dispensations to form new Lodges must be made on blanks furnished by order of the Grand Master.

***405.** Upon receipt of an application for dispensation to form a new Lodge the Grand Master may appoint a commission of three competent and disinterested brethren to investigate and report upon the advisability of granting such request.

406. No petition to form a new Lodge shall be granted by the Grand Master, or ordered by the Grand Lodge, unless the petition shall state the name, number, and location of

* Code 399 was amended 2005
* Code 401 was deleted 1982
* Code 403 amended 2003
* Code 405 was amended 1976

the respective Lodges to which the petitioners belong, or, if unaffiliated, of which they last were members.

407. No dispensation shall be granted unless the petitioners have procured a suitable and safe room, with convenient anterooms, in which to conduct Masonic ceremonies, nor unless the material in the proposed jurisdiction shall be sufficient to sustain a healthy and reputable Lodge.

***408.** Every petition for a new Lodge shall set forth the proposed name thereof; the names of the brethren nominated as the first Master and Wardens; the name of the county and place of its proposed location; the population of such place and the time of holding the meetings. It shall also certify that the proposed Master is legally eligible to the office of Master by having served as Master or Warden of a chartered Lodge. It shall also be certified to by a Grand Lecturer that the proposed Master is qualified to confer the three degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry correctly and in full: provided, the Grand Master may for good cause shown, waive the requirement that the proposed Master has served as Master or Warden of a chartered Lodge.

409. No Lodge shall be named for any living person.

***411.** Every petition for a new Lodge shall be accompanied with the dimits or certificates of good standing of non-affiliated petitioners and Lodge certificates that all dues for the entire current Masonic year have been paid by all affiliated petitioners who belong to Lodges in Illinois. Brethren from other jurisdictions which do not authorize dimits until after acquiring membership in another Lodge, may join in such petition for a dispensation, provided that in all such cases satisfactory evidence shall be presented with such petition that they are in good standing in their

* Code 408 was amended 1976
* Code 411 was amended 1976

respective Lodges and are in compliance with the laws of the Grand Jurisdiction in which they are affiliated. Membership in newly chartered Lodges shall be subject to the provisions governing plural membership and shall not require dimit from the Lodge in which the member originally belonged.

***414.**

***415.**

416. A Lodge under dispensation shall have a code of by-laws, conforming to the by-laws and regulations of the Grand Lodge.

417. Every dispensation shall be copied at length upon the records of the Lodge, and the charter, when issued, shall be recorded in like manner.

418. Every Lodge while working under dispensation shall strictly conform to the requirements of Code 198 *(except 198B and 198H)*.

419. Every Lodge under dispensation shall pay the established Grand Lodge dues annually for every Master Mason whose name is upon the dispensation who is not a member of a chartered Lodge in Illinois.

420. Every Lodge under dispensation shall make its returns to the Grand Lodge on or before the first day of September next succeeding the date of its dispensation and shall transmit therewith its letter of dispensation, a copy of its by-laws, and a record of its proceedings. After making such return no Lodge meeting shall be held until the Grand Lodge shall grant a charter, and the requirements of Code 426 are complied with unless the Grand Lodge shall order a continuance of the dispensation.

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* Code 414 was deleted 1978

* Code 415 was deleted 1978

***421.** All Lodges instituted under dispensation after the first of June shall be exempt from so much of the requirements of Code 420, as refer to the time of making returns, but shall fully comply therewith on or before the first day of September the year following: provided, that the continuance of such dispensation shall be endorsed on the dispensation by the Grand Master.

422. A brother joining in a petition for a dispensation for a new Lodge shall not thereby sever his membership from the chartered Lodge of which he may be a member, but shall be liable for dues to the new Lodge from the date of the dispensation and to the chartered Lodge to the date of the charter issued to the new Lodge, unless he shall be sooner dimitted.

***423.**

424. A petition for a charter shall contain only the names of the brethren named in the original letters of dispensation and the names of such brethren as may have been made Master Masons while the Lodge was working under dispensation. These brethren cannot be debarred from signing the petition for a charter, nor shall any other names than those specified be entered in the charter.

425. The Master of a Lodge under dispensation shall not be amenable to discipline by any chartered Lodge during his official term; but in case such dispensation be annulled, or a charter withheld, the Lodge of original jurisdiction may take cognizance of the conduct of such Master, unless the same shall be of a strictly official character.

426. Every newly chartered Lodge shall be duly constituted, and its officers properly installed, by the Grand Master or his special representative, assisted by an occasional Grand

* Code 421 was amended 1976 & 2005
* Code 423 was deleted 1977

Lodge, before the new Lodge can work or do business under its charter.

***427.** No charter shall be issued to a Lodge under dispensation until it shall have conferred upon one of its own candidates the degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason, in manner and form as prescribed by the by-laws and regulations of the Grand Lodge.

428. A newly constituted Lodge shall not transact any business until it has adopted a code of by-laws approved by the Grand Master.

Annual Returns of Lodges

***429.** The returns of work and the payment of Grand Lodge dues shall be made to Grand Lodge based on a reporting year that commences on the 1st day of June and ends on the 31st day of May of each year.

***430.** The returns of each Lodge, together with the Grand Lodge dues, shall be filed with and paid to the Grand Secretary on or before the first day of July of each year.

***431.** If the returns of a Lodge are not made and all Grand Lodge dues fully paid on or before the fifteenth day of July of each year, the representative of such delinquent Lodge shall not be paid any mileage or per diem.

***432.** Returns of Lodges shall be transmitted to the Grand Secretary by mail, or other reliable, expeditious manner.

***433.** Returns of Lodges shall embrace a complete list of officers, who have been adjudicated incompetent; who are unable to give prompt and intelligent consideration to business matters, as certified by a licensed physician; who are confined in a public institution for the indigent; who

* Code 427 was amended 2004
* Code 429 was amended 1981
* Code 430 was amended 1969
* Code 431 was amended 1969
* Code 432 was amended 1976
* Code 433 was amended 1994 and 1999

have been Masons in good standing for fifty (50) years or more, who are life members; all initiations, passings and raisings; all admissions, rejections, suspensions, expulsions, reinstatements, dimits, and deaths, with their respective dates; the number of miles from its location to the place of meeting of the Grand Lodge by the usually traveled route, and such other matters as may be required by the Annual Report form provided by the Grand Secretary.

434. The returns of Lodges shall be signed by the Master or Secretary and attested under the seal of the Lodge.

Annual Dues of Lodges

435. Every Lodge in this jurisdiction, on or before the first day of July each year, shall pay into the treasury of the Grand Lodge, through the Grand Secretary, the sum of fifteen (15) dollars for each Master Mason belonging to such Lodge at the time of making the annual returns; provided, no Lodge shall be required to pay Grand Lodge dues upon any member who has been adjudicated incompetent; who is unable to give prompt and intelligent consideration to business matters, as certified by a licensed physician: who is confined in a public institution for the indigent; who has been a Mason in good standing for fifty (50) years or more or who is a life member in accordance with Code 271 E. All money received by the Grand Lodge pursuant to this section shall be deposited in the General Fund of the Grand Lodge. Upon recommendation of the Committee on Finance, the Grand Lodge may appropriate money from the General Fund for the Charity Fund at the annual meeting of the Grand Lodge, and the funds so appropriated shall be transferred to the Charity Fund.

*Code 435 was amended 1994, 1997, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2018

Annual Dues of Lodges

436. Any Lodge that shall neglect or refuse to pay its annual dues shall forfeit all claim for mileage and per diem; and should such neglect or refusal continue for two successive years the warrant or charter shall be suspended and the effects of the Lodge disposed of, as provided in Code 442: provided, that for satisfactory reasons for a failure to comply with the foregoing requirements, and upon making full returns, and paying all back dues, the charter and other effects of such Lodge may be restored by the Grand Lodge upon a vote of two-thirds of the members present at the stated annual meeting.

437. Where a Lodge is in arrears for Grand Lodge dues for more than one year any payment made shall be applied on the dues longest in arrears.

Dissolution of Lodges

438. A Lodge may be dissolved:

A. By the voluntary surrender of its charter.

B. By a revocation of its charter by the Grand Lodge.

439. The charter of a Lodge may be surrendered if the proposal be presented at a stated meeting thereof and the same be acted upon at a subsequent stated meeting, of which all the members whose residence is known shall have due and timely notice; but no charter can be surrendered as long as seven Master Masons, members of the Lodge, desire to continue to work under it, in accordance with the laws of Masonry, and the by-laws and regulations of the Grand Lodge.

440. The charter of a Lodge may be suspended or revoked:

A. For disobedience of any provision of the constitution, by-laws, rules, or regulations of the Grand Lodge.

B. For violation or neglect of any of the generally recognized usages of the craft.

C. For disregard of the lawful authority of the Grand Master.

D. For failure to meet during a period of six successive months.

E. For a failure to make returns or pay its dues to the Grand Lodge for two successive years.

F. For any other cause which may be deemed sufficient by the Grand Lodge.

441. No charter shall be suspended or revoked except for cause, of which the Lodge shall have due notice, and an opportunity to be heard.

***442.** If the charter of a Lodge shall be suspended or revoked, or if from any other cause a Lodge shall become dormant, it shall be the duty of the last Master, Treasurer, or Secretary thereof to surrender to the District Deputy Grand Master (subject to the orders of the Grand Master) the charter, books, papers, jewels, furniture, moneys, and other property belonging to the Lodge, within two months from the time of such suspension, revocation, or becoming dormant. Every member of a Lodge, who shall, by vote or otherwise, make any other disposition of its effects than as herein designated, shall be liable to Masonic discipline for violating the by-laws and regulations of the Grand Lodge. All moneys accruing from property as herein prescribed shall belong to and be placed in the charity fund of the Grand Lodge.

* Code 442 was amended to delete B, C, D, E, F in 2005;
* Code 442 was amended and deleted A in 2006

***443.** Every Lodge shall be represented at Grand Lodge annually. Any Lodge that shall neglect or refuse to attend shall be subject to reprimand by the Grand Lodge upon due inquiry into its reasons for being absent. Should such neglect or refusal continue for two successive years the warrant or charter of said Lodge shall be temporarily suspended until proper inquiry can be made. Such inquiry must be made within thirty days of the close of that Grand Lodge session. If satisfactory reasons for the failure to comply with the foregoing requirements are not presented, such temporary suspension shall become permanent and the effects of the Lodge disposed of, as provided for in Code 442.

***444.**

***446.** Entered Apprentices or Fellowcrafts of such defunct Lodge may petition any Lodge in Illinois for advancement, and such petitions shall be governed by the laws governing original petitions for the degrees.

447. A Lodge whose functions have been suspended by the Grand Master does not lose jurisdiction over its rejected material until its charter has been declared vacated by the Grand Lodge.

***448.** The personal jurisdiction which a Lodge acquires by rejecting a petitioner ceases when such Lodge becomes defunct.

449. Any Mason who shall be present at or assist in the work of a Lodge, knowing its charter or warrant to have been suspended or revoked, shall be liable to discipline.

450. When any charter shall be declared vacated by the Grand Lodge its number shall be erased from the

* Code 443 was added 1978
* Code 444 was deleted 2002
* Code 446 was amended 1976
* Code 448 was amended 1974

register, and shall not again be used upon a charter in this jurisdiction.

Consolidation of Lodges

451. Any two or more Lodges may consolidate or merge under the name, number and charter of either of said consolidating Lodges in the following manner: A resolution proposing such consolidation shall be presented at a stated meeting of each Lodge interested and acted on at some subsequent stated meeting, of which all members shall be notified by mail directed to the last known address of each of such members at least ten days prior to the meeting at which the resolution is to be voted on.

A. Such resolutions shall specify the name, number and charter of one of the Lodges interested to be the name, number and charter of the consolidated Lodge and the officers of such Lodge shall be the officers of the consolidated Lodge until the next annual meeting thereof.

B. A copy of such resolution with a certificate of mailing the notice herein provided for and a statement of the vote cast for or against such resolution, signed by the Master and the Secretary, and sealed by the seal of the Lodge, shall be sent to the Grand Master and to the Master of each Lodge interested immediately after the adoption of such resolution. (Form 19B)

C. Adoption of the resolution shall require a vote of a three-fourths majority of the members present at such meeting. *(See voting chart for method of balloting in APPENDIX A)*

D. If the Grand Master approves the action he shall attach his approval thereto and transmit all of the documents to the Grand Secretary for the permanent records of the Grand Lodge and immediately notify the Master of each

interested Lodge of his approval of such consolidation and the consolidation shall be effective from the date of his approval.

E. The Master of the Lodge ceasing to exist shall immediately transmit the charter and seal of such Lodge to the Grand Secretary and such Master shall rank as a Past Master from the date such charter and seal are transmitted to the Grand Secretary without regard to the term for which such Master was elected.

F. All members of such Lodge ceasing to exist shall become members of the consolidated Lodge and all records, funds and property of whatsoever kind or nature of the Lodge ceasing to exist, together with all bills receivable, including unpaid dues, shall become the property of the consolidated Lodge and such consolidated Lodge shall assume and be responsible for all debts and obligations of the Lodges so consolidated or merged.

Charters of Lodges

454. Whenever the charter of a Lodge shall be destroyed, stolen or surreptitiously taken and detained, without the fault of the Lodge or Master or whenever the charter shall become so defaced or illegible as to be unfit for use, and upon satisfactory proof thereof, it shall be the duty of the Grand Lodge or Grand Master to cause a duplicate charter to issue, without fee, bearing the original name and number, together with the names of the original Grand Officers and charter members, supplemented with the cause of its issue, and signed by the Grand Master and Grand Secretary, and attested by the seal of the Grand Lodge.

455. The Master shall have the custody and care of the charter of the Lodge at all times, and it should be present at all meetings of the Lodge, but its temporary absence shall not invalidate the actions of the Lodge so long as no

act of the Grand Lodge or Grand Master has suspended the functions of the Lodge.

456. When a Lodge desires to change its name, a resolution to that effect embodying the new name shall be introduced at a stated meeting and action thereon deferred to the next or some subsequent stated meeting. Notice of the proposed change and the date of voting thereon shall be given to all members whose residences are known. If the proposed change is favored by a majority vote the Secretary shall, under seal, certify the fact to the Grand Secretary thirty days previous to the next meeting of the Grand Lodge, and he shall transmit the same to the Committee on Petitions. If the Grand Lodge consents to the change, the Grand Master, Grand Wardens and Grand Secretary shall sign a proper certificate to be appended to the Lodge charter. *(See voting chart on page 170)*

Summons

457. Every summons issued by a chartered Lodge shall be written or printed, attested by the seal of the Lodge, and signed by the Master or Secretary. No other matter than the requirement to attend a meeting of the Lodge need be inserted.

458. An instrument of writing designed for a summons, no matter how worded, is not a summons unless personally served. If sent by mail it becomes a notice.

459. Every Mason shall faithfully obey a summons issued by the Lodge and duly served upon him, if within his power; and for a failure to do so shall be liable to discipline in the manner provided by law, unless excused by a majority of the members present at a stated meeting of the Lodge.

460. The Master shall require written return to be made upon a summons of the service thereof.

461. No general summons shall be issued except for purposes of importance to the Lodge or Masonry.

Use of Masonic Name and Emblems

462. The use of Masonic emblems and devices on business cards or signs, or by way of advertisement, except for legitimate Masonic purposes, is strictly forbidden.

463. No Mason, either personally or as an officer or agent of any firm, shall use or be a party to the using of the word "Masonic," "Masonry," or any similar word, or the Masonic Emblem, as a part of the name or style of any business firm, concern, company, association or enterprise whatsoever, nor shall any use of such words or emblem in any manner for the purpose of pecuniary profit be permitted, unless the approval of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Illinois at a regular communication be first had and received. This code shall not apply to any use of such words or emblem permitted in Illinois prior to the adoption of the code.

*A. No organization predicating its membership on Masonic membership shall operate in the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Illinois without approval, by majority vote, of the Grand Lodge. Any organization seeking approval to operate shall submit a written request for recognition to the office of the Grand Secretary no less than 45 days prior to the annual communication of the Grand Lodge. The request for recognition shall include a statement of purpose, Masonic relationship, bylaws, ritual and initiation guidelines, membership requirements and the name of the chartering body of the organization. After review and a recommendation by the Foreign Jurisdictions Committee, the Grand Lodge will ballot on recognition.

* Code 463A was amended 2007

B. No Lodge or any organization predicating its membership on Masonic membership shall make any drive or solicitation for funds from any person other than its own members, unless granted permission from the Grand Master, or unless the approval of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Illinois at a regular communication be first had and received.

BY-LAWS

Relating to Discipline

[Copies of a printed Code of Instructions and Forms covering the more important requirements of the law concerning Masonic Trials, can be procured from the Grand Secretary].

Disciplinary Powers of Lodges

464. Every Lodge shall have the right, when any moral or Masonic law has been violated, to exercise discipline overall its members, wherever residing, and over all Masons, affiliated or unaffiliated (except present Masters or the Grand Master), residing or sojourning within its territorial jurisdiction.

Unaffiliated Amenable to Either Lodge

465. An unaffiliated Mason residing within the jurisdiction of one Lodge and having his place of business in another is amenable to either Lodge for any Masonic offense committed therein.

Notice of Discipline of Sojourners

466. Any Lodge which shall suspend or expel an offending Mason residing or temporarily sojourning in its jurisdiction but who belongs to another Lodge shall forth with give notice of such suspension or expulsion to the Lodge of which the offender shall have last been a member.

Who May Prefer Charges

467. Any Mason may prefer charges against an offending brother in the Lodge of which the accuser is a member and

which holds jurisdiction over the accused. If a Mason desires to prefer charges against a brother in a Lodge of which the accuser is not a member he may submit the charges and specifications in proper form to the Master of such Lodge, provided, it has jurisdiction over the accused, and it shall be the duty of such Master to order the Junior Warden to proceed with such charges. It shall be the special duty of the Junior Warden in the absence of other accusers or when directed by the Master to bring to trial all such Masonic offenders.

Further Trial of Suspended Mason

468. A suspended Mason charged with unmasonic conduct which, if established, would justify a greater punishment than he is undergoing, may be arraigned for trial, and if found guilty, adequate punishment shall be inflicted.

Trial Must Precede Penalty

469. A Lodge cannot, by its by-laws, deprive a brother of his rights, except as the result of a trial and judgment, nor can the relation a Mason sustains to the fraternity at the time of his death be changed.

*A. A Mason who has been or shall hereafter be convicted of a felony, or who shall plead guilty there to in a court of competent jurisdiction, shall by direction of the Grand Master, be expelled from the Order without the preferring of charges and the usual Masonic trial; provided that in the event the member so convicted appeals his conviction, the Grand Master may suspend such member until there has been a final judgment on said appeal. If the conviction is affirmed the Grand Master may then expel such member, and in the event

* Code 469A was amended 1979 & 2006

the conviction is reversed and a final judgment of not guilty or a dismissal of the charges is entered, the order of suspension shall be lifted. A certified copy of the judgment of the court wherein the conviction occurred and sentence pronounced shall be sufficient evidence to justify such suspension in the event the conviction is appealed and for the sentence of expulsion if the conviction is not appealed. Any Mason thus expelled shall retain his right of appeal.

A member reinstated after his conviction has been reversed or set aside shall suffer no loss of continuous membership for such period of suspension, and shall be reinstated to his previous standing in the Fraternity.

Publication of Trial Details Prohibited

470. No Lodge, or member thereof, shall publish in any newspaper, magazine, pamphlet, or circular, or otherwise make public the details or result of any Masonic trial.

Visitors at Trials

471. The presence of visitors in a Lodge during any of the proceedings of a Masonic trial shall be optional with the Lodge or Master.

No Statute of Limitations

472. In the trial of Masonic offenses there is no statute of limitations.

Trial of Mason Under Duress

473. When a brother is charged with unmasonic conduct, he being at the time in confinement for an offense against the state, the Lodge need not, after having given him due notice and reasonable time and opportunity to prepare his defense, wait for his term of imprisonment to expire,

but may conduct the proceedings to a final issue without his presence.

Counsel Cannot be Excluded by Objection

474. A Mason employed as counsel by a brother on trial is not to be considered as a visitor during such trial and therefore cannot be excluded on the objection of a member.

Court Record Prima Facie Evidence

475. The record of the trial and conviction of the accused of the same offense in a court of law is prima facie evidence only of the guilt of the accused and is admissible in evidence as such.

Evidence Must Be Heard

476. In every Masonic trial the case must be conducted according to the rules laid down by the Grand Lodge, which require the jury to hear the evidence before voting on the question of guilt or innocence.

Dispatch in Masonic Trials

477. Every Masonic trial begun shall be prosecuted with as much dispatch as the law governing the same and full justice to the accused and accuser will permit.

Securing Attendance of Witnesses

478. It shall be the duty of the accused and accuser to secure the attendance of their respective witnesses who are not Masons and, when necessary they may, through the Master and Secretary of the Lodge, summon for such purpose any resident Mason.

Degree on Which Lodges Shall Be Opened During Trials

479. When testimony is taken in open Lodge, the Lodge shall be opened on the highest degree to which the accused has attained in Ancient Craft Masonry; but the decision as to guilt or innocence, and the question of punishment, shall be severally determined in and by a Lodge of Master Masons.

Failure to Inflict Punishment

480. The failure of a Lodge to inflict punishment proportionate to the offense when a Mason, after due trial, has been found guilty of unmasonic conduct, shall subject the Lodge to discipline.

Notice of Result of Trial

***481.** When any Mason shall have been expelled or suspended, such action shall take effect immediately and he shall be notified thereof in person if practicable, or by certified letter to his last known address. Such notification to be given by the Secretary of the Lodge in which the penalty is recorded. When any brother shall have been acquitted, the Master of the Lodge in which the acquittal is recorded shall announce the fact in open Lodge, and if the accused is absent, he shall be notified of his acquittal in person if practicable, or by certified letter to his last known address. Such notification to be given by the Secretary of such Lodge.

Notice of Discipline to Grand Secretary

482. Every Lodge shall communicate to the Grand Secretary all suspensions and expulsions as they may severally occur.

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*Code 481 was amended 2004

Masonic Standing Not Affected Until Conviction

483. The status of a Mason under charges is not affected until after conviction.

Masonic Offenses

484. The offenses of which a Lodge may take cognizance, and to which it shall give full, fair and lawful trial, and for which upon conviction administer adequate punishment, are unlawful and immoral conduct, immorality, and particularly acts which tend to impair the good name of Masonry, or which violate Masonic obligations, or the by-laws and regulations of the Lodge or the Grand Lodge.

***485.** A Lodge shall not, on any pretense, introduce intoxicating liquors at any official Lodge function in the building where the Lodge is meeting during such an event.

486. Masons are prohibited from appearing in public drinking saloons in their Masonic clothing, and any Mason thus offending shall be disciplined.

***487.** Disciplinary action resulting in expulsion or suspension by one Lodge, regardless of jurisdiction, will automatically have the same effect in all Lodges to which a member belongs.

***488.**

489. Lodges shall not take cognizance of difficulties of a legal character growing out of business transactions between brethren, or entertain charges against a brother for the purpose of adjusting mere legal rights, pecuniary or otherwise, unless such charges shall clearly specify fraud or moral turpitude on the part of the alleged offender.

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* Code 485 was amended 2004
* Code 487 was added 1991 & amended in 2006
* Code 488 was deleted 1975

490. The Master shall not permit any charges or specifications, or any other subject matter, either written or oral, involving questions of a partisan or sectarian character, to be read in or in any manner presented to the Lodge.

Charges and Specifications

491. All charges of unmasonic conduct shall be made in writing, specifying with reasonable certainty the character of the offense alleged, and the time and place of its commission, as near as may be practicable, and be signed by the accuser, who must be an affiliated Master Mason in good standing. Charges must be so explicit that the accused may have a fair understanding of what he has to meet.

492. If a Lodge shall accept charges too vague or indefinite to be understood the Master may refuse to proceed until the charges are made specific.

Filing of Charges

493. All charges and specifications shall be filed with the Secretary of the Lodge and the date of said filing endorsed thereon and a true copy thereof shall forthwith be transmitted to the Grand Master. Without delay notice shall be sent by mail to all members whose residences are known of the filing of said charges and the date of the stated meeting at which the same shall be read in open Lodge and their acceptance or rejection acted upon, but then names of the accuser or the accused shall not appear in said notice. Such stated meeting shall be designated by the Master and shall be not less than five and nor more than twenty days after the date said notice is mailed. However, in cases where the magnitude of an offense demands, or where the Lodge or the Master shall deem it for the best interests of Masonry, the matter may be laid before the Grand Master, and by the

authority of his dispensation said charges may be read and accepted at a special meeting of the Lodge, called for the purpose, of which notice as fixed by the Grand Master, shall be given the members.

Acceptance of Charges by Lodges

494. When charges have been presented and read the Lodge shall decide by a majority vote whether they shall be accepted and the accused brother placed on trial. *(See voting chart for method of balloting in APPENDIX A)*

495. After charges have been accepted by a Lodge they cannot be withdrawn except for cause shown, and by two-thirds votes of the members present *(See voting chart for method of balloting in APPENDIX A)*

496. Charges cannot be amended, after being accepted by a Lodge, except by a majority vote, nor unless the accused shall have due notice of the proposed amendment. *(See voting chart for method of balloting in APPENDIX A)*

Fixing Dates and Place of Trials

497. Immediately upon the acceptance of charges by a Lodge the Master shall appoint the time and place for trial.

498. The trial of charges may proceed at any meeting appointed for the purpose and continue until completed.

Notice of Time and Place of Trial

499. It shall be the duty of the Master, after charges have been accepted by a Lodge, to cause the accused to be served with a duly attested copy of the charges and specifications and a notice of the time and place appointed for the trial thereof, which must be on a date subsequent to the next stated meeting of the Lodge, and to give notice of same to all resident members of the Lodge.

Trial in Absence of Accused

***500.** If the accused shall neglect or refuse or fail to attend in person, after notice has been duly served on him, or if notice cannot be served on him personally, by reason of his residence being unknown, or beyond the limits of the county in which the Lodge is located, then a copy of such notice shall be sent to him by certified mail, addressed to him at his last known place of residence, and upon proof that the notice has been sent to him as herein prescribed, the Lodge at the time specified in such notice may proceed without his presence.

Trial by Commission

501. After a Lodge has accepted charges against a brother, and if the Lodge (by a majority vote) or the accused, or the accuser shall make the request that the case be tried by a commission, the matter shall be referred to the Grand Master, who, if he approves the request, shall appoint a trial commission to take charge of and try the case.

***502.** Each trial commission appointed by the Grand Master shall consist of three disinterested and experienced brethren, members of Lodges in Illinois, residing outside the county boundaries of the Lodge interested: *provided*, however, that in any municipality where four or more Lodges are located, trial commissions may be composed of brethren residing in such municipality, but not members of the Lodge interested.

503. Every trial commission shall be clothed with the authority to summon witnesses through the Master and Secretary of the Lodge. A trial commission shall not quash or modify charges and specifications.

504. Each trial commission shall thoroughly investigate the

* Code 500 was Amended 2004
* Code 502 was Amended 1976

case submitted to it and cause a complete record of the facts and testimony to be made. They shall employ a competent stenographer to take and transcribe the testimony of the witnesses, the expense of which shall be paid by the Lodge; provided, however, that such expense may be apportioned among the Lodge and the parties interested as the trial commission may determine. The accused shall secure the attendance of his witnesses, the expense of which shall be borne by him. As an alternative to the use of a stenographer and transcription, the Commission may allow the record of the proceedings to be a digital audio recording, with each speaker identifying themselves prior to speaking. The audio recording shall be stored on a media and in a format, both of which are acceptable to the Commission. All proceedings and witness testimony shall be recorded in the same format.

505. The trial commission shall transmit its decision to the Grand Master and the Lodge and shall file with the Lodge a complete transcript of the testimony and proceedings on the trial.

506. If the trial commission finds the accused guilty the commission shall fix the penalty, and upon its report to the Lodge the Secretary shall record the same in his minutes, and notify the accused of the result.

507. The sentence imposed by the commission shall take effect as soon as it is reported to the Lodge.

508. Appeal by a party entitled thereto shall be the same as if the trial had been conducted by the Lodge.

509. The members of a trial commission shall be entitled to a per diem, at the same rate as paid to members of committees of the Grand Lodge, and their necessary traveling and hotel expenses, the same to be paid by the Lodge; but the same may be apportioned among the Lodge and the parties interested as the trial commission may determine: provided, however, that the Grand Master may, in his judgment, order

a different apportionment thereof. The failure or refusal of the accused to pay the share of such expense assessed against him shall subject him to such discipline as the trial commission or the Grand Master may determine.

510. The Grand Master may at his discretion refer any Lodge trial to a commission, with like powers and duties as those herein described.

511. In all cases when charges against a brother have been accepted by the Lodge, the Secretary of the Lodge shall at once send to the Grand Master a report thereof in the prescribed form of notification. *(Form No. 19A)*

Witnesses and Testimony

512. Witnesses in Masonic trials who are Masons shall be mentally competent, and in good standing in the fraternity, and may be affiliated or non-affiliated brethren.

513. Every Mason shall give his testimony upon his honor as a Mason.

514. Witnesses in Masonic trials who are not Masons must be persons of sound mind, and of such religious belief as to feel the obligations of an oath, and shall give their testimony under oath administered by some competent legal officer.

515. The evidence of both the accuser and the accused, if offered, shall be received in any Masonic trial, subject to the decision of the Master as to its relevancy.

Testimony Taken by Special Committee

516. The testimony of witnesses who are Masons may be taken in open Lodge, or by a special committee appointed by the Master, to consist of not less than three competent members of the Lodge, any one or more of whom, if objected to by either of the parties for cause, may be removed by the Master and another appointed.

517. A committee appointed to take testimony shall not quash or modify charges and specifications, but shall hear the testimony of witnesses and report the same to the Lodge.

518. A committee appointed to take testimony shall convene and select from their number a chairman and secretary; and when so organized shall have power, through the master and secretary of the Lodge, to summon before them the accused and accuser, with their respective witnesses, and such committee may sit whenever and as often as it may deem best for the interests of Masonry, *provided* due notice is given to the accused and accuser.

519. A committee appointed to take testimony shall examine witnesses who are not Masons, and the accused or accuser, in person or by attorney, shall be entitled to be present and propound such relevant questions as they may desire.

520. If an accused Mason, whose trial is pending, appears before the committee taking the evidence, and persists in such boisterous and indecorous conduct as to prevent the evidence being taken in his presence, the committee would be warranted in ejecting him and taking the evidence in his absence.

521. The proceedings of a committee appointed to take testimony shall be governed by the provisions of Codes 512 to 515, both inclusive, and Code 523. The duties of the Master prescribed in Code 524 shall apply to and be discharged by the chairman of the committee.

522. When a committee appointed to take testimony has concluded its labors, it shall report its proceedings and all the evidence to the Lodge and such evidence shall be read in open Lodge as a part of the testimony in the case. Upon retirement of the accused and accuser, any member of the Lodge present may express his views of the case. Any portion or the whole of the evidence shall be read, as he may require, to enable him to come to a decision.

523. The testimony of any witness unable to attend the Lodge or a committee may be taken by deposition before a properly authorized person, due notice of the time and place having first been given.

Trial Procedure

524. The Master shall decide all questions arising as to the relevancy of the evidence and the regularity of the proceedings.

525. All the evidence submitted by both the prosecution and defense, and all objections made by either party, and the rulings of the Master, and the record thereof shall be taken down in writing, typewriting or audio recording and filed among the archives of the Lodge, and the main facts of the case shall be entered upon the Lodge records.

526. At the conclusion of the testimony the accused and accuser in person, or through their attorneys, may, if they desire, address such relevant remarks to the Lodge upon the merits of the case as may be deemed proper, after which the accused and the accuser shall retire from the Lodge and remain in an anteroom until the final decision: *provided*, that if the Junior Warden shall be the accuser, in his official capacity, he shall not be obliged to retire.

527. After the retirement of the accused and accuser any member entitled to vote may express his views of the case and of the law and the facts involved.

528. During a Masonic trial no member shall be permitted to withdraw from the Lodge until after final action, except for urgent cause, and by consent of two-thirds of the members present.

529. A brother against whom charges have been preferred may deny or admit any portion or the whole of the charges and specifications.

530. In case an accused brother shall plead guilty to any of the charges or specifications such plea shall be accepted as conclusive evidence of the guilt of the accused as to such charges or specifications and shall render the taking of testimony thereon unnecessary and shall excuse the Lodge from the necessity of voting on the guilt or innocence of the accused as to such charges or specifications.

531. An authorized plea of guilty, entered in the absence of the accused by an attorney who has been appointed to defend him, cannot be accepted by a Lodge or a committee as a bar to the taking of testimony.

Securing a Verdict

532. Upon conclusion of the trial the question of "guilty" or "not guilty" shall be immediately and distinctly put by the Master, upon each charge and each specification under each charge in its order except those, if any, to which the accused had pleaded guilty, until all have been voted upon separately.

533. Every member of a Lodge conducting a trial who may be present shall be required to vote.

534. It shall require a vote by ballot of two-thirds of the members present at a trial to sustain any charge or specification. *(See voting chart in APPENDIX A)*

535. If, after the vote has been taken, any charge or specification shall be sustained, the accused shall be declared guilty, and the Master shall put the question as to the degree of punishment, beginning with expulsion, and, if not sustained, indefinite suspension, and, if this be not sustained, then definite suspension, and, if this punishment be not sustained, reprimand shall follow without further vote.

536. With the exception of reprimand which must

follow conviction unless a severe penalty be imposed, a vote by ballot of two-thirds of the members of the Lodge present at a trial shall be necessary to decide the degree of punishment. *(See voting chart in APPENDIX A)*

Grades of Punishment

537. The Masonic punishment which shall be inflicted by chartered Lodges or trial commissions for unmasonic conduct, after due trial and conviction, shall be, in the discretion of such Lodge or trial commission either EXPULSION, INDEFINITE SUSPENSION, DEFINITE SUSPENSION OR REPRIMAND.

Expulsion

538. *EXPULSION* involves an absolute deprivation of all rights, privileges, and benefits of Masonry to the delinquent and his family.

Indefinite Suspension

539. *INDEFINITE SUSPENSION*, whether for nonpayment of dues or for any other offense, subjects an offender, during such suspension, to the same penalties as are prescribed in Code 538. The relation which a Mason sustains to his Lodge after having been indefinitely suspended is that of a member under disabilities; and the Lodge still retains its right of original penal jurisdiction over him for any Masonic offense during his suspension, whether committed within its territory or elsewhere.

Definite Suspension

540. The penalty and the period of suspension may be

voted upon together or separately. DEFINITE SUSPENSION shall not be voted for a longer time than one year, nor for less time than one month.

Reprimand

541. *REPRIMAND* shall be the least Masonic punishment, and shall be administered in open Lodge by the Master.

Cannot Expel for Non-Payment of Dues

542. No Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge shall expel a member for non-payment of dues.

Expenses of Trials

543. In taking testimony before a committee to be used in any Masonic trial, the Lodge shall pay all the expenses of procuring the attendance of witnesses for the prosecution.

544. When charges have been preferred by a Mason or Masons not a member or members of a Lodge or Lodges in the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, the expenses of prosecuting the same shall be paid by the party or parties preferring the charges, and the Lodge interested may require reasonable assurance or security for the payment thereof, unless the Lodge or the Trial Commission shall otherwise determine.

545. The expense of procuring the attendance of witnesses for the defense shall be paid by the accused unless the Lodge or Trial Commission shall otherwise determine. All evidence when so taken by the committee appointed to take testimony and transcribed or a digital audio recording on media shall be filed with the Secretary of the Lodge on or before the time of trial, and shall thereafter be the property of the Lodge and remain in the custody of the Secretary.

546. At all Masonic trials when witnesses are examined in open Lodge the Master shall procure the services of a competent stenographer who is a Master Mason, if one can be procured, to attend such meeting of the Lodge and to

take and transcribe the testimony and evidence and note all objections and the rulings of the Master and the proceedings of the Lodge with reference to such case, the expense thereof to be paid by the Lodge. In lieu of the use of a stenographer and transcription, a digital audio recording, with each speaker identifying themselves prior to speaking may be utilized. The audio recording shall be stored on a media and in a format, both of which are acceptable to the Lodge. All proceedings and witness testimony shall be recorded in the same format. And the same, when so transcribed or recorded, shall be filed with the Secretary of the Lodge and remain thereafter in his custody, and the main facts of the case shall be entered upon the Lodge records.

547. Should an appeal be taken from the decision of the Lodge in any case, the party taking the appeal or the Lodge, if it orders the appeal, shall pay the cost of making a record of the appeal proceedings and of a transcript of the evidence, objections and rulings above mentioned, to be filed with the Grand Lodge.

548. If the Lodge acquits a defendant and a member appeals and the appeal is sustained by the Grand Lodge, the Lodge shall repay the appellant the cost of the appeal as to the items of cost of the record and transcript in connection with such appeal, mentioned in Code 547.

549. In all cases where the accused is found not guilty as to all of the specifications against him, either by the Lodge or a Trial Commission on a trial of the charges and specifications, or by the Grand Lodge on appeal, any expenses which shall have been actually and necessarily paid and properly incurred by the accused for the purposes aforesaid, shall be repaid to him by the Lodge after the time of appeal has expired, but in case an appeal is taken the repayment shall await the final action of the Grand Lodge.

550. In case of a conviction on some specifications and

an acquittal on others, the Lodge shall apportion such expenses in such manner as may be just and equitable.

551. If the accused shall state in writing that he is unable to pay his share of the expenses of the trial and the Lodge by a majority ballot or the Trial Commission shall approve such statement, such expense, excluding attorney's fees, shall be borne by the Lodge.

552. No Lodge shall in any case pay any part of the fees or compensation of attorneys or persons acting as attorneys on either side of any Masonic trial.

Suspension for Non-Payment of Dues

553. The payment of annual dues is a duty incumbent upon every member of a Lodge except as provided in Code 202 and the neglect or refusal to fulfill this duty shall be (except for good cause) an infraction of Masonic law and a violation of a Masonic covenant, and shall subject the delinquent to Lodge discipline.

554. A Lodge may remit, by a majority vote, the whole or any portion of the dues of any member then due, if his pecuniary circumstances justify such action. *(See voting chart for method of balloting in APPENDIX A)*

***555.** No Lodge shall suspend a member for non-payment of dues without due notice. A brother cannot be suspended for non-payment of dues unless the delinquency is for time already passed, which must be no less than one year.

***556.**

557. Any member who may be in arrears for dues to a Lodge,

* Code 555 was amended 1975, 1977 and 2006
* Code 556 was deleted 2006

according to the provisions of its by-laws, shall be notified thereof in writing by the Secretary, with a request for the payment of the same at or before some specified subsequent stated meeting of the Lodge.

558. If a member neglects or refuses to make answer to a notice to pay dues at or before the time designated therein, he shall be notified to appear at some specified subsequent stated meeting and show cause why he should not be suspended for non-payment of dues.

559. If the whereabouts of a brother in arrears for dues be unknown, a written notice shall be addressed to him at his last known place of residence. This shall be deemed due notice, and the Lodge may proceed without his presence.

560. In extreme cases the Master may, in his discretion, summon a brother who is in arrears for dues. If summoned and he fails to answer, upon proof that such summons has been personally served, the offense of non-payment of dues shall be held in abeyance until the delinquent shall show sufficient reason for disobedience of said summons; for which offense any Mason may be expelled, after trial and conviction.

561. When any member in arrears for dues shall refuse or neglect to answer the notices as prescribed in Codes 557 and 558 it shall be the duty of the Secretary to communicate the fact of delinquency to the Lodge at the next stated meeting thereof following the stated meeting specified in the second notice, together with the Lodge records showing the brother's indebtedness, which facts and exhibits shall be deemed ample proof of the brother's delinquency.

562. If a brother who has been served with notice of arrears for dues shall be present in the Lodge, he shall be entitled to submit such pleas in extenuation of his delinquency as he may deem proper, after which he shall retire from the

Lodge. It shall then be the duty of the Worshipful Master, failing a motion being made to grant the delinquent member further time in which to meet his current obligation, or a motion to remit the dues in arrears either in whole or in part as provided by Code 554, without a formal motion, therefore, to cause a ballot to be taken upon the proposition to suspend the delinquent member indefinitely.

563. A two-thirds vote by ballot of the members present shall be necessary to suspend a brother for non-payment of dues. These proceedings shall be deemed due notice and fair trial. *(See voting chart in APPENDIX A)*

*A. A certificate shall be given to each member suspended for non-payment of dues. This certificate shall show the date of suspension and the amount owed at the time of suspension. This certificate shall also include the provisions of Code 582A.

*B. A member under the sentence of suspension for non-payment of dues from an Illinois Lodge shall not be permitted to petition another Illinois Lodge for plural membership until he has been reinstated to good standing in the Lodge from which he had been suspended.

564. No Lodge or Grand Lodge dues shall accrue against a Mason during the term of his suspension.

565. No Lodge shall for any cause abridge the rights or privileges of membership of any of its members without due notice and fair trial and conviction as prescribed in these by-laws.

566. If a Lodge accepts a note of hand from a brother in liquidation of arrearages for dues, it thereby places his

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* Code 563A was added 1991
* Code 563B was added 1991

obligation for such arrearages on a purely business basis, and cannot make the non-payment of such note the basis of charges with a view to penal discipline.

567. A brother cannot be disciplined for arrearage of dues to a Lodge that has ceased to exist.

Appeals

568. Any Mason who has been subjected to the disciplinary proceedings of a Lodge has the right, as has also his accuser, or any member of the Lodge, to appeal from any verdict or sentence rendered or adjudged by the Lodge.

569. All appeals from chartered Lodges or decisions of the Trial Commissions shall be made in writing, and contain a statement of the case, the exceptions taken to the decision of the Lodge or Trial Commission appealed from, and the grounds upon which the same are based.

570. All appeals shall be filed with the Grand Secretary at least thirty days prior to the next succeeding annual meeting of the Grand Lodge.

571. The appellant shall give the Lodge appealed from, notice of his intentions within ninety days after the decision from which the appeal is taken becomes effective.

572. The Secretary of a Lodge from which an appeal has been taken shall, under the direction of the Master, at least thirty days before the next meeting of the Grand Lodge, transmit to the Grand Secretary an attested copy of all the charges, specifications, papers, proceedings, and evidence in the case, and if requested in writing, shall furnish the appellant with a like attested copy but the appellant shall pay the cost of the copy furnished him, and in case the appeal is sustained the amount so paid shall be refunded to him by the Lodge: provided, the times herein specified shall intervene between such action or decision and the annual

meeting aforesaid; if not, then such time shall apply to the next succeeding annual meeting of the Grand Lodge, or may be disposed of by the Grand Master during the recess of the Grand Lodge.

573. Whenever an appeal shall be taken from any constituent Lodge the Grand Lodge shall have sovereign jurisdiction over the whole case, and may upon investigation:

A. Dismiss the appeal, approve the proceedings, or affirm the decision appealed from.

B. Modify or change a decision or sentence, or inflict a penalty where the constituent Lodge has failed to do so.

C. Set aside the proceedings of the Lodge for informality, and remand the case for further proceedings.

574. Whenever the Grand Lodge shall modify or change a decision or sentence adjudged by a constituent Lodge the same shall be final, and upon notice thereof such constituent Lodge shall cause the same to be entered upon its records.

575. Whenever the Grand Lodge, on a review of the trial or other proceedings of a Lodge resulting in the expulsion or suspension of a Mason, shall reverse or annul the judgment of said proceedings, or shall order a new trial, the accused shall be thereby reinstated to all his rights, privileges, and membership. When a case is remanded for new trial, no amendment shall be made to the original charges and specifications, unless the accused shall have due and timely notice thereof.

Reinstatements

576. No Lodge shall have the power to reinstate an expelled Mason to membership, or to his former rights and privileges in Masonry.

577. The Grand Lodge reserves to itself the right, by a majority

vote, at any annual meeting upon a recommendation, as provided in Code 580, to reinstate an expelled Mason to good standing in the Fraternity, as a non-affiliated Mason only, but not to membership in any Lodge.

578. Any brother reinstated by the Grand Lodge shall be entitled to a certificate of the fact from the Grand Secretary, which shall serve in lieu of a regular dimit in case of application for membership to any Lodge in this jurisdiction.

579. Membership in any Lodge by a brother reinstated to good standing in the Fraternity by the Grand Lodge must be acquired by regularly petitioning the Lodge and being elected to membership.

***580.** An expelled Mason seeking reinstatement shall petition the Lodge by which he was expelled for its recommendation to the Grand Lodge for his reinstatement. This petition shall be presented at a stated meeting of the Lodge and be acted upon at the next or subsequent stated meeting. Upon voting approval of the petition by the Lodge, as required in the voting chart, the same shall be so endorsed by the Lodge Secretary, under seal, and be transmitted to the Grand Secretary at least sixty-five days before the annual meeting of the Grand Lodge. *(See voting chart in APPENDIX A)*

581. In case a Lodge from which a Mason has been expelled, or from which he has been indefinitely suspended, without qualification, by the Grand Lodge, ceases to exist the Grand Lodge may be petitioned direct, with a statement of the facts, and upon favorable action by the Grand Lodge the Grand Secretary shall furnish him with a certificate of good standing in the Fraternity.

***582.** Any Mason indefinitely suspended by a constituent Lodge for non-payment of dues may file his written

*Code 580 was amended 1974 & 2012
*Code 582 was amended 1971, 1997 & 2008

petition for reinstatement with the Lodge from which he was suspended at any stated meeting, but not more than three times in any one year. The petition shall lie over until a subsequent stated meeting, but not less than two weeks' time from the date the petition was received, when, on payment or remission of delinquent dues, if any, and upon a favorable ballot of two-thirds of the members present, the petitioner shall be reinstated to membership in his Lodge, or to good standing in the Fraternity only, leaving him non-affiliated, whichever may be requested by the petitioner.

A Mason suspended for any other cause must follow the procedure listed above and if the petition is received, the Master shall appoint an investigating committee consisting of three members, whose names shall be announced in open Lodge. Each member of the committee shall make a thorough investigation and report thereon to the Master. *(See voting chart in APPENDIX A)*

A. A member suspended for non-payment of dues who makes up his arrears within 180 days from date of suspension may be reinstated to good standing in his Lodge without loss of time. A ballot shall be taken at the first stated meeting after receipt of dues *(no petition required)*. It shall take a favorable ballot of two-thirds of the members present, at which time the member may be reinstated to membership in his Lodge, or to good standing in the Fraternity only, whichever may be requested by the member.

***583.** If a Lodge by which a Mason shall have been suspended has ceased to exist, the petition for reinstatement may be made to any Lodge, or to the Grand Lodge, either of

* Code 582A was added 1991 & amended 2008
* Code 583 was amended 1974

which may reinstate the petitioner to good standing in the Fraternity leaving him non-affiliated. (See Code 584)

584. When reinstated to good standing in the Fraternity a brother is entitled to receive from the Lodge, under its seal and without fee, a certificate of reinstatement.

585. A Mason who has been reinstated to good standing in the Fraternity, either by the Grand Lodge or a constituent Lodge, must petition for affiliation, as provided in Code 300. If his suspension was for non-payment of dues and he has been from reinstated to good standing in the Fraternity he may petition any Lodge for membership, and he may petition the Lodge which he was suspended without the payment of an affiliation fee.

***586.** A Lodge shall not refuse to act upon an application for reinstatement in case of suspension for non-payment of dues.

587. In case a Lodge declines to reinstate a Mason, the amount of delinquent dues paid by the petitioner shall be returned to him.

588. Definite suspension shall expire by limitation, and any Mason so suspended shall be entitled to resume membership, and all the rights and privileges thereof, at the expiration of the time specified in his sentence, without vote or other action on the part of the Lodge.

591. A brother is reinstated to membership in a Lodge when the decision suspending or expelling him is reversed or set aside by the Grand Lodge.

592. In the event of the unqualified suspension of a brother by the Grand Lodge, said brother can be reinstated only by the action of the Grand Lodge, and the proceedings

* Code 586 was amended 1971

shall be the same as in the case of an expelled brother. *(See Code 580)*

593. A sentence of suspension pronounced by the Grand Lodge may be so qualified at the time it is passed as to authorize reinstatement by the Grand Master or by the Lodge of original jurisdiction.

594. An expelled Mason who has been reinstated to good standing in the Fraternity by the Grand Lodge can acquire Lodge membership only by regularly petitioning a Lodge for affiliation.

Discipline of Masters

595. A Master may be disciplined by his Lodge after the expiration of his official term for any un-masonic conduct except for official misconduct or a violation of his *official obligation*.

596. All complaints for official misconduct of a Master must be made to the Grand Master or to the Grand Lodge during the official term of the offender, otherwise he shall not be disciplined therefor.

597. The fact that a Master of a Lodge has been deposed from office by order of the Grand Lodge or Grand Master does not of itself deprive him of the rights and privileges of Lodge membership, but such deposition brings him within the disciplinary jurisdiction of the Lodge, which may then place him on trial for unmasonic conduct, but not for official misconduct.

598. When a controversy shall arise between Lodges, or between a Lodge and its Master, or charges be preferred, or an informal complaint be made, the same may be filed with the Grand Lodge, if in session, or during recess be lodged with the Grand Master. If the matter be deemed by the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master of a sufficiently grave character to warrant investigation the Grand Master may proceed in person or appoint a commission of not more than seven nor less than three Masters or Past Masters to investigate such controversy, charges or complaint. Such commission shall have authority to summon witnesses and shall have such other power as may be specially delegated to them by the Grand Master, and shall make such report, and give such opinion to the Grand Master as will enable him to make a final decision. Nothing herein shall be construed to authorize the Grand Master to deprive a brother disciplined under its provisions of the rights and privileges of Masonry for a longer period than during the recess of the Grand Lodge.

599. When any trouble shall arise between brethren or between Lodges which shall require the presence of the Grand Master or other Grand Officers, or a commission, such brethren or Lodges shall be required to pay pro rata the reasonable expense incurred by such commission or officers in the discharge of their official duty.

STANDING RESOLUTIONS

STANDING RESOLUTIONS

That the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of the State of Illinois become a voluntary member of the National Masonic Foundation for the Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Among Children.

Be it further resolved that contributions voluntarily made will comprise any funding obligation incurred by membership in this Foundation.
Adopted October 11, 1986

That the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of the State of Illinois maintain a Blood Sharing Program.
Adopted October 5, 1991

That The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of A. F. & A.M. of the State of Illinois publish and distribute to the membership a quarterly magazine to be known as "Illinois Freemasonry."
Adopted October 5, 1991

That The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of A. F. & A.M. of the State of Illinois and its constituent Lodges to allow any Mason, who is employed by a law enforcement agency and required to carry his concealed or holstered firearm on his person at all times, shall be allowed to carry his concealed or holstered firearm into the Lodge hall and Lodge room to attend any Lodge function.

Furthermore, it shall be the policy of the Grand Lodge and it's constituent Lodges to require any law enforcement agent carrying a firearm to keep the firearm concealed and/or holstered at all times in the Lodge Hall.
Adopted October 10, 2003

That the officers named in Section 120 of the By-laws of this Grand Lodge, namely, the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Secretary, by the procedure therein described, are hereby authorized and empowered, for and on behalf of this Grand Lodge, to make all decisions deemed necessary, appropriate, or advisable regarding the conduct and mission of the Illinois Masonic Home (also known as Mason Point) at Sullivan, Illinois.

Furthermore, that said officers are hereby vested with full authority to perform all acts deemed necessary, appropriate, or advisable to implement such decisions, including but not limited to the powers described in Section 120 of the By-laws. Furthermore, that all actions taken pursuant to these resolutions shall be reported to the next succeeding annual communication. Furthermore, that all resolutions and parts of resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed, and this resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its adoption.

Adopted October 5, 2007

RESOLVED, that it is the sense of this Grand Lodge that the elected officers of this Grand Lodge, when acting as Directors of any charity operated under auspices of this Grand Lodge, should not authorize any contribution or grant by such charity in excess of $100,000 in any fiscal year to any organization other than a charity operated under auspices of this Grand Lodge without first having obtained the approval of this Grand Lodge assembled at its annual meeting.

Adopted October 7, 2016

APPENDIX

A VOTING CHART

(Adopted 1926)

VOTE TO	CODE	HOW TAKEN	REQUIRED
Accept Charges	494	Paper Ballot	Majority
All Ordinary motions, such as Approving minutes, paying bills, etc.		Show of Hands	Majority
Amend By-laws	203	Paper Ballot	Two-thirds
Amend Charges	496	Paper Ballot	Majority
Change Meeting Place	230	Paper Ballot	Majority
Change of Name	456	Paper Ballot	Majority
Consolidate Lodges	451	Paper Ballot	Three-fourths
Courtesy Degrees	364	Show of hands	Majority
Elect for Degrees	330	Ballot Box	Unanimous
Elect Officers	269	Paper Containing Name	Majority votes cast
Elect to Plural Membership	330	Ballot Box	Unanimous
Elect to Honorary Membership	269	Ballot Box	Unanimous
Elect to Membership	330	Ballot Box	*Unanimous
Establish Guilt	534	Paper with "guilty or not guilty"	Two-thirds
Fix Punishment	536	Paper "yes or no" beginning with severest	Two-thirds
Receive Petitions	292	Show of Hands	Majority
Recommend for Restoration	580	Paper Ballot	Two-thirds

Reinstate	582	Paper Ballot	Two-thirds
Remit Dues	554	Show of Hands	Majority
Request Dispensation to Confer Degrees	399	Ballot Box	Unanimous
Request for Trial by Commission	501	Show of Hands	Majority
Suspend for Nonpayment Dues (separate ballot on each)	563	Paper Ballot	Two-thirds
Terminate Honorary Membership	270	Paper Ballot	Three-fourths
Waiver over E.A. or F.C.	314	Show of Hands	Majority
Waiver over rejected petitioner	313	Ballot Box	Unanimous
Withdraw Charges	495	Paper Ballot	Two-thirds

NOTE: Paper ballots not otherwise described should indicate "yes" or "no".
***Except as otherwise provided in Code 330.**

FORMS

In this new edition of the various forms used by Lodges a few changes and additions have been made necessary by direct action of the Grand Lodge, by changes in the law, or by defects developed by experience.

The Grand Lodge has adopted forms for petitions for degrees and affiliations recommended by the Committee on Jurisprudence. These are in accordance with Codes 290 and 300. In all cases care has been taken to suggest forms that are in accord with the law bearing upon the case. The restrictions imposed by the size of these pages and other limitations have not made it possible in all cases to indicate the exact length of blank lines, the necessary space between lines, the size and character of type, and other minor details; but it is thought that the wording will be found adequate to meet the requirements, and that the forms suggested will serve as copies from which Lodges and dealers in Lodge supplies will be able to provide all necessary blanks.

The blanks used in the formation of new Lodges are inserted for the information of Lodges and brethren, but copies of these must not be made for actual use in applying for new Lodges, for the reason that the necessary blanks for this purpose are furnished by the Grand Lodge, and brethren desiring them should apply to the Grand Master, who has the sole authority to grant dispensations for new Lodges when the Grand Lodge is not in session, and who should always be consulted before other steps are taken.

Notice – The following forms are available upon request to the Grand Secretary

Form 1 .....Petition for Degrees

Form 2 .....Petition for Affiliation

Form 3 (White Card)..... Report Changes in Membership

Form 3A .....Notice of Petition Received

Form 3B..... Notice of Petition Received–Plural
(See Codes 2701A & 300A)

Form 3I..... Notice of Petition Received by Invitation
(See Code 289A-J)

Form 4 ..... Application for Dimit
A letter requesting a dimit is sufficient-The form above is only a suggestion

Form 5 .....of Dimit

Form 6 ..... Certificate of Good Standing

Form 6P.....Certificate of Good Standing for Plural Membership

Form 6A ..... Application of Good Standing for Plural Membership

Form 6B.....Certification of Good Standing at Time of Death

Form 9 .....Request to Confer Degrees

Form 10 ..... Request for Waiver of Jurisdiction, Unfinished Work/Territorial

Form 10A .....Waiver of Jurisdiction, Unfinished Work/Territorial

Form 11 .....First Notice to Pay Dues

Form 12 .....Second or Final Notice to Pay Dues

Form 12A.....Certificate of Suspension for NPD

Form 13.....Summons for Lodge

Form 14..... Statement of Dues

Form 15.....Notice of Visitors

Form 16.....Certificate of Reinstatement to Good Standing in the Fraternity

Form 17.....Petition for Reinstatement from Sentence of Suspension

Form 18..... Petition for Recommendation for Reinstatement from Sentence of Expulsion

Form 18E, PM .....Request for Withdrawal as a Plural Member

Form 18F, PM.....Notice of Election to Plural Membership

Form 18G, PM.....Certificate of Withdrawal as a Plural Member

Form 19 Notice of Recommendation for Restoration of an Expelled Mason

Note – This must be sent to the Grand Secretary at least sixty-five days before the Annual Meeting of Grand Lodge, in accordance with Code 580, accompanied by the Brother's Request for Recommendation and other papers if any pertaining to the cause.

Form 19A..... Notice of Trial

Form 19B.....Notice of Consolidation

Form 19G, PM.....Petition for Plural Membership

Form No. 20..... Petition for New Lodge

Note – This petition must be signed by at least twenty Master Masons. The sum of One Hundred Dollars, which is to be in full for dispensation and charter fee, must be paid to the Grand Secretary before a dispensation can be issued.

The blanks used in the formation of new Lodges are inserted for the information of Lodges and brethren, but copies of these must not be made for actual use in applying for new Lodges, for the reason that the necessary blanks for this purpose are furnished by the Grand Lodge, and brethren desiring them should apply to the Grand Master, who has the sole authority to grant dispensations for new Lodges when the Grand Lodge is not in session, and who should always be consulted before other steps are taken.

Provisions Regarding Plural Membership

1. Plural Membership allows a member of an Illinois Lodge to affiliate with another Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction or another Grand Jurisdiction which is in fraternal relations with Illinois.
2. A Member of an Illinois Lodge residing in another Grand Jurisdiction may

petition for affiliation as a Plural Member in that jurisdiction, providing that Grand Jurisdiction recognizes Plural Membership. Refer to the List of Lodges for jurisdictions that recognize Plural Membership.

3. To apply for Plural Membership in an Illinois Lodge (Form 19G), "Petition For Plural Membership" must be used.
4. "Notice of Petition Received-Plural Member" (Form 3B) must be sent to the Grand Secretary. Action cannot be taken until the form has been approved and returned by the office of the Grand Secretary.
5. Plural Members must pay dues in all Lodges.
6. Lodges are required to pay Grand Lodge per capita tax on Plural Members, except Fifty-year Members or those holding Life Membership in the Lodge.
7. A Plural Member may not request a dimit. In order to terminate his membership in any Lodge he must file a "Request for Withdrawal as a Plural Member" (Form 18G). This form may be used to terminate membership in any Lodge.
8. All forms pertaining to Plural Membership are available from the office of the Grand Secretary. Refer to the Manual for Secretaries, (pages 15 & 16) and the Book of Constitutions and By-laws (Codes 260D, 264A, 265F, 267, 290A, 364A and 365A) for assistance in processing Plural Membership.
9. A resident of another Grand Jurisdiction may apply for Plural Membership in Illinois providing the Grand Jurisdiction in which he holds membership recognizes Plural Membership.
10. A Master Mason applying for membership or affiliation as a Plura Member is not subject to regulations of jurisdictional residence whether residing in Illinois or elsewhere (Code 289).
11. Life Membership may be obtained in one Lodge without regard to other Lodges.

Suggested Form for Stated Meetings
(Section 1.)

_____Ill., _____, 20_____
A stated meeting of_____Lodge No._____, A.F. & A. M.
was held in the Lodge hall _____Ill.,
on_____ , _____ , A.D., _____20 A.L. 60_____
(day of week) (date)
The Lodge was opened on the First, Second and Third degrees (or Third Degree Only) of Masonry at___O'Clock__.M., with the following Officers:

W. Bro._____ *Master	Bro. _____J.D.
Bro._____ S.W.	Bro. _____ S.S.
Bro._____ J.W.	Bro. _____ J.S.
Bro._____ Treasurer	Bro. _____Marshal
Bro._____Secretary	Bro. _____ Organist
Bro._____ † as Chaplain	Bro. _____Tyler
Bro._____ S.D.	

***The records must show that the Master or one of the Wardens was present, a Lodge cannot be opened, business transacted or work done, unless one of these officers are present.**

†Where an office is not filled by the regular officer, the minutes should read:

Bro._____ as_____.
Members and visitors present as per register.
(Where register is not used write names in minutes.)
***The Pledge of Allegiance was given.**

MINUTES

The minutes of the stated meeting of_____20_____, and the special meetings of_____20_____,and_____ 20_____, were read and approved.

PETITIONS

FOR THE DEGREES* – Each in prescribed form and accompanied by the required fee, were read, received and referred as follows:
Mr._____; born_____; residence
(full name) (date and place)
_____; _____occupation ; employed by _____; place of business_____
Has never previously petitioned for the degrees. (or) He petitioned_____ _____Lodge, No._____ at_____and was_____
(elected or rejected)

***First order of business must be the Pledge of Allegiance.**

Waiver of jurisdiction granted at a stated meeting of said Lodge held_____, accompanies the petition**. (or) As the applicant resides in the jurisdiction of_____ _____Lodge, No._____at_____, a waiver of jurisdiction granted at their stated meeting held_____, accompanies the petition. Recommended by Brethren_____, _____and_____
referred to Brethren_____, and_____.

(Record each petition separately in the above manner.)

***A notice of each petition for degrees received, should be promptly sent to the Grand Secretary. It must be returned before balloting.**

****If elected or rejected by a Lodge in another state, and jurisdiction is no longer claimed by them, let the minutes show your authority for receiving the petition.**

***FOR AFFILIATION** – Each in prescribed form, (and accompanied by the required fee) were read, received and referred as follows:
Bro._____; born_____; employed by_____; place of business_____. Petition accompanied by dimit* or (application for dimit) from_____Lodge, No._____,_____,_____
(city) (state)
Recommended and vouched for as a Master Mason by Brethren_____, _____, and_____.
Referred to Brethren_____, and_____.

(Record each petition separately in the above manner.)
***If petition is accompanied by other documentary evidence, such as authorized by the Grand Lodge in Codes 421, 551, 554 and 557, record the kind of evidence in the minutes.**

WAIVER* – A petition for degrees was presented, signed by Mr._____; born_____; residence_____. As the petition stated that he had previously petitioned_____Lodge, No._____at and was_____, the Secretary was instructed to write_____
(elected or rejected) Lodge, No.____, requesting a waiver of jurisdiction.**

***Requests for waivers from Lodges outside Illinois, must be sent through the office of the Grand Master.**

****See Form No. 10.**

BALLOTING

The Master having announced that the entire committee had reported in each case and having informed the Lodge how the report stood, ballots were spread on petitions for degrees (or) affiliation plural membership (or) degrees and affiliation, with the following result:

Mr._____; clear
(full name)

Mr._____; not clear

† For Plural Membership Petition Form PM 19G is used

Bro._____; clear*
Bro._____; not clear

***The vote required by Code 314 for a dimitted brother to re-affiliate with the Lodge of which he was last a member, is a two-thirds ballot. In all other cases a unanimous vote is required.**

The election of a brother as authorized in code 375, shall be of no force or effect until the dimit is granted. do not notify the Grand Secretary until the dimit is received. See suggestion "DIMIT RECEIVED" under "UNFINISHED BUSINESS".

Record action on each petition separately. the character of the reports of the committee, whether favorable or unfavorable, must not be recorded.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP – The ballot was spread on the proposal, made at the last stated meeting, to elect Bro._____, to honorary membership, and being clear, he was declared elected. (or) not clear, the proposition was lost.

COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE GRANTED FURTHER TIME – The committee on the petition of Mr._____, for the degrees (or) Bro._____ for affiliation – or for plural membership – was granted further time.

COMMITTEE REMOVED – The Master relieved Bro._____ for affiliation and appointed Brethren_____, _____ and_____announcing that the ballot could not be spread until the next stated meeting.

MEMBER OF COMMITTEE RELIEVED – The Master relieved Bro._____ from further service on the committee on the petition of Mr._____ for the degrees (or) Bro._____for affiliation and appointed Bro._____announcing that the ballot could not be taken until the next stated meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

DIMIT RECEIVED – The Secretary announced that the dimit of Bro._____, who was elected at our stated meeting held_____, had been received. He was recorded as being affiliated with our lodge on_____ .

***Notify the Grand Secretary of this date of affiliation. (Form 3 Card)**

DIMIT GRANTED* – The application of Bro._____, for a dimit was read, and his dues being paid and no charges pending, the Master directed the Secretary to issue the dimit.

***A request for dimit should not be laid over when a brother is entitled to receive it as provided in Code 345. Notify the Grand Secretary when dimit is issued.**

REQUEST TO WITHDRAW APPLICATION FOR DIMIT – The application of Bro. _____for a dimit, was withdrawn upon the written request of the applicant (Code 384).

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP TERMINATED – The proposition to terminate the honorary membership of Bro._____, of which notice was given at the last stated meeting, was taken up, and as three-fourths of the members present balloted in favor of the proposition, the honorary membership was declared terminated.

PLURAL MEMBERSHIP TERMINATED BY WITHDRAWAL – The application of Bro. _____, for a withdrawal of plural membership was read and, his dues being paid and no charges pending, the Master directed the Secretary to issue the withdrawal.

WAIVER GRANTED – The request of _____Lodge, No._____, located_____, for a waiver of jurisdiction over Mr._____, (or) Bro._____an E.A. or F.C. read at the last stated meeting, was taken up. The ballot was spread, and being clear, the request was granted (or) being not clear, the request was denied.

REINSTATED TO MEMBERSHIP IN LODGE – The application for reinstatement of Bro._____, suspended_____, 20_____ for_____, read at the last stated meeting, was taken up. The ballot was spread and, as two-thirds were favorable, he was declared reinstated to membership. (or) as less than two-thirds were favorable, the request was denied.

If applicant petitions for reinstatement to "good standing in the fraternity" only, let the record so state. Notify the Grand Secretary of all reinstatements.

APPLICATION FOR RECOMMENDATION FOR RESTORATION – The application of Bro._____, expelled_____, 20_____, for_____, asking our recommendation to the Grand Lodge for his restoration to good standing in the fraternity, read at the last stated meeting was taken up. The ballot was spread and as two-thirds were in the affirmative, the Secretary was directed to inform the Grand Secretary. (or) as less than two-thirds were in the affirmative, the application was rejected.

(Use form No. 19 furnished by the Grand Secretary).

NEW BUSINESS

APPLICATION FOR DIMIT* -A request for dimit signed by Bro._____ was read. As his dues were paid and no charges pending, the Master directed the Secretary to issue the dimit. **(Form No. 4)**

REQUEST FOR DIMIT AFTER ELECTION TO MEMBERSHIP – A request for dimit signed by Bro._____, was received from_____ Lodge, No._____at_____. As his dues were paid and no charges pending, the Master directed the Secretary to issue the dimit and mail it as requested. **(Form No. 2)**

MEMBERSHIP TERMINATED** – A letter under seal was read from the Secretary of _____Lodge, No._____located at_____ stating that Bro._____, had been named in the charter granted by the Grand Lodge and the Master accordingly declared his membership terminated in our Lodge.

REQUEST FOR WAIVER – A request under seal from_____ Lodge, No._____, located at _____, asking a waiver of jurisdiction over Mr._____, was read and laid over until the next stated meeting.

PROPOSAL FOR HONORARY MEMBERSHIP – The name of Bro. _____ _____,amemberof_____Lodge,No._____, located at_____, was proposed for honorary membership, and action postponed until the next stated meeting.

NOTICE TO TERMINATE HONORARY MEMBERSHIP – Notice was given that at the next stated meeting a proposition to terminate the honorary membership of Bro._____, would be acted upon.

REQUEST FOR COURTESY DEGREES TO ANOTHER LODGE – At the request of the candidate and by a majority vote of the members present, the secretary was instructed to request _____Lodge, No._____, _____, _____
(city) (state*)
to confer the_____degree(s) on Mr. (or) Bro._____ as a courtesy to our Lodge.

***A request for dimit should not be laid over when a brother is entitled to receive it as provided in Code 364. Notify the Grand Secretary when dimit is issued.**
****The Grand Secretary should be promptly notified.**

REQUEST FOR COURTESY DEGREES FROM ANOTHER LODGE – A request from
_____Lodge, No._____, _____, _____
(city) (state*)
to confer the_____degree(s) on Mr. (or) Bro._____, was read and by a majority vote of the members present, the request was granted (or) denied.

***If the Lodge is located in another state, the request must be made through the office of the Grand Secretary. Requests to Lodges within the state, may be made direct.**

REQUEST FOR COURTESY DEGREES – A request from_____Lodge, No._____, _____, _____to confer the
(city) (state)
_____degree(s) on Mr. (or) Bro._____ , was read, and the Master instructed the Secretary to fraternally inform the Lodge making the request that the necessary correspondence must be carried on through the offices of the Grand Secretaries of Illinois and_____.

OBJECTION TO INITIATION – The Master announced that objection had been made by a member of the Lodge to the initiation of Mr._____, elected_____, and ordered the record to show that objection
(date)
had been made and the fee returned. **(Code 329)**

APPLICATION FOR REINSTATEMENT – A written application for reinstatement to
membership in the Lodge (or) to good standing in the fraternity, signed by Bro. _____, who was suspended for_____,
(date)
was read and laid over until the next stated meeting. **(Form No. 17)**

APPLICATION FOR RECOMMENDATION FOR RESTORATION – A written application for recommendation to the Grand Lodge for reinstatement to good standing in the fraternity, signed by Bro. , who was expelled
_____,
(date)
for_____, was read and laid over until the next stated meeting. **(Form No. 18 is furnished by the Grand Secretary)**

COMMUNICATION FROM THE GRAND MASTER – The secretary announced a communication from the Grand Master, under date of____, relating to_____. The communication was read in full and disposed of as ordered therein.

BILLS – The following bills having been approved by the finance committee, were read and by vote of the Lodge ordered paid:

Rent ..... $ _____

Printing ..... _____

Mr._____ (Petition fee returned) ..... _____

Bro._____(Service as tyler) ..... _____

_____..... _____

_____..... _____

RECEIPTS –

Mr. _____ (Petition fee) ..... $ _____

Bro. _____ (E.A. fee) ..... _____

Bro. _____ (F.C. fee) ..... _____

Bro. _____ (M.M. fee) ..... _____

Bro. _____ (Affiliation fee)..... _____

*Dues as per cash book ..... (Page) ..... _____

Interest on investments ..... _____

Total..... _____

(The minutes should show all moneys received since last stated meeting except fees and dues as have been received at special meetings and recorded in the minutes thereof.)

***See Code 258C**

WORK

(For minutes regarding work done see suggestions for minutes under head of Special Meetings.)

The Master gave notice of a special meeting to be held_____. No further business appearing, the Lodge was closed at_____o'clock.

_____
Secretary

_____
Master

Approved_____,20_____

QUORUM –When no quorum is present at the time designated for a Stated meeting, the records should show: "No meeting was held on the date of the stated meeting of_____, 20_____, because a quorum did not appear."

SUGGESTIONS FOR MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETINGS

(Section 2)

_____, Ill.,_____, 20_____
A special meeting of_____Lodge, No._____, A.F. & A.M., was held in the Lodge hall (give location)_____Ill., on _____,_____A.D. 20_____, A.L. 60_____.
(day) (date)
*The Lodge was opened on the_____degree of Masonry at _____o'clock, with the following officers:

W. Bro._____Master	Bro. _____J.D.
Bro._____ S.W.	Bro. _____ S.S.
Bro._____ J.W.	Bro. _____ J.S.
Bro._____ Treasurer	Bro. _____Marshal
Bro._____Secretary	Bro. _____ Organist
Bro._____ as Chaplain	Bro. _____Tyler
Bro._____ S.D.	

Members and visitors present as per register. **(Where register is not used write names in minutes).**

*Work – Mr._____ and Mr._____ were separately prepared, introduced and initiated as entered apprentice Masons.

Bro._____, an Entered Apprentice passed an examination in open Lodge and retired. The Master declared the examination satisfactory.

The Lodge was opened on the second degree of Masonry. Bro._____, an Entered Apprentice, was passed to the degree of Fellowcraft.

Bro._____, a Fellowcraft, was admitted, passed an examination in open Lodge and retired. The Master declared the examination satisfactory.

The Lodge was opened on the third degree of Masonry. Bro._____, was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason.

(*When there is more than one candidate the minutes should show that they were separately prepared, initiated passed or raised as the case may be.)

***Pledge of Allegiance is given prior to opening of a special meeting.**

(Section 2 Cont.)

At_____o'clock the Lodge was called from labor to refreshment until _____o'clock. **(Code 227)**

At_____o'clock the Lodge was called from refreshment to labor on the_____degree of Masonry.

The Lodge dispensed with labor on the third degree and resumed on the second. Bro._____, a Fellowcraft, was admitted, passed an examination in open Lodge and retired The Master declared the examination satisfactory.

The Lodge dispensed with labor on the second degree and resumed on the third. Bro._____, a Fellowcraft, was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason.

RECEIPTS –

Bro. _____ (E.A. Fee) .....$ _____

Bro. _____ (F.C. Fee) .....$ _____

Bro. _____ (M.M. Fee) .....$ _____

Total dues as per cash book page.....$ _____

Total Receipts.....$ _____

Note – All moneys received at a special meeting by the Secretary should be entered in the minutes of that meeting.

The Lodge was closed at_____o'clock.

_____
Secretary

_____
Master

Approved_____,20_____

NOTICE!

All changes in membership must be reported as they occur. Use Form 3 which is furnished by the Grand Secretary.

For Plural Membership use Form 3P.

SUGGESTIONS FOR MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETINGS MERGED INTO STATED
(Section 3)

When a Special Meeting immediately precedes a Stated Meeting, the minutes of the opening and work done at Special Meeting should be as given under corresponding heads same items of Special Meeting provided the work is completed.

The records should show that at o'clock (the hour being not less than fifteen nor more than forty-five minutes after the time named in the by-laws), the Master announced that the time having arrived for the Stated Meeting and the Lodge having been opened on the first, second and third degrees, the Special Meeting was merged into a Stated for the dispatch of business.

The stations and places were filled as follows:

W. Bro._____Master	Bro. _____J.D.
Bro._____ S.W.	Bro. _____ S.S.
Bro._____ J.W.	Bro. _____ J.S.
Bro._____ Treasurer	Bro. _____Marshal
Bro._____Secretary	Bro. _____ Organist
Bro._____ as Chaplain	Bro. _____Tyler
Bro._____ S.D.	

***The minutes of business transacted will be as suggested under the appropriate headings of Stated Meeting.**

If work follows business, the suggestions for minutes will be found under Section 2.

The minutes should show receipts and closing as given under corresponding heads of Stated Meeting.

***Pledge of Allegiance is first order of business.**

REPORT OF SECRETARY

At each annual meeting of the Lodge the secretary should present a complete report of the work and business of the year. These reports can be made of great value and much interest to the membership, and taken together should embody a very full history of the Lodge. As the circumstances and conditions vary in different Lodges, no attempt will be made to prescribe a fixed form. The following condensed summary of points to be covered will afford a hint as to the more important items to be included, and to these other items may be added or more detailed information given.

MEETINGS

Number of stated meetings held. _____

Number of special meetings held. _____

PETITIONS		WORK	
Number of Petitions for Degrees received	_____	Number initiated	_____
Number elected	_____	Number passed	_____
Number rejected	_____	Number raised	_____
Number of Petitions for Affiliation received			
Number elected	_____		
Number rejected	_____		
Number of Petitions for plural membership	_____		
Number elected	_____		
Number rejected	_____		

MEMBERSHIP

Number of members at last annual meeting _____

Number raised	_____		
Number affiliated	_____		
Number affiliated as plural members	_____		
Number reinstated	_____		
		Increased	_____
Number dimitted	_____		
Number of plural members withdrawn	_____		
Number suspended	_____		
Number expelled	_____		
Number died	_____		
		Decreased	_____

Present membership _____

FINANCIAL STATUS

Cash or assets at last annual meeting	$	_____
Amount received for _____ E.A. degrees conferred	$	_____
Amount received for _____ F. C. degrees conferred	$	_____
Amount received for _____ M.M. degrees conferred	$	_____
Amount received for dues	$	_____
Amount received for Endowment Fund	$	_____
Amount received for Lodge Charity Fund	$	_____
Amount received for interest and from other sources	$	_____
Paid to Treasurer	$	_____

EXPENSES

Paid for rent	$	_____
Paid for Grand Lodge dues	$	_____
Paid for music	$	_____
Paid for Secretary's salary	$	_____
Paid for Tyler's salary	$	_____
Paid for refreshments	$	_____
Paid for charity	$	_____
Paid to Endowment Fund	$	_____
Paid for funeral services	$	_____
Other disbursements	$	_____

ASSETS – 20

Cash on hand	$	_____
Bonds	$	_____
Securities Other property	$	_____

SUGGESTED LODGE BUDGET

ANTICIPATED INCOME

Membership dues	$ _____
Petition fees	$ _____
Fees for degrees	$ _____
Illinois Masonic Charities Fund	$ _____
Lodge Charity Fund	$ _____
Contributions	$ _____
Rental income	$ _____
Income from Investments	$ _____
Miscellaneous	$ _____

TOTAL ANTICIPATED INCOME $ _____

ANTICIPATED DISBURSEMENTS

Grand Lodge per-capita	$ _____
George Washington Memorial	$ _____
Rent	$ _____
Real Estate Taxes	$ _____
Insurance	$ _____
Utilities	$ _____
Salaries, Sec'y, Tyler, etc.	$ _____
Withholding, social security tax	$ _____
Funeral, hospital expense	$ _____
Telephone	$ _____
Printing & Postage	$ _____
Gifts, PM aprons, jewels, etc.	$ _____
Garment cleaning	$ _____
Entertainment	$ _____
Lodge Charity	$ _____
Illinois Masonic Charities	$ _____
Refreshments	$ _____
Paraphernalia	$ _____
Miscellaneous	$ _____

TOTAL ANTICIPATED DISBURSEMENTS$ _____

EXCESS OF INCOME/DISBURSEMENTS $ _____

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(b) Welcome and introduction of guests.

(c) Reading and approval of minutes (last stated meeting and all subsequent special meetings) .

(d) Reading and referring of petitions.

(e) Balloting on petitions.

(f) Reports from all committees.

(g) Communications read by the secretary.

(h) Unfinished business.

(i) New business.

(j) Reading and approving of bills.

(k) Announcements (special meetings, social events, degree work).

(l) Sickness and distress.

(m) Masonic education.

(n) Close lodge.