

2021 Revision

**ANNOTATED**

# **Constitution and By-Laws**

**With  
ORGANIC ACTS  
STANDING RESOLUTIONS  
RULES OF ORDER**

**The Grand Lodge  
Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons  
of the State of Missouri**



**ANNOTATED**

# **Constitution and By-Laws**

**INCORPORATING AMENDMENTS  
ADOPTED THROUGH THE 199<sup>th</sup>  
ANNUAL COMMUNICATION  
September 28, A.D. 2021, A.L. 6021**

**With  
ORGANIC ACTS  
STANDING RESOLUTIONS  
RULES OF ORDER**

**The Grand Lodge  
Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons  
of the State of Missouri**

*\*This edition supersedes all prior revisions, supplements, and substitute pages*

# **Document History**

This is the original base document of the 2017 Revision

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## How to Use This Book

This book supersedes and replaces all prior versions distributed prior to 2015, including all supplements and substitute loose-leaf pages. Future updates will be made available electronically for download by lodges and brethren, and will be made available for purchase for actual cost as determined by the Grand Secretary.

The value of this book will be increased by an understanding of its plan and arrangement.

The Constitution remains substantially as it was adopted in 1866 and is printed in that form. Selected cross references to the Constitution have been included in relevant sections of the By-Laws.

The By-Laws are arranged in chapters, articles, and sections. In accord with the modern numbering system used in the Revised Statutes of Missouri 2000, the numbers of neither the articles nor the sections are consecutive, to allow for convenient insertion of new articles or sections. For example, currently there are no Articles 12, 26, 27, 33 or 34 because they are reserved for future use, if needed. The numbers of the sections consist first of the article number, then a decimal point, and then a three digit number, the last digit of which is zero. Thus, nine numbers are provided for new or substituted sections between each section.

Following many of the sections appear cross references to other relevant sections. The cross references should be checked whenever a section is studied. Also following some sections are brief annotations to help interpret the law itself. In some instances, the annotations contain reference to subsequent changes to the law that may substantively affect the meaning and application of the section. These primarily are derived from actions taken by a majority of the Grand Lodge membership as reported in the official Proceedings. The Proceedings are published each year after the conclusion of each Grand Lodge annual communication. At the end of each annotation appears a citation, by year and page, to the source or sources of the annotation. Thus, the citation "1919-14" refers to Page 14 of the 1919 Proceedings. A citation without a page number means that the page number was unavailable, most likely because the official Proceedings were awaiting publication.

Some annotations are derived from decisions and edicts of the Grand Masters and reports of the Committees on Jurisprudence and on Appeals and Grievances. Other annotations are derived from resolutions passed by the membership at an annual communication. In such cases, the citation is preceded by the abbreviation "Res."

The annotations themselves are merely editorial statements by the Committee on By-Laws. The annotations have not been approved by the Grand Lodge membership, and therefore, are not to be considered as authoritative. **Reference should be made to the original decision or resolution as published in the official Proceedings for its exact language and scope, and then interpreted in the light of the condition of the law as it stands at the time of the inquiry.**

The Committee on By-Laws has attempted to annotate only those decisions, edicts and resolutions which it considered useful and pertinent to the law as it currently stands. Over time many of the annotated decisions, edicts and resolutions used in earlier editions have been omitted as obsolete, by change of law or circumstance, and many others because they now are embodied in the law itself. In some instances, the text of annotations used in earlier editions has been changed to harmonize with the present law. The decisions, edicts and resolutions that are referenced, however, are not exhaustive. The failure to annotate a particular decision, edict or resolution does not mean that it still may not be good law, and worthy of reliance. This book has been prepared for use as a practical working tool under the law and conditions existing as of September 29, 2015.

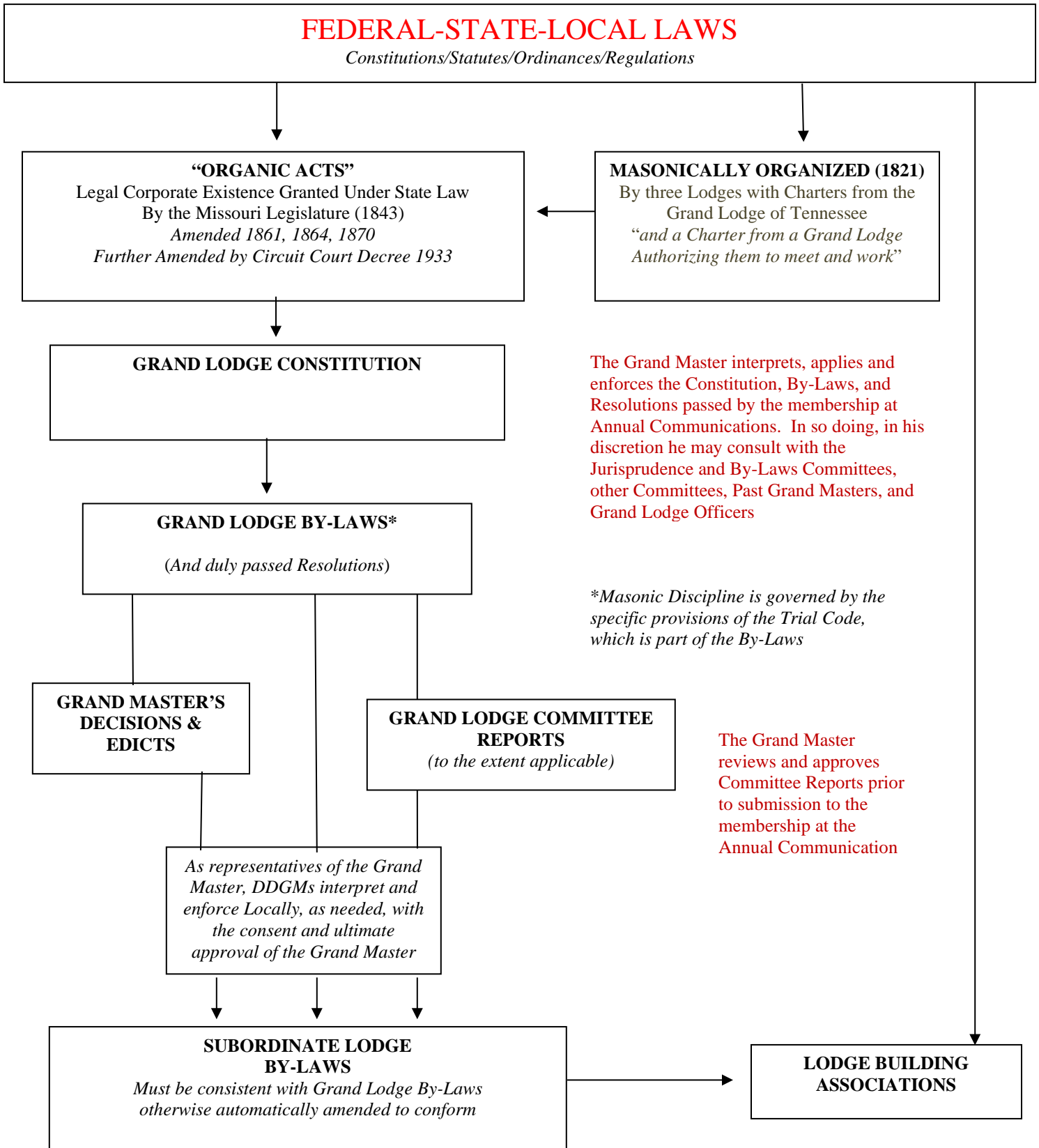
The Committee on By-Laws is charged under section 5.190 to regularly update the By-Laws, make technical corrections, and to provide annotations designed to assist the reader. It cannot alter the substantive meaning of any legislation passed or action taken by a majority of the Grand Lodge membership at an annual communication. Nor is it authorized to interpret or issue opinions on questions of Masonic Law. That power is reserved solely to the Grand Master acting pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Constitution and the By-Laws.

**Questions involving the proper application, interpretation, and enforcement of Masonic Law in the first instance should be first directed to the appropriate District Deputy Grand Master. See, Section 4.030(i).** In many instances this will resolve the matter, but if not, the Grand Master ultimately will decide and take any action he deems necessary and appropriate.

The flow chart on the following page is intended to show how the various component parts and sources of our Masonic Law—the Organic Acts, Constitution, By-Laws, Grand Master’s Decisions and Edicts, and Committee Reports—all fit together to form the whole of our “Masonic Governance”. Like the annotations, this chart is offered purely as an aid to the reader. It presents only a broad, general overview and should not be considered as authoritative in and of itself.



# “MASONIC GOVERNANCE”



## Historical Preface

The first Masonic lodge established in what is now Missouri was constituted November 14, 1807, under warrant issued by The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania And Masonic Jurisdiction Thereunto Belonging July 17, 1807, to Aaron Elliott, Master, Andrew Henry, Senior Warden, and George Bullitt, Junior Warden, for The Louisiana Lodge No. 109, to be held in St. Genevieve, Territory of Louisiana.

On September 15, 1808, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania granted a warrant to Meriwether Lewis (leader of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and the first governor of the Territory of Louisiana), Master, Thomas Fiveash Riddick (our first Grand Master), Senior Warden, and Rufus Easton, Junior Warden, for St. Louis Lodge No. 111. This lodge was constituted November 8, 1808, by Otho Shrader under dispensation dated September 16, 1808.

Later, the Grand Lodge of Tennessee granted charters to three lodges in Missouri Territory: Missouri Lodge No. 12, in St. Louis, October 8, 1816; Joachim Lodge No. 25, at Herculaneum, October 5, 1819, and St. Charles Lodge No. 28, at St. Charles, October 5, 1819.

In 1820 Unity Lodge was established at Jackson under dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Indiana. It was in existence when the Grand Lodge of Missouri was organized, and was re-chartered by it as Unity Lodge No. 6.

On February 22, 1821, representatives from Missouri Lodge No. 12, Joachim Lodge No. 25, and St. Charles Lodge No. 28, assembled in the hall of Missouri Lodge and resolved to organize a grand lodge for the State of Missouri. The Grand Lodge was organized April 21, 1821, and a constitution and by-laws were adopted. Missouri officially became a state on August 10, 1821.

The "Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Ancient Masons of the State of Missouri" was incorporated by act of the General Assembly approved February 17, 1843. An amendment to this act, repealing its requirement of operation of a college, was approved February 11, 1861. By act of the General Assembly approved February 13, 1864, certain named members of the "Grand Lodge of the State of Missouri of Free and Accepted Ancient Masons" were incorporated as "The Grand Lodge of the State of Missouri of Free and Accepted Ancient Masons." By act of the General Assembly approved March 22, 1870, the "Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri" was, among other things, "authorized to own property of any value not exceeding \$300,000.00." By decree of the Circuit Court of the City of Saint Louis entered November 18, 1933, the corporate names used in these legislative acts were replaced by "The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri," which is now the correct corporate name of the Grand Lodge, and the powers of the corporation, especially with reference to the Masonic Home and to the holding of property, were greatly amplified. The texts of these organic acts and decree appear at Pages **Error! Bookmark not defined.** to **Error! Bookmark not defined.** of this book.

The present Constitution, which has been little amended, was adopted May 28, 1866, with a Code of By-Laws. A new edition was published in 1870, and another in 1875, including resolutions and rulings after 1870.

Still another edition, including the resolutions, decisions and rulings through 1881, was prepared by a committee consisting of John D. Vincil, Allan McDowell, and Lee A. Hall, and was published in 1882.

In 1892 the Grand Lodge adopted and published a "complete and thorough codification and revision of our laws," prepared by a committee consisting of Noah M. Givan, William M. Williams, John D. Vincil, George E. Walker, and Allan McDowell. This volume also contained the Constitution, the Ancient Charges, ceremonies and general forms.

In 1908 the Grand Lodge adopted another revised code, prepared by a committee consisting of Arthur M. Hough and Noah M. Givan and Allan McDowell, both of whom died while the work was in progress, and who were replaced by William F. Johnson and Algernon S. Houston.

In 1921 the Grand Lodge adopted the next revision, prepared by a committee consisting of David M. Wilson, Byrne E. Bigger, and Eugene McQuillin. This revision was forthwith published, with the Acts of Incorporation, the Constitution, the Old Regulations, the Ancient Charges, ceremonies, and general forms, but without annotations. This revision was annotated by a committee consisting of William S. Campbell, Thomas H. Reynolds, and C. Lew Gallant. The work, including all amendments to the By-Laws through 1925, was published in that year, with the Acts of Incorporation, Constitution, standing resolutions, and general forms.

In 1947 the Grand Lodge adopted a revision of all of the By-Laws except the Trial Code. The committee which prepared this revision consisted of Byrne E. Bigger, Ray V. Denslow, Val Smith, Harold L. Reader, and James W. Skelly. The work was published without annotations, but with the Organic Acts, Constitution, the Standing Resolutions, the Old Regulations, Ancient Charges, and general forms.

A proposed revision of the Trial Code having failed of acceptance by the Grand Lodge in 1950, an annotated edition of the Code of 1921, including all amendments and decisions through 1950, was published.

In his address to the 1955 Annual Communication, Grand Master Orestes Mitchell, Jr. called attention to the great need of complete revision and annotation of all the By-Laws of the Grand Lodge, and presented resolutions, which were adopted, for the appointment by the incoming Grand Master of a committee on revision and the making of arrangements for preparation of annotations and publication of the entire work. The committee appointed consisted of Orestes Mitchell, Jr., Chairman, Harold Reader, Richard O. Rumer, R. Jasper Smith, and Martin B. Dickinson. A preliminary draft of its proposed complete revision was printed and circulated in April, 1957. With amendments suggested in discussion of the preliminary draft by many thoughtful members, the entire revision was adopted by the Grand

Lodge by sections and as a whole September 24 and 25, 1957, and became effective under its Section 36.010 at the close of the 1957 Annual Communication, September 26, 1957.

The Grand Lodge authorized the Committee on Revision of the By-Laws to prepare and edit annotations, cross references, and other pertinent material to be published, and supervise the publication of the volume (Proc. 1957, p. 111). The duties of the special Committee on Revision were assigned to the standing committee on By-Laws under Section 5.190 of the Revision. The committee, with the substitution of Robert C. Brinkman for Harold L. Reader, was appointed.

At the same time the Grand Lodge authorized the Committee on Forms and Ceremonies, with the consent of the Grand Master, to make such revisions as modern practice makes desirable, and to collaborate in determining the ceremonies to be incorporated in this volume. William J. Craig, Bruce H. Hunt, Morris E. Ewing, and Freelon K. Hadley were appointed as the Committee on Forms and Ceremonies, which has prepared revisions of the ceremonies for the installation of subordinate lodge officers and for the laying of cornerstones. These revised ceremonies are incorporated in this volume. When revised, other ceremonies may be published in the pocket part.

The Committee hopes that this revision, preserving the substance of the Masonic jurisprudence developed in Missouri since 1821, but almost totally rewritten to the best of its ability, will bring more light to those who use it.

ORESTES MITCHELL, JR.,

*Chairman*

RICHARD O. RUMER

R. JASPER SMITH

MARTIN B. DICKINSON

ROBERT C. BRINKMAN

*Committee.*

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Twenty years ago the Revised Constitution and By-Laws of the Grand Lodge of Missouri were adopted. To the credit of the then Committee on Revising of the By-Laws no revision of the volume has since been required. Various decisions of Grand Masters, Resolutions, and Amendments to the By-Laws have been made and adopted at the annual communications thereafter which were duly incorporated in the Annual pocket-part.

Most Worshipful Brother Martin B. Dickinson, a member of the original revision committee and a present member of the Committee on By-Laws, suggested the cumulative material in the pocket-part be placed and incorporated in the bound volume for its more efficient and permanent use. After consultation with the Grand Lodge Officers, Committee on Ways and Means, and interested Brethren, the Committee on By-Laws unanimously agreed this edition of the Constitution and By-Laws be printed.

The format and composition of the volume remains substantially as the original except certain ceremonies have been omitted. These ceremonies and others are available in pocket-size form from the office of the Grand Secretary.

The Committee hopes that this second edition which is the result of almost two years' effort will be easier and more convenient to those who seek more light therein.

J. MORGAN DONELSON, *Chairman*  
MARTIN B. DICKINSON  
RONALD M. BELT  
JAMES K. RILEY  
NEWTON R. BRADLEY

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In 1992 Grand Master Frank Ames Arnold appointed a special committee to develop a general revision to the Grand Lodge Constitution and By-Laws. The primary objective of the committee was to develop revisions that would make the Constitution and By-Laws more understandable and usable by officers and members. However, the committee also reviewed the By-Laws with the intent of updating provisions where there had been significant interpretational or implementation problems. The committee, consisting of J. Edward Blinn, William H Chapman, Daniel F. Cole, Earl K. Dille, D. Robert Downey, and Harry Gershenson, Jr. was re-appointed by succeeding Grand Masters in 1993 through 1999.

At the 1996 Annual Session a resolution was introduced to adopt a general revision of the Grand Lodge Constitution and By-Laws, pursuant to Section 35.030, for action at the 1997 Annual Session. The proposed revision was submitted in 1997, but the Revisions Committee recommended that the proposal be tabled for one year to allow for distribution to and review by the constituent lodges. This recommendation was approved, the proposal was tabled, and copies were distributed to each lodge. At the 1998 Annual Session the proposal was again tabled for one year for additional review. At the 1999 Annual Session the proposed revisions to the By-Laws were approved. The minor proposed revisions to the Constitution were tabled for one year to allow for distribution and approval pursuant to Article V, Section 2 of the Constitution.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
J. Edward Blinn  
William H Chapman  
Daniel F. Cole  
Earl K. Dille  
D. Robert Downey  
Harry Gershenson, Jr.

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Since the general revision of the *Constitution and By-Laws* was approved in 2000 only one minor change was made to the Constitution. Article II, concerning the titles of Grand Lodge offices, was amended in 2001. However, several changes to the By-Laws were approved, some of which were significant. All these changes were regularly published and distributed as substitute loose-leaf pages up to May 2007.

In 2007 MWB Bruce R. Austin asked the Committee on By-Laws to again review the By-Laws as a whole and to recommend any needed changes, both technical and substantive. As was the case in the past, this review necessarily was very time consuming and ultimately resulted in numerous recommendations.

In 2009 MWB Larry C. Reynolds appointed a Special Committee chaired by Barry V. Cundiff and consisting of R. Scott Gardner, C. Brent Stewart, and MWB Vern H. Schneider, Chairman of the Jurisprudence Committee, to review those recommendations. The Special Committee concluded that while many of the recommendations could and should be implemented by the Committee on By-Laws in its discretion under Section 5.190, many of the proposed changes were substantive and therefore required formal legislation. It also recommended that the Jurisprudence and Appeals and Grievances Committees fully review the recommended substantive changes to the Trial Code. Legislation implementing these and perhaps other changes may be proposed as legislation in the near future.

This edition incorporates most of the past Committees' recommended technical changes, legislation passed since 2007, and other minor changes and updates deemed appropriate by the current Committee on By-Laws. We sincerely thank all those who have toiled so diligently on this project, namely Most Worshipful Brothers Elmer E. Revelle, Myron R. (Bob) Berger, Steven I. Toybes, Gordon E. Hopkins, Glenn E. Means, and Vern H. Schneider, and Right Worshipful Brothers Alan E. DeWoskin, Barry V. Cundiff, and R. Scott Gardner. We also thank Brother Mathew James, Senior Warden of Twilight Lodge No. 114, and Right Worshipful Brother Jon Broyles for their technical assistance.

As it always will be and has been since the beginning, the task of updating the *Constitution and By-Laws* necessarily must be a work in progress. Please notify the Committee of any errors or omissions. Despite the delay in publication, and while no doubt far from perfect, it is our sincere hope that this updated edition accurately reflects the present law, and that with its proper use as one of our most important Masonic resources, the craft will profit thereby.

*Respectfully submitted,*

William M. Shansey  
Jonce B. Chidister  
Robert N. Young  
C. Brent Stewart, Chairman

The 2014 Edition of the Grand Lodge *Constitution and By-Laws* includes amendments adopted by the Grand Lodge membership and annotations through the 193<sup>rd</sup> Annual Communication. Most significant are the revisions to the Trial Code, which had remained in many ways unchanged since its adoption in 1921. For many years Grand Masters recommended a comprehensive review and update of the Trial Code, however, no revisions were approved. In 2007, Most Worshipful Brother Bruce R. Austin again recommended that the Trial Code be reviewed as part of a comprehensive update of the By-Laws. Several special committees, consisting of several past Grand Masters and various attorneys, worked on suggested changes over the next six years, finally resulting in the adoption of the revisions by the membership this year. Your Chairman would like to thank the legislation's co-sponsor, Right Worshipful Brother Alan E. DeWoskin, for his invaluable assistance throughout the entirety of the project, as well as Most Worshipful Brother Steven I. Toybes, Most Worshipful Brother Donald E. Scott, Right Worshipful Brother Brent Stewart, and the members of the Jurisprudence Committee for their input and guidance during the drafting and editing process. A special thanks to Most Worshipful Brother Bruce R. Austin as well as to Most Worshipful Brother David L. Ramsey, Most Worshipful Brother Jon B. Broyles, and their respective Grand Line officers for their unanimous support of the final legislation. While it is sincerely hoped that the Brethren will not need to invoke the Trial Code to address problems that from time to time unfortunately arise among the Craft, we nevertheless hope the revision, reorganization, and clarification of the Trial Code will well serve the Craft, as needed, for years to come.

Jonce B. Chidister  
Chairman  
Grand Lodge Committee on By-Laws

# Organic Acts

## ORIGINAL ACT OF INCORPORATION

*(Laws Missouri 1843, p. 221)*

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:*

SEC. 1. That Priestly H. McBride, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State of Missouri, Joab Bernard, Deputy Grand Master, S. W. B. Carnegy, Past Grand Master, Joseph Foster and Charles H. Bower, Grand Wardens, John Simonds, Grand Treasurer, Richard B. Dallam, Grand Secretary, Hiram Chamberlain, Grand Chaplain, A. Douglass, Grand Visitor, Wm. R. Singleton and John Sleigh, Grand Deacons, E. S. Rugles, Grand Marshal, Jesse Little, Grand Pursuivant, James Eagon, Grand Steward, A. Lightburn, Grand Sword Bearer, and Efram Owens, Grand Tyler, the present officers of said Grand Lodge, together with such as by the constitution of said Grand Lodge are members thereof, and their successors in office, be, and they are hereby constituted and established a body politic and corporate to be known by the name of the "Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Ancient Masons of State of Missouri," and by that name shall have perpetual succession a common seal with power to alter and change the same at pleasure; and by that name, may sue, and be sued, plead and be impleaded, tract and be contracted with as other corporations.

(Sections 2 to 11, inclusive, provide for the operation of asylums for the nurture and education of indigent children of both sexes, and also a college of learning for instruction in the higher branches of science.)

Approved February 17, 1843.

## AMENDMENT OF ORIGINAL ACT

*(Laws Missouri 1861, p. 185)*

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri as follows:*

SECTION 1. So much of an act entitled "an act to incorporate the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Ancient Masons of the State of Missouri," approved the seventeenth day of February, 1843, and so much of the tenth section of said act as requires of said Grand Lodge the establishment or sustaining, or keeping in being, of asylums for the nurture and education of indigent children, of both sexes, or either sex, such others as the Grand Lodge may admit, and so much as requires establishing or sustaining a college of learning for instruction in the higher branches of science, to be under the control and patronage of said Grand Lodge, be and the same is hereby repealed: *provided, always*, That nothing in this repealing act contained shall interfere with, or in any way impair or lessen, any rights which have arisen and now exist in any relations between the Grand Lodge and any person whomsoever; but all such rights and demands whatsoever are hereby, reserved from the operation of this act.

Approved, February 11, 1861



## **SECOND ACT OF INCORPORATION**

*(Laws Missouri 1863, p. 387)*

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:*

SECTION 1. That John H. Turner, W. N. Loker, [John] D. Vincil, A. L. McGregor, J. D. Daggett, A. O. Sullivan [A. O'Sullivan], and their associates, members of the Grand Lodge of the State of Missouri of Free and Accepted Ancient Masons, according to the constitution, by-laws and regulations of the same, and their regular successors, be, and they are hereby created a body politic and corporate, by the name and style of "The Grand Lodge of the State of Missouri of Free and Accepted Ancient Masons," by that name are hereby invested with power and authority to acquire, hold, possess, use, occupy and enjoy, real and personal estate to the amount of fifty thousand dollars, and to sell and convey or otherwise dispose of the same, according to the by-laws, rules and regulations of the aforesaid Grand Lodge; and the said corporation, by its name aforesaid, shall have perpetual succession, shall be competent to contract and be contracted with, to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered, defend and be defended, in all courts and places whatsoever, and to have and use a common seal, and the same to alter at their pleasure; and said Grand Lodge shall have power to add to, alter, amend or repeal the constitution, by-laws, rules and regulations for the government of [the] same, provided such constitution, by-laws, rules and regulations be not contrary to the constitution and laws of this State or of the United States.

SEC. 2. The said corporation shall be exempt from the requirements of sections thirteen, fourteen, fifteen [and] sixteen of first article of general law entitled "an act concerning corporations," approved November 23, 1855, and shall have power [to] loan the money of said Grand Lodge at the legal rate of interest, provided that the powers hereby granted shall not be used for banking, insuring property, or doing anything not expressly granted by the provisions of this act. That all the real estate held or acquired by the Grand Lodge of the State of Missouri of Free and Accepted Ancient Masons, for the purpose of erecting halls for the use of the Order, or for the purpose of erecting school houses for the education of orphan children, be and the same are hereby exempted from the payment of State and county taxes, so long as the same shall be held for the purposes above mentioned.

Approved, February 13, 1864.

## **ACT INCREASING AUTHORITY TO OWN PROPERTY**

*(Laws Missouri 1870, p. 60)*

Whereas, the State of Missouri did, by an act of the General Assembly, approved May 13, 1861, accept as a donation from the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri, the college, grounds and property of said lodge, located in the city of Lexington, on the terms set out in said act; and, whereas, It is represented to this General Assembly as being expedient and acceptable to said Grand Lodge to reconvey said college, grounds and property; therefore,

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:*

SECTION 1. The Governor is hereby authorized and directed to cause to be executed and delivered to the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri, a good and sufficient deed, in the name of the State, for the college, grounds and property of the Missouri Military Institute at Lexington, as described in a certain deed, bearing date May, 1866, whereby said college, grounds and property were conveyed to the State of Missouri by said Grand Lodge, on the terms and for the purposes therein set forth. And said deed, so executed, shall be signed by the Governor and countersigned by the Secretary of State, with the seal of the State affixed thereto.

SEC. 2. All moneys heretofore appropriated by the State for the benefit of said Military Institute, and remaining in the hands of the treasurer or other officer of said Military Institute, shall be refunded and paid back by such treasurer or other officer having the same, to the Treasurer of the State, taking his receipt therefor; *provided*, that on the acceptance of the deed to be executed under section one of this act, the State shall not be liable, under any former act or contract, for the payment of any sum or sums of money to said institution; and *provided, further*, that said Grand Lodge, upon the acceptance of such deed, shall be, and is hereby, authorized to own property of any value not exceeding three hundred thousand dollars.

Approved, March 22, 1870.

**AMENDMENT CHANGING THE CORPORATE  
NAME OF THE GRAND LODGE AND  
ENLARGING ITS POWERS**

*(Decree of the Circuit Court of the City of Saint Louis,  
Division One, Entered November 18, 1933)*

BE IT REMEMBERED that on the 27th day of September, 1933, did come the above named corporation variously known as "Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Ancient Masons of the State of Missouri," "The Grand Lodge of the State of Missouri of Free and Accepted Ancient Masons" and "The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri," together with eighteen officers thereof and on said date said corporation and said officers thereof did, with the advice and consent of the Chairman of the Jurisprudence and Laws Committee, which said Committee is by the By-Laws of said corporation termed the Committee on Jurisprudence, of said corporation, present and submit to this Court, in manner provided by law, a proposed amendment to the Charter of said corporation, which amendment consists of the contents, to be included within the existing charter of said corporation, of the following quoted Paragraph 1, Paragraph 2 and Paragraph 3, to-wit:

*"Paragraph 1.* In lieu and instead of (a) the name "Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Ancient Masons of the State of Missouri" applied, by Act of the General Assembly of the State of Missouri approved the seventeenth day of February, 1843, to the body politic and corporate, hereinbelow sometimes termed corporation, which said Act constituted and established certain persons in said Act named, together with such as by the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of the State of Missouri were then members thereof, and their successors in office, and (b) the name "The Grand Lodge of the State of Missouri of Free and Accepted Ancient Masons," applied by Act of the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, approved the thirteenth day of February, 1864, to a body politic and corporate by said last mentioned Act therein stated to be created, there is hereby substituted the name, which shall hereafter be that of the said corporation, "The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri."

*"Paragraph 2.* Without, in any manner, limiting or lessening, any of the powers, rights, or privileges now by said corporation possessed, said corporation shall be and is empowered to assess and collect, from the several subordinate lodges and from the members thereof under its jurisdiction, such sums of money as may be deemed necessary to be appropriated for the benefit of said corporation and its members, benevolences and charities; to maintain, control, conduct, operate and superintend charities, benevolences, homes, and hospitals for the relief and care of indigent Masons, their widows and orphans within or without a Masonic Home, either directly or through agencies and trustees created and appointed by said corporation; and to purchase or otherwise acquire, to have, hold, lease, mortgage or otherwise create liens on, to sell, convey, exchange, transfer, assign, or lease, or, in any other manner whatsoever to acquire and dispose of real and personal property necessary or convenient in carrying out any of the purposes of this corporation; and to accept and receive gifts, devises, bequests, donations, annuities and endowments of real or personal property and to use, hold and enjoy the same, both as to principal and income and invest and reinvest the same or any part thereof for the furtherance of (a) any of the objects, interests or purposes of this corporation as hereinbefore stated, (b) such of the objects, interests or purposes of this corporation as may have been authorized at any time after that certain action taken by said corporation at its One Hundred and Twelfth (112th) Annual Communication, held in the year 1932, A.D., by which action said corporation did direct the officers of said corporation, with the advice and consent of the Chairman of its Jurisprudence and Laws Committee, to proceed to secure an amendment to its charter under the laws of the State of Missouri, or (c) any of the objects, interests or purposes of this corporation which may now or hereafter be authorized."

*"Paragraph 3.* Nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to limit, lessen or interfere with, in any manner, any of the powers, rights, or privileges of said corporation as the same exist under and by virtue of any Act or Acts of the General Assembly of the State of Missouri; but each and all of said powers, rights and privileges shall be and are hereby reserved for said corporation."

which said proposed amendment was, when so presented and submitted to this Court on said 27th day of September, 1933, accompanied by petition, in manner provided by law, which said petition prays for an order of this Court approving said amendment and for such other orders as to the Court may seem meet and proper, and which said petition was on said last mentioned date presented and submitted with said proposed amendment to this Court by the said corporation and by said eighteen officers thereof and with the advice and consent of said chairman of said Jurisprudence and Laws Committee.

BE IT FURTHER REMEMBERED that said petition and proposed amendment having been assigned to Division One of said Court, and the Court in said Division One having duly examined and considered said petition and proposed amendment, and the purposes of said corporation and of said proposed amendment, and the judge of said Court in said Division One thereof not having entertained any doubt as to the lawfulness or public usefulness of said corporation or of said proposed amendment, and having fully heard said petition and proposed amendment, and being duly advised in the premises, the Court doth, upon the hearing of said petition and propose amendment, find on this *18th* day of *November*, 1933, (a) that said petition, together with said proposed amendment, did remain on file in the Clerk's office of this Court for at least three days after said petition was presented to this Court; (b) that the officers of said corporation, by whom were so presented and submitted to this Court the abovementioned proposed amendment together with said petition praying for an order aforesaid, included, at the time said petition and proposed amendment were so presented and submitted to this Court, the three chief officers of said corporation, and that said corporation was then and now is located in the City of St. Louis and State of Missouri; (c) that said corporation is, and at the time said petition and proposed amendment were so presented and submitted to this Court was, an existing corporation formed for benevolent purposes; (d) that

by Act of the General Assembly of the State of Missouri approved the seventeenth day of February, 1843, certain persons there-in named, together with such as by the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of the State of Missouri were then members thereof, and their successors in office were constituted and established a body politic and corporate, to be known by the name of the "Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Ancient Masons of the State of Missouri"; (e) that by Act of the General Assembly of the State of Missouri approved the eleventh day of February, 1861, a portion of the said Act approved the seventeenth day of February, 1843, was repealed; (f) that an Act of the General Assembly of the State of Missouri was thereafter enacted and was approved the thirteenth day of February, 1864, in which Act certain persons therein named and their associates, members of the Grand Lodge of the State of Missouri of Free and Accepted Ancient Masons, according to the Constitution, By-Laws and Regulations of the same, and their regular successors, were stated to be by said Act created a body politic and corporate, by the name and style of "The Grand Lodge of the State of Missouri of Free and Accepted Ancient Masons"; (g) that by Section 1 of an Act of the General Assembly of the State of Missouri approved the twenty-second day of March, 1870, the Governor of the State of Missouri was authorized and directed to cause to be executed and delivered to the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri, a good and sufficient deed, in the name of the State, for the college, grounds and property of the Missouri Military Institute, at Lexington, as described in a certain deed, bearing date May, 1866, whereby said college, grounds and property were conveyed to the State of Missouri, by said Grand Lodge, on the terms and for the purposes therein set forth; and among the provisions of Section 2 of said last mentioned Act was the provision that said Grand Lodge, upon the acceptance of such deed, was authorized to own property of any value not exceeding Three Hundred Thousand Dollars; (h) that the corporation so created and now existing under the several Acts, hereinabove mentioned, of the General Assembly of the State of Missouri and such, if any, other Acts of the General Assembly of the State of Missouri as may be a part of the Charter of said corporation, did at its one hundred and twelfth (112th) Annual Communication, which said Communication was held in the year 1932, A.D., direct the officers of said corporation, with the advice and consent of the Chairman of its Jurisprudence and Laws Committee, to proceed to secure an amendment to its Charter under the laws of the State of Missouri so that said corporation shall be authorized and empowered to assess, and collect from the several subordinate Lodges and from the members thereof under its jurisdiction, such sums of money as may be deemed necessary to be appropriated for the benefit of said corporation and its members, benevolences and charities; to maintain, control, conduct, operate, and superintend charities, benevolences, homes, and hospitals for the relief and care of indigent Masons, their widows and orphans within or without a Masonic Home, either directly or through agencies and trustees created and appointed by said corporation; and to purchase or otherwise acquire, to have, hold, lease, mortgage, or otherwise create liens on, to sell, convey, exchange, transfer, assign or lease, or in any other manner whatsoever to acquire and dispose of real and personal property necessary or convenient in carrying out any of the purposes of said corporation, to accept and receive gifts, devises, bequests, donations, annuities and endowments of real or personal property and to use, hold and enjoy the same both as to principal and income and invest and reinvest the same or any part thereof for the furtherance of any of the objects, interests or purposes of the corporation as in a report, appearing on pages 137 to 142 of the printed Proceedings of said Annual Communication, of a certain Committee of said corporation set forth preceding line 16 from the beginning of page 141 of said printed

Proceedings, or such as might, after the action so taken by said corporation at its last mentioned Annual Communication, held in the year 1932, A.D., be authorized: (i) that the report of said Committee, which said report was adopted by said corporation at said last mentioned Annual Communication, included in the reasons for recommending that certain amendment to said Charter which was proposed by said Committee, the statement, in substance, that the name given under the Act of Incorporation of the legislature is "Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Ancient Masons of the State of Missouri," whereas the correct name of said corporation is "The Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri"; (j) that said proposed amendment and the purposes of said corporation come properly within the purview of Article 10, Chapter 32 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri for 1929, entitled "Benevolent, Religious, Scientific, Fraternal-Beneficial, Educational and Miscellaneous Associations," and are not inconsistent with the Constitution or Laws of the United States, or of the State of Missouri; (k) that said proposed amendment constitutes an amendment of the charter of said corporation in a matter germane to said charter; and (e) that said petition and proposed amendment were presented and submitted to this Court with the advice and consent of said Chairman of said Jurisprudence and Laws Committee, which Committee is by the By-Laws of said corporation termed the Committee on Jurisprudence.

WHEREFORE, the Court doth further hereby enter of record this order to the effect that it, the said Court, is of the opinion that said proposed amendment and the purposes of said corporation come properly within the purview of said Article 10, Chapter 32, of the Revised Statutes of the State of Missouri for 1929, entitled "Benevolent, Religious, Scientific, Fraternal-Beneficial, Educational and Miscellaneous Associations," and are not inconsistent with the Constitution or Laws of the United States, or of the State of Missouri; and the Court, upon the hearing aforesaid and being fully advised, doth hereby order, adjudge, and decree that said amendment be and is by this Court approved, that said petition for an order approving said amendment be and is hereby granted and that if and when petitioners therein shall have caused to be recorded in the office of the Recorder of Deeds of the City of St. Louis, Missouri, and then filed in the office of the Secretary of State of the State of Missouri, a copy of said amendment with a copy of this order, duly certified by the Clerk of this Court, indorsed upon or attached to said amendment, and a certified copy of said amendment shall have been issued by said Secretary of State, such amendment shall become and be a part of the Charter of said corporation, with like effect and validity as though originally incorporated in such Charter; and that said corporation does not, by those provisions of said amendment through which the corporate name of said corporation is as an amendment to its charter changed to "The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri" or by any other provision or provisions of said amendment, lose the personal identity of said corporation.

# Constitution

## DECLARATION

We, the Grand Lodge of "Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons" of the State of Missouri, in order to form a perfect fraternal union, establish order, insure tranquility, provide for and promote the general welfare of the Craft, and secure to the Fraternity of the State the blessings of Masonic privileges, do ordain and establish this Constitution:

### ARTICLE I. OFFICIAL STYLE AND TITLE

**Section 1. STATED.** The style and title of this Grand Lodge shall be, "*The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri.*"

The description of the seal of the Grand Lodge is: A *Circle*. At the top, a *Radiance*; on the left hand, a *Column and Plumb*; on the right, a *Column and Level*; between the columns, a *Book open, with the Square and Compasses thereon*, and below the book, the numerals *1821*; within the circle, *Stars on the right and left*; also, around the outer edge, the words, GRAND LODGE OF MISSOURI, and UNION & BROTHERLY LOVE.

(Res. [1976-134](#))

### ARTICLE II. OFFICERS AND MEMBERS, PROXIES, VOTING

**Section 1. ENUMERATION OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS.** The Grand Lodge shall consist of the following officers and members:

Grand Master;  
Deputy Grand Master;  
Senior Grand Warden;  
Junior Grand Warden;  
Grand Treasurer;  
Grand Secretary;  
Grand Lecturer;  
Seven Grand Chaplains;  
Grand Senior Deacon;  
Grand Junior Deacon;  
Two Grand Orators;  
Two Grand Marshals;  
Grand Sword Bearer;  
Grand Pursuivant;  
Two Grand Stewards;  
Grand Tiler;  
Grand Musician;  
Grand Historian;  
Past Grand Masters;  
Past Deputy Grand Masters;  
Past Grand Wardens;  
Past Grand Treasurers;  
Past Grand Secretaries;  
Regional Grand Lecturers;  
District Deputy Grand Masters;  
District Deputy Grand Lecturers.

The Master and Wardens, for the time being of the several Chartered Lodges under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, or their legally appointed proxies; Past Masters who have been duly elected Masters and have actually presided as Masters of Lodges within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, and who still remain members of Lodges.

Any Past Grand Master of any other Grand Lodge, and any Past Master of any Lodge under the jurisdiction of another Grand Lodge, who has been duly elected Master and actually presided as Master, in the jurisdiction of such other Grand Lodge, and shall be affiliated with some Lodge in the State of Missouri, and who shall be elected to membership in this Grand Lodge by a majority vote. (Amended [2001-59](#); [2017-103-104](#))

*Cross references:*

- Titles of offices. By-Laws [2.140](#)
- Ranks of officers. By-Laws [2.150](#)
- Past officers. By-Laws [2.160](#)
- Past Masters. By-Laws [8.200](#)

**Section 2. PROXIES - HOW APPOINTED - DUTIES OF.** Whenever the Master and Wardens of any Lodge (or either of them) shall be unable to attend the communications of the Grand Lodge, they, or either of them who cannot so attend, may depute any member of their own Lodge, who is of equal or superior rank with themselves, as a proxy to represent their Lodge in the Grand Lodge; and the proxy so deputed shall be entitled to the same privileges and perform the duties of him or them deputing him. Such deputation shall be in writing, and signed by the officer so deputing him. (Amended [2001-59](#))

*Cross references:*

- Proxies and attendance. By-Laws [1.070](#)
- Grand Secretary to provide blank forms for proxies. By-Laws [2.040\(s\)](#)

**Section 3. VOTING - LODGES - MEMBERS.** On every question which may come before the Grand Lodge for decision, each Subordinate Lodge, by its Representative or Representatives present, shall be entitled to cast five votes, all of which shall be given on the same side; and the Representatives of each Lodge, respectively, by a majority, shall decide on which side of the question the votes of their Lodge shall be cast; and each officer and member of the Grand Lodge present shall be entitled to cast one vote, but no one in his own right shall give more than one vote.

*Cross references:*

- Voting in the Grand Lodge. By-Laws [1.050](#)
- Eligibility to vote. By-Laws [1.060](#)

## ARTICLE III. OFFICERS

**Section 1. WHO ARE ELIGIBLE AS.** None except such as have been duly elected and installed as Masters of Lodges and are at the time of their election or appointment members of some Lodge, shall be eligible to any office in the Grand Lodge; and no one shall be eligible to the office of Grand Master more than two years in any period of six years.

**Section 2. ELECTIVE - ENUMERATION OF - TERM OF.** The Most Worshipful Grand Master, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful Senior and Junior Grand Wardens, Right Worshipful Grand Treasurer and Right Worshipful Grand Secretary\* shall be elected annually, by ballot, at the stated annual communications of the Grand Lodge, and shall hold their offices respectively until their successors shall be duly elected and installed.

*Cross references:*

Time of election. By-Laws [1.040](#)

Electioneering an offense. By-Laws [1.045](#), [8.030](#)

Duties. By-Laws [2.010](#), [2.020](#), [2.021](#), [2.030](#), [2.040](#) and references thereunder

Elective officers may not also hold office as Master or Warden of their lodge. By-Laws [8.050](#)

Suspension from office. By-Laws [2.010\(e\)](#)

Vacancies. By-Laws [2.130](#)

Filling vacancies. By-Laws [2.010\(d\)](#)

*\*Committee Note: The use of “Most Worshipful” and “Right Worshipful” in this section appears to conflict with the changes made to Const. Art. II ([2001-59](#)) and with sections 2.140, 2.150 and 2.160 of the By-Laws. “Most Worshipful” and “Right Worshipful” are a rank attaching to the **person** holding the office, not to the title of the office. It also appears to conflict with the usage found in various other sections of the By-Laws, see, e.g., sections 1.020, 1.030, Article 8.*

*Example: saying “we elect the Most Worshipful Grand Master”, while common, technically is incorrect. The correct usage would be “we elect the Grand Master”. Once a brother is installed in an office, he should be addressed, referred to, or introduced with the rank preceding his name, for example, “Most Worshipful Brother John Doe”. The same holds true for the rank of “Right Worshipful”, whether elected or appointed, and also applies with respect to the rank and title of Master of a subordinate lodge; e.g. “Worshipful Brother Doe” serves as the “Master” of his lodge, not as the “Worshipful Master”.*

**Section 3. MAJORITY SHALL ELECT.** A majority of all the votes present shall be necessary to a choice of the officers mentioned in the second section of this Article.

*Cross references:*

Vote by ballot. By-Laws [1.050](#)

Blank ballots not counted. By-Laws [15.100](#)



**Section 4. APPOINTED GRAND OFFICERS - TERM OF.** All Grand Officers, whose election or appointment is not otherwise provided for, shall be appointed annually by the Grand Master, and, when duly installed, shall hold their offices until their successors shall be duly appointed and installed.

*Cross references:*

Duties. By-Laws [2.050](#), [2.060](#), [2.070](#), [2.080](#), [2.090](#), [2.100](#), [2.110](#), [2.120](#)

Titles of offices. By-Laws [2.140](#)

Ranks of officers. By-Laws [2.150](#)

Suspension from office. By-Laws [2.010\(e\)](#)

Vacancies. By-Laws [2.130](#)

Filling vacancies. By-Laws [2.010\(d\)](#)

Advancing line begins with Senior Grand Marshal. (Res. [1960-47](#), [133](#)) (see [Standing Resolutions](#))

## ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS

**Section 1. TIME AND PLACE OF.** The Grand Lodge shall assemble as such once at least in every year, at such time and place as may be directed by law.

*Cross references:*

Time and place. By-Laws [1.010](#)

Quorum. By-Laws [1.020](#)

**Section 2. SPECIAL MEETINGS - HOW CALLED.** The Grand Master (and in his absence from the State, the Deputy Grand Master), by consent of the Grand Wardens, may call special meetings of the Grand Lodge, at such time and place as necessity may require.

*Cross references:*

Convened by Grand Master. By-Laws [2.010\(c\)](#)

Masonic Ceremonies. By-Laws [2.010\(d\)](#)

No quorum required for ceremonies. By-Laws [1.020](#)

## ARTICLE V. POWERS OF GRAND LODGE

**Section 1. ENUMERATION OF.** The Grand Lodge shall be the supreme Masonic authority within the State of Missouri, and by the Ancient Constitutions and Usages of the Fraternity is, and shall be, invested with all the original essential powers and privileges belonging to the Ancient Craft, and shall have power, especially:

(1) To enact and enforce all Laws and Regulations for the government of the Fraternity, and to alter, amend, and repeal the same at pleasure.

*Appendant bodies, and Master Masons acting on behalf of appendant bodies, are prohibited from conferring or exemplifying the three craft degrees of Masonic Ritual without first obtaining Special Dispensation from the Grand Master; all special dispensations to confer the three craft degrees issued prior to the date of the EDICT are revoked and declared null and void; conferral of any of the three craft degrees other than in the course of normal Missouri Lodge Business and consistent with the By-Laws of the Grand Lodge, unless Special Dispensation is granted in advance and in writing, is declared clandestine. Missouri recognizes only one class or type of Master Mason. The Grand Lodge does not recognize so-called "Ritual, Traditional Observance, or European*

*Concept” lodges. The Grand Lodge expressly denounces any Lodge attempting to vary in any manner whatsoever the procedures or requirements for membership in the Masonic Fraternity in Missouri as authorized and established by the Grand Lodge. Grand Master’s EDICT, dated May 17, 2010 ([2010-75](#)); explained in Grand Master’s Address ([2010-15](#)); EDICT within discretion of Grand Master, approved ([2010-74](#)).*

*Cross references:*

Grand Master’s dispensations. By-Laws [2.010\(a\)](#)  
Requiring conformity to Masonic law and usage. By-Laws [2.010\(f\)](#)  
Special degree conferral, non-Missouri ritual. By-Laws [16.070](#)  
Dispensation requests made only through Grand Secretary. By-Laws [16.080](#)  
Change of By-Laws. By-Laws Art. [35](#), [36](#)

(2) To constitute new Lodges, by granting Dispensations and Charters under seal, and, for good cause, to suspend, revoke, and annul the same at pleasure.

*Cross references:*

Dispensations. By-Laws [2.010\(a\)](#)  
Constitution of lodge. By-Laws [2.010\(d\)](#)  
Formation of new lodges. By-Laws, Art. [11](#)  
Consolidation of lodges. By-Laws [7.200](#), [5.080](#)  
Surrender of charter. By-Laws [7.210](#)  
Arrest of charter. By-Laws [2.010\(b\)](#), [7.220](#)  
Forfeiture of charter. By-Laws [7.230](#)  
Revocation of charter. By-Laws [7.240](#)  
The Grand Lodge will not charter an army lodge. ([1919-14](#))

(3) To establish and preserve a uniform mode of Work and Lectures within the ancient landmarks and customs of Masonry.

*Cross references:*

Grand Lecturer. By-Laws [2.050](#); appointed by Grand Master, Const. [Art. III, Sec. 4](#)  
Regional Grand Lecturers; appointed by Grand Master. By-Laws [4.035](#)  
District Deputy Grand Lecturers. By-Laws [4.040](#), [4.050](#)  
Committee on Ritual. By-Laws [5.120](#)

(4) To assess and collect from the several Lodges under its jurisdiction such sums of money as may be deemed necessary to be appropriated to the benefit of the Craft.

*Cross reference:* Fees and dues. By-Laws, Art. [10](#).

(5) To hear and determine all questions of dispute between two or more Lodges.

(6) To hear and decide all appeals from the decisions of Subordinate Lodges.

*Cross references:*

Committee on Appeals and Grievances. By-Laws [5.060](#)  
Appeals. By-Laws, Art. [31](#)  
Restoration. By-Laws, Art. [32](#)

(7) To demand and receive such fees and charges for granting Dispensations, Charters, Certificates and Diplomas as may be reasonable.

*Cross references:*

Dispensation fee. By-Laws [11.020\(d\)](#)

Charter fee. By-Laws [11.150](#)

Duplicate charter fee. By-Laws [7.020](#)

(8) To require and collect from all Brother Masons residing within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge such sums of money annually, for charitable purposes, as may from time to time be provided for and required by law.

(9) To hear and decide all charges and complaints against any officer of the Grand Lodge, and to inflict such punishment on the guilty as may appear just and proper.

(10) To exercise all such powers and perform all such acts as by custom are exercised and performed by Grand Lodges within the ancient customs and landmarks of the Fraternity.

## **Section 2. ALTERATION OF CONSTITUTION - HOW CONSUMMATED**

This Constitution shall not be altered, amended or repealed, except in the manner following: The proposition to alter, amend or repeal this Constitution shall be made in writing, accompanied by a brief written statement as to the purpose thereof, during the regular Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, and shall be read aloud by the Grand Secretary. Said proposition shall be referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence which shall make any change in form which it deems appropriate.

Said proposition shall thereupon be printed in the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge, and referred to the several Subordinate Lodges under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge. The alteration, amendment or proposition to repeal, so referred, shall be read in each Subordinate Lodge by the [Worshipful] Master\* thereof, in open Lodge, at three several stated meetings of the Lodge; and upon the third reading thereof the Worshipful Master shall put the question distinctly to each member in the following form: "Shall the entire amendment of the Constitution, as read, pass?" And each member shall answer aye or no, and the Secretary of each Lodge shall carefully record an explicit account of all proceedings had respecting such proposition to amend, and transmit to the Grand Lodge, at its first regular Annual Communication thereafter, a duly certified copy thereof, signed by the Worshipful Master, and attested by himself under the seal of his Lodge. If it shall appear from such proceedings that a majority of all the Lodges voting thereon have concurred in the proposition to alter, amend or repeal the Constitution as the same was referred to them, then the question shall again be put to the Grand Lodge, and if a majority of all the votes present be cast in favor of the proposition to amend, alter or repeal, the same shall be and become a part of this Constitution, and not otherwise. (Amended [1983-121](#))

*Any amendment thereof effective on approval by lodges and Grand Lodge. ([1978-30](#))*

\* See annotation, [Art. III, Sec. 2](#)

# By-Laws

## I

### GRAND LODGE ORGANIZATION

#### ARTICLE 1. ANNUAL COMMUNICATIONS

**Section 1.010. TIME AND PLACE.** Except when the time and place of meeting is changed by majority vote of the Grand Lodge, the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge shall be held commencing at 9 o'clock A.M. on the last Monday in September in each year, at a site designated by the Grand Master-elect. If this date falls on a major religious holiday, the Grand Master-elect may direct that the next Annual Communication commence either on the Monday preceding or succeeding said date. The designation of the site, as well as any change of date, shall be communicated to the Grand Lodge by the Grand Master-elect subsequent to his election and prior to his installation. If he does not designate a site, the Annual Communication shall be held in Jefferson City or Columbia.

*Cross reference: Const. [Art. IV, Sec. 1](#)*

**Section 1.020. QUORUM.** For the transaction of business, a quorum of representatives of at least thirty chartered lodges is required. However, the Grand Master or his authorized representative may at any time open the Grand Lodge without a quorum for ceremonial purposes only.

**Section 1.030. PRESIDING OFFICER.** The Grand Master presides in the Grand Lodge. In his absence the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden and the Junior Grand Warden, in succession, preside. In the absence of the first four Grand Officers, a Past Grand Master, a Master or a Past Master may be selected to preside by the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Secretary.

**Section 1.040. ELECTION AND INSTALLATION.** Elective officers are chosen on the afternoon of the first day of the session. No officer may be installed until all other business is completed. (Amended [1962-136](#))

*Cross reference: Const. [Art. II, Sec. 2](#)*

**Section 1.045. ELECTIONEERING.** Electioneering for any elective Grand Lodge office enumerated in Article III, Section 2 of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge is a Masonic offense. (Amended [2013-73-75](#))

**Section 1.046. ELECTIONEERING DEFINED.** For purposes of Section 1.045, electioneering shall be defined as an attempt made by a Freemason, directly or indirectly, to persuade or entice a member or members to cast a ballot in favor of or against a particular Freemason for elective Grand Lodge Office or to otherwise attempt to influence the ballot. Electioneering includes, but is not limited to, the following:

(a) Distribution of written or printed material, including digitally distributed information and postings on social media, promoting or disparaging a Freemason's qualifications for elective office;

(b) Oral statements made inside a tiled lodge promoting or disparaging a Freemason's qualifications for elective office;

(c) Unsolicited criticism of a prospective officer or any other action taken in violation of Section [28.030](#) that disparages a Freemason's reputation with the purpose of influencing a ballot.

(d) An unsolicited attempt to persuade or coerce an otherwise duly qualified Grand Lodge member from holding office.

Electioneering, however, does not include:

(a) Discussions regarding, and nominations made on the floor, for election to the Board of Directors of the Masonic Home of Missouri;

(b) Oral and written communications made by the Deputy Grand Master respecting routine planning activities made in anticipation of his election to the office of Grand Master;

(c) A good faith inquiry or response thereto made by a Freemason respecting:

(1) the duties of any elective or appointed Grand Lodge office;

(2) the eligibility of a Master Mason to hold elective or appointive Grand Lodge office under the *Constitution and By-Laws*;

(d) Expressions made outside of a tiled lodge of a willingness or unwillingness to serve, if elected or asked, in an elective or appointed Grand Lodge office; or

(e) Respectful private discussions held outside a tiled lodge regarding the selection of Grand Lodge elective officers. ([2013-73-75](#), Amended [2017-107-108](#))

*Cross reference: Likewise for Lodge office, [8.030](#), [8.031](#)*

*Masonic offenses, [28.010](#), [28.025-.060](#), [28.030](#)*

*Anonymous circular letter against advancement of Grand Lodge Officer on religious grounds condemned. ([1909-16,17](#))*

*Anonymous circular letter against advancement of then-RWB Harry S Truman on political grounds condemned. ([1940-33,34](#))*

*Paper ballot providing option to either advance the line or write in names of officers to be elected is permissible. ([2013-69](#))*

**Section 1.050. VOTING.** Elective officers are chosen by ballot. All other voting in the Grand Lodge is by show of hands, unless representatives of ten lodges demand a vote by lodges, in which event the Grand Master determines the method of voting. All voting may be done by electronic ballot at the discretion of the Grand Master. For purposes of elections, electronic voting shall permit write-in votes. Electronic voting devices must be returned at the close of the Annual Communication. Electronic collection of results must be secured and then all electronic voting data destroyed immediately following result certification and recording. (Amended [2017-105](#))

*Cross references:*

*Const. [Art. II, Sec. 3](#)*

*Const. [Art. III, Sec. 3](#)*

**Section 1.060. VOTING ELIGIBILITY.** No one is entitled to vote whose name is not enrolled by the Committee on Credentials, Mileage and Per Diem. (Amended [2019-149-150](#))

**Section 1.070. PROXIES AND ATTENDANCE.** Any legally appointed proxy may cast the vote of the absent member, or of the lodge he represents, but only after he is enrolled as proxy by the Committee on Credentials, Mileage and Per Diem. Digital, electronic, and paper forms, with digital, electronic, or traditional signature, including authorization of deputation, or evidence to the existence thereof provided to the committee by the Grand Secretary, shall be considered acceptable for purposes of enrollment. (Amended [2017-106](#), [2019-149-150](#))

*Cross references:*

*Const. [Art. II, Sec. 2](#)*

*Grand Secretary's duties, [2.040\(s\)](#)*

**Section 1.080. MILEAGE AND PER DIEM.** The officers of the Grand Lodge, Past Grand Masters, Past Grand Secretaries, Past Grand Lecturers, Past Grand Treasurers, members of the committees on Credentials, Mileage and Per Diem, Appeals and Grievances, Jurisprudence, Masonic Education, Ways and Means, Mileage and Per Diem, Public Relations, Building Supervisory Board, the chairmen of all other standing committees, and one representative of each Chartered Lodge and each lodge U. D. are paid for each day they are in attendance at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, and for each mile traveled in going to and returning therefrom. The amount of said per diem and per mile payments shall be authorized by resolution. Determination of distance traveled will be made by the Committee on Credentials, Mileage and Per Diem. The representative of a lodge is its highest ranking officer in attendance or his proxy. Only one payment for attendance or travel may be received. (Amended [1959-109](#), [1960-5](#), [1970-24](#), [1973-121](#), [1981-11](#), [1989-81](#), [2019-149-150](#))

*Cross references:*

*Account, [3.140](#)*

*Committee, [5.140](#)*

**Section 1.081. INSTRUCTIVE MEETINGS.** The Grand Secretary shall hold four (4) meetings per year with the subordinate Lodge secretaries at various locations within the State. Attendance at these meetings by Lodge secretaries shall be voluntary. Any expenses of lodge secretaries traveling to and from these meetings shall be reimbursed from subordinate lodge funds.

## ARTICLE 2. POWERS AND DUTIES OF GRAND OFFICERS

**Section 2.010. GRAND MASTER.** The Grand Master has authority as follows:

(a) He grants dispensations for the formation of new lodges, and other dispensations according to the laws of the Grand Lodge.

*Cross references:*

Const. [Art. V, Sec. 1\(1\),\(2\)](#)

Lodges Under Dispensation, [11.010](#) to [11.160](#)

(b) He may arrest the charter of any lodge for cause until the next annual communication, informing the lodge in writing of the reason for his action. Only action by the Grand Lodge can restore the charter. He may suspend the functions of any lodge pending investigation.

*Cross references:*

Const. [Art. V, Sec. 1\(2\)](#)

Effect of arrest, [7.220](#)

*When circumstances require prompt action to preserve the credit of the Fraternity, the Grand Master may arrest the charter of any lodge and cause charges to be preferred against members of the lodge without waiting for action of the Grand Lodge on the arrest of the charter. Trials resulting from said action of the Grand Master shall have charges preferred and the trial conducted in a lodge designated by the Grand Master, pursuant to the provisions of the trial code.*

*The Grand Master may arrest the charter of a lodge for indiscriminate use of the blackball. He may suspend the charter of a lodge for good cause when circumstances require prompt action. ([1976-131](#))*

(c) He convenes the Grand Lodge Special Meetings following thirty days' notice to the lodges of the time, place and object of the meeting.

*Cross reference:* Const. [Art. IV, Sec. 2](#)

(d) He may lay the cornerstone of a Masonic hall, church or public edifice, dedicate and consecrate a Masonic hall, or constitute a new lodge. If he is unable to attend in person, he may authorize any Past Master or present Master of a lodge to convene a Grand Lodge for the same purpose. Notice to lodges of meetings of that character is not required. He may, in his discretion, grant special dispensations for occasions of Masonic ceremony on Sundays. He also may grant a special dispensation for a subordinate lodge to hold its stated communications after 2:00 p.m. on Sundays. He only shall grant such a dispensation after careful consideration of whether holding such communications on Sunday will interfere with the religious practices of the brethren, and visiting brethren, respecting the divisions of the day which Masons have obligated themselves to observe, and only when convinced that the brethren of that lodge, as a practical matter, may conveniently meet and work. If such dispensation of the Grand Master is granted and the subordinate lodge's by-laws so permit, no further action by the subordinate lodge is required. (Amended [2011-93](#))

*Cross references:*

*Const. [Art. V, Sec. 1\(2\)](#)*

*Decisions under old law, ([1900-6, 88](#); [1921-18, 133](#))*

(e) He may, for good cause, and with the written concurrence of the Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden and Junior Grand Warden, or any two of them, suspend from office any officer of the Grand Lodge until the next annual communication.

(f) He may convene and preside in any lodge in the state, inspect its proceedings, and require its conformity to Masonic law and usage.

(g) He may convene the District Deputy Grand Masters in a conference or in regional conferences at such times as he considers best, the expenses of the meetings to be defrayed by the Grand Lodge.

(h) He may appoint representatives of this Grand Lodge near other recognized grand lodges, and receive and accredit representatives of other recognized grand lodges near this Grand Lodge.

(i) On the first day of the Annual Communication he presents his address, with an account of his official acts and decisions made during the recess and of the state and condition of Freemasonry in the state, with his recommendations for such measures as he considers expedient and necessary. The written Address shall be available to the Brethren at the time of the Grand Master's presentation.

*Cross reference: [Committee on Grand Master's Address, 5.030](#)*

(j) He gives official decisions, which are binding until the next session of the Grand Lodge. As soon as possible after he makes them, he delivers copies of all decisions involving questions of Masonic law and usage to the Chairman of the Committee on Jurisprudence. Any decision not included in writing, and distributed to the Brethren after the first day of the session, shall not be reported on by the Jurisprudence Committee. (Amended 1978-60)

*Cross references:*

*[Committee on Jurisprudence 5.070](#)*

*[Powers and Duties of DDGM, 4.030\(i\)](#)*

*The decisions of a Grand Master are not conclusive after being reported to the Grand Lodge, unless confirmed by the Grand Lodge. ([1869-71](#))*

(k) He exercises such powers as are warranted, and performs such duties as are required of him by the Ancient Regulations or customs of the craft, and does all things necessary for the welfare of the Fraternity; but he has no power to suspend or do anything contrary to any law of the Grand Lodge.

*Cross reference: [Trial Code, 29.190,29.200](#)*

*The Grand Master has no right to make Masons at sight, or convene a lodge for that purpose. (Res. [1850-21](#))*



*The Grand Master cannot suspend the Master of a lodge until his term of office expires and then direct his lodge to try him; the case is under the sole jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge. (1878-45) **CLARIFIED** Sitting Master suspended and Trial Commission appointed. (1997-27)*

(l) He fills all vacancies in the appointive offices in the Grand Lodge, but he may not fill vacancies in the elective offices, except in the offices of Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary. The Grand Master shall appoint and chair a special committee to search for and recommend to the Grand Master qualified appointees for the offices of Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary, whenever vacancies in those offices may unexpectedly occur or may be anticipated in the ordinary course of events. The committee is composed of the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden, and three (3) Master Masons who shall be selected by the Grand Master on a geographical basis. The role of the committee shall be advisory only. (Added [1985-127](#))

*Cross reference: Const. [Art. III, Sec. 4](#)*

(m) He receives an allowance for traveling, office, stenographic, clerical and other expenses to be remitted to him in equal monthly installments. At the Grand Master's option, the allowance may be paid on his submission of monthly itemized accounts of his expenses.

*Cross reference: Salaries and Expenses, [2.055](#)*

(n) He has the accounts of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary audited annually by a certified public accountant.

(o) He is authorized and empowered, by written instruments, with the concurrence by signatures thereon of the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden and the Junior Grand Warden, or any two of them, to enforce, compromise, settle, discharge or release any and all claims, demands, causes of action and pending or anticipated litigation, including authority and power to execute and deliver deeds of conveyance, contracts, bills of sale, stipulations and any and all other instruments necessary or required to effectuate such purposes; and to employ, at the expense of the Grand Lodge, legal counsel to represent the Grand Lodge in connection therewith. (Added [1965-171](#), [176](#))

(p) He develops long range goals for the Grand Lodge and actions necessary to reach such goals. He may use the Long Range Planning Committee and any other Grand Lodge permanent or select committees to assist him in development of such goals and plans. (Added [1987-122](#), [123](#))

(q) Notwithstanding the provisions of any By-Law to the contrary, upon written request of the Master of one or more Lodges, the Grand Master may, from time to time, grant written authorization to the requesting Lodge or Lodges to conduct a one day or "chance to advance" class for Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts of the requesting Lodge or Lodges for sequential advancement from the first and second degrees to the degree of Master Mason.

Requests for authorization to hold a one day class shall be submitted in writing through the Grand Secretary and addressed to the Grand Master by the District Deputy

Grand Master in whose district the class is to be held. All such requests shall contain, in addition to any other information that may be from time to time deemed necessary by the Grand Master, the name of a class moderator who shall be responsible for providing suitable Masonic education and instruction to the candidates and others in attendance.

A simple majority vote of the members present of a requesting Lodge is necessary for the Lodge to participate in a one day class and any Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft of such Lodge or Lodges who requests inclusion in a one day class will be allowed to participate by majority vote of the lodge.

The ritual work in one day classes shall be under the supervision of the Grand Lodge Committee on Ritual and the full conferral of the entire degree or degrees being conferred, including the Lecture and Charge, shall be required. Candidates successfully completing their third degree in any one day class shall thereupon become Master Masons, entitled to all the rights and privileges accorded thereto.

(Amended [2013-75-76](#))

**Section 2.020. SUCCESSION TO GRAND MASTER.** Should a vacancy occur in the office of Grand Master from any cause, the Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden and Junior Grand Warden, in succession, shall assume his prerogatives, powers and duties.

**Section 2.021. SUCCESSION TO DEPUTY GRAND MASTER.** Should a vacancy occur in the office of Deputy Grand Master from any cause, including assumption of the prerogatives, powers, and duties of the office of Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden and Junior Grand Warden in succession shall assume the prerogatives, powers, and duties of the Deputy Grand Master. (Added [1962-139](#))

**Section 2.030. GRAND TREASURER.** The Grand Treasurer is custodian of all funds and securities of the Grand Lodge and with the approval of the Investment Committee designates the depositories in which they are kept. His actions are governed generally by the provisions of [Article 3](#) of the By-Laws.

He attends annual communications of the Grand Lodge, and when required, meets the Grand Officers and committees with his books, accounts and necessary documents relating to his office. He reports fully on all the finances at annual communications.

He receives an annual stipend for his services.

*Cross reference: Salaries and Expenses, [2.055](#)*

**Section 2.040. GRAND SECRETARY.** The Grand Secretary -

(a) Attends the communications of the Grand Lodge, and observes, records and preserves the proceedings in suitable books kept for that purpose.

(b) Receives all money due the Grand Lodge and pays it to a designated depository.

(c) Keeps suitable accounts and records.

(d) Receives all petitions, applications and appeals to the Grand Lodge and refers them promptly to committees the Grand Master designates, for consideration and report to the next annual communication.

(e) Has custody of the seal of the Grand Lodge.

(f) Prepares, signs, and seals all charters, commissions and certificates or other instruments of writing emanating from the Grand Lodge.

(g) Furnishes each lodge draft annual returns for revision by secretaries of the subordinate lodges. (Amended [2003-96](#))

(h) Causes the proceedings of the Grand Lodge to be printed and one copy sent to each lodge, each officer of the Grand Lodge and each Past Grand Master, and necessary copies to each grand lodge recognized by this Grand Lodge. He appends to the proceedings such other matters of Masonic information and interest as is determined from time to time.

*Each copy of the Proceedings sent to a subordinate lodge in care of the Master or Secretary is intended exclusively for that lodge, and not as the personal property of any officer or member. ([1870-46](#))*

*Full proceedings of Grand Lodge does not include discussions, comments, or verbatim remarks, and need not be printed. ([1981-133](#))*

(i) Conducts the correspondence of the Grand Lodge.

(j) Furnishes the chairman of the Committee on Correspondence the proceedings of other Grand Lodges as received, which are to be returned to the Grand Secretary when required.

(k) Furnishes to the Grand Master and to each Past Grand Master a permanent, and annually to each of the officers named in Section [2.140](#), a durable identification card.

(l) Prepares and distributes a uniform receipt for dues.

*Cross reference: Dues, [18.010](#)*

*Lodges must use the uniform receipt for dues prepared by the Grand Secretary. No lodge may print its own receipts. ([1926-21](#))*

*A receipt for lodge dues must be signed personally by the secretary of the lodge. A typewritten signature of the Secretary or a signature by rubber stamp or other mechanical device is not sufficient. ([1950-20](#); [1951-21](#))*

*Dues receipt cards cannot be furnished imprinted with either the lodge secretary's name or the lodge seal. ([1972-118](#))*

(m) With the approval of the Committee on Jurisprudence and of the Grand Master, and within the substantive requirements of the By-Laws, prepares, and from time to time varies the form and content of all forms of petitions and other documents required by Grand Lodge law. The forms are furnished to the lodges at approximate actual cost, including postage.

*Subordinate lodges are to use only forms currently approved. ([1972-118](#))*

(n) Reports to the Grand Lodge his official acts, and communicates all matters that are considered of interest to the Craft.

(o) Has power, with the approval of the Grand Master, from time to time to appoint one or more brethren as assistants to aid him in the discharge of his duties, at compensation fixed by the Committee on Ways and Means and approved by the Grand Master.

(p) Receives an annual salary for his services, payable monthly.

*Cross reference: Salaries and Expenses, [2.055](#)*

(q) Devotes substantially all of his time to the duties of his office; employs and supervises such clerical and secretarial assistants as may be required to discharge efficiently all the duties of his office; at least semiannually reviews with the Grand Master, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, and the other elective officers the operation and budget of his office, including in advance the fixing of or changes in compensation and benefits for his clerical and secretarial assistants; and performs such other duties as shall be assigned to him from time to time by the Grand Master with the consent of the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden, and the Junior Grand Warden, or any two of them. (Added [1970-123](#); amended [1985-127](#), [128](#); [2016-203-205](#))

(r) Has the proceedings printed and distributed no later than February 15 following each Grand Lodge Communication. The Grand Secretary is authorized to obtain the services of a certified Court Reporter, who must be a member of the Masonic Fraternity in good standing, to take and transcribe the minutes of the meeting. (Added [1981-133](#))

(s) Provides each lodge with blank forms for the designation of proxies to each Annual Communication. Digital, electronic, and “online” formats of such form may be provided, with paper forms made available. (Amended [2017-106](#))

(t) Distributes at the opening of each Annual Communication sufficient printed copies of the address of the Grand Master, of any portions of the reports of the Grand Secretary, and Grand Treasurer which contain recommendations to the Grand Lodge, of the report of the Masonic Home, including its operating statement and balance sheet, and of the report of the Committee on correspondence.

(u) Maintains an encrypted electronic database of members of the lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge which is accessible by those members and the secretaries of each such lodge (in read-only form) for the purpose of establishing the member’s membership, extent of said membership, and good standing in one or more lodges. Said database shall be developed and maintained in conjunction with the records already maintained by the Grand Lodge and the lodges under its jurisdiction, and individual records may be reproduced electronically in a dues card bearing a facsimile signature of the Grand Secretary and signed by a secretary of a member’s lodge. Said database may be maintained in a format established in connection with other grand lodges recognized by the Grand Lodge.

(v) Where requested by a lodge, facilitates a member's payment of that lodge's annual dues by credit or debit card for a reasonable convenience fee not to exceed five dollars (\$5.00) per dues payment. Any records of such transaction shall be maintained separately from all other records kept by the Grand Secretary concerning that member.

(Amended [2014-96](#))

**Section 2.050. GRAND LECTURER.** The Grand Lecturer -

(a) Acquaints himself thoroughly with the work and lectures of the three degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry.

(b) Visits the lodges in Missouri as extensively as possible, and instructs them in the work, lectures and ceremonies adopted by the Grand Lodge, holding a minimum of one but no more than two Schools of Instruction in each of the Regions of the Grand Lodge each year.

(c) Makes written report to the Grand Lodge of the work done by him, the Regional Grand Lecturers and District Deputy Grand Lecturers, and of the general condition of the Craft as to work, and of such other matters connected with his office as are considered of interest or importance.

(d) Recommends Master Masons skillful in the work and lectures of the Craft to the Grand Master for appointment as Regional Grand Lecturers.

(e) Receives for his services a stipend of \$200.00 for each such School of Instruction held, plus mileage and per diem to be paid upon approval of the Grand Master. (Amended [1961-132](#); [1966-149](#); [1970-123](#); [2001-57](#))

*Cross references:*

*Salaries and Expenses, [2.055](#)*

*District Deputy Grand Lecturers, [4.040](#)*

*Committee on Ritual, [5.120](#)*

*Committee on Forms and Ceremonies, [5.130](#)*

**Section 2.055. SALARIES AND EXPENSE ALLOWANCES OF OFFICERS.**

The expense allowance of the Grand Master, which shall include an expense allowance for the Deputy Grand Master, under Section [2.010 \(m\)](#) and the salaries and expense allowances, if any, of the Grand Treasurer under Section [2.030](#), of the Grand Secretary under Section [2.040 \(p\)](#), and the Grand Lecturer under Section [2.050 \(d\)](#) may be changed at any time by the Grand Master, and the Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden and Junior Grand Warden, or any two of them, after notice has been given the Committee on Ways and Means, which shall report such changes to the Grand Lodge annually. The Grand Lodge may change any salaries or allowances, but not retroactively. (Added [1970-122](#); amended [2004](#))

*Committee Note: The inclusion of the expense allowance for the Deputy Grand Master was proposed in 2003 and approved in 2004. Due to a printing error, no page reference to the Proceedings is available but the records of the Committee on Jurisprudence show the amendment lawfully adopted.*

**Section 2.060. GRAND CHAPLAINS.** The Grand Chaplains perform the customary services at annual communications, and at special communications when directed by the Grand Master.

**Section 2.070. GRAND DEACONS AND GRAND STEWARDS.** The Grand Deacons and Grand Stewards perform the duties assigned them in their installation charges.

**Section 2.080. GRAND ORATORS.** The Grand Orators deliver Masonic addresses when required by the Grand Lodge or Grand Master.

**Section 2.090. GRAND MARSHALS.** The Grand Marshals proclaim the grand officers at their installation, introduce distinguished visiting brethren, the representatives of grand lodge and conduct processions of the Grand Lodge.

**Section 2.100. GRAND SWORD BEARER.** The Grand Sword Bearer carries the sword in procession, and performs such other duties as by ancient usage pertain to his office.

**Section 2.110. GRAND PURSUIVANT.** The Grand Pursuivant communicates with the Grand Tiler, and announces all applicants for admission by their Masonic title, name and connection.

**Section 2.120. GRAND TILER.** The Grand Tiler performs the duties assigned to him in his installation charge.

**Section 2.130. VACANCIES.** Any office in the Grand Lodge becomes vacant by the death or resignation of the incumbent, or by any cause which permanently incapacitates him from discharging the duties of his office.

**Section 2.140. TITLES OF OFFICES.** The titles of the present officers in the Grand Lodge are:

Grand Master	Junior Grand Marshal
Deputy Grand Master	Grand Sword Bearer
Senior Grand Warden	Grand Pursuivant
Junior Grand Warden	Grand Chaplain
Grand Treasurer	Grand Orator
Grand Secretary	Grand Tiler
Grand Lecturer	Grand Musician
Senior Grand Deacon	Grand Historian
Junior Grand Deacon	Regional Grand Lecturer
Senior Grand Steward	District Deputy Grand Master
Junior Grand Steward	District Deputy Grand Lecturer
Senior Grand Marshal	

(Amended [2001-57](#); [2017-103-104](#))

*Cross reference: Const. [Art. II, Sect. 1](#)*

**Section 2.150. RANKS OF OFFICERS.**

(a) The Grand Master, and all Past Grand Masters, have the rank of Most Worshipful.

(b) All who hold, and all who have held, any of the other offices listed in Section 2.140 have the rank of Right Worshipful.

(c) All other members of the Grand Lodge who have been duly elected and have actually presided as [Worshipful]\* Masters of lodges subordinate to this Grand Lodge have the rank of Worshipful.

\* See annotation at Const. [Art. III, Sec. 2](#)

**Section 2.160. PAST OFFICERS.** The proper form of address of those who formerly have held any of the offices listed in Section [2.140](#) is the rank of the office as stated in Section [2.150](#), the designation "Past" and the title of the office formerly held.

**Section 2.170. RETIREMENT AND PENSIONS. (Repealed [2002-63](#))**

**ARTICLE 3. FISCAL OPERATIONS OF THE GRAND LODGE**

**Section 3.010. FUNDS.** The Funds of the Grand Lodge are:

- (1) the General Fund,
- (2) the Permanent Fund,
- (3) the Special Fund,
- (4) the Endowment Fund,
- (5) The Endowed Membership Fund (See Section [22.040](#)),
- (6) The Disaster Relief Fund (Amended [1987-124](#), [125](#), [2000-72-76](#))
- (7) The Stewart Fund. (Amended [2003-96](#))

**Section 3.020. GENERAL FUND.** The General Fund is the operating Fund of the Grand Lodge. All receipts are deposited in it. Transfers are made from it to the other Funds, or to the causes for which collected, as ordered by the Grand Lodge. All disbursements not in execution of the purposes of the other Funds are made from it.

**Section 3.030. PERMANENT FUND.** The Permanent Fund consists of the assets so designated prior to October 1, 1957, such assets as may be added to it by Order of any four (4) of the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Secretary, and the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means. The members' votes may be in person, by mail, by facsimile, or by telephone. The purpose of the Permanent Fund is to assure the financial stability of the Grand Lodge regardless of changing business conditions. No part of the principal of the Permanent Fund may be expended except on order of the Grand Lodge in annual communication and ratified at the succeeding annual communication. The income of the Permanent Fund accrues to the General Fund. (Amended [2000-73](#))

**Section 3.035. ENDOWMENT FUND.** The Endowment Fund consists of all gifts and bequests designated as made to it by the donor or testator and such assets as may be added to it by order of the Grand Lodge. The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to assure the financial stability of the Grand Lodge regardless of changing business conditions. The

income of the Endowment Fund accrues to the General Fund. (Added [1987-124](#), [125](#), [2000-73](#))

**Section 3.036. STEWART FUND.** The Stewart Fund consists of the assets received by the Grand Lodge from the testamentary trust established by Dr. Samuel Smith Stewart in honor of his parents: Alphonso Chase Stewart and Elizabeth Smith Stewart. The principal of the Stewart Fund shall not be invaded. Earnings of the Stewart Fund shall consist only of the income from investment of, and realized appreciation from the sale of assets of the principal of the Stewart Fund, determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, consistently applied. The Net Earnings of the Stewart Fund shall be distributed and used solely for eleemosynary or free education purposes as determined exclusively by the Stewart Fund Committee as hereinafter set forth in this Section.

- (a) The Stewart Fund shall be administered by a Committee consisting of Nine (9) Members, Three (3) of whom shall be the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Senior Grand Warden. Each of the Six (6) remaining Members shall be a Master Mason in good standing of a subordinate Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri, appointed by the Grand Master, with the approval of either the Deputy Grand master or the Senior Grand Warden. Such remaining Six (6) Members, shall serve for Six (6) years, except that One (1) of the initial Six (6) Members shall serve for One (1) year, One (1) of the initial Six (6) Members shall serve for Two (2) years, One (1) of the initial Six (6) Members shall serve for Three (3) years, One (1) of the initial Six (6) Members shall serve for Four (4) years, One (1) of the initial Six (6) Members shall serve for Five (5) years and One (1) of the initial Six (6) Members shall serve for Six (6) years. The Grand Master with the approval of either the Deputy Grand Master or the Senior Grand Warden, may fill vacancies and may reappoint any or all of the remaining Six (6) Members to additional terms.
- (b) The Committee shall determine how the Earnings of the Stewart Fund shall be distributed in accordance with this Section, including, without limitation, publicizing the establishment of, and expenditures made from the Stewart Fund. The Stewart Fund Committee shall develop guidelines for the selection of recipients of eleemosynary or free education scholarships, eleemosynary or free education loans and eleemosynary or free education grants.
- (c) The Committee is authorized to retain outside consultants to assist it in its duties and to pay reasonable fees and expenses of such outside consultants, and the reasonable expenses of the Committee and Committee Members, from Earnings of the Stewart Fund.
- (d) The Committee shall annually provide the Grand Lodge with a written report of its activities during the preceding year.
- (e) The Stewart Fund shall be audited annually by the same auditor which shall perform the annual audit for all other Grand Lodge Funds.
- (f) After the adjournment of each annual communication of the Grand Lodge but



not later than November 30<sup>th</sup> of each year the Committee shall elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman from the Six (6) appointed Members. (Added [2003-96](#))

**Section 3.040. SPECIAL FUND.** The Special Fund consists of assets held by the Grand Lodge on terms or conditions differing from those governing the other Funds. Separate book accounts are kept of each item. Disbursements from the accounts of the Special Fund are made according to the terms and conditions applicable thereto. No gift or bequest for any restricted or special purpose is received or accepted until approved by any four (4) of the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden, the Junior Grand Warden, the Grand Treasurer, the Grand Secretary, and the Chairman of the Committee On Ways and Means. Additional Special Funds may be added upon the request of the Grand Secretary, and with the approval of any two (2) of the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Treasurer and the Chairman of the Committee On Ways and Means. The fund so requested may be restricted or unrestricted based on the reason and purpose for its creation. (Amended [2000-73](#))

*Joseph S. McIntyre Library Fund: For the purchase of books to be installed as part of the permanent Masonic Library in the general office of the Grand Lodge, the books to be selected and the price paid therefor to be determined by the Grand Secretary at the time of purchase. [1937-29](#). Committee on Masonic Education directed to recommend purchase of particular books. (Res. [1961-132](#), [137](#))*

**Section 3.050. DEPOSITORIES.** All cash is deposited by the Grand Secretary in accounts in the name of the Grand Lodge in banks or trust companies, or other financial institutions doing business in Missouri, designated by the Grand Treasurer and approved by the Investment Committee.

*Cross reference: Grand Secretary. [2.040\(b\)](#)*

**Section 3.060. INVESTMENT COMMITTEE.** The Investment Committee shall consist of the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden, the Junior Grand Warden, the Grand Treasurer, the Grand Secretary, and the Chairman On Ways and Means. It has the duties and powers provided by law, and directs the investment and reinvestment, to such extent as it deems advisable, of the assets of any Fund which in its opinion are in excess of the amount needed in cash for the current operation of such Fund. The Committee may vote in person, by mail, by facsimile, or by telephone. The Grand Treasurer is Chairman of the Committee, and reports its actions and all changes of investments in his annual report to the Grand Lodge. (Amended [2000-74](#))

**Section 3.070. INVESTMENTS.** Assets may be held, invested, exchanged or reinvested in accordance with a custody and management agreement executed pursuant to Section [3.090](#). The Investment Committee constituted in accordance with Section [3.060](#) shall invest the funds of this Grand Lodge in accordance with the following investment principles and goals:

- (a) Investments shall be made solely in the interest of the beneficiaries of the Fund.
- (b) The Funds shall be invested with the care, skill, prudence, and diligence under the

circumstances then prevailing that a prudent man acting in a like capacity and familiar with such matters would use in the investment of a fund of like character and with like aims.

(c) Investment of the Fund shall be so diversified as to minimize the risk of large losses, unless under the circumstances it is clearly not prudent to do so.

(d) Funds shall be invested with the goal of achieving a total rate of return sufficient to provide current distribution potential and to allow for the growth necessary to increase future distribution potential. (Amended [1970-118](#), [2000-74](#), [2016-202](#))

*Section is not applicable to investments of subordinate lodge funds. ([1977-58](#))*

**Section 3.080. CUSTODY OF SECURITIES.** All intangible assets of the Grand Lodge, other than cash, not otherwise provided for are kept in a safe deposit box or boxes of the Grand Lodge, leased from a corporation or corporations doing a safe deposit business in Missouri, designated by the Grand Treasurer and approved by the Investment Committee. The Grand Treasurer, accompanied by the Grand Master or his representative, has access to any box.

**Section 3.090. CUSTODY AGREEMENT.** The Grand Treasurer may, with the approval of the Investment Committee, contract with a trust company, or a bank exercising trust powers, having a capital of not less than \$250,000,000.00, for the custody of all or any part of the securities and investments of the Grand Lodge, for collection and remittance of amounts received therefrom, whether interest or principal, and to advise and counsel with the Investment Committee and aid it in the care and investment and reinvestment of the assets of the Grand Lodge, or such of said services as are from time to time deemed advisable. Any such contract is terminable at will by either party, and must be reported in full to the Grand Lodge at the annual communication next after the execution of the contract. The Investment Committee shall request the Jurisprudence Committee to review any and all such contracts prior to the execution thereof by the Investment Committee and Grand Treasurer. (Amended [2000-74](#))

**Section 3.095. FISCAL YEAR.** The fiscal year of the Grand Lodge begins November 1 and ends October 31. The budget year begins November 1 and ends October 31. Preceding the close of the annual communication a budget is prepared under Section 3.100 for the budget year next thereafter. (Added [1962-139](#); amended [1971-44](#); [1989-85](#); [2004-96](#))

**Section 3.100. BUDGET.** Before the close of each annual communication the Committee on Ways and Means, with the advice of the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Treasurer, and the Grand Secretary, prepares a budget for the next budget year. The budget shall itemize the source and amount of income estimated to be received and the anticipated expenditures required for the operation of the Grand Lodge for the next budget year. The budget may not exceed the amount of Funds Estimated, which is the amount of income reasonably expected to be received in the budget year. The Committee on Ways and Means shall meet within thirty (30) days after the receipt of the annual Audit Report to review the Budget and adjust the Budget based upon the audited income amounts to determine the estimated Funds. The Committee on Ways and Means shall report any and all changes in

the Estimated Funds and the Budget at the next succeeding annual communication of the Grand Lodge.

No expenditure or disbursement shall be made in excess of the appropriated amount for such expenditure or disbursement by line item without the consent of the Grand Master, who may authorize the increase or such appropriation by not more than ten percent (10%) of the original authorized Budget as adjusted by the Committee On Ways and Means after receipt of the Annual Audit Report, provided that the total Budget expenditures and disbursements, as revised, do not exceed the estimated Funds. Disbursements in excess of the Budget amounts or in excess of ten percent (10%) of the Budget amount, as adjusted, and any other appropriation or increase is made only after receiving the consent of any three (3) of the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden, the Junior Grand Warden, or the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means. Prior approval is required before funds may be disbursed. The Committee on Ways and Means shall report all changes made in the Budget in the next Annual Report to the Grand Lodge. (Amended [1971-45](#), [2000-74](#), [75](#), [2017-109](#))

**Section 3.110. DISASTER RELIEF.** Grand Lodge funds may be expended to the general public for relief from floods, tornadoes, enemy attack, and similar disasters on order of the Grand Master, with the consent of the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden, and the Junior Grand Warden, or any two (2) of them; provided, that the Grand Master, with the consent of any two (2) of the other aforementioned Officers, may delegate to one or more such persons or organizations as he shall determine the power to spend up to \$2,000 for any of the foregoing purposes without the further consent of any of the foregoing officers. (Amended [1987-117](#), [118](#); [2000-75](#))

**Section 3.120. DISBURSEMENTS.** Disbursements from the funds of the Grand Lodge, unless otherwise provided, are made only by checks signed by the Grand Secretary or the Grand Treasurer, and countersigned by the Grand Master or Deputy Grand Master. (Amended [1963-129](#))

**Section 3.130. IMPREST ACCOUNT.** A checking account, operated on the imprest system, may be established in the name of the Grand Lodge of Missouri, A. F. & A. M., Imprest Account, in any bank in the city where the Grand Secretary's office is located from time to time designated by the Investment Committee. Checks thereon are signed only by the Grand Secretary, who is personally responsible for the account. It is maintained at a balance of not more than Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00). Deposits are made only from the General Fund account, to reimburse the Imprest Account for authorized disbursements previously made, on the itemized voucher of the Grand Secretary that he has made the payments. The operation of the account is audited to the same extent as are all other financial operations. (Amended [2005-171](#); [2016-203-205](#))

**Section 3.140. MILEAGE AND PER DIEM ACCOUNT.** Checking accounts for the payment of mileage and per diem as provided by Section [1.080](#) are established from year to year in banks designated by the Investment Committee. The budget appropriation for the purpose is withdrawn from the General Fund and deposited in the accounts, to be carried in the name of Grand Lodge of Missouri, A. F. & A. M., Mileage and Per Diem Account. Checks are drawn on the accounts by the Chairman of the Committee on Mileage and Per Diem alone, or by the Grand Secretary countersigned by the Grand Master. At the conclusion of the work of the Committee for each year, any unexpended balance in the

account is returned to the General Fund. The operation of the account is audited to the same extent as are all other financial operations.

*Cross reference: Committee. [5.140](#)*

**Section 3.150. FIDELITY BONDS.** The Grand Treasurer, the Grand Secretary, the Chairman of the Committee on Mileage and Per Diem, and the employees of the Grand Lodge designated by the Investment Committee, shall give bond at the expense of the Grand Lodge properly to account for all the Property of the Grand Lodge which may be in their charge, in such amounts, and with such corporate surety, as the Investment Committee designates.

#### **ARTICLE 4. MASONIC REGIONS AND DISTRICTS, DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS, REGIONAL GRAND LECTURERS AND DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND LECTURERS**

**Section 4.005. MASONIC REGIONS.** The State of Missouri is divided into Masonic regions, designated and with boundaries as shown by the records of the Grand Secretary. The Grand Master, with the concurrence of the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden and Grand Lecturer, or any three of them, may establish and vary boundaries and the numbers of regions, and that determination becomes effective when it is filed in writing with the Grand Secretary. (Added [2001-57](#))

**Section 4.010. MASONIC DISTRICTS.** The State of Missouri is divided into Masonic districts, numbered and with boundaries as shown by the records of the Grand Secretary. From time to time the Grand Master, with the concurrence of the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden and Grand Lecturer, or any three of them, may vary boundaries and the number of districts, and that determination becomes effective when it is filed in writing with the Grand Secretary.

*Extending the corporate limits of a city to include a lodge does not change a district. ([1947-20](#))*

*Removal of a lodge to a location in another district makes it part of the second district. ([1957-9](#), [108](#))*

**Section 4.020. DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS.** The Grand Master appoints and commissions for each district a District Deputy Grand Master who must be a past or present Master of a Missouri Lodge, and a member of a lodge in the district. In the discretion of the Grand Master, districts containing more than twenty lodges may have one additional District Deputy Grand Master for every ten additional lodges in said District, but no district may have more than four District Deputy Grand Masters. Each of said District Deputy Grand Masters will be of equal rank with jurisdiction over separate divisions of the district. (Amended [1989-86](#))

*When the Grand Master appoints more than one District Deputy Grand Master in any district, he designates the lodges over which each has supervision. (Res. [1923-175](#), [205](#))*

**Section 4.030. DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS - POWERS AND DUTIES.** Each District Deputy Grand Master -

(a) Visits the lodges in his district as far as practicable. He receives an expense allowance of \$10.00 for each lodge visited, to be reported and paid by the lodge in its annual return, and remitted to him promptly after actual receipt by the Grand Secretary. The allowance is for not more than one official visit each year to each lodge. District or joint meetings do not qualify for the allowance. (Amended [1963-129, 130](#); [1981-132](#))

(b) Opens any lodge in his district when directed by the Grand Master or requested by the Master. He may preside in each lodge upon occasions of official visits.

(c) Examines the books and records of the lodges and sees if they are properly kept; informs himself of the number of members, and the punctuality and regularity of their attendance; ascertains the state and condition of the lodges in all respects; confers with the [Worshipful] Master\* and Secretary of any lodge which was not represented at the preceding annual communication of the Grand Lodge by one or more of the [Worshipful] Master\*, the Wardens or their legally appointed proxies, and recommends representation at the succeeding annual communication of the Grand Lodge; points out any errors he ascertains in their conduct and mode of working; instructs them in every particular where he finds they may require or desire information; particularly recommends attention to the moral and benevolent principles of Freemasonry and the exercise of caution in the admission of candidates; and if he discovers in his district any Masonic error or evil, endeavors immediately to arrest it by Masonic means, and, if he considers it expedient, reports it to the Grand Master. (Amended [1979-153](#))

(d) In the absence of the Grand Master, attends in person to the organization of lodges under dispensation; and when he is unable to attend, authorizes some past or present Master to perform his duties.

*Cross reference: Lodges Under Dispensation, [11.010](#) to [11.160](#)*

\* See annotation at Const. [Art. III, Sec. 2](#)

(e) Calls a Lodge of Instruction at least once a year, if he considers it expedient, at a time and place most convenient for the Craft, and notifies the officers of the lodges in the district to appear and receive the work and lectures from the District Deputy Grand Lecturer. On these occasions the District Deputy Grand Master presides, but the District Deputy Grand Lecturer is the authority in the work and has sole charge of teaching it.

(f) Promptly upon receiving information that any lodge in the district is considering acquisition or erection of any land or building, he reports the information to the Building Supervisory Board, and calls to the attention of the lodge the provisions of Article 9 (Lodge Administration). He consults and cooperates with the lodge to the end that the proposal conforms with Masonic custom and usage as to location and design and that the building is suitable for dedication.

*Cross reference: Building Supervisory Board, [5.170](#)*

*Any room, even on a ground floor, which is satisfactory as to safety and secrecy, may be dedicated and used by a lodge. ([1932-61](#))*

(g) Reports to the Grand Master, with copy to the Deputy Grand Master, within ten days after his official visit to each lodge, giving an account of his official acts, the state of Freemasonry in his district, the condition of each lodge, and his suggestions for measures for the general good.

(h) Assists the Lodge Education Officer and Masonic Home Representative of each lodge in his district by directing, coordinating, and implementing as necessary those programs developed for the promotion of Masonic Education and the Masonic Home. (Added [1987-120, 121](#))

*The District Deputy Grand Master may request delivery of the books of a lodge in his district to a place of joint meeting for his examination, the books to remain in the possession of the Secretary of that lodge. ([1947-21](#))*

*Grand Lodge may order audit of subordinate lodge books ([2007-15](#))*

*There is no membership in a "specific" Grand Lodge, e.g., a Lodge called by the District Deputy Grand Master to lay cornerstones, dedicate halls, and the like, other than Master Masons in good standing. He has power to order out any disturbing element. ([1873-32](#))*

*He cannot delegate his authority to another during his absence from the district except for the purpose mentioned in clause (d). ([1874-16](#))*

*He shares fully the duties of correspondence and oversight of the Craft in his district. When he receives a dispensation or charter for a new lodge, he should at once inform the lodge and determine the most convenient time to set them to work. ([1869-63](#))*

(i) Renders decisions on questions of Masonic law and practice submitted to him. Unless he suggests a disposition which is accepted by all concerned, he forwards the inquiry, with his written opinion, including statement of any supplemental information, to the Grand Master. (*this subsection apparently was added in 2000 and codifies, with minor changes, an older Standing Resolution; see Res. [1916-59](#)*)

*Cross reference: Plenary powers of Grand Master, By-Laws [2.010\(k\)](#)*

**Section 4.035. REGIONAL GRAND LECTURERS.** The Grand Master appoints and commissions for each region a Regional Grand Lecturer, who must be a past or present Master of a Missouri Lodge, who is competent to teach Missouri work, and who holds a current certificate of proficiency issued by the Grand Lodge. He holds office until the next annual communication following his appointment unless removed by the Grand Master. He holds a School of Instruction in each of the Masonic districts in his region each year if feasible. He receives for his services a stipend of \$100.00 for the first school taught in each district each year and mileage and expenses to be paid upon approval of the Grand Master. (Added [2001-57](#); amended [2004-96](#))

**Section 4.040. DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND LECTURERS.** The Grand Lecturer appoints for each District a District Deputy Grand Lecturer, who must be a past or present Master of a Missouri Lodge, who is competent to teach Missouri work, and who holds at least one current Subdivision Certificate of Proficiency issued by the Grand Lodge. He holds office until the next annual communication following his appointment unless removed by the Grand Lecturer. A District Deputy Grand Master may hold the office of

District Deputy Grand Lecturer. In the discretion of the Grand Lecturer, districts containing more than twenty lodges may have one additional District Deputy Grand Lecturer for each additional ten lodges in said district, but no district may have more than four District Deputy Grand Lecturers. Each District Deputy Grand Lecturer will be of equal rank, with jurisdiction over separate divisions of the district. (Amended [1989-86](#), [2001-61](#)) ([2004-97](#))

*Cross reference: Committee on Ritual, [5.120](#)*

**Section 4.050. DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND LECTURER - POWERS AND DUTIES.** Each District Deputy Grand Lecturer -

(a) Visits officially the lodges in his district as far as practicable.

(b) Holds Lodges of Instruction, for which he receives an expense allowance of \$10.00 for each lodge instructed, to be reported and paid by the lodge in its annual return, and remitted to him promptly after actual receipt by the Grand Secretary. Not more than one such allowance is charged against each lodge each year. District or joint lodges of instruction do not qualify for the allowance. (Amended [1963-129, 130](#); [1981-132](#))

(c) Reports to the Grand Lecturer thirty days prior to the annual communication, giving detailed accounts of the work done by him, with a statement of the condition of the lodges in his district with reference to work. The report is not published with the proceedings.

(d) The District Deputy Grand Lecturer is the authority in the work and has sole charge of teaching it on the occasion of a Lodge of Instruction called by a District Deputy Grand Master, and is the final determiner of the work when present in a subordinate lodge.

*Cross references:*

*Grand Master appoints Grand Lecturer and Regional Grand Lecturers,*

*Const. [Art. III, Section 4](#); By-Laws [4.035](#)*

*Grand Master can require conformity to Masonic law, By-Laws [2.010\(f\)](#)*

*Powers of District Deputy Grand Master, [4.030](#)*

*A District Deputy Grand Lecturer has no authority to preside over a Lodge of Instruction called by the District Deputy Grand Master. ([1874-16](#))*

**Section 4.060. LODGES OF INSTRUCTION. (Repealed, [1989-88](#))**

**ARTICLE 5. COMMITTEES**

**Section 5.010. APPOINTMENT.** The standing committees are: (a) Credentials, Mileage and Per Diem, (b) Grand Master's Address, (c) Lodges Under Dispensation, (d) Chartered Lodges, (e) Appeals and Grievances, (f) Jurisprudence, (g) Ways and Means, (h) Relief and Charity, (i) Necrology, (j) Ritual, (k) Forms and Ceremonies, (l) Correspondence, (m) Masonic Education, (n) Building Supervisory Board, (o) Entertainment of Distinguished Guests, (p) By-Laws, (q) Grand Lodge Office Oversight, (r) Youth, (s) Long Range Planning, (t) Public Relations, and (u) Investments. Special committees may be appointed by the Grand Master when he or the Grand Lodge considers it necessary. Each committee consists of not more than five members, with a chairman and

members designated by the Grand Master, unless otherwise authorized by law or by order of the Grand Lodge. (Amended [1980-134](#), [1989-82](#), [1998-162](#), [2016-203-205](#), [2019-149-150](#))

**Section 5.015. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.** Committees shall consider all matters referred to them and report promptly to the Grand Master, as well as annually, with said annual reports to be presented in writing to the annual communication of the Grand Lodge unless another method of reporting is otherwise specified by the By-Laws. Such reports shall be complete as to the committee's activities, considerations, actions taken, and shall specify any recommendations requiring a vote by the Grand Lodge. With the exception of actions or reports made by the Committee on Relief and Charity, all committee reports concerning petitions or other actions pertaining to an individual shall state the name of the individual and the committee's corresponding recommendation. If the committee has not met during the year or if it has taken no action, it shall so report. (Added [2016-203-205](#))

**Section 5.020. CREDENTIALS.** The Committee on Credentials, Mileage and Per Diem examines and tabulates the credentials of representatives, and does all other things incident thereto and calculates and distributes mileage and per diem payments to representatives to the annual communication. It meets preceding the annual communication in the city where the sessions are held. (Amended [1967-144](#), [2019-149-150](#))

*Cross reference: Mileage and Per Diem, [1.080](#)*

**Section 5.030. GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS.** The Committee on Grand Master's Address consists of all Past Grand Masters present at the annual communication. It considers the annual address of the Grand Master, and refers portions of the Address to appropriate committees.

**Section 5.040. LODGES UNDER DISPENSATION.** The Committee on Lodges under Dispensation has referred to it the records and proceedings of lodges under dispensations and petitions for new lodges.

**Section 5.050. CHARTERED LODGES.** The Committee on Chartered Lodges has referred to it all returns of chartered lodges and other appropriate matters.

**Section 5.060. APPEALS AND GRIEVANCES.** The Committee on Appeals and Grievances receives all appeals, grievances and petitions for restoration. It meets preceding the annual communication in the city where the sessions are held and at other times as directed by the Grand Master. Each member is entitled to the usual mileage and per diem for his services while in attendance. (Amended [1967-144](#))

*Cross reference: Trial Code, Articles [28](#) to [32](#)*

**Section 5.070. JURISPRUDENCE.** The Committee on Jurisprudence has referred to it the decisions of the Grand Master, all propositions to amend the Constitution and By-Laws, and other legal questions as directed by the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge. No amendment may be voted on by the Grand Lodge until it is referred to and reported on by the committee as to form and advisability. It meets preceding the annual communication



in the city where the sessions are held and at other times as directed by the Grand Master. Each member is entitled to the usual mileage and per diem for his services while in attendance. (Amended [1967-143](#))

*Advance copies of the Grand Master's address are to be made available to the committee, which is to prepare all resolutions or amendments recommended therein by the Grand Master, furnishing copies to the Grand Master before presentation to the Grand Lodge. (Res. [1971-160](#))*

**Section 5.080. WAYS AND MEANS.** The Committee on Ways and Means examines all matters affecting the finances of the Grand Lodge. No appropriation may be made without reference to the committee. It consists of six members, five members each holding office for three years, two with terms expiring in one year, two with terms expiring in another, and one with term expiring in another, and the Grand Treasurer. As each term of the five members appointed expires the Grand Master appoints a successor, and he fills any vacancies occurring on the committee.

The committee budgets the entire expense of the Grand Lodge in accordance with Article 3 of the By-Laws.

Upon the request of the Grand Master or of a lodge, the committee examines the financial condition of the lodge and makes adjustment of all disputes between the lodge and building associations. It may defer or waive in whole or in part sums due the Grand Lodge from the lodge on proof of its inability to pay, or extend the time of payment of any sums owing to the Grand Lodge. It may impose such conditions as it considers advisable and for the best interests of the Grand Lodge and the lodge.

It may with the consent of the Grand Master consolidate lodges on such terms and conditions as it considers advisable and for the best interests of Freemasonry; and it may adjust all financial problems affecting the Grand Lodge and the lodges necessary to effect a consolidation. When consolidation is effected, it must report fully to the Grand Secretary, and further proceedings must be followed as required when lodges consolidate by agreement of their members. (Amended [1970-119](#))

*Cross references:*

*Mileage and per diem, [1.080](#)*

*Consolidation of lodges, [7.200](#)*

*Building association contracts, [9.100](#)*

**Section 5.090. RELIEF AND CHARITY.** The Committee on Relief and Charity is composed of not more than five members of the Masonic Home Board. It provides for the care and relief outside the Home Program of distressed worthy cases of Masonic charity, who in the opinion of the Masonic Home Board can be cared for more advantageously outside of the Masonic Home Program. Care and relief of distressed worthy individuals shall be provided without regard to their age, sex, creed, color, or nationality. The committee meets on call of the chairman, and makes rules and regulations consistent with the policies established by the Grand Lodge for the administration of its duties.

**Section 5.100 BOARDS OF RELIEF. (Repealed, [1998-162](#))**

**Section 5.110. NECROLOGY.** The Committee on Necrology prepares proper memorials of deceased brethren.

**Section 5.120. RITUAL.** The Committee on Ritual considers all proposed changes in the ritual. It is a board of custodians charged with the duty of preserving the work and lectures of the three degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry. It decides all disputes concerning the ritual. The committee consists of ten members. The Grand Lecturer is a member and chairman and the Regional Grand Lecturers are members. The committee may provide for authorized instructors in the ritual. It may divide the ritual into sections as it considers appropriate, establish rules and regulations for determining proficiency therein, and designate the brethren to whom certificates of proficiency are issued. The certificates are valid for three years unless revoked by the committee. The Grand Secretary issues the certificates and keeps a record of them in his office. (Amended [2001-57](#))

*Cross references:*

*Grand Master appoints Grand Lecturers and Regional Grand Lecturers, Const. [Art. III, Section 4](#); By-Laws [4.035](#)*

*Grand Master can require conformity to Masonic law, By-Laws [2.010\(f\)](#)*

*The Grand Master indicated unwillingness to issue a dispensation for a new lodge, to work in Spanish, by reason of inability to supervise the ritual. ([1950-39, 132](#))*

**Section 5.130. FORMS AND CEREMONIES.** The Committee on Forms and Ceremonies considers all matters dealing with forms and ceremonies including laying of cornerstones, dedications, consecrations and installations. It has no concern with the ritual or matters coming within the duties of the Committee on Ritual. The Grand Lecturer is an ex-officio member of the committee.

**Section 5.140. MILEAGE AND PER DIEM. DELETED** ([2019-150](#))

*Cross references:*

*Mileage and per diem, [1.080](#)*

*Account, [3.140](#)*

**Section 5.150. CORRESPONDENCE.** The Committee on Correspondence makes a concise report on the general condition of Freemasonry.

**Section 5.160. MASONIC EDUCATION.** The Committee on Masonic Education consists of six members, appointed for terms of three years each, with the terms of two members expiring each year. As each term expires the Grand Master appoints a successor, and he fills any vacancies occurring on the committee. The Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master and the Grand Wardens are ex officio members of the committee when in attendance, but their presence is not required to constitute a quorum.

The committee formulates and develops education programs, superintends the dissemination of Masonic information, and provides for and supervises the issuance of a Grand Lodge publication\* to be published at least quarterly. It has no concern with the ritual or any matters coming within the duties of the Committee on Ritual.

The committee shall, subject to ratification by any three of the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and the Grand Wardens, have authority to appoint an editor and

assistant editor of the Grand Lodge publication. The committee may select the Grand Secretary or another Master Mason as editor or assistant editor, for such period of time as the committee by majority vote shall designate, and may provide compensation for the editor or assistant editor, if other than the Grand Secretary, out of the annual appropriation for the use of the committee, as determined by the Ways and Means Committee. (Amended [1989-89](#))

*\*The provisions relating to this Committee's duties respecting "a Grand Lodge Publication" appear to have been superseded in 2002 by Section [5.194](#) (Masonic Publications).*

*Cross references:*

*Special fund, [3.040](#)*

*Res. [1961-132](#), [137](#)*

**Section 5.170. BUILDING SUPERVISORY BOARD.** The Building Supervisory Board consists of three members appointed for terms of three years each, with the term of one member expiring each year. As each term expires the Grand Master appoints a successor, and he fills any vacancies occurring on the board.

The board examines plans for purchase, construction and financing of buildings in which lodges may be interested, or which they may use or occupy, and gives its approval prior to any use, construction or occupancy by a lodge. It has access to all records belonging to the Grand Lodge or the local lodge.

*Cross references:*

*Duty of District Deputy Grand Master, [4.030\(f\)](#)*

*Contracting debts, [9.030](#)*

*Building associations, [9.070](#)*

*Existing associations, [9.080](#)*

*New plans, [9.110](#)*

*Certificate before dedication, [9.120](#)*

*No personal liability, [9.130](#)*

*The Building Supervisory Board has no inherent powers; it derives its authority from Grand Lodge By-Laws alone. ([1947-139](#))*

*The Building Supervisory Board only has authority to examine plans for purchase, construction and financing of a building or temple then being purchased, constructed, or financed. ([1971-49](#))*

*Approval of the Building Supervisory Board is not required for rebuilding a partially destroyed structure if the lodge contracts no debts in the project. ([1971-49](#))*

**Section 5.180. ENTERTAINMENT OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS.** The Committee on Entertainment of Distinguished Guests arranges for the entertainment, housing and reception of distinguished visitors to the annual communication.

**Section 5.190. BY-LAWS.** The Committee on By-Laws provides for and supervises the publication of all annual annotations and supplements to the By-Laws. It notes in the supplements all new provisions, as well as amendments, and repealed or re-enacted sections. It may not alter the sense, meaning or effect of any enactment of the

Grand Lodge, but it may renumber sections, and parts of sections, change the wording of sections to conform to the overall style of the By-Laws, correct all manifest clerical errors, including punctuation, and supply any obvious omissions or inaccuracies. It determines the number and scope of all annotations it considers advisable for proper clarification and interpretation of the By-Laws. The annual supplements may contain additional information of interest to the lodges.

**Section 5.191. YOUTH.** The Committee on Youth receives and reviews information which may be furnished to the Grand Lodge from time to time by one or more of the Masonic Youth Organizations, develops and coordinates plans for support of Masonic Youth Organizations and other worthy youth activities, and upon request of the Grand Master assists him in the development of youth programs which shall be deemed by him to be appropriate. (Added [1986-104](#))

**Section 5.192. LONG RANGE PLANNING.**

(a) The Long Range Planning Committee shall consist of twelve (12) members, who shall be divided into two (2) groups: (1) The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden, Senior Grand Deacon, Junior Grand Deacon, Senior Grand Steward, Junior Grand Steward, and Senior Grand Marshal; and (2) Three members of the Craft who have never filled any of the Grand Lodge Offices listed in this subsection.

(b) The Grand Master shall be Chairman of the committee, and the Deputy Grand Master shall be Vice-Chairman. The Grand Secretary shall serve as Secretary for the committee.

(c) Members of Group 2 shall be appointed by the Grand Master for a term of one year. Members of Group 2 may be reappointed for one additional term.

(d) The Committee is authorized to create such advisory sub-committees as it deems necessary, the members of which are Master Masons belonging to Missouri lodges. Such subcommittees shall report to the Long Range Planning Committee.

(e) It shall be the responsibility of the committee to examine all aspects of Freemasonry in Missouri from a long range perspective and report its conclusions and recommendations to the Grand Lodge, along with any proposed legislation. It shall have no authority with respect to the operation of any other Grand Lodge committee and its recommendations shall be of an advisory nature and shall not be binding upon any incumbent or future Grand Master.

(f) The committee shall meet at least two times during each Grand Lodge year at the call of the chairman, and may be convened more than two times, if he deems necessary. (Added [1987-121, 122](#))

**Section 5.193. PUBLIC RELATIONS.** The committee on Public Relations consists of six members, appointed for terms of three years each, with the terms of two members expiring each year. As each term expires, the Grand Master appoints a successor, and fills any vacancies on the committee. The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and Grand Wardens are ex officio members of the committee. Only appointed members shall be counted in constituting a quorum.

The committee formulates and develops public relations programs, assists the Grand Master in projects pertaining to public relations, and cooperates with the Long Range Planning Committee to implement programs impacting upon the future of the Masonic Fraternity. Appropriations for use of the committee are determined by the Ways and Means Committee. (Added [1989-82](#))

**Section 5.194. MASONIC PUBLICATIONS.** The committee on Masonic Publications shall consist of the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Wardens and Grand Secretary, and shall provide for and supervise the issuance of a Grand Lodge publication, now known as "*The Freemason*," which shall be published at least quarterly.

The committee shall appoint the editor and assistant editor of the Grand Lodge publication, who shall act as advisory members of the committee without vote. The committee may select the Grand Secretary or any other Master Mason as editor, or assistant editor of the publication for such period of time as a majority of the committee shall designate, and may provide compensation for the editor and assistant editor, if other than the Grand Secretary, out of the annual appropriation for use of the committee as determined by the Ways and Means Committee. (Added [2002-64](#))

**Section 5.200. REFERENCE TO COMMITTEES.** No business of any kind may be finally acted upon until after reference to and report by a committee, except by unanimous consent.

## ARTICLE 6. GRAND LODGE OFFICE

**Section 6.010. LOCATION.** The office of the Grand Lodge shall be located in a suitable facility, either under lease or with legal title of ownership held in the name of the Grand Lodge, within Ten (10) miles of the City Limits of the City of Columbia. (Added [2002-64](#), Amended [2016-203-205](#))

**Section 6.020. COMPOSITION.** The office of the Grand Lodge shall be the place at which, unless temporarily prevented by casualty or other emergency, (a) the Grand Secretary and his clerical and secretarial assistants perform their principal duties, (b) the accounts and records of the Grand Secretary are maintained, and (c) such other functions of the Grand Lodge or any of its officers or committees may, with the approval of the Grand Lodge Office Oversight Committee, be performed. (Added [1980-133](#), Amended [2016-203-205](#))

**Section 6.030. OFFICE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.** The Committee on Grand Lodge Office Oversight shall be composed of the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior and Junior Wardens, and the Grand Secretary. It shall:

(a) Be responsible for overseeing the purchase, sale, lease, or maintenance of any Grand Lodge office facility, including any contractual negotiations related thereto that might from time to time arise. Upon majority approval by the Committee and subject to subsection (b) below, the Grand Master shall be authorized and empowered, with the concurrence by the signatures thereon of the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden and the Junior Grand Warden, or any two of them, to execute by written instruments and deliver deeds of conveyance, contracts, leases, bills of sale, stipulations, and any and all other instruments necessary or required to effectuate such purposes.

(b) Review in advance of execution any contract with a duration of one year or more or any contract obligating the Grand Lodge to expend three thousand dollars or more in the aggregate. Upon written approval by a majority of the Committee, the Grand Secretary shall be authorized and empowered to execute and deliver such contracts on behalf of the Grand Lodge. The review and execution of any contract with duration of less than one year and obligating the Grand Lodge to expend less than three thousand dollars in the aggregate need not be brought before the Committee and shall be left in the sound discretion of the Grand Secretary.

(c) Have the authority to select and employ, at the expense of the Grand Lodge, legal counsel to represent the Grand Lodge in connection with, and shall exercise sound business judgment in carrying out, its duties under this section. (Added [1980-133](#), Amended [2016-203-205](#))

## II

### SUBORDINATE LODGE ORGANIZATION

#### ARTICLE 7. SUBORDINATE LODGES

**Section 7.010. CHARTER OR DISPENSATION MUST BE PRESENT.** The charter or dispensation, or a photocopy thereof, must be present at all communications of a lodge.

**Section 7.020. DUPLICATE CHARTERS.** If the charter of any lodge is destroyed, defaced, or illegible, the Grand Master may order the Grand Secretary to issue a duplicate. It shall copy the original charter, so far as possible, with marginal reference to the order directing issuance of the duplicate, signed by the Grand Secretary under the seal of the Grand Lodge. The fee for a duplicate charter is ten dollars.

**Section 7.030. BY-LAWS.** Each lodge adopts by-laws, not inconsistent with the laws of the Grand Lodge, fixing, among other things, the times of its stated communications, the fees for the degrees, the annual dues, and the time for election of officers. It may include the time for installation of officers. A lodge by-law inconsistent with any Grand Lodge law is amended automatically to conform.

*Cross references:*

*Dues, [18.040](#)*

*Exemption from dues, [18.050](#)*

*Fees, [10.010](#)*

*Communications, [7.060](#)*

*Failure to elect Master, [8.080](#)*

*Permanent Committee of Investigation, [13.070](#)*

**Section 7.040. NO SUSPENSION OF BY-LAWS.** No lodge may suspend any of its by-laws. The Grand Master has no authority to suspend the by-laws of a lodge.

**Section 7.050. AMENDMENT OF LODGE BY-LAWS.** Unless otherwise provided in the amendment or in the lodge by-laws, amendments are adopted by majority vote and take effect on the date of adoption. Amendments are adopted by at least a majority vote and take effect on the date of adoption. A subordinate lodge may provide that amendments may be adopted by greater than a simple majority, and that those amendments take effect on a later date certain. (Amended [2003-98](#))

*Cross reference: Conformity to Grand Lodge law, [7.030](#)*

*Interpretive Note: The Statement of Purpose of the 2003 amendment was “[t]o clarify that a subordinate lodge’s by-laws may be adopted or amended as that subordinate lodge sees fit, subject to the minimum standard of a simple majority vote”. ([2003-98](#))*

**Section 7.051. TERM OF OFFICE.** No amendment may shorten the term for which the officers were elected, except by authorization of the Grand Master.

**Section 7.060. STATED COMMUNICATIONS.** Stated communications are held at the times fixed by the by-laws of the lodge as long as they are held, at least once in each calendar month in ten calendar months during the year. All business may be transacted at stated communications. All business not permitted to be transacted at special communications is transacted at stated communications. All business may be transacted while the lodge is at Labor on any degree however, stated communications must be opened on the first degree of freemasonry, and advanced to the highest degree of the lowest degree member present. For purposes of degree conferral, the lodge may elect to open on the degree to be conferred prior to the transaction of business. (Amended [2008-62](#); [2017-110](#) )

*Cross references: Location of hall, [7.180](#)  
Installation of Officers, [8.090](#)*

*Smoking in the lodge room proper is prohibited whenever lodge is at labor. (Res. [1913-162](#))*

*Legal local time, such as Daylight Saving, is observed, unless by-law specifies otherwise. ([1956-17](#), [100](#))*

*Communications of a lodge can be opened only at its regular meeting place, unless under dispensation from the Grand Master. ([1878-54](#); [1934-28](#))*

*No communication of a subordinate lodge continues into another calendar day. The lodge must be closed before or as nearly at midnight as practicable, and reopened after midnight on another communication, if proper and desired. ([1872-22](#))*

*Except for business properly transacted at special communications, business transacted at a supposed stated communication on a mistaken date is void. ([1891-13](#), [82](#))*

*"Full moon" defined. ([1905-26](#), [27](#))*

*Committees need not be appointed at stated communications, but the appointment should be announced at the next stated communication and the report must be made at a stated communication. ([1950-21](#))*

*No pictures may be taken in the lodge room proper during the conferral of a degree, nor of anyone in any position which would violate secrecy. Pictures may be taken whenever the lodge is open to the public, and on ceremonial occasions such as installations, presentations, and visitations, within the limits of secrecy. ([1965-164](#))*

*Stated communications cannot be canceled to hold a Table Lodge. ([1973-43](#))*

*Use of tape recorder for recording purposes during a tiled subordinate lodge meeting is prohibited. ([1974-95](#))*

*Dispensations granted to hold stated communication at a Masonically dedicated Odd Fellows Lodge ([2005-20](#)); an Outdoor Third Degree at Shrine Club ([2005-19](#)); and a special communication for open installation of officers at a Knights of Columbus Hall ([2006-125](#)).*

**Section 7.070. SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS.** Special communications may be called at the discretion of the Master. Notice of the special communication shall be given by advertisement in a newspaper of general circulation in the community of the subordinate lodge, or postage prepaid mail to all resident members, or direct digital messaging delivery



system(s) via confirmed contact information on file with the secretary of the lodge not less than seven days before the meeting, or announcement at the next preceding stated communication duly recorded in the minutes of such meeting. The nature of business to be conducted at the special communication must be clearly stated in the notice or announcement for the meeting.

A lodge may conduct any business at a special communication, except for any business which must be conducted at a stated communication or any business which is required by the by-laws of the lodge or the by-laws of the Grand Lodge to lie over for a specified period of time. If the special communication is for funeral purposes only, and no daily newspaper is published in the community where the lodge is located, no notice is required. (Amended [2014-65](#))

**Section 7.080. CONTINUING SPECIAL AS STATED COMMUNICATION.** When a lodge is at labor in special communication on the date of a stated communication, not earlier than fifteen nor later than forty-five minutes after the time established for the stated communication the Master announces that business in the special communication is concluded and the lodge will proceed in stated communication. The announcement is entered in the minutes.

**Section 7.090. NO SUNDAY WORK.** No subordinate lodge may be opened on Sunday, except to conduct a funeral or upon dispensation under Section [2.010\(d\)](#).

**Section 7.091. LODGE CANNOT BE OPENED.** No lodge may be opened for the transaction of business during the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, nor may any lodge located in a district, or portion of a district, included for a specified Area Meeting be opened on a Stated or Special Communication for the transaction of business on the date of an announced and scheduled Area Meeting, except to conduct funeral services for a deceased brother or by dispensation from the Grand Master. ([1992-189](#))

**Section 7.100. QUORUM.** At least three Master Masons qualified to vote therein and four other Master Masons who may or may not be qualified to vote therein must be present when a lodge is opened. On objection by any member qualified to vote, no business may be transacted while such a quorum is lacking.

**Section 7.110. RECONSIDERATION.** No ballot may be reconsidered. Any other motion or action which has not gone into effect may be reconsidered once.

*Objection to the minutes is not a proper way to reconsider; the minutes should record only what was done. ([1872-20](#))*

**Section 7.120. NO COMMUNICATION REOPENED.** When a lodge has been closed, it cannot be reopened for the same communication.

**Section 7.130. SEAL.** Each chartered lodge has a seal, an impression or facsimile of which appears on all official papers.

*Sealing is not essential to validity. ([1907-20](#), [151](#); [1910-23](#))*

**Section 7.140. NOTICE TO MEMBERS.** In all cases where notice to members is required and is not otherwise provided for, the Secretary shall send notice to each member. Notice shall be made by prepaid United States mail or direct digital messaging delivery system(s) via confirmed contact information on file with the secretary of the lodge no less than seven days prior to the action being taken. The minutes shall recite whether proper notice was given. (Amended [2014-65](#))

**Section 7.141. CANCELLATION OF MEETING; NOTICE.** Notwithstanding the provisions of Section [7.060](#), the Master of a subordinate lodge may cancel or postpone a stated or special communication due to inclement weather or other emergency conditions. In all such cancellations, an attempt must be made to contact all resident members as soon as practicable prior to the meeting. Notice shall be given to all resident members by immediate or direct digital messaging delivery system(s) via confirmed contact information on file with the secretary of the subordinate lodge, or if digital communication is unavailable, by telephone. Notice of a rescheduled stated communication shall be made in the same manner as a special communication and shall specify that the communication will take the place of the stated communication. The minutes of the following meeting shall recite whether proper notice was given. All cancellations and postponements shall be reported to the Grand Lodge as soon as practical and shall be accompanied by a request for a dispensation authorizing the same.

(Added [2014-64](#))

**Section 7.150. RESIDENT MEMBERS.** Resident members are those whose addresses, according to the Secretary's records, are within fifty miles of the lodge hall, or who request status as a resident member.

*Cross reference: Jurisdiction, [21.010](#)*

**Section 7.160. SUMMONS.** The Master or the lodge for any Masonic purpose may summon any Freemason within its jurisdiction to attend at any communication of the lodge, or at any trial.

*Cross references:*

*Trial Code, Sections [28-31](#)*

*Fixing Time and Place of Trial, [30.020](#)*

*Missouri Lodges Have Concurrent Jurisdiction, [21.010](#)*

**Section 7.170. SERVICE OF SUMMONS.** A summons is served on the Freemason named therein by any Master Mason authorized by the Master, by delivering a duplicate thereof in person, or by sending it to him by registered or certified United States mail. Return of date and manner of service is made on or before the date named in the summons.

**Section 7.180. LODGE RELOCATION.** A lodge may move from one hall to another within the Masonic district within which it is located by two-thirds vote at a stated communication, after notice to all members. A lodge may move from one hall to another outside the Masonic district in which it is located by two-thirds vote at a stated communication, after notice to all members, and by obtaining the consent of two-thirds of the lodges within the Masonic district where the lodge desires to move. Masonic districts

are those established and recognized under Article 4, as from time to time varied in accordance with Article 4. The move is not effective until the new hall has been inspected, approved and dedicated in accordance with these by-laws.

No legal rights or obligations of lodges, associations, building corporations or other parties are affected by the adoption of this section. (Amended [1973-122](#))

*Cross reference: Jurisdiction, [21.010](#)*

*Any room satisfactory as to safety and secrecy, even on a ground floor, may be dedicated and used. ([1932-61](#))*

*A lodge which has moved can no longer meet in the former hall, even to protect its property rights. ([1923-26](#))*

**Section 7.200. CONSOLIDATION OF LODGES.** Two or more lodges may consolidate under the name of any of the former lodges, or all or part of the names of more than one of the former lodges, or a name under which the Grand Lodge of Missouri has never previously issued a charter. The consolidated lodge may bear the number of any one of the former lodges, or a new number never previously issued by the Grand Lodge of Missouri. Notice is given all members of each lodge. A two-thirds vote of those present and eligible to vote, with less than twenty negative votes, is required in each lodge. The vote shall be by paper ballot. The charters of all former lodges are forwarded to the Grand Secretary and canceled. If the charter of one of the former lodges bears the name and number chosen for the consolidated lodge, then that charter is not forwarded to the Grand Secretary and becomes the charter of the consolidated lodge. Otherwise, the Grand Secretary issues a new charter under the name selected and bearing the number of one of the former lodges or a new number. The members of the former lodges become members of the consolidated lodge with whatever standing they had in their former lodges. The consolidated lodge receives all the assets, including dues receivable, and assumes all the liabilities of the former lodge or lodges. (Amended [1976-133](#), [1991-81](#))

**Section 7.210. SURRENDER OF CHARTER.** A lodge may surrender its charter after notice to all members, by majority vote, with less than twenty negative votes.

**Section 7.220. ARREST OF CHARTER.** Arrest of the charter of a lodge by the Grand Master holds in abeyance the rights of the lodge until the Grand Lodge has passed on the arrest. No dimitts or certificates are granted to its members meanwhile.

**Section 7.225. RESTORATION OF CHARTER.** When a charter has been restored after arrest, the lodge cannot resume work until by order of the Grand Master it has been reconvened, its charter restored, and it set to work.

**Section 7.230. FORFEITURE OF CHARTER OR SUSPENSION OF FUNCTION.**

(a) A lodge which opens no stated communication within a period of twelve consecutive months forfeits its charter.

(b) Both (1) within sixty (60) days after an annual communication of the Grand Lodge at which a lodge has not been legally represented and (2) not less than thirty (30) nor more than sixty (60) days prior to the immediately succeeding annual communication of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Secretary shall give written notice of such lack of

representation, and of this Section 7.230 notice, by first class, fully prepaid, United States Mail, to the [Worshipful] Master\* and the Secretary of such lodge and a copy of the notice shall be sent to the District Deputy Grand Master of the District in which such lodge shall be located. \* *See annotation, Const. [Art. III, Sec. 2](#)*

(c) If at two consecutive annual communications of the Grand Lodge, any chartered lodge shall not (1) be represented by any one of its [Worshipful] Master\* or its Wardens, or their legally appointed proxies, or (2) have in attendance a Master Mason who is a member of the lodge appointed by action of the lodge to attend and who shall have exhibited satisfactory evidence of such appointment to the Committee on Credentials, Mileage and Per Diem or (3) have in attendance a Past Master who is a member of the lodge, as determined by the records of the Committee on Credentials, the functions of the lodge are suspended. (Amended [1982-157](#); [2019-150](#)) \* *See annotation, Const. [Art. III, Sec. 2](#)*

(d) A lodge which shall forfeit its charter or the functions of which shall have been suspended pursuant to Paragraph (a) or (c) may resume labor only by the authority of the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master; provided that said suspension of functions shall not occur if the Grand Master shall have found, within three months after the failure to be so represented, that the lodge was not so represented for good cause shown. (Amended [1979-160](#))

**Section 7.240. REVOCATION OF CHARTER.** The Grand Lodge may revoke the charter of a lodge for disobedience to the orders, rules or laws of the Grand Lodge, for insubordination, or when, in its judgment, the condition of the lodge as to discipline, members, finances, interest in work or otherwise, is such that its continued existence is detrimental to the interests of Freemasonry.

**Section 7.250. MEMBERS OF EXTINCT LODGES.** Members of lodges whose charters have been surrendered, forfeited, or revoked, who were not under charges and who have paid all dues to the date of the surrender, forfeiture, or revocation, are recognized as in good standing for one year thereafter. The Grand Secretary issues certificates to that effect promptly after the date of the surrender, forfeiture, or revocation. One year after their date the certificates become dimits. The Grand Lodge controls the status of the other members of such lodges, except as to charges pending in some other lodge.

*A member suspended for non-payment of dues from an extinct lodge who desires to be reinstated must petition the Grand Lodge for reinstatement, tendering all unremitted dues he owed at the time of suspension, under Section [19.030](#). His petition is referred to the committee on Appeals and Grievances. If the petition is acted on favorably by the Grand Lodge the Grand Secretary issues a certificate under Section 7.250. ([1962-14](#), [135](#))*

*On the surrender, forfeiture, or revocation of the charter of a lodge, dues cards issued by that lodge cease to be evidence of good standing, which is evidenced for one year thereafter by the certificates issued by the Grand Secretary. ([1965-169](#), [170](#))*

**Section 7.260. PROPERTY OF EXTINCT LODGES.** When a lodge surrenders its charter other than by consolidation, or its charter is forfeited or revoked, the Grand Lodge becomes entitled to all its property. The last Master, Treasurer, Secretary, and

Trustees of the lodge, shall forward to the Grand Secretary all the books, papers, jewels, funds, charter and seal of the lodge, and they hold all its other property in trust for and subject to the order of the Grand Lodge.

*A subordinate lodge becoming extinct has no right to dispose of its property. ([1907-15](#); [1921-17](#), [132](#))*

## ARTICLE 8. LODGE OFFICERS

**Section 8.010. OFFICERS OF LODGES.** The elective officers of a lodge are the Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary. The appointive officers are the Chaplain, Marshal, Senior and Junior Deacons, Senior and Junior Stewards, and Tiler. Their duties are those appropriate to the respective offices, as prescribed by law and by the ancient usages of Freemasonry. No person may hold more than one office in the same lodge at the same time.

*Cross reference: Lodge by-laws, [7.030](#)*

*The Secretary may be paid a salary without regard to his attendance. ([1932-58](#))  
An Assistant Secretary is not an officer (as distinguished from an employee). ([1920-28](#))*

*The custodian of a lodge hall is not an officer, as such, and need be neither a member of the lodge nor a resident of the community. ([1966-148](#))*

**Section 8.020. MAJORITY NECESSARY TO ELECT.** A majority of all votes cast is necessary to a choice in all elections of officers.

*Cross reference: Blank ballots not counted, [15.100](#)*

*Elections of officers must be by paper ballot, ([1949-13](#))*

**Section 8.030. ELECTIONEERING.** Electioneering for any elective lodge office enumerated in Section 8.010, other than offices in the Missouri Lodge of Research, is a Masonic offense. (Amended [2013-73-75](#))

**Section 8.031. ELECTIONEERING DEFINED.** For purposes of Section 8.030, electioneering shall be defined as an attempt made by a Freemason, directly or indirectly, to persuade or entice a member or members to cast a ballot in favor of or against a particular Freemason for elective lodge office or to otherwise attempt to influence the ballot. Electioneering includes, but is not limited to the following:

(a) Distribution of written or printed material, including digitally distributed information and posting on social media, promoting or disparaging a Freemason's qualifications for elective office;

(b) Oral statements made inside a tiled lodge promoting or disparaging a Freemason's qualifications for elective office;

(c) Unsolicited criticism of a prospective officer or any other action taken in violation of Section [28.030](#) that disparages a Freemason's reputation with the purpose of influencing a ballot.

(d) An unsolicited attempt to persuade or coerce an otherwise duly qualified lodge member from holding office.

Electioneering, however, does not include:

(a) Oral and written communications made by a Senior Warden respecting routine planning activities made in anticipation of his election to the office of Master;

(b) A good faith inquiry or response thereto made by a Freemason respecting:  
1) the duties of any elective or appointed lodge office;  
2) the eligibility of a Master Mason to hold elective or appointive office under the *Constitution and By-Laws*

(c) Expressions made outside of a tiled lodge indicating a willingness or unwillingness to serve, if elected or asked, in an elective or appointed lodge office; or

(d) Respectful private discussions held outside a tiled lodge regarding the selection of elective officers. ([2013-73-75](#); Amended [2017-107-108](#))

*Cross references:*

*Electioneering for Grand Lodge office, [1.045](#), [1.046](#)*

*Masonic offenses, [28.010](#), [28.025-.060](#), [28.030](#)*

*Paper ballot providing option to either advance the line or write in names of officers to be elected is permissible. ([2013-69](#))*

**Section 8.040. MUST BE MASTER MASONS AND MEMBERS.** All officers must be Master Masons. All except the Tiler must be members of the lodge.

*A by-law requiring certain ritualistic proficiency to be eligible to hold office is invalid. ([1907-32](#); [1940-26](#))*

*A by-law requiring attendance at a certain number of meetings to be eligible to hold office is invalid. ([1950-21](#))*

**Section 8.050. ELECTIVE GRAND OFFICERS INELIGIBLE.** No elective officer of the Grand Lodge may hold office as Master or Warden of his lodge.

**Section 8.060. ELIGIBILITY OF MASTER.** No one may be elected Master of a lodge, other than a Lodge Under Dispensation or a new lodge at its organization, who has not been elected and served as Warden. Service as Master or Warden in a regular lodge outside Missouri is acceptable.

**Section 8.070. ELIGIBILITY OF TILER.** The Tiler must be a member of a Missouri lodge.

**Section 8.080. FAILURE TO ELECT OFFICERS.** If a lodge fails to open the stated communication prescribed by its by-laws for the election of its officers, the election is held at the next stated communication. If a lodge fails to elect its Master at the time prescribed by its by-laws, or at the next stated communication, if the one prescribed was not opened, the election is held only under dispensation from the Grand Master, and after

notice to resident members. If it fails to choose some other elective officer, it proceeds as if under Section [8.140](#). (Amended [1964-162](#))

*By-law provisions to prohibit officer from advancing if he does not fill station is invalid. ([1978-31](#))*

**Section 8.090. INSTALLATION REQUIRED, TO BE RECORDED.** The officers of a lodge serve from their installation until their successors are installed. Each must be installed in person, and the fact must be entered in the minutes. Opening the lodge may be omitted for a public installation; in which event approval of the report of the installation is made a matter of record in the minutes at the next stated communication of the lodge. (Amended [1961-131](#))

*An officer can be installed only by his own lodge. ([1944-20](#))*

*Where two or more lodges arrange a joint installation, the opening ceremonies need be conducted only once (in behalf of all the lodges). ([1880-33](#))*

*If the installation is held at the time and place of a stated communication, established by the by-laws of the lodge, the lodge must be opened. ([1962-14](#), [136](#); [1965-167](#))*

**Section 8.100. INSTALLING OFFICER.** Only a present or Past Master of a Missouri lodge may install an officer of a lodge.

**Section 8.110. OFFICERS NEED NOT BE REINSTALLED.** An officer who continues in the same office need not be reinstalled.

**Section 8.120. REFUSAL TO BE INSTALLED.** If at the communication when he is elected, any elective officer refuses to be installed, his election is void, and the lodge proceeds to elect another. If his refusal is subsequent to the election communication, the vacancy is filled at the next stated communication more than ten days thereafter, after notice to resident members.

**Section 8.130. NOTICE TO GRAND SECRETARY.** Within ten days after the installation of any officer, the Secretary notifies the Grand Secretary, giving the name and title of the officer, and, in the case of a Master, a Senior Warden, a Junior Warden, or a Secretary, his mailing address. (Amended [1984-139](#))

**Section 8.140. VACANCY IN OFFICE.** Upon the death or resignation of any officer of a lodge, or on declaration by the lodge of the failure or inability of any officer, other than the Master, to perform his duties, the office becomes vacant. The suspension of an officer vacates the office, and the suspended brother is not restored to office by reinstatement. Vacancies in offices other than those of Master and Wardens may be filled by appointment at any time. Vacancies in the offices of Master and Wardens are filled by election at the next stated communication more than ten days after the vacancy appears, after notice to resident members, except as provided in Section [8.160](#).

*By-law provision for automatic vacancy on unexcused absence is invalid. ([1923-24](#))*

*A by-law authorizing the Master to remove an officer is invalid. ([1955-23](#), [120](#))*

**Section 8.150. VACANCY IN OFFICE OF MASTER.** If the office of Master becomes vacant, or if the Master is absent, the Senior and Junior Wardens successively become acting Master for the time being for all purposes except installation of officers, until the Master is present or the vacancy in that office is filled.

**Section 8.160. VACANCY IN ALL PRINCIPAL STATIONS.** If the offices of Master and Wardens all become vacant at the same time, the Grand Master grants a dispensation to some present or Past Master of a Missouri lodge to open a stated communication of the lodge, conduct the election, and install the officers. Notice is given to the resident members.

**Section 8.170. PRESIDING OFFICERS REQUIRED.** The acting Master for the time being is the official head of the lodge, and his presence as such must be recorded in the minutes. He need not actually preside, but may request any Master Mason to do so, for such purposes and for such time as the acting Master may see fit.

**Section 8.180. ABSENCE OF MASTER AND WARDENS.** If the Master and Wardens are all absent when a communication of the lodge is to be held, it may be opened for all purposes by any Past Master of the lodge who has been asked to do so by the Master or the Wardens in succession, or under dispensation from the Grand Master, or, in the absence of all Past Masters of the lodge, by any Master Mason of the lodge. For funeral purposes only, any Master Mason may open the lodge.

**Section 8.190. NO APPEAL FROM ACTING MASTER'S DECISION.** There is no appeal from the decision of the acting Master, except to the Grand Master or to the Grand Lodge.

**Section 8.200. PAST MASTERS.** Those who are duly elected Masters and actually preside as such become Past Masters when they cease to be Masters. They may be deprived of that rank by the Grand Lodge on being found guilty of a Masonic offense.

*Cross reference: Const. [Art. II, Sec. 1](#)*

*One who was deprived of his rank may be restored to it by the Grand Lodge.  
([1927-199, 200](#))*

**Section 8.210. JEWELS.** The Jewels of the officers are silver or white metal, and are as follows:

- Master - Square.
- Senior Warden - Level.
- Junior Warden - Plumb.
- Treasurer - Crossed Keys.
- Secretary - Crossed Pens.
- Chaplain - Scroll.
- Marshal - Baton.
- Senior Deacon - Square and Compasses, with sun in center.
- Junior Deacon - Square and Compasses, with moon in center.
- Stewards - Cornucopia.



Tiler - Sword.

## ARTICLE 9. LODGE ADMINISTRATION

**Section 9.010. TRUSTEES.** The Master and Wardens are trustees of the lodge, unless the lodge has provided, by by-law, for the election or appointment of other trustees. Elected or appointed trustees must be not less than three in number, and be Master Masons and members of the lodge.

*A lodge by-law providing for the election of trustees may provide for their nomination by a committee. ([1952-17](#), [118](#))*

**Section 9.020. TITLE AND POWERS OF TRUSTEES.** Title to the property of the lodge is vested in the trustees for the use and benefit of the lodge, or of the Grand Lodge as provided in Section [7.260](#). Subject to the By-Laws of the Grand Lodge and of the lodge, the trustees shall manage and maintain all the property of the lodge, and convey the property as the lodge (or the Grand Lodge, under Section [7.260](#)) directs.

**Section 9.025. COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE PROHIBITED.** No lodge may engage in any commercial enterprise.

**Section 9.030. A LODGE NOT TO CONTRACT DEBTS.** No lodge may contract debts for any purpose other than rentals under leases for less than one year, unless it has on hand sufficient cash or liquid assets to pay the debt, or unless the transaction is approved by the Building Supervisory Board.

*Cross reference: District Deputy Grand Masters—Powers, Duties, [4.030\(f\)](#)*

**Section 9.035 AUDIT COMMITTEE.** Each lodge has an Audit Committee consisting of not less than three members appointed by the Master immediately upon installation. The Audit Committee shall annually inspect the financial records of the lodge and report its findings to the lodge. (Amended [1984-139](#))

*The Grand Lodge may order an audit of subordinate lodge books. ([2007-15](#))*

**Section 9.040. BUDGET COMMITTEE.** Each lodge has a budget committee, consisting of the Master, Secretary and Treasurer, and two Master Masons of the lodge appointed by the Master immediately upon installation.

**Section 9.050. LODGE BUDGET.** Not later than the second stated communication after the installation of the Master, the Budget Committee prepares and reports a budget of the revenues anticipated to be available for the operation of the lodge for the next year, and of the itemized expenditures required, appropriated, or recommended for the period, including the per capita tax due the Grand Lodge. Adoption of the budget authorizes the expenditure of the amounts stated therein, to the extent of the funds available when the expenditure is made. The lodge may include recommended expenditures for charitable contributions, as defined under Section [9.053](#).

**Section 9.051. TREASURER.** (a) The Treasurer is the chief financial officer of the lodge. He is responsible for all financial records of the lodge including assets under control of the lodge trustees as authorized in Sections [9.010](#) and [9.020](#), and all assets

maintained by the lodge or its committees. The treasurer shall cause to be maintained financial records sufficient to report monthly financial information to the lodge as specified in subsection (b) of this section.

(b) The lodge treasurer shall cause to be presented monthly a financial statement for all the assets owned or controlled by the lodge and committees. Such report shall include:

- (1) Detailed Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets.
- (2) Detailed Income or operating statement.

The treasurer's report to the lodge may be presented in writing or orally to the lodge with a written copy included in the official minutes of the lodge. Approval or rejection of the report shall be noted in the official minutes of the lodge.

(c) The lodge treasurer shall cause to be presented annually a financial statement for all the assets owned or controlled by the lodges and committees. Such report shall include the items listed in subsection (b) of this section. The annual treasurer's report shall be presented in writing and included with the official minutes of the lodge. Approval or rejection of the report shall be noted in the official minutes of the lodge after examination and report of the audit committee in accordance with Section [9.035](#).

(d) The lodge treasurer shall cause to be prepared and filed all tax returns required by law on a timely basis. He shall maintain all supporting documentation for such length of time required by federal, state, and Grand Lodge law. The treasurer shall report the filing of said forms to the lodge and said reported shall be noted in the official minutes of the lodge. Copies of lodge tax returns shall be made available upon request in accordance with federal law.

(e) The lodge treasurer shall make detailed information available for inspection upon order from:

- (1) The Grand Master under authority of Section [2.010](#), or
- (2) The Grand Lodge Ways and Means Committee under authority of Section [5.080](#), or
- (3) The District Deputy Grand Master under authority of Section [4.030](#), or
- (4) The lodge Master.

Detailed information shall include, but shall not be limited to: lodge budgets, invoices, deposit tickets and receipts, bank and investment reconciliations, account ledgers and/or spreadsheets, equipment inventories, and temple board agreements, if applicable.

(f) The lodge treasurer's failure to provide reports or information as required by the section within the timelines set forth below shall be considered grounds for removal from office under the provisions of Section [8.140](#):

- (1) Failure to present monthly reports listed in subsection (b) for two consecutive months
- (2) Failure to present annual reports listed in subsection (c) within two months of the lodge year end
- (3) Failure to present any tax return listed in subsection (d) within three months of the lodge year end
- (4) Failure to present any information requested in accordance with subsection (e) within the timeline specified by the order.

The lodge Master shall appoint a replacement lodge treasurer and notify the Grand Lodge Office under the provisions of Section [8.140](#) if a treasurer is removed under this subsection.

(g) The failure of a lodge treasurer to surrender all original records in his possession or control upon leaving the office and transfer any assets under his control within a reasonable amount of time, not to exceed 45 days from leaving office absent extenuating circumstances, shall be deemed a Masonic Offense.

(Added [2015-110-111](#))

*Cross references:*

*Powers of the Grand Master, [2.010](#)*

*Powers of the District Deputy Grand Master, [4.030](#)*

*Grand Lodge Ways and Means Committee, [5.080](#)*

*Vacancy in Office, [8.140](#)*

*Trustees, [9.010](#), [9.020](#)*

*Lodge Audit Committee [9.035](#)*

**Section 9.052. EXPENDITURES.** No expenditures except those required by law may exceed the budget without the consent of the Master and Wardens and a two-thirds majority vote of the lodge. Except with respect to lodge funds used for the Order of DeMolay, the Job's Daughters, or the Rainbow Girls, no expenditures for charitable contributions may exceed the budget without the consent of the Master and Wardens and a two-thirds vote of the members attending at a stated communication, after notice shall have been given in accordance with Section [7.140](#).

*Lodge funds may be used for past master's jewel, ([1980-133](#)); also a scholarship fund subject to Section [7.140](#), ([1980-133](#)); decisions as to sponsorship of and use of lodge funds for non-Masonic organizations modified as to DeMolay, Job's Daughters, and Rainbow girls (Res. [1967-143](#))*

**Section 9.053. CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS.** Lodges may make cash and in-kind contributions to needy persons and federally tax exempt entities, regardless of Masonic affiliation, but in no event shall a lodge make any contribution that might be used to support any political or sectarian religious purpose. Lodges shall be solely responsible for complying with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules and regulations and in no event shall a lodge take any action that might threaten or compromise the tax exempt status of the lodge or of the Grand Lodge.

Use of the word "Masonic", the name of the lodge, and the Square and Compasses is permissible on tickets or other promotional materials for special fund raising projects and solicitations of donations for charitable contributions, in compliance with this section.

(Amended [2012-42,43](#))

*Masons and Knights of Columbus jointly may participate in local charitable fund projects with certain limitations. ([1985-125](#))*

*Requests to use lodge funds for a community Christmas charity and relief program; for a scholarship fund to be administered by a committee appointed by the Master; for a community hospital; and for a site for Cerebral Palsy Association Building, were disapproved. ([1965-165](#); [1976-131](#))*

*Lodges should not name members to participate in the operation or control of non-Masonic groups. ([1931-14](#); [1936-18](#); [1944-17,18](#))*

*No lodge may invest its funds in a "community progress" corporation. ([1961-20,132](#))*

*\*Committee Note: The above-referenced annotations should be read in light of the 2012 amendment, which removed substantial restrictions on lodge charitable contributions.*

**Section 9.055. INCOME FROM LODGE ASSETS.** Income from an asset of a lodge shall be used pursuant to the requirements of Sections [9.050](#) and [9.052](#).

**Section 9.060. INCORPORATION.** Lodges may not incorporate, except the Missouri Lodge of Research for the purpose of becoming a charitable non-profit corporation. No individual shall have any personal right or interest in such corporation, nor shall any individual profit from its operation or from the use of its property. (Amended [2008-63](#))

**Section 9.070. FORMATION OF BUILDING ASSOCIATIONS.** With the approval of the Building Supervisory Board, lodges may cause the formation of a non-profit corporation or single member limited liability company (if allowable under Federal and State law) to hold title to, maintain, and operate all or any part of the real property of the lodge. They may join with other lodges chartered by the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri in forming such corporations or single member limited liability companies, or may acquire interests in an existing corporation exclusively controlled by other lodges chartered by the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri. Building corporations or single member limited liability companies must be approved by the Building Supervisory Board before any lodge funds may be transferred. No individual shall have any personal right or interest in any such corporation or single member limited liability company or profit from its operation or property. A lodge shall control the corporation or single member limited liability company in accordance with Federal and State law. As may be permitted by Federal Law governing tax exempt corporations, lodges may also join with other not for profit organizations to form a building corporation. Where a building corporation holds title to any property or interest therein for more than one lodge, all reference to "a lodge" or "the lodge" shall apply to all of said lodges. (Amended [2015-112-113](#))

*Cross references:*

*Building Supervisory Board, [5.170](#)*

**Section 9.080. EXISTING ASSOCIATIONS.** Section 9.070 does not apply to any arrangement existing September 24, 1957, but any proposed change therein must be submitted to the Building Supervisory Board, and must not be inconsistent with Section 9.070.

**Section 9.090. REPORT BY BUILDING ASSOCIATION.** Not later than two and one half months after its fiscal year end, each building corporation or single member limited liability company holding title to any property or interest therein for the benefit of a lodge must submit to the lodge a budget for the ensuing year and a written balance sheet and operating statement, containing a detailed statement of its assets and properties, and of its receipts and expenditures, for its fiscal year ending prior to the date the report is required. Lodge building corporations or single member limited liability companies are subject to the same audit and disclosure requirements as assets owned by a lodge. The

lodge budget, with tentative provision for payments to the building corporation or single member limited liability company, may be adopted prior to receipt of the report, but no payments to the corporation or single member limited liability company may be made after two and one half months after the fiscal year end of the building corporation or single member limited liability company until the report has been submitted. Where a building corporation holds title to any property or interest therein for more than one lodge, all reference to "a lodge" or "the lodge" shall apply to all of said lodges.

(Amended [2015-112-113](#))

**Section 9.100. CONTRACT WITH BUILDING ASSOCIATION.** After the building association submits its report and budget as provided in Section 9.090, the budget committee negotiates a contract with the building association for the current year, to become effective when approved by the lodge. If the budget committee and the building association fail to agree within one month after the submission of the report and budget of the building association, the dispute is submitted to the Committee on Ways and Means of the Grand Lodge, which conclusively establishes the terms of the contract. This section does not invalidate any existing contract or agreement which was effective October 1, 1933, nor does it require annual renewal of such contracts, if reports are submitted as required.

**Section 9.110. NEW PLANS.** No lodge may acquire, erect, or become interested in, use or occupy any land or building until the building plans and plans for financing the project are first submitted to the Building Supervisory Board and its permission obtained. If the project is to be accomplished by or through a corporation or association, permission likewise must be obtained; and, if permission is denied and the corporation nevertheless proceeds, the word "Masonic" may not be used in connection with any of its property or activities.

**Section 9.120. CERTIFICATE BEFORE DEDICATION.** Whenever a lodge asks a dispensation for the dedication of a permanent hall it shall certify to the Grand Master that it has complied with the provisions of Section 9.110 so far as applicable. Failure to comply with this requirement authorizes the Grand Master to refuse to permit the dedication.

**Section 9.130. NO LIABILITY.** Neither the Grand Lodge nor any officer or member thereof as such, nor of the Building Supervisory Board, is liable for any indebtedness of any lodge or building association or corporation, by reason of permission to incur indebtedness, or otherwise.

**Section 9.140. USE OF LODGE HALLS, ANTE ROOMS, AND BUILDINGS.** No card games, bingo games, or other similar games may be conducted in any lodge hall. The "lodge hall" is defined as only the room used for holding communications of the lodge.

Alcohol may be used in areas of the building other than the lodge hall when the subordinate lodge is not in session. No lodge or related entity shall engage in the sale of alcohol, but the same may be used by a lodge or related entity in areas other than the "lodge hall."

The use of intoxicating liquors in a dedicated lodge hall is a desecration thereof and forbidden, except for the limited purposes of Masonic Ceremonies, or in the conferral or

exemplification of a Degree of either a Masonic Lodge, or an appendant or adoptive body when the same is part of the work or conferral of that degree. (Amended [2012-38](#), [39](#))

*Lodge granted permission to open and maintain its Lodge at a Shrine Temple Complex because the Lodge site is isolated in an annex building that houses no Shrine Clubs, no alcohol stored or consumed in that building, the building is separately locked and alarmed, and it has a separate entry for the purpose of the Lodge. ([2009-15](#))*

*Card playing and dancing is not permitted in the lodge room itself, nor in the ante-room used by the Tiler. Use of rooms on other floors, or of rooms separate and apart from those used in conferring degrees, for such purposes may be permitted, if without gambling or profit. ([1924-36,37](#), [157](#); [1939-10](#); [1941-11](#); [1943-32](#); [1949-14](#), [124](#))*

*The playing of bingo or other games of chance for anything of value on premises used by a lodge, no matter by whom the playing is conducted, is a Masonic offense. ([1951-22](#))*

*It is not permissible to hold in the dining hall of a Masonic Temple a card party for which tickets are sold and at which table prizes are awarded. ([1960-39](#), [132](#))*

*Permissible uses defined. ([1971-48](#))*

*Any activity that does not include drinking, gambling, or other illegal activity is permitted in the lodge building other than the lodge room, preparation room or tiler's room or area for the tiler. ([1974-96](#)) \*Partially superseded by the 2012 amendment ([2012-38,39](#))*

*In those areas of the building other than those in which specific activities are forbidden, any morally acceptable activity which is not illegal as a matter of civil law is permitted. ([1980-133](#))*

*"Loyal Orange Institution" is not a Masonic entity, has no Masonic affiliation whatsoever, and is prohibited from using tiled areas of constituent lodges or of any building dedicated for Masonic purposes within the area dedicated for tiled lodge purposes. ([2004-72](#))*

**Section 9.150. CEMETERIES.** No lodge may purchase a cemetery, nor may it maintain or operate a cemetery unless it owned or operated it prior to October 1, 1947. A lodge which owned a cemetery before October 1, 1947 may extend it onto adjacent property it then owned, or it may purchase additional land adjacent to the cemetery owned prior to the above date. Trustees can properly convey a cemetery to a city upon the consideration that the lodge be relieved of the obligation to operate and maintain it.

*A lodge which has a cemetery may have a non-profit corporation set up to provide for perpetual maintenance. ([1965-168](#))*

*If a non-profit corporation is set up to take over a cemetery or any part thereof it cannot use either the word "Masonic" or the initials "A. F. & A. M." ([1965-168](#))*

*Funds held by a lodge in its special cemetery account may be transferred to a non-profit corporation organized to take over the cemetery and these funds. ([1965-168](#))*

**Section 9.151. PARKS.** A lodge may not accept a gift of land to be used as a park.

**Section 9.160. COMMITTEE ON DELINQUENT DUES.** Each lodge has a committee on delinquent dues composed of not less than three members appointed by the

Master immediately after his installation. The Secretary of the lodge shall, simultaneously with the sending of notices to delinquent members in accordance with Section [19.010](#), furnish to each member of the committee the names and addresses of the members to whom notices were sent.

It shall be the duty of the committee to endeavor to persuade each delinquent member to pay his dues. Whenever feasible, one or more members of the committee shall visit the delinquent member. When personal visitation is not feasible, the committee shall communicate with the delinquent member by telephone, mail, or other appropriate means.

The committee shall submit periodic report to the lodge, not less frequently than annually, regarding its efforts to prevent the suspension of members whose suspension is imminent and to accomplish the reinstatement to good standing of members whose suspension has occurred. (Added [1979-161](#))

**Section 9.170. MASONIC HOME REPRESENTATIVE.** Annually the Master of each lodge shall appoint a Master Mason of that lodge who shall be designated as the Masonic Home Representative for his lodge. Such representative shall receive and communicate to the members of his lodge and other appropriate persons information which may be distributed to him from time to time concerning the operation and needs of the Masonic Home of Missouri. (Amended [1984-139, 140](#))

**Section 9.180. LODGE EDUCATION OFFICER.** Annually the Master of each lodge shall appoint a Master Mason of that lodge who shall be designated as the Lodge Education Officer. Such officer shall receive communications from the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education and, subject to the direction of the Master of the Lodge, shall develop and carry out plans for the continuing Masonic Education of all lodge members. Subject to the approval of the Master and any applicable Lodge By-Laws, such officer shall also be authorized to select, organize, and direct a Lodge Education Committee composed of Master Masons of his Lodge to assist him in carrying out the aforesaid purposes. (Added [1985-132](#))

## ARTICLE 10. FEES, GRAND LODGE DUES, AND RETURNS

**Section 10.010. FEES FOR THE DEGREES.** A lodge shall not confer the degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry for a sum less than \$45.00, which shall consist of the fees aggregating \$25.00 provided in Section 10.030 plus such amount (which shall not be less than \$20.00) as the By-Laws of the lodge shall prescribe. The amount prescribed by the lodge's By-Laws in excess of said \$25.00 shall constitute the lodge's fees for the degrees. (Amended [1980-137](#))

*Cross reference: Return of fees, [15.120](#)*

*No part of the fee paid may be returned after initiation. ([1955-23, 120](#))  
A petitioner for advancement, who has not previously paid the fees in full, must pay any increased fee meanwhile established. ([1955-23, 120](#))*

**Section 10.020. PAYMENT OF FEES.** Each petition for the degrees shall be accompanied by \$25.00, plus not less than one-half of the lodge's fees for the degrees. The balance of the lodge's fees for the degrees shall be divided as the lodge may direct, and no degree shall be conferred until the sum required therefor has been paid. If the lodge By-

Laws do not fix the fee for each degree then the lodge's fees for the degrees shall be divided as follows: One-half of the total fee for the Entered Apprentice Degree, one-fourth for the Fellow Craft Degree, and one-fourth for the Master Mason Degree; provided, however, a lodge may by its By-Laws require the entire amount to accompany the petition. Exemption from the payment of fees shall not be made in favor of any candidate, under any circumstances, by the return of all or part of said fees, as donations, loans or otherwise. (Amended [1980-137](#))

*See annotations at [17.050](#).*

*Payment of this fee is not required with petitions for affiliation, even of Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts. ([1958-96](#))*

**Section 10.030. MASONIC HOME AND GEORGE WASHINGTON MASONIC NATIONAL MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION FEE.**

A. MASONIC HOME FEE. \$20.00 of the sum accompanying the petition for the degrees shall be for the use and benefit of the Masonic Home of Missouri. If the petitioner shall be rejected, or an objection be made to conferring the First Degree or should the petitioner refuse to have the First Degree conferred within a reasonable time of his election said sum shall be returned to him. If it shall be determined that the fee shall not be returned to the petitioner said \$20.00 shall be remitted to the Grand Lodge with the annual return reporting the petitioner's initiation and by it paid over to the Masonic Home of Missouri.

B. GEORGE WASHINGTON NATIONAL MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION FEE. \$5.00 of the sum accompanying the petition for the degrees shall be for the use and benefit of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association. The amount shall be handled in like manner as the Masonic Home fee in Paragraph A above except that upon its receipt by the Grand Lodge it shall be paid over to the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association. (Amended [1980-137](#))

*See annotations to [10.020](#) and [17.050](#).*

**Section 10.040. GRAND LODGE DUES.** Each lodge pays twenty-six dollars and fifty cents (\$26.50) to the Grand Lodge for each Master Mason (except those whose dues have been remitted and those exempted under Section [18.050](#)) and reported in the annual return, which dues include a subscription to *The Freemason* magazine. (Amended [1959-109](#); [1969-105](#); [1972-120](#); [1981-137](#); [1993-194](#); [1996-68](#); [2007-164](#); [2009-175](#); [2011-94-96](#); [2015-114](#); [2018-134-135](#))

**Section 10.045. GRAND LODGE ASSESSMENTS.** In addition to the Grand Lodge Dues collected pursuant to Section 10.040 and any additional assessments authorized by resolution adopted by the Grand Lodge, each lodge shall collect and be assessed for payment to the Grand Lodge as follows:

- (1) One dollar (\$1.00) for each Master Mason not relieved of dues pursuant to Section [22.010](#) (Endowed Membership) or otherwise remitted or exempted from payment of dues to maintain and enhance the Public Relations Campaign for the good of the Fraternity;
- (2) Two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) for each Master Mason for distribution to the Masonic Home of Missouri;
- (3) Two dollars (\$2.00) for each Master Mason for distribution to the Masonic Children's Foundation;



- (4) One dollar (\$1.00) for each Master Mason for distribution to the George Washington Memorial Association;
- (5) One dollar (\$1.00) for each Master Mason for distribution to the Masonic Scholarship Fund of Missouri, Inc.; and
- (6) One dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50) for each Master Mason for equal distribution of fifty cents (\$0.50) to each of the three recognized Masonic Youth Groups (Missouri Job's Daughters, Missouri Rainbow for Girls, and Missouri DeMolay). (Added [2018-134-135](#); Amended 2020-151-152)

*Committee Notes:* Commencing November 1, 2013 each lodge will be assessed an additional \$1.50 per paying member to support the three recognized Masonic Youth Organizations per Resolution passed at the 2012 Annual Communication. For the text of the Resolution, see the Resolutions section, *supra*.

*Some prior editions of the Constitution and By-Laws inadvertently omit the word "those" preceding "exempted under 18.050." The word does appear in the original text of the Section, and has never been eliminated by amendment.*

*Cross references:*

*Exemption from dues, [18.050](#)*

*Endowed Memberships, By-Laws Art. [22](#)*

*A lodge owes dues to the Grand Lodge for a member erroneously reported as dead (until suspension under [19.010](#)). ([1911-20](#))*

**Section 10.050 ANNUAL RETURNS.** Each lodge makes an annual return to the Grand Lodge, as of April 30. The return is sent to the Grand Secretary on or before June 1. The return is in duplicate, contains lists of the officers; of those who have been initiated, passed, raised, and affiliated; and of deaths, dismissions, suspensions, expulsions, rejections, and restorations since the last annual return, with respective dates opposite each name. It is signed by the Master and the Secretary. The return is forwarded with the dues required by section [10.040](#) and the fees required by sections [10.020](#) and [10.030](#). A lodge which fails to make proper return, with proper remittance, is fined ten dollars (\$10.00) per week, or fraction thereof. (Amended [1987-123](#); 2020-58-61)

*The Grand Master has no authority to extend the time for payment of the dues required by Section [10.040](#). ([1932-65](#))*

**Section 10.060. SUPPLEMENTAL RETURNS.** The Grand Secretary may require any lodge to submit as part of its annual return, or within twenty days after the request, duplicate lists of its members at the date or dates specified in the request, and such other information pertinent to audit of the return as may be requested, all signed by the Master and Secretary.

## ARTICLE 11. FORMATION OF NEW LODGES

**Section 11.010. PETITION FOR DISPENSATION.** A petition for dispensation to form a new lodge states the street address, if any, and the place and county where the lodge is to be, the distance to the three nearest lodges, a description of the hall, the names of all other organizations using the hall, the names and lodges of those who join in the

petition, and the names and rank of the proposed Master and Wardens. It must be signed by at least twenty eligible petitioners.

**Section 11.020. SUPPORT OF PETITION.** With the petition are submitted:

a. Certificates of good standing or dimitts of each of the petitioners. Any petitioner desiring to be a multiple member shall furnish a certificate of good standing for multiple membership.

b. Certificate of the District Deputy Grand Master of the district in which the lodge is to be located that the interests of Freemasonry will be advanced by the formation of the new lodge, and that all the petitioners are eligible.

c. Certificate of the District Deputy Grand Lecturer that the proposed Master and Wardens are able to perform the ritualistic duties of their offices.

d. A dispensation fee of thirty dollars. (Amended [1986-106](#))

**Section 11.030. PETITIONERS.** A Master Mason in good standing as a member of a Missouri lodge and whose residence would otherwise satisfy the requirements of these By-Laws with respect to petitions for affiliation may, upon presentation of a certificate of good standing or dimit, join in the petition. A petitioner desiring multiple membership shall furnish a certificate of good standing for multiple membership. (Amended [1986-106, 107](#))

**Section 11.040. DISPENSATION.** On presentation of the petition, but not less than three months preceding the next annual communication, the Grand Master may grant a dispensation, constituting a lodge under dispensation to continue until the next annual communication, and designating some qualified Past Master to organize the lodge.

*Cross reference: District Deputy Grand Master—Powers, Duties, [4.030 \(d\)](#)*

**Section 11.050. MEMBERSHIP OF PETITIONERS.** When a lodge under dispensation receives its charter, all the petitioners become members of that lodge, and cease to be members of their former lodges, except that a qualified petitioner for multiple membership shall be deemed to be a multiple member of that lodge and to retain his former lodge membership. The Grand Secretary notifies the lodges which have issued current certificates of good standing to any of the petitioners that their former memberships have terminated, as of the date of institution of the new lodge.

Nothing here shall prevent such a member from applying to his former lodge for multiple membership pursuant to the provisions of Section [17.110](#) of these By-Laws. ([1986-107](#))

**Section 11.060. DEDICATION.** When a lodge under dispensation is set to work, its hall is dedicated, but the lodge is not consecrated, nor the officers installed.

*Cross reference: Dedication, Consecration, [11.160](#)*

**Section 11.070. OFFICERS PRESENT WHEN SET TO WORK.** At least one of the three principal officers of a lodge under dispensation must be present when the lodge is set to work.

**Section 11.080. ELIGIBILITY OF MASTER.** Any Master Mason who is a member of the lodge may serve as Master of a lodge under dispensation, and may be elected and installed as Master of a new lodge at its organization under charter.

**Section 11.090. POWERS OF LODGE UNDER DISPENSATION.** A lodge under dispensation is subject to all the requirements and has all the powers of a chartered lodge, except as herein otherwise provided.

**Section 11.100. NO TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP FROM LODGE UNDER DISPENSATION.** A lodge under dispensation may not grant dimitts, or issue certificates of good standing for the purpose of transferring membership. Nothing herein, however, shall prevent a Master Mason who is a member in good standing of a Lodge under Dispensation from applying for multiple membership pursuant to Section [17.100](#) of these By-Laws. (Amended [1986-107, 108](#))

**Section 11.110. REVOCATION OF DISPENSATION.** The Grand Master may revoke the dispensation of a lodge under dispensation.

**Section 11.120. REPORT OF LODGE UNDER DISPENSATION.** Thirty days before the annual communication every lodge under dispensation forwards to the Grand Secretary its dispensation, and all its books and records. The minutes of the last communication prior to the thirty day limit, which shall be read and approved at that meeting, shall be included in the records forwarded to the Grand Secretary.

**Section 11.130. ACTION OF GRAND LODGE.** The Grand Lodge may grant a charter to the new lodge, or may order the dispensation continued until its next annual communication; otherwise, the dispensation terminates.

**Section 11.140. CERTIFICATES WHEN DISPENSATION TERMINATED.** If a dispensation terminates without grant of a charter, all the members in good standing of the lodge under dispensation are issued certificates of good standing under Section [7.250](#).

**Section 11.150. CHARTER FEE.** A lodge under dispensation pays a fee of twenty dollars before its charter is issued.

**Section 11.160. DEDICATION, CONSECRATION, AND ELECTION.** A chartered lodge may not proceed to work until after the Grand Lodge dedicates the hall and consecrates the lodge, and after the election and installation of its officers. An entire building or any portion thereof may be dedicated. Lodges may meet in any suitable room in the dedicated portion. No rededication is required after rebuilding a partially destroyed building, previously dedicated.

*The dedication may be public. ([1932-65](#))*

### III

## MEMBERS AND JURISDICTION

### ARTICLE 13. PETITIONS

**Section 13.010. AGE.** A petitioner must be at least eighteen years of age when he signs the petition. (Amended [1975-52](#))

*A lodge cannot fix a maximum age for petitioners. ([1922-11](#))*

*Waiver of 18 years age limit was denied. ([1985-29](#))*

*The fact that a petitioner has written his name on a petition in a place different from that prescribed does not invalidate the petition. ([1927-21](#))*

*United States citizenship is not required. ([1897-15, 16](#); [1913-17](#); [1917-39](#); [1919-16](#); [1932-56](#))*

*A former member of a clandestine lodge may petition. He need not mention the fact in his petition. ([1932-57](#))*

*A Roman Catholic is eligible to petition for the Degrees. ([1916-18](#); [1917-38](#))*

*One who cannot write is not eligible for the Degrees. ([1845-38](#); [1872-16](#); [1906-14](#))*

*Subordinate lodges are to use only forms currently approved. ([1972-117](#))*

**Section 13.020. RESIDENCE.** Except as provided in Section [21.100](#) (Waiver of Jurisdiction From Another State), a petitioner for the degrees must have had a permanent, settled domicile or fixed abode in Missouri continuously for the six months immediately preceding the presentation of his petition. Residence is neither lost nor gained by the mere fact of location while employed in the service, either civil or military, of Missouri or of the United States. (Amended [1974-105](#); [1980-137](#))

*One who has no settled place of abode is not eligible for the degrees. ([1907-16](#); [1949-14](#))*

*If a lodge finds that it does not have jurisdiction to receive a petition, all further proceedings must stop until jurisdiction is obtained. ([1873-20](#); [1934-31](#))*

*If a petitioner falsely states his residence or its duration, his election and any degrees conferred upon him are void. ([1928-32](#); [1947-14, 139](#))*

*The petition of a non-resident of Missouri under Section [21.100](#) cannot be received until the consents required by that section have been obtained. ([1959-107](#); [1973-46](#))*

**Section 13.021. NOTIFICATION TO THE GRAND SECRETARY.** Promptly after a lodge receives a petition for restoration, or after rejection, suspension, expulsion or reinstatement, the Secretary of the lodge shall send written notice to the Grand Secretary. The notice shall state the full name, birth date, occupation and residence address of the petitioner or member. The notice shall be open to inspection by any Master Mason who is a member of any Missouri lodge and qualified to vote therein. (Amended [1977-126](#); [1979-162](#))

**Section 13.030. PETITION FOR MYSTERIES OF FREEMASONRY.** A petition for the Mysteries of Freemasonry is for the three degrees, namely, Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason.

*Cross reference: Form, requirements, [13.080](#)*

**Section 13.040. DISQUALIFICATIONS, PHYSICAL AND OTHERWISE.** Except as authorized by Section [13.050](#), no lodge may confer a degree on any person whose physical defects are such as to prevent his receiving and imparting the ceremonies of the several degrees; but this may not be construed to render anyone ineligible to the privileges of Freemasonry who can by the aid of artificial appliances, possessed and used by him, conform to the necessary ceremonies.

*A man is not considered Masonically in his dotage as long as he can intelligently understand the work and learn the lectures. It is not the number of years that a man has lived, but his mental condition that determines this question. ([1904-41](#), [105](#); [1917-36](#))*

*Potential developmental disability not absolute bar to initiation. ([2017-63](#))*

*Metallic substances in artificial appliances are ignored. ([1905-10](#); [1939-10](#))*

*A shoe which is part of a necessary artificial appliance is ignored. ([1949-14](#), [124](#))*

*Occurrence of disqualification bars advancement. ([1879-44](#))*

*Cross reference: See Section [13.050](#) for provision for possible conferral of degrees on candidates disqualified under Section 13.040.*

*The following annotations to Section 13.040 relate only to it, and have no application to procedure under Section [13.050](#), which applies only to candidates disqualified under Section 13.040.*

*Not Disqualified Under Section 13.040:*

*Missing joint of middle toe of left foot. ([1916-17](#))*

*Missing second and third fingers of right hand. ([1920-28](#))*

*Missing index and middle fingers of right hand. ([1919-112](#))*

*Feet of unequal size. ([1913-17](#))*

*Missing portion of one foot. ([1901-24](#), [25](#))*

*Partially stiff knee. Unable to kneel closer than twelve inches to the floor. ([1899-28](#), [29](#))*

*Needs assistance, but can conform with help. ([1939-10](#))*

*Can see well enough to observe proceedings in receiving degrees. ([1941-11](#), [96](#))*

*Disqualified Under Section 13.040, Unless with Artificial Appliances:*

*Missing leg. ([1899-28](#), [29](#); [1901-24](#), [25](#); [1913-15](#); [1917-38](#), [46](#); [1925-32](#))*

*Missing hand. ([1900-9](#), [86](#); [1901-24](#), [25](#); [1939-10](#)) Arm. ([1924-35](#); [1926-22](#), [118](#); [1938-16](#); [1942-15](#)) Fingers. ([1940-19](#), [149](#)) Right Thumb. ([1926-23](#))*

*Missing larynx. ([1944-20](#))*

*Disqualified Under Section 13.040:*

*Paralytic, from waist down. ([1945-38](#))*  
*Knee too stiff to kneel. ([1943-26](#))*  
*Substantially blind. ([1919-14](#); [1925-31](#); [1940-19](#))*  
*Totally deaf, able to comprehend only by sight, and that comprehension uncertain. ([1968-67](#))*

**Section 13.050. PHYSICALLY DISQUALIFIED CANDIDATES.** If a candidate, duly elected or otherwise eligible to advance, is found not qualified under Section [13.040](#), the lodge by majority vote, may apply to the Grand Master for a dispensation, to be granted or denied in his absolute discretion, to permit the conferring of any or all of the degrees on the candidate. The application must include a determination by the lodge that the candidate is able to understand and exemplify or explain the ceremonies of the degrees in question, and that his physical defects do not render him unable honestly to acquire the means of subsistence, and earn a living for himself and family, or render him likely to become a burden on the lodge or the Grand Lodge; and shall include an explicit statement of the nature and extent of the physical defect of the candidate, sufficient to enable the Grand Master to review the determination. If the dispensation is granted, the degrees may be conferred only under the personal direction of the Grand Lecturer, or a Master Mason specially deputed by the Grand Lecturer. If the Grand Lecturer or his deputy finds that conferring the degrees is impractical, the conferral may not proceed, and report must be made to the Grand Master, who may then revoke the dispensation. If the lodge does not apply for the dispensation, or if it is denied or revoked, the fee must be returned to the candidate and no further action may be taken.

*Outline of Procedure Under Section 13.050:*

*(The following outline is prepared with specific reference to an initiation. With necessary adaptations, it can also be applied to advancements.)*

- 1. The candidate petitions and is duly elected, exactly as usual.*
- 2. The candidate is found not qualified under Section [13.040](#). (If candidate is qualified under Section [13.040](#), proceed under it and not under 13.050.)*
- 3. Lodge, by majority vote may apply for dispensation. (If it doesn't, fee will be returned.)*
  - A. Application must include determination by Lodge (majority vote):*
    - (1) candidate is able to understand and exemplify or explain the ceremonies of the degrees in question.*
    - (2) his physical defects do not render him unable honestly to acquire the means of subsistence, and earn a living for himself and family, or render him likely to become a burden on the lodge or the Grand Lodge.*
  - B. The application also shall include an explicit statement of the nature and extent of the physical defects of such candidate, sufficient to enable the Grand Master to review such determination.*
- 4. The Grand Master grants or denies the dispensation, in his absolute discretion. (If the dispensation is denied, the fee is to be returned.)*
- 5. If the dispensation is granted the degrees are to be conferred only under the personal direction of the Grand Lecturer or of a Master Mason specially deputed by the Grand Lecturer.*

6. *If the Grand Lecturer or his deputy finds it impractical to confer the degrees, the conferral stops, and report is made to the Grand Master.*
7. *The Grand Master may revoke the dispensation. (If he does, the fee is to be returned.)*
8. *If the Grand Master does not revoke the dispensation, presumably another attempt will be made to confer the degrees.*

*Prepared at the direction of the Grand Master, 1954.*

*Procedure under this section must be followed when disqualification bars advancement. ([1959-106](#))*

*Degrees cannot be conferred outside Missouri under this section. ([1959-106](#))*

*Totally disqualified under Section 13.050 as well as Section [13.040](#): Totally deaf, able to comprehend only by sight, and that comprehension uncertain. ([1968-67](#))*

**Section 13.060. SOLICITING CANDIDATES.** It is a Masonic offense to improperly solicit petitions of candidates for degrees. Improper solicitation is defined as any form of coercion. (Amended [1988-92](#))

*It is improper to solicit petitions for other organizations associated with Freemasonry from Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts. ([1945-37](#))*

**Section 13.070. COMMITTEE OF INVESTIGATION.** After a petition is presented and received, the Master refers it to a committee of investigation, consisting of three members of the lodge, none of whom shall have endorsed the petition for recommendation. The committee shall inquire thoroughly into the eligibility, character and fitness of the applicant and report in writing at the stated communication at which the ballot is due. Before a ballot is taken, the committee must report favorably or unfavorably by a majority of its members. The character of the report is announced but is not entered in the lodge minutes. If proper report is not made when due, the committee may be continued or replaced. A new committee is not required to report in less than four weeks. A lodge may provide in its by-laws for a permanent committee of investigation of not less than three members, but at least three members of the committee must sign each report. (Amended [1984-141](#))

*A lodge has no right to require a candidate to fill out and submit a questionnaire, intended to elicit information as to his church affiliations, the amount of life insurance he carries, the church affiliations of his father, mother, wife or fiancée, the amount of his income and like questions. The formal petition is the only document a candidate is called upon to sign. ([1923-26](#))*

*Although a man previously convicted of a felony may be made a Freemason, it should be done only if the lodge is convinced, after full investigation, that he is a good man and the fraternity will not suffer in public estimation. This is especially true if he is under parole. ([1943-27](#))*

*One convicted of a felony may be made a Freemason. (Note the second annotation under this section; also cross-reference Sections [28.060](#) and [28.070](#).) ([1961-21](#), [133](#))*

*In absence of lodge by-laws, personal visitation of petitioner by committee is not mandatory, and committee should function even though petitioner declined request to appear personally before it. ([1985-27](#))*

*No action may be taken at any stage of the petition for or conferral of the degrees by any member on the basis of the race of the candidate. (Decision reported at [1991-17](#), Approved at [1991-79,80](#))*

**Section 13.080. PETITIONS.** Petitions must be according to the official forms prescribed by the Grand Secretary. Each question must be answered by the petitioner. The petition must be signed by the petitioner. If it is for the degrees or for affiliation, it must be endorsed with the recommendation of two members of the lodge, or one member of the lodge and one other Master Mason who shall be a member in good standing of another Missouri lodge.

*The fact that a petitioner has written his name on a petition in a place different from that prescribed does not invalidate the petition. ([1927-21](#))*

*United States citizenship is not required. ([1897-15, 16](#); [1913-17](#); [1917-39](#); [1919-16](#); [1932-56](#))*

*A former member of a clandestine lodge may petition. He need not mention the fact in his petition. ([1932-57](#))*

*A Roman Catholic is eligible to petition for the Degrees. ([1916-18](#); [1917-38](#))*

*One who cannot write is not eligible for the Degrees. ([1845-38](#); [1872-16](#); [1906-14](#))*

*Subordinate lodges are to use only forms currently approved. ([1972-117](#))*

*Use of the "Mini-Pocket Petition" authorized. ([2007-13](#))*

*Grand Master granted dispensation upon finding of extenuating circumstances to proceed without receipt of a petition in official form and appoint an Investigating Committee, where the petitioner provided substantial personal information in lieu of the petition and the petition and fee were reasonably expected to be forthcoming in time for the petition to be second read and voted on by the members of the lodge at its next stated communication. (Decision dated March 21, 2013. [2013-177](#))*

## ARTICLE 14. OBJECTIONS

**Section 14.010. OBJECTIONS, HOW MADE.** Objections to the receipt of petitions for the degrees or for affiliation, or to initiations or advancements are made in open lodge, or in writing signed by the objector. They may be made by members of the lodge who are Master Masons entitled to vote. The fact of the objection must be noted on the record. An objection made under Article 14 must be made by more than 2 members of the Lodge who are Master Masons entitled to vote. (Amended [2004](#))

*Cross reference: Objection by non-voter, [14.060](#)*

*Committee Note: The addition of the last sentence was proposed in 2003 and approved in 2004. Due to a printing error, no page reference to the Proceedings is available but the records of the Jurisprudence Committee show the amendment lawfully adopted.*

*A member who has been legally declared mentally incompetent may be denied the right to vote by the Master, and therefore said member has no standing to object to petitions for the degrees. ([1982-165](#))*



**Section 14.020. OBJECTION TO RECEIPT OF PETITIONS.** An objection to the receipt of a petition for the degrees rejects the petition. (Amended [1970-112](#))

*Objection to receipt of a petition cannot be made after it has been received. ([1938-16](#), [126](#))*

*No action may be taken at any stage of the petition for or conferral of the degrees by any member on the basis of the race of the candidate. (Decision reported at [1991-17](#), Approved at [1991-79,80](#))*

**Section 14.030. OBJECTION TO INITIATION.** More than two or more **Master Masons** object to an initiation rejects the candidate for a period of one year, unless the objections are made for the purpose of further inquiry. Once the objections are made for the purpose of further inquiry, the initiation shall not proceed for sixty (60) days, unless sooner withdrawn by the objectors. Within the sixty (60) days, conclusive objections may be made, and the objections for the purpose of further inquiry may be made conclusive. ([2004-93](#))

*Cross reference: Ballot, [15.060](#)*

*No action may be taken at any stage of the petition for or conferral of the degrees by any member on the basis of the race of the candidate. (Decision reported at [1991-17](#), Approved at [1991-79,80](#))*

*Interpretive Note: The Statement of Purpose of the 2004 amendment states that “[t]his would bring this by-law (sic) in compliance with the Grand Lodge By-Law which requires three or more black cubes to reject the ballot on a petition”.*

**Section 14.040. OBJECTION TO ADVANCEMENT.** An objection to an advancement is a bar against the candidate for sixty days unless sooner withdrawn by the objector. After sixty days no objection is effective, but charges may be preferred against the candidate at any time.

*No action may be taken at any stage of the petition for or conferral of the degrees by any member on the basis of the race of the candidate. (Decision reported at [1991-17](#), Approved at [1991-79,80](#))*

**Section 14.050. NO CERTIFICATE PENDING OBJECTION.** A candidate for advancement against whom an objection is effective cannot receive a certificate of good standing under Section [20.080](#).

**Section 14.060. OBJECTION BY NON-VOTER.** An objection may be made in like manner by any Freemason in good standing who is not entitled to vote in the lodge, but the lodge determines the effect of the objection.

## ARTICLE 15. BALLOTING ON PETITIONS

**Section 15.005. VOTE REQUIRED, WHEN.** A petition must be presented at a stated communication of the lodge. After presentation it cannot be withdrawn, but the petitioner must be elected or rejected unless the lodge finds him presently ineligible, so that the degrees could not be conferred lawfully or he become a member, even if elected.

In such case, the petition is endorsed with the action of the lodge, any fee must be returned, and no further action may be taken.

*The petition should be read in full when presented and before ballot is taken on the petition. ([1950-20](#), [142](#))*

*The petition of a non-resident of Missouri under Section [21.100](#) cannot be received until the consents required by that section have been obtained. ([1959-107](#); [1973-46](#))*

*A petition for affiliation cannot be withdrawn after final action. ([1966-148](#))*

*A petition for reinstatement may be withdrawn before presentation. ([1959-107](#))*

*Committee of Investigation reported unfavorably on a petition. The petition was erroneously returned to petitioner without a ballot. Petitioner may repetition. ([1977-58](#))*

*Death of petitioner for affiliation obviates the necessity of voting upon the petition. ([1980-133](#))*

**Section 15.010. BALLOTING AT STATED COMMUNICATIONS.** Ballots on petitions may be taken only at stated communications of the lodge.

*Cross reference: Stated Communications, [7.060](#)*

*A ballot after midnight of a stated communication is void. ([1947-25](#))*

*A ballot on a petition of a candidate who is ineligible is void, but must be recorded. ([1926-24](#))*

**Section 15.020. MUST LIE OVER.** No petition may be balloted on prior to a committee of investigation report. No petition may be balloted on at the communication at which it is presented. ([1992-82](#))

*The Grand Master has no power to shorten the time for consideration of a petition. ([1940-20](#))*

**Section 15.030. ALL MUST VOTE WHEN A BALLOT IS TAKEN.** All qualified members of the lodge present must vote.

*It is improper for the Master to announce that all may vote who care to vote. ([1951-21](#), [22](#))*

*The Tiler (at his place) is not required to vote. ([1961-21](#), [133](#))*

*This section does not prevent sending a substitute to relieve the Tiler, and permitting the latter to vote. ([1961-21](#), [133](#))*

*Withdrawal of some members from the hall, with the announced intention of forcing disclosure of member casting black balls, justified Grand Master in the declaring subsequent elections void, and ordering rebalot. ([1963-21](#), [128](#))*

*A member who has been legally adjudicated mentally incompetent may be denied the right to vote by the Master. ([1982-165](#))*

**Section 15.040. BALLOT MUST BE COMPLETED.** When once commenced, the balloting on a petition must be completed without interruption.

**Section 15.050. BALLOT, POSTPONED.** The Master may, on request of a member who is unavoidably absent, or for other good cause, postpone the ballot on any petition until the next stated communication, by unanimous consent of the members present.

**Section 15.060. BALLOT REQUIRED.** (a) A ballot containing no more than two rejecting votes (or black cubes) is required for election to the degrees and for affiliation when a dimit accompanies the petition for affiliation. ([1991-177](#))

(b) A two-thirds vote, by paper ballot, is required for election of an affiliate whose letter of good standing accompanies the petition for affiliation. (Amended [1967-142](#))

*An Entered Apprentice of a lodge in Florida, which does not issue letters of good standing, whose waiver of jurisdiction accompanies his petition for affiliation, is entitled to election under subsection (b), by a paper ballot on two-thirds vote. ([1973-45](#))*

*No action may be taken at any stage of the petition for or conferral of the degrees by any member on the basis of the race of the candidate. (Decision reported at [1991-17](#), Approved at [1991-79,80](#))*

**Section 15.070. BALLOT FREE AND SECRET.** The ballot must be free and secret. No member may disclose his vote.

*Cross reference: Trial Code. [28.040\(b\)](#)*

*A brother who publicly declared that he had cast a blackball is guilty of a Masonic offense. ([1911-21](#))*

*A Master Mason is not obligated or bound by any Masonic law to blackball a candidate for the degrees for the reason that a brother Master Mason has asked him to do so. ([1936-17](#))*

*Withdrawal of some members from the hall, with the announced intention of forcing disclosure of member casting black balls, justified Grand Master in the declaring subsequent elections void and ordering rebalot. ([1963-21](#), [128](#))*

**Section 15.080. BALLOT, COLLECTIVE.** The lodge may ballot on any number of petitions for the degrees collectively or for affiliation collectively in accordance with Section 15.060. If more than two black cubes appear on the ballot for degrees, then in whichever ballot the black cubes appear, the petitions may be balloted on in groups of five or less. If, on the collective ballot for affiliation (when accompanied by a letter of good standing), a two-thirds vote is not obtained, the procedure shall apply as outlined above for degrees. (Amended [1967-142](#), [1991-178](#))

*Declaration of Master of lodge as to result of ballot is final ([1977-58](#)); but see, Powers of Grand Master, Sec. [2.010\(f\)](#), Dispensation to Rebalot, Sec. [15.140](#).*

**Section 15.100. BLANK BALLOTS NOT COUNTED.** When a paper ballot is taken, blank ballots are not counted.

**Section 15.110. BALLOTING ON REQUEST NOT ALLOWED.** No lodge may ballot on a petition on request of another lodge.

**Section 15.120. REJECTION.** If a petitioner is rejected, the Secretary informs him of his rejection and returns any fee paid.

*A candidate for the degrees who failed to answer satisfactorily the first question put to him after being admitted to the lodge was prohibited by the Master from proceeding further. The action of the Master had the effect of a blackball. The fee should be returned. The candidate cannot petition again until the expiration of one year. ([1897-18](#); [1898-12, 86](#))*

*Where, during initiation, the candidate refused to assume the obligation and was led from the lodge, the fee should be returned and the candidate, under the provision of Section 15.130, may, if he so desires, again petition the lodge after the lapse of one year. ([1927-16](#))*

*A rejected petitioner for advancement may demand return of the fees he paid for the remaining degree or degrees, since the election in the first instance presupposed his receipt of all three degrees. ([1951-21, 122](#))*

*A candidate is elected to receive the degrees but refuses to proceed. His original petition is treated as rejected. He may repetition after one year. ([1979-152](#))*

*No action may be taken at any stage of the petition for or conferral of the degrees by any member on the basis of the race of the candidate. (Decision reported at [1991-17](#), Approved at [1991-79,80](#))*

**Section 15.130. PETITION AFTER REJECTION.** A rejected petitioner for the degrees may not petition any lodge within one year after rejection.

*Election and initiation within one year after rejection is void. ([1961-21, 133](#))*

**Section 15.140. DISPENSATION TO REBALLOT.** The Grand Master, for good cause shown to his satisfaction, may grant a dispensation authorizing another ballot at a stated communication of the lodge, the date to be designated by him. Notice of the new ballot must be given all resident members.

*Permission to rebalot was granted where, by mistake, the Master declared a candidate rejected when only one blackball appeared. ([1891-14, 82](#))*

*Notice under this section must show the name of the petitioner. ([1928-33](#))*

*A rejection for personal reasons is not sufficient cause for a dispensation to rebalot. ([1934-32](#))*

*After the Master announces the result of a ballot, it is final. A motion to take a second ballot is out of order. ([1949-15](#))*

*Withdrawal of some members from the hall, with the announced intention of forcing disclosure of member casting black balls, justified Grand Master in the declaring subsequent elections void, and ordering rebalot. ([1963-21, 128](#))*

*Untiled lodge during vote on petition is good cause for granting dispensation. ([1982-165](#))*

*Upon good cause found upon complaint alleging improper use of the blackball, Special Dispensation granted to rebalot with the Master opening the lodge, Deputy Grand Master assuming the East and acting as Grand Master's representative in conducting rebalot, and ordering the District Deputy Grand Master to be present. ([2010-185](#)); special dispensation approved by Jurisprudence Committee as within*

*the Grand Master's discretion and by subsequent vote of the Grand Lodge ([2010-73-74](#))*

*No action may be taken at any stage of the petition for or conferral of the degrees by any member on the basis of the race of the candidate. (Decision reported at [1991-17](#), Approved at [1991-79,80](#))*

**Section 15.150. FAILURE OF CANDIDATE TO PRESENT HIMSELF.** If a petitioner for the degrees fails to present himself for initiation within one year after his election, the election is void and all fees may be returned to him. Prior to the expiration of the year, the lodge may extend the time one additional year.

*A candidate who fails to present himself within one year, but whose lodge fails to meet during the latter part of that period, has a satisfactory excuse. The period is extended by such length of time as the lodge fails to meet, during which extended period the candidate is not required to forfeit the fee or present a new petition. ([1940-24](#))*

*An elected but not initiated candidate who moves from Missouri, after one year, may petition for the degrees in the state to which he has moved. The Missouri lodge retains jurisdiction for one year and may extend the time of initiation, but cannot waive jurisdiction. ([1947-25, 26](#))*

*A candidate who fails to present himself within one year, but whose lodge failed to properly notify him of his election need not repetition and his election is not void. ([1982-164](#))*

**Section 15.160. FAILURE TO ADVANCE.** An Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft who fails to present himself for advancement within five years after having received the degrees, must regularly petition for advancement, but is not required to make a second payment of any fee already paid. The petition takes the usual course except that a two-thirds vote by paper ballot is required for election. (Amended [1989-88](#))

*When a Fellow Craft presents himself for advancement within one year and the lodge fails to meet, he can appear at the next regular meeting of the lodge and can be advanced without petitioning for advancement. ([1932-62](#))*

*A candidate who, through no fault of his own, has permitted five years to pass and has been advanced without petitioning for advancement may be healed. ([1930-24, 106, 118; 1940-23](#))*

*A petitioner for advancement who is rejected must wait a full year before renewing his petition. ([1910-23, 1944-21, 140](#))*

*When a lodge increases the fees for degrees, a member who has received a part of the degrees only, and has not paid the fees for the remaining degrees, and who has not presented himself for advancement within five years, is required to pay the increased fee for the remaining degrees. ([1955-23](#))*

*A rejected petitioner for advancement may demand return of the fees he paid for the remaining degree or degrees, since his election in the first instance presupposed his receipt of all three degrees. ([1951-21, 122](#))*

*An Entered Apprentice who paid in full, with his petition, the fee required for all three degrees, but failed to advance within the required time, is not required to pay any additional fee, even though the fees were increased meanwhile. ([1962-14, 136](#))*

*A Fellow Craft who remains physically and mentally qualified may petition for advancement even though he delayed seeking advancement for 75 years. ([1977-60](#))*

**Section 15.170. HEALING.** When it appears, to the satisfaction of the Grand Master, that any degree has been irregularly or illegally conferred by, or for, any Missouri lodge, on any candidate without the fault of the candidate, the Grand Master may cause the candidate to be healed. Anyone who has so received the three degrees from a Missouri lodge, has been recognized or accepted as a Master Mason, and has been issued a dues card by his lodge for five consecutive years, is conclusively presumed to have received the degrees regularly and legally. The Grand Master may order a hearing to develop the facts. This section does not alter the law relative to Masonic offenses. The candidate is not required to pay a fee for being healed. (Amended [1966-149](#))

*A candidate who, through no fault of his own, has permitted a year to pass and has been advanced without petitioning for advancement may be healed. ([1940-23](#))*

*An Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft who has affiliated under Section 17.050 shall not be required to petition separately for advancement if he presents himself for advancement with five years of his affiliation. ([1991-37](#))*

## ARTICLE 16. CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

**Section 16.010. CONFERRING DEGREES.** A candidate may not receive more than one degree at the same communication. ([1992-83](#), [2000-70](#), [71](#))

The first sections of the first and second degrees, and the first and second sections of the third degree, cannot be conferred on more than one candidate at the same time. In conferring the third degree on any candidate, the first and second sections of the degree must be without any break in their continuity. Each degree must be conferred in its entirety at the same communication.

*Cross reference: Exception for “One Day Class”, [2.010\(q\)](#)*

*No lodge may confer more than one degree or section of a degree at the same time. (Res. [1916-95](#))*

*Purchase or use of slides or filmstrips for use in the Second Section of the Second Degree prohibited by edict. ([1974-14](#), [95](#))*

**Section 16.013. MUSIC.** Appropriate instrumental music in recorded form without lyrics may be used in connection with the work of the several degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry.

**Section 16.015. INQUIRY OF CANDIDATE.** The acting Master shall be responsible for causing inquiry to be made of the candidate whether he has any physical condition requiring any caution or care in conferring the degrees. (Amended [1977-75](#))

**Section 16.020. THIRD DEGREE STATEMENT.** The acting Master of each Lodge shall read the following statement aloud to the Lodge immediately prior to when the Junior Warden calls the Craft from labor to refreshment for the conferral of the second section of the third degree:

"As Master of this Lodge, I am required by Grand Lodge Law to read the following statement prior to the beginning of the second section of the third degree. This law will be observed and enforced in this Lodge.

"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. The Grand Lodge forbids any levity, roughness, horseplay, talking, audible laughter, or any other noise which could distract the candidate. Failure to comply with this law, or any action by any officer or member in violation or inconsistent with this law, shall constitute grounds for Masonic discipline."

*Committee Note: The "Third Degree Statement" initially was adopted by Resolution (Res. [1976-146](#)). Apparently it was then codified in the By-Laws when they were comprehensively revised in 2000. The language used here differs slightly than the language used in the Standing Resolution. The language of the Standing Resolution—not that of this section—appears in the Masonic Manual of Missouri.*

**Section 16.025. LECTURE AND CHARGE.** The lecture and charge of a degree shall, whenever practicable, be given at the same communication in which the degree is conferred. The lecture and charge should be given as soon as possible. ([1992-83](#))

**Section 16.030. MASONIC APRON.** Each lodge must present a leathern Masonic apron to each candidate at his initiation. The Masonic apron is square, white, with triangular flap on which an emblem of Symbolic Masonry may be placed. The apron may be bound in blue.

*Cross reference: Funerals, [24.080](#); and annotation*

*Aprons of Appended and Adopted bodies may be worn within a Missouri Masonic lodge during a tiled meeting only when the brother wearing such apron is **at that time** formally representing that Appended or Adopted body, or if wearing such an apron is part of a lodge education program sanctioned by the lodge, or if sanctioned as part of a Chance to Advance class. (Decision dated November 2, 2012, [2013-175](#))*

**Section 16.040. PROFICIENCY. (Repealed, [2000-70,71](#))**

*Requirement of a "Candidate Proficiency" to advance in the degrees and vote by the lodge repealed by legislation ([2000-70,71](#)).*

*"Suitable Instruction" required to advance in the degrees defined as: (1) conferral of the applicable Degree, including the obligation, grips and words; (2) receipt of the second and third sections of the applicable Degree Lecture; and (3) receipt of the applicable Degree Charge. Grand Master's EDICT, dated September 15, 2010 ([2010-79](#)); EDICT within discretion of Grand Master, approved ([2010-74](#)). Grand Master's Decision, dated August 24, 2011 ([2011-121](#)); Decision within discretion of Grand Master, approved ([2011-115](#)).*

*Proposals to require or allow additional requirements for advancement: ([2001-61](#), withdrawn), ([2002-67, 68](#), not in order), ([2003-100, 101](#), not in order), ([2004-93](#), failed by majority vote), ([2012-40, 41](#) failed by majority vote).*

*It is a Masonic offense for any Master Mason to require or to participate in requiring any candidate for the Masonic Degrees to give back a proficiency as a condition for advancing in the Degrees. If a Lodge is shown to have violated the Grand Lodge By-Laws relating to these matters, the Lodge may, at the sole discretion of the Grand Master, be subject to Masonic discipline of probation, or suspension or revocation of the Charter of the Lodge. (Decision dated August 18, 2012, [2012-149](#))*

**Section 16.041. PROFICIENCY EDUCATION REQUIREMENT.** Every Lodge MUST provide each recipient of each Degree with education regarding the importance of the “Historical Candidate’s Proficiency Lecture” (HCPL) for such degree immediately following each of his three Degrees. Such education must include, at a minimum, the information provided in, and a copy of, the pamphlet on such HCPL, a publication compiled by the Committee on Masonic Ritual and distributed by the Grand Lodge. Each such candidate MUST be offered the opportunity to learn and return such HCPL in open lodge, or to a committee of his choosing. However, under no circumstance shall the learning and/or returning of said HCPL be required. (Added [2018-148](#))

**Section 16.050. PROFICIENCY MANUAL(S) AND/OR CIPHERS.** The Committee on Ritual shall prepare a coded manual or set of manuals containing that which is necessary to assist in the instruction and education of the Ritual for the members of the Craft for the several Subdivision Examinations.

The Grand Secretary will furnish it (them) for purchase, on request, to the Subordinate Lodge Secretaries for distribution to interested members and Degree candidates. (Added [1989-91](#), Amended [2015-116-122](#))

**Section 16.060. MENTORING.** The Master of the lodge shall assign each candidate a mentor who is a Master Mason in good standing. The assignment shall be made immediately after the petitioner is elected to become a member of the lodge.

The mentor shall schedule and conduct an educational session with the candidate after each degree is conferred. The education session shall consist of either a Missouri Freemasons Mentoring Program approved by the Grand Master or an alternative mentoring program approved by the Grand Lodge Committee on Education and shall be completed prior to the candidate advancing to the next degree.

The mentor shall notify the lodge secretary of the date of completion of each session. Completion shall serve as “suitable instruction in the preceding degree”.

The Master Mason education session shall be completed for the brother to be eligible to vote and hold office. (Added 2021- )

**Section 16.070. REQUEST COMING FROM ANOTHER LODGE TO CONFER DEGREES.** On the request of another lodge, a lodge may confer any or all the degrees upon a candidate of the requesting lodge. The requesting lodge must furnish a certificate, under its seal, that the candidate has been duly elected to receive the degree or degrees. Upon receiving the certificate and after proper identification, the requested lodge may lecture the candidate in the preceding degree. If the candidate is an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft, the lodge must determine that he has received suitable instruction in the preceding degree. (Amended [2015-116-122](#))

The consents of the two lodges involved and the Grand Master of Missouri and the Grand Master of the other jurisdiction are required when:



(a) A group of Missouri Freemasons confers any degree, according to Missouri ritual, upon a member of another jurisdiction, in a lodge in that jurisdiction;

(b) A group of Missouri Freemasons confers any degree, according to Missouri ritual, upon a member of a Missouri lodge in a lodge in another jurisdiction;

(c) A group of Freemasons of another jurisdiction confers any degree, according to their ritual, upon a member of a Missouri lodge, in a lodge in that jurisdiction;

(d) A group of Freemasons of another jurisdiction confers any degree, according to their ritual, upon a member of another jurisdiction, in a Missouri lodge.\*\*

\*\* See annotation at Const. [Art. V, Sec. 1\(1\)](#).

**Section 16.080. REQUESTS FROM AND TO OTHER GRAND LODGES.**

Requests under Section 16.070 from lodges outside Missouri, and similar requests to lodges outside Missouri, must pass through the office of the Grand Secretary. Degrees conferred under such requests may be according to the rules of the Grand Lodge under which the conferring lodge is held.

*When a lodge confers the degrees at the request of another, the fees belong to the latter. ([1871-29](#))*

*A Master Mason raised in one lodge, by request of another, remains a member of the requesting lodge. ([1869-71](#))*

**ARTICLE 17. AFFILIATION**

**Section 17.010. EVIDENCE TO ACCOMPANY PETITION.** A petition for affiliation must be accompanied by a dimit, or by a valid certificate of good standing issued by a lodge subordinate to either this Grand Lodge or another recognized Grand Lodge.

*A receipt for dues is not a certificate of good standing under this section. ([1899-27](#); [1906-13](#); [1924-40](#))*

**Section 17.020. RESIDENCE REQUIRED.** Petitioners for affiliation must be residents of Missouri when the petition is presented, unless the petition is permitted under Section [21.100](#).

*An expelled Freemason, who has received a dimit under Sec. [32.050](#) but is not a resident of Missouri, cannot petition a lodge in Missouri for affiliation. ([1931-19](#))*

*A non-resident who holds a dimit from a Missouri lodge cannot affiliate with that lodge except under Sec. [21.100](#). ([1932-66](#), [181](#))*

*A member of a Missouri lodge who resides outside the state cannot affiliate with another Missouri lodge except under Sec. [21.100](#). ([1920-29](#))*

**Section 17.030. JURISDICTION TO AFFILIATE MASTER MASONS.** A Master Mason who is a member of a Missouri lodge, a nonaffiliated Master Mason or a Master Mason who is a member of a non-Missouri lodge and whose lodge consents, may apply for affiliation to any lodge in Missouri.

**Section 17.040. PETITIONER FROM EXTINGUISHED LODGE.** An Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft whose lodge is extinct may apply for affiliation as such to any Missouri lodge. His petition must be accompanied by a certificate of his good standing issued by the Grand Secretary.

*See second annotation to [17.050](#).*

**Section 17.050. AFFILIATION OF ENTERED APPRENTICE OR FELLOW CRAFT.** An Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft may apply for affiliation to any Missouri lodge. His petition must be accompanied by a certificate issued under Section [20.080](#), and, if required by the petitioned lodge, any unpaid balance of the fees for the degrees in that lodge. If elected, he is entitled to receive the remaining degree or degrees on payment of any balance of the fees.

*An Entered Apprentice or a Fellow Craft of a Missouri lodge may advance in that lodge even though he may remove to another state, or he may transfer his membership by certificate of good standing. ([1946-28](#))*

*A Fellow Craft from another state, now residing in Missouri, may petition for affiliation. ([1944-23](#); [1946-28](#))*

*If he has not paid the fees required by Sections [10.020](#) and [10.030](#), those fees must be paid. ([1940-24](#))*

*Payment of fees under Sections [10.020](#) and [10.030](#) is not required with petitions for affiliating, even of Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts. ([1958-96](#))*

*The affiliating lodge is not entitled to demand from the former lodge any fee collected by it. ([1960-38](#), [132](#))*

*A waiver of jurisdiction from a lodge in Florida, which does not issue certificates of good standing, is equivalent to a certificate under Section [20.080](#). ([1973-45](#))*

*An Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft who has affiliated under Section [17.050](#) shall not be required to petition separately for advancement if he presents himself for advancement with five years of his affiliation. ([1991-37](#))*

**Section 17.060. AFFILIATION, NO FEE FOR.** No affiliation fee may be charged by any lodge.

*See first annotation to Section [17.050](#).*

**Section 17.070. REPORT OF COMMITTEE.** The committee of investigation of any petition for affiliation must ascertain and report, among other things, whether they find, by examination or lawful information, the petitioner to be of the degree stated in his dimit or certificate. No ballot may be taken on such a petition without affirmative report thereof.

**Section 17.080. CHARGES AGAINST PETITIONER.** If charges are preferred in a lodge against a petitioner for affiliation after presentation of his petition, no further action may be taken until the charges are finally disposed of by the lodge.

**Section 17.090. RENEWAL OF PETITION.** A Master Mason may petition again for affiliation at any time after rejection.

*A Freemason who has been rejected for affiliation may apply for affiliation to any lodge in Missouri. ([1924-37](#))*

*If a petition accompanied by a certificate of good standing is rejected neither petition nor certificate can be used again. ([1869-28](#); [1947-24, 25](#))*

*The secretary of a lodge in which a petition for affiliation has been rejected has no right to state this fact on the face or back of the dimit. ([1913-15](#))*

*A rejected non-affiliate may petition again, forthwith, to any lodge. ([1973-44](#))*

*A petition for affiliation can be resubmitted at any time after rejection. ([1980-133](#))*

**Section 17.100. DIMIT BELONGS TO THE LODGE.** The dimit of a petitioner who is elected a member of a lodge belongs to the lodge, and the date of his affiliation must be endorsed to it.

**Section 17.110. MULTIPLE MEMBERSHIP.** A Master Mason whose residence would otherwise satisfy the requirement under these By-Laws with respect to petitions for affiliation and who is a member in good standing of either a Missouri lodge or a lodge in another Grand Jurisdiction which is in fraternal relationship with this Grand Lodge and does not prohibit multiple membership as herein contemplated may petition for and hold memberships in one or more additional Missouri lodges or in one or more additional lodges located in another Grand Jurisdiction. No multiple membership fee may be charged by any Missouri lodge as a condition to the filing of any such petition. However, if authorized by the Grand Lodge, a fee may be charged for the use and benefit of the Masonic Home of Missouri upon the filing of a petition for multiple membership by a petitioner who is not then a member of a Missouri lodge. A two-thirds favorable vote, by paper ballot, is required for election to multiple membership in a lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction. (Added [1982-160](#))

*Associate, contributing, or honorary membership is not permitted. ([1874-16](#); [1925-34](#); [1951-22](#), [121](#))*

**Section 17.120. DEFINITIONS AND CONDITIONS AS TO A MULTIPLE MEMBERSHIP.**

(a) A multiple member's oldest membership shall be designated as his "original membership." The term "multiple membership" shall be deemed to include both dual and plural membership and shall be construed to include lawful affiliation with any additional lodges of Missouri or any other Grand Jurisdiction which is in fraternal relationship with this Grand Lodge.

(b) In addition to satisfying all other requirements set forth by these By-Laws a member in good standing of a Missouri lodge may petition for multiple membership in a lodge of another Grand Jurisdiction or a member of a lodge of another Grand Jurisdiction may petition for multiple membership in a Missouri lodge only if all the following conditions are satisfied:

(1) The election of the petitioner to such multiple membership would not violate the laws of such other Grand Jurisdiction;

(2) The other Grand Lodge will furnish a certificate of good standing for multiple membership or its equivalent if a member of that Grand Jurisdiction petitions for multiple membership in a Missouri lodge and, if he is elected, such other Grand Lodge will promptly notify this Grand Lodge of any subsequent termination of his membership;

(3) The other Grand Lodge will promptly notify this Grand Lodge when a member of a Missouri lodge is elected to multiple membership in a lodge in that Grand Jurisdiction or in the event his membership therein shall be terminated;

(4) The other Grand Lodge will recognize the suspension or expulsion by a Missouri lodge of a Mason holding multiple membership in a lodge of that Grand Jurisdiction. (Added [1982-160](#))

**Section 17.130. PETITION FOR MULTIPLE MEMBERSHIP.**

(a) A petition for affiliation with a Missouri lodge as a multiple member must be made on such official form as shall be approved by the Grand Secretary and the petition shall be accompanied by a Certificate of Good Standing for multiple membership issued by the Missouri lodge(s) of which the petitioner shall then be a member or by valid evidence of Masonic status (by Certificate, Letter or Statement) issued by the lodge(s) of any other Grand Jurisdiction whose laws permit its members to hold multiple memberships.

(b) A petition for multiple membership in a subordinate lodge of Missouri must include the full name, the age, the residence address and the period of residence thereat, the occupation, the name of his employer and period of employment, the business address, and such other lawful information about the petitioner as may be required from time to time, and the name, number and location (city and state) of the petitioner's lodge(s) of "original membership" and "multiple membership." The petition must be signed by the petitioner and must be recommended by two Master Masons of the lodge in which he seeks multiple membership.

(c) Unless a current dues card constitutes a certificate of good standing under Section 17.180, a petitioner for multiple membership in a subordinate lodge of Missouri must execute an Application for Certificate of Good Standing for Multiple Membership, using the official and approved form. The Application(s) for Certificate of Good Standing for multiple membership will be forwarded by the Secretary of the lodge in which multiple membership is being sought to the Grand Secretary of Missouri for transmittal to the appropriate lodge(s) located in this State, or to the lodge(s) of any Grand Jurisdiction(s) through the offices of the respective Grand Secretaries. If granted, the Certificate(s) of Good Standing for Multiple Membership must be sent to the office of the Grand Secretary for transmittal to the subordinate lodge to which the petition is to be submitted.

(d) When a Master Mason whose dues are fully paid and who is not under charges nor indebted in an official capacity to his lodge applies in proper form for a Certificate of Good Standing for Multiple Membership, his application shall be granted promptly and the fact entered in the records of the lodge and in the minutes of the communication. The Certificate of Good Standing for Multiple Membership shall include:

- (1) All the facts of Masonic History of the brother as written into the books and records of the lodge;
- (2) The date to which the dues are FULLY PAID.

The Lodge Secretary cannot issue the Certificate of Good Standing until it has been duly authorized by the action of the lodge. The certificate is to be sent to the Grand Secretary for certification and transmittal.

(e) Upon the election of a multiple member the Lodge Secretary shall promptly notify the Grand Secretary, who shall inform every other lodge in which a multiple member holds membership. (Added [1982-160](#); amended [2007-161](#), [2015-116-122](#))

**Section 17.140. RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES.** A multiple member shall pay all dues required by each lodge wherever membership is held and shall have all the rights and privileges of membership in each such lodge, except that (1) he may hold office as a Master or Warden in more than one Missouri lodge at the same time, except that he may not serve as Master in more than one Missouri lodge at the same time; (2) only the lodge of his

"original membership" may exempt him from the payment of annual dues on the basis of his being a Fifty-Year Master Mason and claim the exemption in the payment of Grand Lodge dues; (3) only the lodge of his "original membership" may remit the payment of annual dues on the basis of his inability to pay and claim the remittance in the payment of Grand Lodge dues; (4) only through the lodge of his "original membership" may he, his wife, his widow or child apply for admission to the Masonic Home of Missouri or request relief and assistance from the Grand Lodge Committee on Relief and Charity. (Added [1982-160](#); amended [1997-79](#))

**Section 17.150 SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION OF MULTIPLE MEMBER.**

Any member suspended or expelled for unmasonic conduct under the Grand Lodge Trial Code shall be so suspended or expelled from all Missouri lodges in which he may hold membership. Any member who fails to pay dues in his lodge of "original membership" as required by Sections [18.010](#) and [19.010](#) of these By-Laws shall be suspended from all Missouri lodges in which he may hold membership. Any multiple member or any member whose dues have been exempted, remitted, or relieved who fails to pay dues in any lodge of multiple membership as required by Sections [18.010](#) and [19.010](#) of these By-Laws shall be issued a Certificate of Withdrawal of Multiple Membership by that lodge. Any member whose dues have been exempted, remitted, or relieved in his lodge of "original membership" and who has previously been suspended for failure to pay dues in any lodge of multiple membership as required by Sections [18.010](#) and [19.010](#) of these By-Laws shall be issued a Certificate of Withdrawal of Multiple Membership by the Grand Secretary and shall be reinstated in his lodge of "original membership". The secretary of any Missouri Lodge suspending or expelling any multiple member shall immediately notify the Grand Secretary who will inform every other Missouri lodge in which the multiple member shall have held membership at the time of such suspension or expulsion: and the Grand Secretary shall also notify the Grand Secretary of every other Grand Jurisdiction in which such member shall then have held membership in a subordinate lodge. Like notice shall given in case of reinstatement, which shall immediately and automatically restore him to membership in good standing in every other lodge in this Jurisdiction of which he was a member, subject, however, to any other provisions of these By- laws pertaining to the payment of dues and application for reinstatement if the suspension shall have been of such duration as to necessitate the filing of a petition for reinstatement. The Grand Secretary is to provide the information of reinstatement to ALL lodges involved. (Added [1982-160](#); Amended 2020-54-56)

**Section 17.160. WITHDRAWAL OF MULTIPLE MEMBERSHIP.** A multiple member of a Missouri Lodge may withdraw his affiliation as a multiple member by application in writing or in person at a Stated Communication for a Certificate of Withdrawal or as provided in Section 17.150, above. If the member is not under charges, the lodge shall issue the official and approved Certificate of Withdrawal of Multiple Membership. The brother shall not be entitled to a Certificate of Dimission, except from the lodge of "original membership." Upon the issuance of a Certificate of Withdrawal, the member shall not be entitled to any reimbursement on the unearned portion of the annual dues. The withdrawal of multiple membership from one or more lodges of Missouri shall have no bearing on the standing of the Master Mason, in the lodge of his "original membership," or in other lodges in which he has established "multiple membership." The Certificate of Withdrawal of multiple membership shall not be evidence of Masonic standing for the purpose of applying for or obtaining membership by affiliation in another

lodge. The lodge issued the Certificate of Withdrawal shall promptly notify the Grand Secretary of such action. (Added [1982-160](#); Amended 2020-54-56)

**Section 17.170. DIMIT BY MULTIPLE MEMBER.** A Master Mason who holds multiple membership and whose lodge of "original membership" is under the Grand Lodge of Missouri may terminate his affiliation with his lodge of "original membership" by dimission and still retain his membership in other lodges. Said Master Mason shall apply in writing to the lodge of "original membership" for the Certificate of Dimission; the application shall contain the information of the name, number, location (city and state) of the lodge which he desires to be regarded henceforth as the lodge of his "original membership." The dimit, if granted, shall be mailed to the Grand Secretary of Missouri for certification and transmittal to the lodge in which the member will retain his "original" or "parent" membership. The dimit issued by the lodge of "original membership" shall not be given to the brother. (Added [1982-160](#))

*Cross references:*

*Dimit, [20.010](#)*

*Dues, division between lodges, [20.070](#)*

**Section 17.180. MULTIPLE MEMBERSHIP - DUTIES OF LODGE SECRETARIES AND OF GRAND SECRETARY.**

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this Section, a current dues card shall constitute a certificate of good standing for purposes of a Master Mason applying for multiple membership under Section [17.120](#).

(b) Upon receipt of a petition for multiple membership in a subordinate lodge in Missouri, the Lodge Secretary of the Lodge receiving the petition shall notify the Lodge Secretary of each Lodge of which the petitioner is currently a member. Each Lodge Secretary of each Lodge of which the petitioner is currently a member shall notify the Lodge Secretary of the Lodge receiving the petition whether Masonic charges are currently pending against the petitioner in the respective Lodge. If any charges are pending, the current dues card shall not constitute a certificate of good standing.

(c) Upon receipt of a petition for multiple membership in a subordinate lodge in Missouri, the Lodge Secretary of the Lodge receiving the petition shall notify the Grand Secretary. The Grand Secretary shall notify the Lodge Secretary of the Lodge receiving the petition whether the petitioner has been convicted of a Masonic offense, and if so, whether the petitioner has been restored in accordance with Article [32](#). If the petitioner has been convicted of a Masonic offense and has not been restored in accordance with Article [32](#) the current dues card shall not constitute a certificate of good standing.

(d) If a Master Mason petitions for multiple membership in a lodge of another Grand Jurisdiction which is in fraternal relations with this Grand Lodge, the Grand Secretary shall notify the Lodge Secretaries of each subordinate lodge in Missouri in which the petitioner is a member and each such Lodge Secretary shall notify the Grand Secretary whether Masonic charges are currently pending against the petitioner in the respective Lodge. If Masonic charges are currently pending against the petitioner in the respective Lodge or if the petitioner has been convicted of a Masonic offense and has not been restored in accordance with Article [32](#) the current dues card shall not constitute a certificate of good standing. (Amended [2007-162, 163](#))

**Section 17.190. LODGE OF RESEARCH.** Membership in a lodge of research or similar lodge is not considered multiple membership. (Added [1982-160](#))

## ARTICLE 18. DUES

**Section 18.010. DUES.** Dues are payable annually, on January 1 of each year. They are charged from the date of initial membership as a Master Mason, prorated by months, a fraction of a month being taken as a whole month. No dues are charged for any full year commencing after suspension unless good standing is regained during the year.

*When a member attempts to pay his dues by a check which is not honored, the receipt which was issued to him is void. ([1926-24](#))*

*The annual dues cannot be reduced or remitted by giving a monetary credit for attendance at meetings. ([1934-30](#))*

*A lodge is not required to return the unearned dues of a member who died. ([1934-30](#))*

*A member who is in the Masonic Home must pay dues unless they are remitted by the lodge. ([1920-28](#))*

**Section 18.020. REMISSION OF DUES.** A lodge may remit the accrued dues in whole, or in part, of a member for inability to pay or if exempted from payment of dues pursuant to the provisions of Section [18.050](#), but for no other cause. (Amended [2011-94-96](#))

*Only the lodge of "original membership" may remit the payment of annual dues on the basis of a member's inability to pay and claim the remittance in the payment of Grand Lodge dues. See Section [17.140](#)*

**Section 18.030. REMISSION AFTER SUSPENSION.** A lodge may remit the dues in whole or in part, for nonpayment of which a member was suspended; remission has the same effect as payment of the amount remitted at the date of remission.

**Section 18.040. DUES FIXED BY BY-LAWS.** The amount of dues must be fixed by the Lodge by-laws. They cannot be increased for the current year nor can any assessment be made as a substitute for an increase, except a lodge may charge up to \$10 for delinquent fees for any member who has not paid his dues by February 1. (Amended 2020-57-58)

**Section 18.050. EXEMPTION FROM DUES.** A lodge, by its by-laws, may provide that a member is exempted from payment of dues only under the following circumstances and conditions, and no other:

(a) Because the member has been a Master Mason in good standing for fifty years or more; or

(b) Because of outstanding meritorious service to the lodge or the Fraternity, without length of membership. For purposes of this section the term "outstanding meritorious service" shall include, but shall not be limited to: active military service involving deployment in combat zones, or service under a call authorized by the President, Secretary of Defense, Governor or other governmental official or agency authorized or empowered to cause such a call to service to be made.

Except in those instances respecting active military service as described in (b) above, to make an exemption under (b) effective, an appropriate resolution in writing is presented and read at a stated communication of the lodge and is favorably acted upon at its next stated communication. The vote is by paper ballot and requires a two-thirds vote.

Exemption under (a) of this section exempts from all payments on account of membership, including those to the Grand Lodge.

Exemption under (b) of this section, if granted due to active military service as described in (b) above, exempts from all payments on accounts of membership, including those to the Grand Lodge.

Except for exemption under sections (a) and (b) if granted due to active military service, no member is exempted from payment of any amount the lodge or member is required to pay to the Grand Lodge for any purpose on account of his membership. This amount must be collected and paid to the Grand Lodge. (Amended [1960-133](#); [2011-94-96](#))

*Cross references:*

*Grand Lodge Dues, [10.040](#).*

*Nonpayment of Dues, [19.010](#)*

*A Master Mason who had been issued a life membership card [not an endowed membership] prohibited by law, but had continued to pay his lodge, and also had erroneously been reported deceased, was held to have been in good standing to the date the irregularities were ordered corrected by the Grand Master. ([1967-138](#))*

## ARTICLE 19. NONPAYMENT OF DUES

**Section 19.010 NONPAYMENT OF DUES.** When a member fails to pay his dues on or before March 1 of any year, the secretary, on or before March 11, must notify the member in writing of his delinquency. If, after notice, the member fails to pay his dues on or before April 1, he is automatically suspended for nonpayment of dues, without action of the Lodge. The suspension is recorded by the secretary in the minutes of the first meeting of the Lodge thereafter.

The secretary must give written notice on or before April 11, to all members automatically suspended for nonpayment of dues. All notices shall be given via prepaid United States mail or direct digital messaging delivery system(s) via confirmed contact information on file with the secretary of the lodge,

The automatic suspension of the member is not affected by any failure to notify or to record the suspension.

This section shall not apply in instances where a member's dues have been remitted pursuant to Section [18.020](#) or exempted pursuant to Section [18.050](#). (Amended, [2011-94-96](#); [2020-58-61](#))

*Cross references:*

*Remission of Dues. [18.020](#)*

*Exemption from Dues. [18.050](#)*

*A member of unsound mind cannot be suspended. ([1931-18](#); [1933-20](#))*



*A member suspended for nonpayment of dues cannot be reinstated after he is dead. ([1916-14](#); [1932-56](#))*

*The Secretary is permitted, but not required, to notify other organizations which require maintenance of lodge membership that members of such organizations have been suspended. ([1934-30](#))*

*A member who is delinquent in dues, but not suspended, is in good standing in his own lodge, has the right to attend the same and vote, and has the right to Masonic burial, but he may not visit any other lodge. ([1933-20](#)) However, any new Master Mason delinquent in payment of pro-rata dues after date of raising may only attend his own lodge and may not vote, hold office, or visit other lodges until satisfaction of indebtedness and issuance of a dues receipt. ([2014-213-214](#))*

*This section nullifies any inconsistent lodge by-law. ([1959-108](#))*

*Suspension under this section is effective at the beginning of June 2. The member remains in good standing throughout June 1. ([1960-38](#), [132](#))*

*A Master Mason who had been issued a life membership card [not an endowed membership] prohibited by law, but had continued to pay his lodge, and also had erroneously been reported deceased, was held to have been in good standing to the date the irregularities were ordered corrected by the Grand Master. ([1967-138](#))*

*An apparent break in good standing caused by delayed mail delivery of dues held no break. ([1977-58](#))*

**Section 19.020. PAYMENT WITHIN ONE YEAR AFTER SUSPENSION.**

Payment before June 1 of the year following suspension, of the dues for which the member was suspended, reinstates him. The secretary shall report the reinstatement to the lodge and note it in the minutes.

*The reinstatement of a member suspended for nonpayment of dues on presentation of a check, on which payment is subsequently refused, is void. ([1929-25](#))*

*A member suspended for nonpayment of dues must, in order to be reinstated, pay dues for the entire calendar year. ([1931-17](#))*

*A member suspended for nonpayment of dues is eligible for reinstatement even though he lives in another state. ([1931-18](#))*

*Payment of delinquent dues other than those provided by Section 19.020 and Section 19.030 does not restore a member to good standing on his membership record for years of suspension. ([1981-131](#))*

**Section 19.030. DUES PAID MORE THAN ONE YEAR AFTER SUSPENSION.** A member who remains suspended more than one year may be reinstated only on petition, with which he must tender the current year's dues.

*A petition for reinstatement may be withdrawn before final action. ([1959-107](#))*

**Section 19.040. OBJECTION NOT PERMITTED.** No objection is permitted to the receipt of a petition for reinstatement.

**Section 19.050. VOTE REQUIRED TO REINSTATE.** A two-thirds vote of the qualified members present at the time of action on a petition for reinstatement is required to reinstate to membership in the lodge. The vote is by paper ballot and must be recorded.

**Section 19.060. REINSTATEMENT TO MASONIC STANDING.** A petitioner for reinstatement who receives a majority vote but less than a two-thirds vote of his lodge, on application to the Grand Secretary, may receive a certificate of good standing for one year after the date of the vote, with the same effect as a certificate issued under Section [7.250](#).

**Section 19.070. TOTAL REJECTION.** A petitioner for reinstatement who receives less than a majority vote is rejected, and any dues tendered with his petition are returned.

**Section 19.080. RENEWAL OF APPLICATION.** A new petition for reinstatement may be made at any time.

## ARTICLE 20. DIMITS AND CERTIFICATES OF GOOD STANDING

**Section 20.010. DIMIT.** A Master Mason whose dues are fully paid and who is not under charges nor indebted in an official capacity to his lodge, may apply for a dimit, in writing or in person at a stated communication. If no objection is made, the application must be granted immediately. The action must be entered in the minutes. No objection may be entertained unless the objecting brother prefers charges against the applicant, or gives notice that he will do so at the next stated communication, at which time, if no charges are preferred, the dimit must be granted. If charges are preferred, they take the course prescribed by law. If on trial the accused is acquitted, his dimit may not be granted until the expiration of sixty days after his acquittal. No dimit may be granted while an appeal is pending. (Amended [2015-116-122](#))

*A dimit cannot be withheld from a member whose dues are paid in full but who has not paid a subscription to a lodge building fund. ([1927-30](#); [1932-54](#))*

*A dimit issued without the application, knowledge or consent of a member, is void. ([1949-15](#))*

*A dimit cannot be issued by the secretary unless first granted under Sec. 20.010 with this exception: Where a certificate of good standing has been issued, a dimit to complete transfer of membership may be issued without further order of the lodge. ([1955-23](#))*

**Section 20.020. LACK OF GOOD STANDING.** A Freemason who is not in good standing has no Masonic privileges except to petition for affiliation, reinstatement or restoration. Good standing ceases at the date of a dimit, unless the Freemason named already has been elected to membership in another lodge.

**Section 20.030. CERTIFICATE IN LIEU OF DIMIT.** If it can be ascertained from the request for a dimit that affiliation with another Missouri lodge is contemplated, and a dimit could be issued under Section [20.010](#), then, in lieu of a dimit, the lodge must issue a certificate of good Masonic standing under the lodge seal.

*A certificate of good standing cannot be issued by a secretary until authorized by the lodge. ([1955-23](#))*

*When a member asks for a dimit when he really wants a certificate of good standing for the purpose of transferring his membership, the dimit is null and void. ([1927-28](#); [1931-14](#); [1937-14](#))*

*The Grand Lodge of Missouri recognizes certificates of good standing issued by other jurisdictions which have fraternal relations with us and which recognize our certificates. ([1929-26](#), [182](#))*

*A member is not entitled to a certificate of good standing unless he would be entitled to a dimit; no certificate is to be issued if dues for the current year have not been paid, even though the member remained in good standing until June 2. ([1965-167](#))*

**Section 20.040. WHEN CERTIFICATES CEASE TO BE VALID.** A certificate of good standing must be presented within ninety days after its date.

**Section 20.050. NOTICE.** The secretary of a lodge which votes on a petitioner for affiliation supported by a certificate of good standing/dimit must notify the lodge which issued the certificate or dimit the results of the election per notice of election/rejection form. ([1992-79](#))

*If a lodge fails to notify a foreign lodge of election on a certificate of good standing but collects dues from the member, the Missouri lodge is required to pay such dues to the foreign lodge on demand. ([1962-14](#), [136](#))*

**Section 20.060. DATE OF MEMBERSHIP.** A petitioner elected on a certificate of good standing becomes a member of the lodge electing him on the date of the election. The certificate of good standing automatically becomes the dimit on the date of election. If the petitioner is rejected, he retains membership in his original lodge. ([1992-79](#))

**Section 20.070. DUES, DIVISION BETWEEN LODGES.** The dues from members transferred on a certificate of good standing shall be divided as follows:

(a) The amount due Grand Lodge for its per capita on June 30 is paid to or retained by the lodge which reports the member to the Grand Lodge in its annual return for that year;

(b) The balance of the dues are divided pro rata by months, between the lodges, and the lodge collecting the dues is responsible to the other lodge for the respective amounts above mentioned. The lodge from which the member transfers is entitled to dues for the month in which the election occurs. ([1992-80](#))

**Section 20.080. CERTIFICATES TO ENTERED APPRENTICES AND FELLOW CRAFTS.** An Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft is entitled to a certificate of good standing, on the same conditions as are stated in Section [20.010](#). The certificate has endorsed thereon whether the recipient has or has not received suitable instruction in the degree, and the amount he has paid as fees for the degrees, under Section [10.010](#). (Amended [2015-116-122](#))

*A waiver of jurisdiction over an Entered Apprentice from a lodge in Florida, which does not issue certificates of good standing, is equivalent to a certificate under this section. ([1973-45](#))*

*An Entered Apprentice who was issued a certificate under this section and failed to use it before expiration is entitled to another certificate on request. ([1973-45](#))*

## **ARTICLE 21. JURISDICTION**

**Section 21.010. JURISDICTION.** Lodges in the State of Missouri have concurrent jurisdiction throughout the State of Missouri for all purposes.

**Section 21.021. POWER TO RECEIVE PETITIONS FOR DEGREES.** A lodge may receive the petition for the degrees of any otherwise eligible petitioner who lives within the State of Missouri. (Added [1977-126](#); [1979-162](#))

**Section 21.080. JURISDICTION OF PETITIONER.** After a petition for the degrees is presented to a lodge, the petitioner's subsequent permanent relocation outside of the State of Missouri does not deprive the lodge of jurisdiction over the petition.

*Jurisdiction does not continue after an election has become void under Section [13.020](#). ([1950-20](#))*

**Section 21.100. WAIVER OF JURISDICTION FROM ANOTHER STATE.** A Missouri lodge may receive the petition of a nonresident of Missouri if the lodge obtains consent that it may be received from the Grand Master of the place of residence of the petitioner and the consent of the Grand Master of Missouri.

*The petition of a nonresident of Missouri cannot be received until the consents required by this section have been obtained. ([1959-107](#))*

*With the approval of the Grand Master of Kansas the initiation and membership in a Missouri lodge of a Kansas resident was held valid, but the lodge was required to forfeit the fees to the Grand Lodge of Kansas. ([1960-39](#), [133](#))*

*Election of a nonresident without compliance with this section is illegal. ([1973-46](#))*

**Section 21.110. WAIVER OF JURISDICTION TO ANOTHER STATE.** The Grand Master may consent to the receipt of a petition for membership in a lodge outside Missouri from a petitioner who resides in Missouri.

## **ARTICLE 22. ENDOWED MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 22.010. ENDOWED MEMBERSHIP.** Any Master Mason in good standing in a Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction whose dues are paid for the current year may purchase an endowed membership for the benefit of his Lodge (hereinafter referred to as the "endowed Lodge"), and be thereby relieved from the further payment of dues in the endowed Lodge effective in the second calendar year after the fee is deposited with the Grand Secretary. (Added [1989-83](#))

**Section 22.020. PURCHASE IN HONOR OR IN MEMORY.** Any individual, group, organization or lodge may purchase an endowed membership in honor of or in memory of any Master Mason, living or deceased, who is or was at the time of his death, a member in good standing of a Missouri Lodge or a member in good standing of a lodge in

any Grand Jurisdiction recognized by the Grand Lodge of Missouri. A lodge may make such purchases only after a favorable vote of the lodge. (Added [1989-83](#))

**Section 22.030. PURCHASE PRICE.** The purchase price for an endowed membership shall be seven hundred fifty (\$750.00) dollars for endowed memberships purchased after December 31, 2009, and shall be paid to the Grand Lodge. (Added [1989-84](#); amended [1997-80](#), [2009](#))

*Committee Note: The purchase price of an endowed membership increased from \$500 to \$750 when a majority of the Grand Lodge membership approved an increase in the lodge per capita to \$18.00 in 2009 ([2009-175](#)). See also By-Laws, [10.040](#). The increase to the endowed membership purchase price was proposed in 2008 to be \$1000 but the amount was reduced to \$750 by amendment when the legislation came to the floor for a vote in 2009. Due to a printing error, no page reference to the Proceedings is available but the records of the Jurisprudence Committee show the amendment lawfully adopted.*

**Section 22.040. FORWARDING FEE TO THE GRAND SECRETARY.** The fee of seven hundred fifty (\$750.00) dollars collected by a lodge for endowed membership shall be forwarded to the Grand Secretary no later than December 31 in order to qualify for distribution in the second calendar year. (Added [1989-84](#); Amended [1997-80](#), [2009](#))

(a) Installments in multiples of \$150.00 for endowed memberships commenced to be purchased after December 31, 2009 may be made to the Grand Lodge. The endowed membership will become effective on the 1st of January of the second year after the final installment is made; however, any income earned prior thereto shall be payable to the Grand Lodge. Installment funds will be deposited into the Endowed Membership Account and become a part of that fund. No funds will be due the local lodge until the second year after the individual's membership is fully endowed. (Amended [1993-84](#), [2009](#))

*See Committee Note above, [22.030](#)*

**Section 22.050. DUTIES OF THE GRAND SECRETARY.** The Grand Secretary shall place all monies so received in the Endowment Membership Fund. Such fund shall be invested and reinvested from time to time under the supervision of the Grand Lodge Investment Committee as constituted in Section [3.060](#). (Added [1989-84](#))

**Section 22.060. DISTRIBUTION.** The net income from such fund shall be distributed annually to the endowed lodges by the tenth (10th) of January. The per capita due the Grand Lodge, as set forth in Section [10.040](#), per endowed membership holder and all applicable assessments under Section [10.045](#) shall be deducted from the net income before payment to the endowed lodge; provided that no income shall be distributed on any endowed membership until January 1, of the second (2nd) calendar year after such fee, paid in full, is deposited with the Grand Secretary. The Grand Lodge shall be entitled to no more of the net income from the endowed membership than the aforesaid per capita, or 50% of the net income, whichever is less. (Added [1989-84](#); Amended [1993-192](#), [1995-68](#); [2018-134-135](#))

**Section 22.070 CERTIFICATE AND DUES CARD.** The Grand Secretary shall issue to the member paying the required fee an Endowed Membership Certificate under the

Seal of the Grand Lodge, signed by the Grand Master and attested by the Grand Secretary. The Grand Secretary shall have the option of also issuing a Permanent or Lifetime Membership Dues Card to any such Endowed Brother whose dues have been permanently remitted, or in any other circumstance where a Lifetime Membership or Dues Card shall be appropriate. In the absence of the issuance of a Lifetime Membership Dues Card, the Lodge Secretary shall annually issue to such Lifetime Members, a Dues Card for the current year at the same time that all other annual dues cards are issued. (Added [1989-84](#)) ([2004-95](#))

**Section 22.080. TRANSFER.** Upon transfer of membership to another constituent lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction an endowment fund member may transfer his endowment to such lodge as provided by law. Also, when two or more lodges consolidate, any endowed memberships held by either of such lodges shall become the property of the surviving lodge. Upon the dissolution or demise of any endowed lodge, the holder of the endowed lodge membership, if living, may transfer the endowed membership to the Missouri lodge with which he affiliates. If the endowed member is deceased and his lodge ceases to exist, the endowed membership shall revert to the Grand Lodge Endowment Fund. (Added [1989-84](#); amended [1992-86](#))

**Section 22.085. TRANSFER OF ENDOWMENT.** An endowment fund member who becomes a multiple member of another Missouri lodge(s) may transfer that endowment to such lodge where he becomes a multiple member and resume paying dues to the lodge of original endowment. Such transfer shall be effective upon receipt by the Grand Secretary of written notice of such request. A multiple member will pay dues to the lodge(s) which does/does not receive distribution in accordance with Section [22.060](#).

**Section 22.090. SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION.** Holders of endowed membership certificates are subject to all the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Grand Lodge of Missouri, and loss of membership due to suspension or expulsion shall automatically terminate such endowed membership certificate, such certificate in itself is not an avouchment of Good Standing in a Missouri Lodge. The lodge which held the endowed membership at the time of suspension or expulsion, as provided herein, shall continue to receive the revenues earned from such endowed membership less such amount equal to the amount due the Grand Lodge, subject to the limitation set forth in Section [22.060](#). (Added [1989-84](#); amended [1993-192](#))

**Section 22.100. CONTINUED INCOME.** Following the death of an endowed member of a Missouri lodge the Grand Lodge of Missouri shall continue to receive a portion of the net income from the endowed membership in an amount equal to the Grand Lodge dues as set forth in Section [10.040](#) of the Grand Lodge By-Laws, and the endowed lodge will receive the balance of the net income from the endowed membership; provided however, that in no event shall the Grand Lodge be entitled to more than fifty percent (50%) of the net income from such endowed membership. (Added [1989-85](#), amended [1995-69](#))

**Section 22.120. ENDORSEMENT.** Any dimit or Certificate of Good Standing issued to a member shall be endorsed with the fact that the member is an endowed member and the amount of the fund may be transferred to any constituent Lodge with which he affiliates. (Added [1990-165](#))

## IV

### GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### ARTICLE 23. BOARDS AND BUREAUS

**Section 23.020. GENERAL BOARDS OF RELIEF.** In cities and towns with two or more and less than thirty lodges and an adjoining county or counties in each of which there are fifteen or more lodges, unless refusal to participate for a specified year or years is evidenced in advance by affirmative vote of the majority of the lodges in the area affected, the Master of each lodge appoints a member of a General Board of Relief for the city, town, or area. The boards provide relief for either transient or non-transient applicants found worthy. It shall be the duty of each such General Board of Relief to submit the following by September 1 of each year to the Grand Secretary and each lodge in its membership:

Any returns or informational reports required by law,

A detailed statement of activities, income, expenses, assets, and liabilities.

Each board may assess each lodge in its membership not more than \$5.00 each year for each candidate reported initiated in the last preceding Grand Lodge report, but no assessment may be made for any year by any board unless and until funds then on hand appear insufficient for foreseeable current needs. (Amended [1962-137](#), [1997-81](#), [1998-](#) )

*Cross reference: Burial Duties, [24.070](#)*

*Extension of the corporate limits of a city brings lodges in the annexed area under the General Board of Relief for the city. ([1947-19](#), [20](#))*

*This section applies to lodges U. D. ([1891-16](#), [82](#))*

**Section 23.040. MASONIC HOME BOARD.** The Board of Directors of the Masonic Home of Missouri consists of the Grand Master; the Deputy Grand Master, who is President; the Senior Grand Warden; the Junior Grand Warden; and the Senior Grand Deacon; together with eight Master Masons, members in good standing of Missouri lodges, who are elected by the Grand Lodge for terms of four years, with the terms of two members expiring each year. The Grand Master is honorary chairman of the Board. No elective director is eligible to succeed himself and no ex officio director may be elected to the board until the annual communication following expiration of his term. (Amended [1972-122](#))

Nominations of directors are made on the first day of the annual communication, as soon after the Grand Master's address as is convenient. If no more are nominated than are to be elected, the Grand Secretary casts the ballots for the nominees. If a greater number is nominated than the number to be elected, the Grand Secretary causes a ballot to be printed with the names of the nominees listed alphabetically. The election is held immediately following the election of the Grand Lodge officers and is by plurality vote.

The Board administers the affairs of the Home in a manner not inconsistent with policies adopted or approved by the Grand Lodge.

**Section 23.050. MASONIC HOME ENDOWMENT FUND.** The Endowment Fund of the Masonic Home and all subsequent additions to it continues to be a permanent

fund, and only the income derived from it may be used for current maintenance of the Home.

## ARTICLE 24. FUNERALS

**Section 24.010. FUNERAL SERVICES.** Masonic Funeral Services may be conducted for a Master Mason in good standing or a Fellow Craft or an Entered Apprentice. In the event of extenuating circumstances satisfactory to the Master, Masonic Funeral Services may also be conducted for a Master Mason who was suspended for nonpayment of dues, or a Fellow Craft, or an Entered Apprentice. (Amended [1978-57](#), 2008-64, 65)

*Commission of either or both suicide and homicide does not necessarily prevent a Masonic funeral service. ([1913-17](#); [1914-20](#))*

*No reinstatement can be made after death, so as to permit a Masonic funeral service. ([1916-14](#))*

*Use of cremation rather than burial does not prevent a Masonic funeral service. ([1890-10](#), [67](#))*

**Section 24.020. MEMBERS OF LODGES WHOSE CHARTERS ARE ARRESTED.** A Master Mason who dies after the charter of his lodge is arrested but before the arrest is approved by the Grand Lodge may be buried by any convenient lodge.

*Cross reference: Arrest of charter, [7.220](#)*

*No lodge may be opened after arrest of its charter, even to conduct a funeral. ([1878-50](#))*

**Section 24.030. MEMBERS OF OTHER LODGES.** At the request of any other lodge, a lodge may conduct the Masonic services for a deceased member of the requesting lodge.

**Section 24.040. LODGE ATTENDANCE WITHOUT PARTICIPATION.** A lodge as such may attend the funeral of a deceased member even if the lodge does not participate in the ceremonies.

**Section 24.050. PALL BEARERS.** Pall bearers at a funeral conducted with Masonic ceremonies need not be Freemasons.

**Section 24.060. OTHER PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS.** Any church, benevolent or civic organization may participate in any funeral service where Masonic ceremonies are conducted.

*A Masonic funeral service may be conducted even though the religious service is that of the Roman Catholic Church. ([1931-23](#))*

**Section 24.070. BURIAL DUTIES IN CITIES.** Where two or more lodges are in the same city or town, the lodges in turn provide Masonic services for transient deceased Master Masons. The Board of Relief keeps a record of such funerals, and designates the next lodge in turn.

*Boards of Relief, repealed. ([1998-162](#))*



**Section 24.080. CLOTHING FOR FUNERALS.** No regalia except white gloves and aprons and insignia of office may be worn by Master Masons as such on funeral occasions.

*The acting Master should not wear the regalia of any other organization while he conducts the service. ([1950-21](#))*

**Section 24.090. PERMISSIVE OMISSION OF OPENING LODGE.** Opening the lodge may be omitted if only the public funeral ceremonies are to be conducted. A record of the event shall be included in the minutes at the next stated communication of the lodge.

## ARTICLE 25. MISCELLANEOUS

**Section 25.010. ENTERED APPRENTICES AND FELLOWCRAFTS MAY BE ADMITTED AS VISITORS.** Entered Apprentices may be admitted as visitors to a lodge of Entered Apprentices upon a showing of documentary evidence of good standing as an Entered Apprentice required under Section 25.020, or by lawful information. Fellow Crafts may be admitted as visitors to a lodge of Entered Apprentices or to a lodge of Fellow Crafts upon a showing of documentary evidence of good standing as a Fellow Craft required under Section 25.020, or by lawful information. (Added [1997-81](#))

*After taking the test oath a visitor is entitled to see the charter of the lodge. ([1875-65](#))*

**Section 25.020. DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE OF GOOD STANDING.** For Master Masons, acceptable documentary evidence of good standing is a dues card which is valid on the day of the visit, or a certificate of good standing which is valid on the day of the visit. The dues card or certificate must bear the signatures of the Lodge secretary and of the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge under which it is held, and the seal of the Grand Lodge under whose jurisdiction the card or certificate was issued. The signatures and seal may be made by actual signatures and seal, or by facsimile imprinted on the dues card by the Grand Secretary. A certificate issued not more than twelve months prior to the visit, by a Grand Secretary under the seal of his Grand Lodge, is acceptable.

For Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts, acceptable documentary evidence of good standing is a letter or certificate indicating good standing bearing the signature of the lodge Secretary where the Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft is a member. (Amended [2003-98](#); [2013-103](#))

*Patents or diplomas of other Masonic organizations are not acceptable under this section. ([1904-43](#), [107](#))*

**Section 25.030. LAWFUL INFORMATION.** Lawful information, permitting one member to vouch for another exists when:

(a) A and B sit in lodge with each other. Each may thereafter vouch for the other as a Freemason of the degree on which the lodge was at labor.

(b) A vouches to B (each knowing the other to be a Freemason) that C, then present, is a Freemason of a degree not higher than that of either A or B. B may thereafter vouch for C as a Freemason of that degree.

*Sitting together in a meeting of another Masonic organization, such as a Body of the A.A.S.R., a Chapter of R.A.M., a Council of R. & S.M., or a Commandery of K.T., does not give lawful information to permit voucher. ([1904-43](#), [107](#))*

**Section 25.040. WHEN MASTER MAY EXCLUDE A FREEMASON.** The acting Master may exclude from a lodge a Freemason whose behavior interferes with the proper working of the lodge or whose behavior disturbs its harmony. (Amended [1965-170](#))

**Section 25.050. REMARRIAGE OF WIDOW.** The widow of a Freemason loses that standing by remarriage. Annulment of the remarriage does not restore standing as widow of a Freemason.

**Section 25.060. LODGE OF RESEARCH.** The Missouri Lodge of Research promotes, encourages, conducts and fosters Masonic research and study and spreads Masonic light and knowledge. It is authorized to establish and maintain within the State of Missouri a Masonic Library and/or Museum, to serve as a Custodian or Manager of any such Masonic Library and/or Museum located in the State of Missouri and to perform all duties and responsibilities incident thereto. It establishes its fees and dues and holds its communications within the State of Missouri when and where it determines. It reports annually to the Grand Lodge. It has no other duties or powers of chartered lodges.

Any Master Mason who remains a member in good standing of a Missouri lodge is eligible for active membership in Missouri Lodge of Research. Other classes of membership are established for other persons, institutions or organizations, as prescribed by the Lodge of Research. It may elect individual Freemasons as "Fellows" in recognition of outstanding accomplishment. (Amended [2008-64](#), [2009-174](#))

**Section 25.070. PUBLICITY.** No lodge may publish the Masonic standing of any Freemason, nor any lodge activities which should not be made known to the general public.

*Lists of petitioners, rejections, suspensions, etc., may be mailed only first-class, in sealed envelopes. ([1912-12](#); [1923-26](#); [1944-21](#); [1949-14](#))*

*Subject to postal regulations, third class bulk mail and non-profit organization mail may be used to distribute proper information in sealed envelopes, but any item which might be considered a dun, or of confidential nature, such as notice of a trial, must be sent first class in sealed envelopes. ([1965-166](#))*

*Sending exact copies of the minutes to each member is not proper, but a newsletter may be used. ([1965-166](#))*

*Lodge may publish newsletter under certain conditions and limitations. ([1985-28](#))*

**Section 25.080. LIST OF MEMBERS.** No lodge may supply a list of its members for any non-Masonic purpose.

*Specific purposes held prohibited:*

*Political. ([1932-66](#), [181](#); [1944-21](#), [22](#))*

*Commercial sale of Masonic literature. ([1946-29](#))*

*Shrine Circus. ([1954-12](#), [106](#))*

*Same rule applied to list of Masters and Secretaries (for Red Cross) ([1944-18](#), [139](#)); to list of lodges (for service club sponsoring a Passion Play) ([1944-17](#)); appendant or concordant body. ([1976-131](#))*

*Specific purposes held not prohibited:*

*A member may use a list of those suspended for nonpayment of dues to secure reinstatement. ([1977-60](#))*

*The list of members maintained by the Grand Lodge cannot be released without the Grand Master's approval, under supervision of the Grand Secretary, and then only for specific purposes not prohibited.*

**Section 25.090. CIRCULAR REQUEST FOR DONATIONS.** Unless permitted by the Grand Master, no lodge may circulate, except to its own members for its own purposes, any application for donations for any purpose, nor may any individual Freemason circulate any such application to Freemasons as such.

*While raffles are not prohibited under Grand Lodge Law, a lodge must consider all applicable federal, state, and local laws, and no drawing may be held within the "lodge hall" as defined in Section [9.140](#), above. ([2017-62](#))*

*A lodge was permitted to sponsor a community dinner, to raise money for charity, if the lodge did not contribute lodge funds or incur lodge indebtedness. ([1958-96](#))*

*No lodge may invest its funds in a "community progress" corporation. ([1961-20](#), [132](#))*

*See resolutions as to sponsorship of chapters of the Order of DeMolay. (Res. [1959-97](#); [1960-47](#), [134](#); [1967-143](#))*

*Requests by the Acacia Fraternity to solicit donations to the March of Dimes to win a campus contest; by a lodge proposing to raise funds for a new hall by soliciting printing of names of officers in a program book at \$1.00 per name; and of an Eastern Star Club to send to various lodges tickets for a card party, proceeds to be used for Masonic Home, were denied. ([1965-166](#))*

*Permission was denied a lodge to make a general appeal for donations from other lodges to rebuild after a fire, but it was permitted to ask help from appendant bodies and from those lodges to which personal appeals could be made. ([1971-48](#))*

*Building Supervisory Board must approve lodge plan to solicit both members and nonmembers to finance a remodeling project. ([1980-133](#))*

*Temple Boards are bound by same rules as the lodge as to raffles. ([1981-130](#))*

*Permission for circular request through social media for purpose of soliciting donations for new roof on lodge building granted under conditions of (1) prior approval of plan by Grand Lodge Building Supervisory Board; (2) draft or mock-up of any solicitation be submitted to the Grand Lodge office for approval by the Grand Master prior to the solicitation; (3) removal of the solicitation upon the reaching of the anticipated amount; AND (4) donation of any funds received in excess of actual cost to an IRS 501(c)(3) charity of the lodge's choosing. ([2014-202-204](#))*

*If permission is granted for online solicitation for donations, the solicitation must be directly adjacent to the following statement: "Any donation to "full lodge name and number" are not for direct charitable use, but will be used to support the*

*regular operation of "full lodge name and number," an IRS 501(c)10 tax exempt not for profit organization, which may include philanthropic and eleemosynary activities, and are not usually tax deductible. Consult with your tax accountant or attorney." (2014-202-204)*

**Section 25.100. REQUESTS FROM FOREIGN LODGES.** No lodge may take any action in response to a request for a donation from a lodge outside Missouri, unless the request has been approved by the Grand Master of this Grand Lodge.

**Section 25.110. COMMERCIAL USE AND POLITICAL ADVERTISING PROHIBITED.** Use of the word "Masonic" or any other term, sign or symbol of Freemasonry for commercial or business purposes and in political advertising is prohibited. Use by any Freemason of the word "Masonic" or any other term, sign or symbol of Freemasonry for commercial or business purposes or in political advertising of any kind is a Masonic offense.

Subordinate lodges may permit use of their name and number, with the letters "A.F. & A.M.," and may use the square and compasses, on the shirt of bowling teams composed of Freemasons, and on youth organization sport team uniforms (youth organization sports teams shall consist of boys or girls age 16 years or younger.). It becomes the subordinate lodge's responsibility to insure at the time the advertising of the lodge name, number, square and compasses that the organization's participation cannot be reasonably expected to tend to impair the good name of the Masonic institution, or its usefulness, cause scandal, degrade it in the public estimation, or otherwise violate the principles, obligations, or teaching of the fraternity. (Amended [1965-172](#), [2002-66](#), [67](#))

*The square and compass as the emblem of Freemasonry may be worn only by a Master Mason in good standing, his wife, widow, mother, sister or daughter. (Res. [1922-162](#))*

*The Grand Master is required to take proper action by legal action or through enactment of the General Assembly or otherwise to prevent the use in Missouri of the word "Masonic" or any of the symbols, emblems, words or phrases of Freemasonry in any connection not authorized by the Grand Lodge. (Res. [1929-181](#))*

*Exhibition of the square and compasses on an automobile is not a violation of this section unless it is done for commercial or business purposes. ([1926-20](#); [1931-15](#))*

*This section applies to insurance enterprises, hospitals, cemeteries, and automobile companies when conducted as business and commercial enterprises, including statements "for Masons only," "for members of the Masonic Fraternity only," "Masonic Garden" and the like, in any form. ([1922-118](#), [123](#); [1927-24](#); [1930-21](#), [119](#); [1953-32](#))*

*Such names or phrases as "Hiram Park Cemetery," "on the Square," "Master," and "Craftsman" may violate this section. ([1922-118](#), [123](#); [1932-67](#))*

*Use of the square and compasses on printed matter of a "Low Twelve" Club is prohibited. ([1961-20](#), [133](#))*

*Use of "Masonic" in title of magazine depending on advertising and subscriptions prohibited. ([1964-11](#), [161](#))*

*Highway approach signs are permissible. ([1971-48](#))*

*Permitting business advertising to be placed in the recreational area within the lodge building, or on its grounds, for a fee or otherwise, is prohibited. ([1972-117](#))*

*Printing the Masonic emblem on checks other than for a lodge is prohibited. (1972-117)*

*Lodge "open house" is permitted to enable those attending to learn about Masonry. (1980-133)*

*It is appropriate for lodge to make known the availability of the Temple to other organizations by advertising without the use of the word "Masonic." (1980-133)*

**Section 25.120. MASONIC BOOKS, JEWELRY, ETC.** The provisions of Section 25.110 do not apply to the circulation or advertisement of Masonic books, journals or periodicals, nor to trade in Masonic supplies, ornaments or jewelry.

**Section 25.130. MASONIC OCCASIONS.** Masonic occasions are hereby declared to be the installations of lodge officers, Masonic funerals, celebrations of Saint John Days, cornerstone ceremonies and dedications of Masonic halls.

**Section 25.140. PUBLIC PROCESSIONS.** No lodge may appear in public processions without a dispensation for that purpose from the Grand Master, except upon Masonic occasions.

*Lodges were permitted to sponsor floats in centennial parades, if without lodge expense, but not if the lodge paid money from its treasury. (1958-97)*

*It is improper for a lodge to attend church monthly in a body, wearing aprons. (1961-21, 133)*

*A lodge may participate in public processions and other public events if such participation cannot be reasonably expected to tend to impair the good name of the Masonic Institution, or its usefulness, cause scandal, degrade it in the public estimation, or otherwise violate the principles, obligations, or teachings of the Fraternity. Any usage or display of Aprons, Jewels, or Rods during any such public appearance shall be limited to such an extent as not to reveal any ritualistic information which may not otherwise be lawfully known to the profane. (1982-160)*

*Lodge members are permitted to appear in aprons, jewels, and with rods on a parade float. (1980-133)*

**Section 25.150. SAINT JOHN DAYS ON SUNDAY.** Should either of the Saint John Days fall on Sunday, a lodge may select any other day of the preceding or succeeding week for the celebration.

**Section 25.160. LIQUOR BUSINESS PROHIBITED.** Any direct or indirect unlawful connection with the manufacture, sale or handling of intoxicating liquor is prohibited to Freemasons and no petition may be received from any person who is so connected. Further, any direct or indirect connection with the manufacture, sale or handling of intoxicating liquor which tends, or which occurs in a manner or under a surrounding which tends, to impair the good name of the Masonic institution or its usefulness, to cause scandal, or to degrade it in public estimation, or which is in otherwise contrary to its principles, obligations or teachings is a Masonic offense. (Amended 1978-61)

*Beverages containing not more than 3.2% alcohol by weight legally are not intoxicating. (1933-11; 1949-14)*

*5% beer is intoxicating liquor. (1945-36)*

**Section 25.170. INSURANCE.** The Grand Lodge shall maintain in effect on behalf of itself, the subordinate lodges, and the members of the subordinate lodges such insurance as the Insurance Committee shall from time to time recommended to the Grand Lodge unless the Grand Lodge decides otherwise.

At each Annual Communication the Insurance Committee shall submit to the Grand Lodge its recommendation for said insurance and the approximate cost thereof.

The appropriate officers of the Grand Lodge shall assess and collect from the subordinate lodges such amounts as shall from time to time be required to maintain in effect the insurance, if any, being maintained in accordance with this Section. (Added [1988-114](#))

**Section 25.180. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP.** The Grand Lodge may confer honorary membership by resolution on any Master Mason not a member of its subordinate lodges. No subordinate lodge may establish or confer honorary membership.

## V

### TRIAL CODE

(Revised 2014-66-95)

#### ARTICLE 28. GENERAL PROVISIONS, OFFENSES, AND JURISDICTION

**Section 28.001. CITATION.** Chapter V is known and may be cited as the Trial Code. Substantial compliance with its provisions is required in all matters of Masonic discipline.

**Section 28.002. EXCLUSIVE PROCEDURES FOR DISCIPLINE FOR MASONIC OFFENSES.** Except for the provisions of Section [28.020](#), [28.130](#), [29.075](#) and 29.160, no Freemason may be reprimanded, suspended or expelled by a Missouri Lodge unless he has been charged, tried by a Trial Commission, and found guilty of a Masonic offense in accordance with the provisions of this code.

A Freemason tried and acquitted under the Trial Code cannot be brought to trial a second time for a Masonic offense arising out of the same circumstances for which he was acquitted.

A Freemason tried, found guilty and suspended for a definite period of time under the Trial Code shall be brought to trial again on charges of unmasonic conduct if he continues the unmasonic conduct for which he was convicted.

Investigations conducted by a lodge's Grievance Committee or the Grand Lodge Committee on Appeals and Grievances do not constitute trials, and a Freemason under investigation by either of said committees does not have his Masonic rights and privileges placed in jeopardy by those investigations. (Amended [2019-151](#))

**Section 28.003. PROCEDURAL MANUAL AUTHORIZED.** The Grand Master shall be authorized, at his discretion, to cause the printing or updating of a publication designed to summarize and assist in understanding the Trial Code and the conduct of Masonic trials. The Grand Master shall be authorized, at his discretion, to include in the publication:

- (a) a non-exhaustive compilation of Masonic offenses;
- (b) sample procedural forms to be used in the investigation, filing, prosecution, and appeal of complaints and charges;
- (c) rights and responsibilities under the Trial Code;
- (d) a summary of the procedures required for the investigation, mediation, trial, and appeal of Masonic Offenses, along with the time standards required for the same;
- (e) Masonic protocol to be followed during the pendency of any cause; and
- (f) any other information deemed useful or necessary by the Grand Master.

The publication shall be reviewed by the Grand Lodge Committee on Jurisprudence prior to publication and from time to time thereafter to ensure conformity with the *Constitution and By-Laws*. In case of a conflict, the *Constitution and By-Laws* shall control and any portion of the publication deemed inconsistent therewith shall be null and void.

**Section 28.010. CALCULATION OF TIME.** For purposes of calculating time for actions required under the Trial Code, the following shall apply unless otherwise noted:

- (a) Time calculation shall begin on the business day following receipt of any item required for action
  
- (b) If the latest date for any action falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal business holiday, the action will be considered timely if taken no later than the next immediate business day.

**Section 28.020. AUTOMATIC EXPULSION.** A Freemason, including a dimitted or suspended Freemason, who is convicted of, or who pleads guilty to, or who receives a suspended imposition of sentence for a felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude under the laws of the United States, this state, or any other state shall be automatically expelled upon conclusion of the criminal cause without the necessity of a Masonic trial. The statutes and case law of the jurisdiction in which the Freemason is convicted of a misdemeanor shall govern whether the misdemeanor involves moral turpitude.

In the event that a conviction or finding of guilt is set aside or overturned on appeal, the Grand Master shall restore that Freemason to the status he enjoyed prior to said conviction or finding of guilt. Upon review of the criminal allegations and basis for appeal or setting aside, the Grand Master may direct charges to be brought in the lodge which has jurisdiction over that Freemason pursuant to Section 29.070.

It shall be the duty of the secretary of each lodge upon discovery to report to the Grand Secretary any member of the lodge to whom the foregoing applies, and to forward a court certified copy of the Conviction, Plea of Guilty or Suspended Imposition of Sentence to the Grand Secretary, who shall immediately forward the same to the Grand Master.

The Grand Master shall effect the expulsion of any member to whom the foregoing applies by filing a court certified copy of the Conviction, Plea of Guilty or Suspended Imposition of Sentence with the Grand Secretary; unless the Grand Master, in his sole discretion after presentation to him of competent evidence thereof, determines that the Freemason so convicted or pleading guilty was of unsound mind at the time of the offense of which he was convicted or which he pleaded guilty to, and is incapable of participating in his own defense in a Masonic trial.

Upon receipt by the Grand Secretary of said certified copy, the Grand Secretary shall immediately issue a notice of expulsion to the member, any subordinate lodge in which he holds membership, and to the Grand Secretary of any Grand Lodge having fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Missouri in which the expelled Freemason holds membership.

**Section 28.025. KNOWING OR PURPOSEFUL VIOLATION OF LAW.** A knowing or purposeful violation or disregard of Masonic law, including the Constitution, laws, rules, edicts, or approved decisions of the Grand Lodge, or of any state or federal felony or misdemeanor statute, excluding minor traffic or similar offenses, is a Masonic offense. A solemn adjudication of a court of law shall not be overturned by a Trial



Commission. Mere evidence of an arrest is insufficient to show a Masonic offense. A Freemason may be tried under the Trial Code for the offense for which he is criminally charged prior to being tried in a court of law. A finding of guilt under the Trial Code cannot be reversed solely due to dismissal or acquittal of the underlying criminal charge, however, evidence presented or discovered during the criminal investigation or proceeding may be considered by the Grand Lodge as a basis for setting aside the finding of guilt under the Trial Code.

**Section 28.030. GENERAL MISCONDUCT.** Any act, conduct, or neglect of duty tending to impair the good name of the Masonic institution, or its usefulness, or to cause scandal, or to degrade it in public estimation, or which in any wise is contrary to its principles, obligations, or teachings is a Masonic offense. Examples, of general misconduct include, but are not limited to:

(a) Lying to a Freemason or to a court while giving testimony, or making a false accusation against any other person;

(b) Preventing members of a lodge from being present when a ballot was taken on the petition of a candidate for the degrees and/or from being present when he was initiated;

(c) Refusing payment on a debt which arises out of an attempt, whether successful or unsuccessful, to cheat, wrong, or defraud a Master Mason; and

(d) Casting a blackball without good reason or otherwise interfering with the proper procedures for the election of a candidate for the degrees.

**Section 28.040. DISOBEDIENCE TO AUTHORITY.** Disobedience of lawful Masonic authority is a Masonic offense. Examples of such disobedience include, but are not limited to:

(a) Refusal to pay per capita tax or levies established by the Grand Lodge;

(b) Public disclosure by a member, at the time of balloting on a petition for the degrees, of the fact that he cast a blackball;

(c) A Junior Warden knowingly or purposely refusing to prepare and file charges against a brother Freemason under the Trial Code.

(d) Refusal to stand to or abide by any Edict, Decision, or Directive of the Grand Master upon receiving notice of the same. For purposes of this Section, notice shall be satisfied upon personal receipt or receipt by the subordinate lodge of Masonic membership.

**Section 28.050. DISOBEDIENCE TO PROCESS.** Disobedience, without good cause, to process authorized by any Masonic law, including refusal to appear or testify as a witness when summoned, is a Masonic offense.

**Section 28.060. MISREPRESENTATION.** Knowing or purposeful misrepresentation in a petition for the degrees, affiliation, reinstatement, or restoration, of

residence, occupation, absence of previous conviction or finding of guilt or previous rejection in another Masonic lodge is a Masonic offense.

**Section 28.070. WITHHOLDING INFORMATION.** Purposeful or knowing withholding of information in submission of a petition for the degrees, affiliation, reinstatement, or restoration which could have reasonably considered grounds for rejection of said petition is a Masonic offense.

**Section 28.071. FRAUD.** Any fraudulent action or statement by any member or candidate which results in the conferral of degrees, or the affiliation, reinstatement, or restoration of any Freemason is a Masonic offense.

**Section 28.080. IMPROPER USE OF MASONIC NAMES AND EMBLEMS.** Use of Masonic names, terminology, insignia or emblems contrary to Grand Lodge law is a Masonic offense. A lodge is permitted to issue a bulletin in relation to its meetings and activities, seek advertising to run in the columns of its bulletins, and to permit representatives of Masonic publications to seek subscriptions in lodge rooms and ante rooms.

**Section 28.090. WHEN CHARGE NOT ENTERTAINED.** A complaint against a member may not be entertained:

(a) For the purpose of adjusting mere legal rights, pecuniary or otherwise, unless the complaint specifies fraud or involves moral turpitude;

*As an example, a lodge cannot be made a collection agency nor may a trial be conducted in order to force payment on an ordinary debt, but the mere fact that one Master Mason is indebted to the other is no reason why the one who has been wronged cannot charge the wrongdoer with cheating, wronging, and defrauding him and have him tried upon the charge.*

(b) For statements made in a pleading filed in court, or for statements or reports made to a Grand Jury or other proper authorities for violation of the civil or criminal laws, without specific allegations as to the falsity of said statements or reports and whether the member making said statements or reports knew of the falsity of the statements or reports at the time they were made;

(c) For any offense committed before he petitioned for the degrees, except as stated in Sections [28.060](#), [28.070](#), and [28.071](#);

(d) For any offense committed more than three years before the complaint is presented, unless the offense has been concealed from the public or the lodge; or

(e) Solely due to a member's religious or church affiliation.

**Section 28.100. JURISDICTION - ALL MEMBERS.** A lodge has jurisdiction over all its members, including Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts, affiliated or unaffiliated, and those Freemasons to whom the lodge has granted a dimit or has suspended, wherever residing.

**Section 28.110. JURISDICTION - MISSOURI FREEMASONS.** A lodge may consider charges against any Missouri Freemason, affiliated or unaffiliated, who is a member of another Missouri lodge, and may try him if it finds probable cause to believe an offense has been committed; but before doing so it must notify the lodge of the accused, if known, that complaint has been made or charges filed.

**Section 28.120. JURISDICTION - MEMBERS OF LODGES OF OTHER STATES.**

Commission of a Masonic offense in Missouri by a Freemason of another state will subject that Freemason to trial under this Code in any Missouri lodge filing charges.

**Section 28.130. JURISDICTION OF OTHER STATES; RECIPROcity PROVISIONS.** Missouri recognizes the rights of lodges outside of Missouri to try Missouri Freemasons under their laws for offenses committed within the jurisdiction of their lodges, to the same extent that their respective Grand Lodges recognize the rights of Missouri lodges to try their members for offenses under Missouri laws committed in Missouri. The Grand Master may, at his discretion, recognize and enforce any judgment rendered by a recognized Grand Lodge against a Missouri Freemason for Masonic offenses committed within its jurisdiction without referral to a Trial Commission. Such judgment shall be deemed effective upon notice given by the Grand Master to the Grand Secretary, the accused at his last known residence, and any Missouri lodge in which the accused holds membership.

**ARTICLE 29. COMPLAINTS AND PRELIMINARY PROCEEDINGS**

**Section 29.010. GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE.** Upon installation, a the Master of a subordinate lodge shall appoint a Grievance Committee of not less than three nor more than five Past Masters in good standing in the lodge and shall designate a chairman of the committee. If a lodge does not have sufficient active resident Past Masters, the committee may include Master Masons in good standing. The Master's failure to appoint a Grievance Committee immediately after his installation shall not bar his appointment of a Grievance Committee at a later date. A Grievance Committee shall serve until a successor committee shall be appointed.

**Section 29.020. COMPLAINTS.** Any Master Mason in good standing, other than a member under charges, may file a complaint with the Master of any subordinate lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge against any Freemason other than as provided in [Article V, Section 1\(9\)](#) of the Grand Lodge Constitution. All complaints shall be made in writing and signed under oath, and shall include the name of the accused, a brief description of the offense, and the names of witnesses known to the accuser who may have notice or knowledge of the events contained therein. The allegations shall be definite so as to allow the accused the opportunity to defend specifically against the complaint, call witnesses on his behalf, and cross examine any witness against him. If the complainant or accused is a member of the Grievance Committee, he should not continue to conduct any further investigation.

**Section 29.030. RECEIPT OF COMPLAINT** Upon receipt of a complaint, the Master shall note on it the date of filing and shall notify and consult the District Deputy Grand Master of the district. Upon consultation, the Master shall promptly refer the

complaint to the Grievance Committee and the Junior Warden with a request for investigation or in lieu thereof attempt to effect reconciliation pursuant to Section [29.055](#).

**Section 29.040. INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINT.** The Grievance Committee shall make a complete investigation of every complaint referred to it by the Master, and determine if there is probable cause to believe an offense has been committed by the accused. The Grievance Committee shall be limited to the determination of probable cause and shall not make any findings of fact or guilt relating to the allegations contained within the complaint.

Except as provided in Section [29.085](#), the Junior Warden shall assist the committee in the investigation, and present such facts and evidence as he is able to obtain. Except as provided in Section [29.080](#), the Master and the Lodge shall secure the services of an attorney to advise and assist the Grievance Committee in its investigation and determination of probable cause. The attorney shall be a Master Mason currently in good standing, but need not be a member of the Lodge. Should the Grievance Committee find that a charge is appropriate, the attorney shall assist the Junior Warden throughout the trial process.

The investigation shall conclude within twenty days unless further time is given by the Master. The Committee shall endorse its findings upon the complaint and promptly return it to the Master.

The Grievance Committee shall not have the right to summon the accused before it, but may upon its own motion invite the accused to appear before it. The accused has no right to appear before the committee, and may only appear upon invitation of the committee. The accused has no right to have witnesses on his behalf voluntarily appear before the committee, nor has he the right to have witnesses in his behalf summoned before the committee. The committee shall have the right to question the accused if he chooses to appear before it, and the members of the committee may testify at the trial to any statements made by him before the committee.

**Section 29.050. REPORT.** If a majority of the Grievance Committee determines that there is probable cause to believe an offense has been committed by the accused, the Master forthwith shall mail or deliver copies of the complaint and report to the District Deputy Grand Master of the district and to the Grand Master.

If the matter cannot be reconciled pursuant to Section 29.055, the Master shall refer the complaint and report to the Junior Warden except as provided in Section [29.085](#). The date of the reference to the Junior Warden is noted on the complaint.

**Section 29.055. RECONCILIATION OF COMPLAINT.** At the discretion of the Master or following a majority determination by the Grievance Committee of probable cause that an offense has been committed by the accused, the Master or Committee shall notify the District Deputy Grand Master and may contact the accused, the accuser, or each of them, and make inquiry for purposes of reconciliation. If it appears from the inquiry that reconciliation may be reached, the Master or Committee shall attempt to effect the reconciliation and may through the District Deputy Grand Master refer the matter to the Grand Master. The Grand Master may, at his discretion, appoint a qualified Master Mason to mediate and assist in reconciliation. If reconciliation is reached, the Master shall be notified, and the original complaint shall be so noted and sealed by the Master.

**Section 29.060. REVIEW OF REPORT.** Except as provided in Sections 29.085, if the Grievance Committee reports no probable cause, the accuser, the Junior Warden, the District Deputy Grand Master of the district, and the Grand Master shall be notified; and the accuser, the Junior Warden, or the District Deputy Grand Master of the district may appeal in writing to the Grand Master within sixty days from the date of the Committee report. The District Deputy Grand Master may make additional investigation as requested by the Grand Master. If the Grand Master determines that the complaint should be prosecuted, he shall so order; and the trial shall proceed as provided in these sections. When the Grand Master orders charges preferred against a member after the Grievance Committee returns a finding of no probable cause, the Grand Master shall order the Junior Warden to choose counsel to assist him in the conduct of the trial, and may, with the assistance of the lodge, select the counsel to be chosen.

**Section 29.070. GRAND MASTER'S CHARGES.** Upon direction of the Grand Master, the Junior Warden shall file charges against a member of a lodge for any Masonic offense directed by the Grand Master. If so directed, the complaint shall not be referred to the Grievance Committee but shall further proceed in accordance with the Trial Code.

**Section 29.075. EMERGENCY SUSPENSION PENDING TRIAL.** Upon information and belief that a member of a lodge has committed a Masonic offense and constitutes a danger to the safety of any Lodge or member thereof, the Grand Master may, with the written concurrence of the Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden and Junior Grand Warden, or any two of them, suspend the member from any or all the privileges of Freemasonry pending the outcome of a Masonic Trial. Said suspension and the conditions thereof shall be issued in writing to the member, any lodge of his membership, and the District Deputy Grand Master(s) thereof. Violation of any condition of the suspension shall constitute a separate Masonic Offense. Should the charge be dismissed, or the member acquitted or reprimanded, the member shall be immediately restored to good standing and any suspension pursuant to this Section shall not be reflected in the member's Masonic record. (Added [2019-151](#))

**Section 29.080. DUTIES OF THE JUNIOR WARDEN.** If the Grievance Committee finds probable cause, or if the Grand Master directs the filing of charges, the Junior Warden shall act on behalf of the lodge in all subsequent proceedings. If the Junior Warden is an attorney, he may, upon approval of the Grand Master, serve as legal counsel for the lodge without securing additional representation.

**Section 29.085. DISQUALIFICATION OF JUNIOR WARDEN.** The Junior Warden shall perform the duties listed under Article 29 unless he is the accused, the accuser, a material witness, otherwise interested, or for other cause is not in position properly to represent the lodge. If the Junior Warden is disqualified under this section, the Grand Master may designate some other Master Mason, who need not be a member of the lodge where the complaint is made, to act in place of the Junior Warden and to perform his function in subsequent proceedings. For purposes of Article 29, "Junior Warden" means the duly installed Junior Warden of the subordinate lodge or a Master Mason designated by the Grand Master under this Section.

Except as limited in this section, refusal of the Junior Warden to perform the functions listed in the Trial Code shall be a Masonic offense.

**Section 29.090. CHARGE AGAINST OFFICER.** If any officer of a lodge charged with duties in connection with any trial is charged with an offense, the Master must appoint a suitable member of the lodge to perform the duties of his office.

**Section 29.100. PREPARATION OF CHARGE.** Within fifteen days after a finding of probable cause by the Grievance committee or direction of the Grand Master, the Junior Warden shall file formal charges against the accused in plain, concise form. Multiple or alternative offenses alleged may be joined in a single charging document. The charge shall specifically state the Masonic offense or offenses alleged to have been committed by the accused. If the charges are not sufficiently specific, the Junior Warden and counsel may amend the charges accordingly. All prosecutions are in the name of the lodge. An appeal of a criminal conviction will not stay the fifteen day time limit, after finding of probable cause by Grievance Committee or direction of the Grand Master, for filing of Masonic charges.

**Section 29.105. DISMISSAL OF CHARGE.** The Junior Warden shall, at his discretion and upon consultation with counsel, if applicable, be permitted to dismiss any charge prior to its submission to the Trial Commission for deliberation. Any charge so dismissed may be refiled within one year by the Junior Warden upon receipt of a report of probable cause by the lodge Grievance Committee or upon direction of the Grand Master.

**Section 29.110. FILING AND NOTICE.** The formal charge shall be filed with the Secretary, who shall note the date of filing and present it to the Master. The Master shall cause notice to be given the accused, with a copy of the charge, and direct him to answer the charge in writing within the time designated in Section 29.140. Copies of the notice and the charge shall be given to the District Deputy Grand Master of the district and to the Grand Master.

When the charges have been preferred against a member near the end of the lodge's year, after which a date is set for trial, and then postponed, the trial may be reset without reference to the succeeding Grievance Committee. The accused must be notified of the resetting of the trial.

**Section 29.120. SERVICE OF NOTICE.** The formal charge and notice shall be served on the accused by delivering a copy to him personally pursuant to the requirements of Section [29.130](#), or by deposit in the United States mail, registered or certified, with return personal receipt requested, addressed to him at his last known address according to the records of the lodge. If the accused refuses service of notice, either personally or by mail, or if his address is not known, or if the mail notice is returned as undeliverable, service shall be obtained by posting notice in the lodge at least forty-five days before the date of hearing. A Freemason under charges while incarcerated shall be served a copy of the charges and may be represented by counsel and tried in absentia. The accused may engage the services of an attorney to advise and assist him. Said attorney shall be a Master Mason currently in good standing, but need not be a member of the Lodge.

**Section 29.130. SERVICE AND PROOF.** Any Master Mason except the accuser may serve the notice required in Section [29.110](#). Proof of service is made by endorsing on the original notice the time, manner and place of service.

**Section 29.140. TIME FOR ANSWER.** The accused shall answer the charge in writing, and deliver two copies thereof to the Secretary within thirty days from date of service, if personal or mail service is obtained. If service is obtained by posting of notice, an answer is required within forty-five days from the first date of posting.

**Section 29.150. FORMS OF ANSWER.** The accused, in answer to the offense, may plead (a) guilty; (b) not guilty; or (c) no Masonic offense. A plea of guilty may be accompanied by a request for expulsion or request for leniency and a statement or evidence in mitigation of the offense. A failure to answer shall be deemed a plea of not guilty.

**Section 29.160. PLEA OF GUILTY; EFFECT** If the accused enters a plea of "guilty," a Trial Commission shall be formed pursuant to Article [30](#). The accused and lodge shall be afforded the opportunity to present evidence of aggravation and mitigation of the offense, with the accused being afforded the opportunity to open and close the evidence, unless the accused agrees to expulsion. Upon the close of evidence, the trial commission shall deliberate and determine appropriate punishment pursuant to Section [30.130](#).

**Section 29.170. PLEA OF NOT GUILTY; EFFECT** If the accused enters a plea of "not guilty," a trial shall proceed pursuant to Article 30, the lodge being afforded the opportunity to open and close the evidence.

**Section 29.180. PLEA OF NO MASONIC OFFENSE; EFFECT** If the accused enters a plea of "no Masonic offense," a Trial Commission shall be formed pursuant to Article 30. The Chairman of the Trial Commission shall determine first whether or not the allegations, taken as true, constitute a Masonic offense. If the Chairman determines that the allegations as stated would constitute a Masonic offense, the accused shall be granted further opportunity to enter a plea of guilty or not guilty. A finding made pursuant to this Section shall be appealable by either party only to the Grand Master.

**Section 29.190. CHARGES AGAINST MASTER.** The Grand Lodge has exclusive original jurisdiction over all complaints made against a District Deputy Grand Master or Master of a subordinate lodge during his term of office. After his term of office expires, the original jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge is limited to offenses involving official misconduct during his term of office. After his term of office expires, a lodge may entertain complaints against him for offenses other than official misconduct as District Deputy Grand Master or Master, committed by him at any time.

A District Deputy Grand Master or Master suspended by the Grand Lodge for official misconduct should be cited to appear before the Grand Lodge at its next annual communication for trial, even though his term of office expires before the session of the Grand Lodge.

**Section 29.200. PRESENTATION OF COMPLAINT AGAINST MASTER.** Complaints made by a Master Mason against a District Deputy Grand Master or Master for any Masonic offense or official misconduct during his term of office shall be presented to the Grand Master, who shall cause a copy to be served on the accused and shall investigate the circumstances of the complaint. If after investigation the Grand Master believes the complaint is without foundation, he shall dismiss the complaint and reports his action at the next annual communication. The dismissal shall become final upon approval by the Grand Lodge. If the complaint is determined to be well founded, the Grand Master shall

appoint a special Trial Commission composed of three members of the Grand Lodge and shall designate a member of the Grand Lodge to perform the functions of the Junior Warden under the Trial Code. Procedure for trials and appeals shall be as nearly as practicable as provided generally for trials in this code. At the conclusion of the hearings, the Commission shall file its report with the Grand Secretary. While charges are pending, the Grand Master may suspend the District Deputy Grand Master or Master from office if he believes the interests of Freemasonry will be better served, but said suspended District Deputy Grand Master or Master is still a Master Mason in good standing, and he may visit his lodge.

## ARTICLE 30. TRIAL

**Section 30.010. TRIAL COMMISSION.** Upon receipt of a charge pursuant to Section [29.110](#), the Grand Master shall appoint a trial commission consisting of three disinterested and experienced Missouri Master Masons, not members of the lodge where charges are pending, and designate one as chairman of the commission.

The commission shall try the case under this Article, hear the evidence submitted, make a record, and observe the rules of evidence and practice prescribed by this Code. At the conclusion of the trial, it shall publish its findings and the punishment, if any, fixed by it. The findings and any applicable punishment shall be filed with the Secretary of the lodge. The trial commission is entitled to reimbursement from the lodge for actual expenses incurred.

**Section 30.020. CHALLENGE OF COMMISSIONER.** Not less than ten days prior to the date set for trial, the Junior Warden or the accused may challenge any commissioner for bias, kinship, interest for or against either party, or as a material witness. The challenge shall be in writing, state the facts on which the challenge is predicated, and be signed by the person making it. The challenge shall be transmitted to the Grand Master by registered or certified mail, and in his absolute discretion he may sustain or overrule it. If it is sustained, the Grand Master shall name a substitute commissioner.

**Section 30.030. TIME AND PLACE OF TRIAL.** The chairman of the trial commission shall fix a date, time, and place of trial, and shall notify the accused and the Junior Warden. He shall summon witnesses at the request of either party and secure their testimony in the method set forth in Sections [7.160](#) and [7.170](#), administer oaths to Freemasons, rule on admissibility of evidence, and continue the trial from time to time and from place to place. A trial may not be held in tiled lodge, but shall be held at the regular meeting place of the lodge, unless by special order and for good cause shown, the chairman directs that it be held at some other place.

*See By-Laws Sections [7.160](#) (Summons) and [7.170](#) (Service of Summons)*

**Section 30.040. NOTICE.** The chairman of the commission shall give written notice by first class mail to the Secretary, who shall then give written or printed notice to all resident members of the date and place of trial. A notice of a trial to the resident members of a lodge contained in the regular monthly bulletin of the lodge is sufficient if sent by first class mail.

**Section 30.050. TRIAL PROCEDURES.** Unless otherwise specified, all proceedings under this Article shall be conducted consistent with the Missouri Rules of Civil Procedure.



All trials shall be conducted before a trial commission, which shall act with absolute impartiality towards all parties and witnesses.

Any action taken by any Freemason to impair the fairness of the trial or influence the trial commission other than as provided for in this Article shall be a Masonic offense.

**Section 30.060. PERSONS ADMITTED.** Only Master Masons in good standing may be admitted to the trial; but if objection is made by a Trial Commissioner, the Junior Warden, or the accused, all non-members of the lodge except Grand Lodge officers and brethren specially designated by the Grand Master shall be excluded. If requested by either the accused or the Lodge, all witnesses shall be excluded from the trial other than when they are testifying. Witnesses while testifying, stenographer, counsel, and the accused may not be excluded. Witnesses who are not Freemasons shall remain only while testifying.

**Section 30.070. TESTIMONY.** The testimony of all witnesses who can attend the trial shall be presented orally before the trial commission and shall be preserved by methods approved under Missouri court rules, however, use of audio recording machines to preserve a record of the proceedings is permissible if all who participate in the recording are Master Masons in good standing, the tape or record is preserved, and a written transcript is then prepared. Except as permitted by in writing by the Grand Master, the use of video recording machines to preserve a record of the proceedings is forbidden. If permitted, a copy of the video shall be preserved and transmitted to the Grand Lodge as part of the record and shall suffice in lieu of a transcript or summary of testimony for purposes of appeal.

Testimony of Freemasons shall be upon their Masonic honor. Testimony of non-Masons shall be given under oath administered by the chairman of the Trial Commission. Admission of affidavits, unless by agreement of the lodge and the accused, is error. The accused has the right to be present at the giving of the testimony of any witness and the right to cross-examine. The lodge and the accused may stipulate to facts to be used as evidence by the trial commission, either in writing or orally.

The trial record should show the occupation, history, educational background, and standing of the accused in his community. That information assists the trial commission and the Grand Lodge in determining adequacy of punishment and mitigating circumstances.

**Section 30.071. DEPOSITIONS.** Testimony of witnesses who are unable to attend in person, whose attendance cannot be secured, or of persons who reside at great distance from the place of trial may be preserved by deposition. In the absence of a stipulation, either party may apply to the chairman of the trial commission to take the testimony of a witness after five days written notice to the adverse party. Written interrogatories may be propounded and admitted upon stipulation of all parties. Oral depositions to preserve testimony may be taken by either party, however, no deposition shall be admissible as evidence unless the party offering shall certify to the Trial Commission that notice of the date, time, and location of the deposition has been sent to the opposing party by regular United States Mail no fewer than seven (7) days prior to the date of the deposition. Admission of a deposition pursuant to this Section shall not waive any other objection to the contents thereof.

**Section 30.072. RETURN OF DEPOSITIONS.** Upon completion of the deposition, the original shall be filed with the Secretary of the lodge, and a copy shall be provided to the accused and the Junior Warden or counsel.

**Section 30.080. STENOGRAPHER.** Except as permitted in Section [30.070](#), a stenographer, certified court reporter, or other competent person shall be designated to take and preserve the testimony and keep the record of the trial. A Master Mason must be used for this purpose unless the commission determines one cannot reasonably be secured.

**Section 30.090. RULES OF EVIDENCE.** Rules relating to admissibility of evidence, competency of witnesses and privileged communications are such as are recognized in courts of law in civil cases before state courts in Missouri, except where those rules are modified by express laws of the Grand Lodge. A Freemason's wife is a competent witness for or against him in a Masonic trial. Masonic communications are recognized as privileged communications.

**Section 30.100. EVIDENCE – CRIMINAL COURT RECORD.** The record or testimony in a court of competent jurisdiction, duly certified, showing indictment or information, arraignment, conviction, sentence, or acquittal of the accused, according to the forms of law, for the same offense for which he is on trial, is competent evidence for or against him in a Masonic trial but is not conclusive as to his guilt or innocence except in cases of findings of guilt made by a court of law.

**Section 30.110. EVIDENCE - CIVIL COURT RECORD.** Court records in which the accused was a party to a civil action and was given an opportunity to present evidence relating to his guilt or innocence of a Masonic offense shall be admissible in a Masonic trial.

Civil judgments in which a Mason is a party and for which he had the right and opportunity to appear and present evidence shall be admissible to show the truth of the matter litigated and the parties shall be estopped from attacking their validity during the course of a Masonic trial.

**Section 30.120 EVIDENCE – PREVIOUS TESTIMONY OF A DECEASED OR UNAVAILABLE WITNESS** Prior testimony given under oath by a deceased or unavailable witness before a court of law or Masonic Trial Commission is admissible if the accused was a party to the proceeding and was given opportunity to examine the witness under oath and the testimony offered relates to the facts at issue in the Masonic trial. A party seeking the admission of such testimony shall give notice to the adverse party not less than five days prior to trial, and must affirm under oath before the Trial Commission that such witness is deceased or that all reasonable attempts to locate or procure the witness for trial or deposition have failed.

**Section 30.130. JUDGMENT.** Within ninety (90) days after the conclusion of the evidence and arguments, the commission shall render written judgment signed by all or a majority of the commission. The judgment shall be either "guilty" or "not guilty," based upon clear and convincing evidence. If the judgment is guilty, the commission shall assess punishment of (a) reprimand, (b) suspension for a definite period of time, (c) suspension for an indefinite period of time, or (d) expulsion.

*Cross reference: [31.010](#).*

**Section 30.135. JUDGMENT FOR COSTS.** If deemed appropriate by the Trial Commission, judgment for costs may be entered in favor of the prevailing party for actual expenses incurred, or a portion thereof, against the adverse party. Applicable expenses shall include, but not be limited to: witness fees and transportation costs, stenographer or court reporter fees, including transcript costs, but shall not include attorney's fees.

**Section 30.140. ENTRY AND EFFECT OF JUDGMENT** Upon its rendering, the judgment of the commission shall be presented, read in open lodge, and entered into its records at its next stated communication. The Secretary forthwith shall transmit a copy of the judgment to the Grand Master and District Deputy Grand Master of the district.

A judgment of guilty and any punishment assessed shall become effective upon entry of that judgment into the lodge records.

Entry of a judgment of expulsion shall result in the immediate expulsion of the accused from all the rights and privileges of Freemasonry.

Entry of a judgment of suspension shall result in the immediate suspension of the accused for the time specified by the judgment or indefinitely if so specified.

Entry of a judgment of reprimand shall result in a reprimand administered to the accused by the Master of the lodge or his designee not less than thirty nor more than sixty days from the entry of judgment unless a timely appeal is filed pursuant to the Trial Code.

A deceased member against whom judgment has been rendered but not entered shall be deemed to have died in good standing.

**Section 30.150. TRIAL RECORD.** The chairman of the Trial Commission shall file with the Secretary of the lodge all documents and records connected with the trial. In addition, the chairman may require the stenographer's notes to be typewritten or printed and a transcript of the testimony attached to the record.

**Section 30.160. PAYMENT OF COSTS.** If the costs are not paid within a reasonable time, they must be paid by the lodge; but the payment does not relieve from liability the party against whom they were originally taxed. His refusal to reimburse the lodge is a Masonic offense. If the charge was filed pursuant to [Section 29.070](#) and the lodge is unable to pay costs, the lodge may request payment by the Grand Lodge. Any costs paid by the Grand Lodge shall be determined by the Grand Master on a case by case basis and shall be assessed by the Grand Lodge against the receiving lodge for repayment as directed by the Grand Master.

## ARTICLE 31. APPEALS

**Section 31.010. EFFECT OF JUDGMENT.** Decisions of commissions shall be deemed final unless reversed or modified on appeal as authorized by this Article. No new trial shall be ordered except as authorized by this Article.

**Section 31.020. WHO MAY APPEAL.** If found guilty by the Trial Commission, the accused may appeal to the Grand Lodge within twenty days after the entry of judgment in the records of the lodge.

**Section 31.030. NOTICE.** Notice of appeal shall be served upon the Secretary of the lodge by personal service or certified mail return receipt requested along with a concise statement of the grounds for appeal. The Secretary shall note on the notice the date of receipt.

**Section 31.040. RECORD ON APPEAL.** Within five days after receiving a timely notice of appeal which complies with Section 31.030, the Secretary shall deliver the originals or certified copies of all records in connection with the case to the Grand Secretary, who shall forthwith refer them to the Grand Lodge Committee on Appeals and Grievances. If the presiding chairman has not filed a stenographer's transcript of evidence as authorized in Section [30.150](#) or video recording as authorized by [30.070](#), the appellant, within forty-five days after notice of appeal, shall cause a transcript of the testimony, or, in the alternative, a summary in narrative form approved by the lodge, to be filed with the Grand Lodge Committee on Appeals and Grievances. Failure or neglect of the Secretary to timely transmit the proceedings shall not affect appellant's right to appeal under this Article.

**Section 31.050. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH SECTIONS 31.030 and 31.040** Failure of an appellant to comply with the provisions of Sections 31.030 and 31.040 may result in dismissal of the appeal.

**Section 31.060. COMMUNICATION OF GRAND LODGE PRIOR TO EXPIRATION OF TIME ALLOWED FOR APPEAL** Where the forty-five days' time has not expired before the time period specified by Section 31.070 for consideration of appeal and the appellant has not filed with the Secretary of the lodge a transcript, video recording, or statement of the substantive facts proved at the trial as provided in Section [31.040](#), the appeal shall not be considered at that communication of the Grand Lodge. An appeal timely filed after the communication of Grand Lodge shall be taken up at the next subsequent Grand Lodge.

**Section 31.070. GRAND LODGE APPEALS AND GRIEVANCES COMMITTEE.** The Grand Lodge Committee on Appeals and Grievances shall review the case on the record submitted to it. The appellant and the lodge shall be given opportunity to present oral argument and printed or typewritten briefs. Appeals shall be heard not more than ninety (90) and not fewer than thirty (30) days immediately preceding the Annual Communication at a location selected by the chairman of the committee. The chairman shall provide notice of the date and location of the hearing to the appellant and the lodge not fewer than thirty (30) days prior to the hearing. If the committee considers it necessary in the interests of substantial justice, it may, by special order, receive additional evidence, orally, by deposition, or by interrogatories.

**Section 31.080. REPORT TO GRAND LODGE.** The Committee on Appeals and Grievances shall report to the Grand Lodge its findings and recommendations. No judgment may be reversed or remanded for new trial for mere technical irregularities or technical violation of rules of evidence unless manifest injustice has been shown by the appellant.

**Section 31.085. VOTE OF GRAND LODGE.** The report of the Committee on Appeals and Grievance shall be presented to the Grand Lodge for approval by paper or electronic ballot. If approved, the findings and recommendations shall become the final judgment of the Grand Lodge. If a recommendation of affirmation is rejected, the cause shall be remanded to the commission for new trial. If a recommendation for remand or resentence is rejected, the decision of the commission shall stand as final. (Amended [2017-105](#))

**Section 31.090. JUDGMENT OF GRAND LODGE.** The judgment of the Grand Lodge shall be either that (a) the judgment by the commission be affirmed, or (b) that it be reversed and the cause remanded to the Trial Commission for a new trial, or (c) that it be reversed and the charges dismissed, or (d) the Grand Lodge may remand the penalty imposed by the commission for determination of a lesser sentence.

**Section 31.100. EFFECT OF REMAND BY GRAND LODGE** Upon remand by the Grand Lodge for a new trial, the lodge shall be permitted to introduce new charges and new evidence against the accused. In all cases in which a new trial is ordered, the accused shall be afforded the same rights as in the original proceeding.

**Section 31.110. STATUS PENDING APPEAL.** If the accused was suspended or expelled by the Trial Commission, he remains so pending appeal no matter the length of suspension. If he received a sentence of reprimand, his status is that of a member with charges pending against him.

**Section 31.120. EFFECT OF DISMISAL BY GRAND LODGE.** A member suspended or expelled by judgment of a trial commission shall be restored to full standing upon reversal of that judgment and dismissal of the cause by the Grand Lodge.

**Section 31.130. PROMULGATION OF JUDGMENT.** The printed Proceedings of the Grand Lodge shall be deemed the official announcement of its judgments.

## ARTICLE 32. RESTORATION

**Section 32.010. PETITIONS FOR RESTORATION.** A petition for restoration to a subordinate lodge in existence shall only be presented to the lodge that rendered the judgment of indefinite suspension or expulsion, notwithstanding the petitioner's original lodge of membership. If the judgment was appealed to the Grand Lodge and modified or overruled or if the lodge rendering the judgment is not in existence, or if the Freemason was indefinitely suspended or expelled pursuant to Sections [28.020](#) or [28.130](#), the petition for restoration shall be presented to the Grand Lodge pursuant to Sections [32.060](#) and [32.070](#).

A petition for restoration cannot be presented by a Freemason who has been suspended for a definite period of time, and such a petition shall not be considered by the lodge that rendered the judgment of suspension or by the Grand Lodge.

**Section 32.015. LIMITATIONS ON PRESENTMENT.** Notwithstanding any other provision or bylaw, Petitions for Restoration shall not be received prior to the expiration of the latest applicable following time limitation:

1. Five (5) years from the date of full satisfaction of any judgment rendered by a court of law for automatic expulsion pursuant to Section [28.020](#)
2. Three (3) years from the date of expulsion by a lodge no longer in existence
3. Three (3) years from the date of expulsion by the Grand Master pursuant to Section [28.130](#).
4. Three (3) years from the date of rejection of a prior petition for restoration.
5. Two (2) years from the date of expulsion by a subordinate lodge.
6. One (1) year from the date of indefinite suspension.

**Section 32.020. PETITIONS - SUBORDINATE LODGE IN EXISTENCE.** The petition for restoration shall be presented at a stated communication of the lodge and lie over to the next stated communication. The Master of the Lodge shall refer the petition to a committee for investigation and report pursuant to Section [13.070](#). The Lodge Secretary shall notify the resident members of the lodge, the Grand Master, and the District Deputy Grand Master of the district that the petition has been presented and will be acted upon at the next stated communication.

**Section 32.030. PROCEDURE.** Voting on petitions shall be by paper ballot at the stated communication following presentment unless delayed for no more than sixty days by the Master for good cause shown. A ballot resulting in a two-thirds (2/3) favorable vote of the members present shall restore the petitioner to full membership unless a request for review is filed within thirty days of the ballot pursuant to Section 32.035.

**Section 32.035. REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF RESTORATION.** Notice of a favorable ballot for restoration shall be given to the Grand Master and the District Deputy Grand Master of the district within ten days of the ballot. Within thirty days of the ballot, the Grand Master or the Master of the Lodge may request review of the petition by the Grand Lodge. Request shall be made by notifying the lodge Secretary, who shall immediately forward the petition and report of the investigating committee to the Grand Secretary. The Grand Secretary shall transmit the record to the Committee on Appeals and Grievances for review pursuant to the procedure for Petitions for Restoration received under Section [32.070](#). A request for review shall stay restoration pending final determination by the Grand Lodge.

**Section 32.040. EFFECT OF UNFAVORABLE BALLOT; PETITION TO GRAND LODGE.** Upon receipt of an unfavorable ballot pursuant to Section [32.030](#), the petitioner may petition the Grand Lodge for restoration pursuant to Section [32.070](#). The petition shall state that the petitioner has received an unfavorable ballot for restoration and shall identify the lodge issuing the ballot.

While the Trial Code recognizes the right to petition the Grand Lodge under these circumstances, only the strongest evidence that a man who has committed such an offense is now entitled to membership in the fraternity should cause the Grand Lodge to disturb the action of his own lodge.

**Section 32.050. ENTERED APPRENTICE OR FELLOW CRAFT.** An expelled or indefinitely suspended Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft shall not be advanced in any lodge until restoration and affiliation, if applicable.

**Section 32.060. PETITION FOR RESTORATION - SUBORDINATE LODGE NOT IN EXISTENCE.** If the lodge where the trial was conducted is not in existence or if the suspension or expulsion was effected pursuant to Section [28.130](#), the suspended or expelled Freemason may petition the Grand Lodge for restoration pursuant to Section 32.070; but the petition must be accompanied by a recommendation from a Missouri lodge. A petition for restoration under this section which is not accompanied by a recommendation from any lodge cannot be acted upon by the Grand Lodge Committee on Appeals and Grievances and will be dismissed. For purposes of this section, a recommendation from a Missouri lodge shall be granted in the same manner as a petition for restoration from a subordinate lodge in existence.

**Section 32.070. RESTORATION BY GRAND LODGE.** Petitions for Restoration by the Grand Lodge shall be addressed to the Grand Lodge, signed by the applicant and filed with the Grand Secretary no less than thirty days prior to an Annual Communication. The Grand Secretary shall forward the petition to the Chairman of the Grand Lodge Committee on Appeals and Grievances, who shall cause an investigation to be made, unless the petition has been withdrawn prior to any action being taken by said committee. The Chairman of the Appeals and Grievances Committee shall present the report of the actions of the Committee, with its recommendations, to the Grand Lodge at its Annual Communication. Upon favorable report of the Committee and approval of the Grand Master as noted in his Annual Address, restoration shall be deemed effective upon approval of the Grand Master's Address. Action for restoration not reported favorable by the committee or not included in the Address of the Grand Master shall only be deemed effective following a two-thirds favorable ballot at the Annual Communication at which the petition was received. Upon approval and restoration by the Grand Lodge, the Grand Secretary, as soon as practicable, shall prepare and forward to him the official Dimit Without Privileges of the Grand Lodge of Missouri. The restoration of an indefinitely suspended or expelled person by the Grand Lodge does not restore him to membership in his lodge.

**Section 32.080. DIMIT IF NOT RESTORED TO LODGE MEMBERSHIP.** A restored Freemason granted a dimit without privileges pursuant to Section 32.070 shall be entitled only to the rights and privileges enumerated in Section [20.020](#).

**Section 32.090. RESTORATION FOLLOWING SUSPENSION.** At the expiration of a suspension for a definite period of time imposed by a Trial Commission pursuant to Section [30.130](#), a Freemason shall be automatically restored to all the rights and privileges of Freemasonry to which he was entitled at the time of suspension. A Freemason against whom a judgment of expulsion was rendered by a Trial Commission and mitigated to suspension for a definite period of time following appeal shall be granted a dimit without privileges pursuant to Section 32.080 following the period of suspension.

## VI

### AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS

#### ARTICLE 35. CHANGE OF BY-LAWS

**Section 35.005. FORM OF PROPOSED CHANGE OF BY-LAWS.** Any proposed additional section, proposed change or repeal of existing by-laws, or proposed emergency change or repeal of existing by-laws must be proposed in writing, accompanied by a brief written statement as to the purpose thereof. The proposal must be signed by two members of the Grand Lodge who give their rank and the names and number of their lodges.

**Section 35.010. ADDITIONAL SECTION.** At any annual communication these by-laws may be amended by the adoption of any additional section which does not amend or repeal any section then effective. The proposal must be read, referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, read on another day, and adopted by a two-thirds vote.

**Section 35.020. CHANGE OR REPEAL.** A proposal to amend or repeal of any section of these by-laws must be delivered to the Grand Secretary within 60 days subsequent of an Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge. The Grand Secretary shall deliver a copy of the same to the secretary of each subordinate lodge subsequent to such Annual Communication and prior to March 1st of that year. Each proposal shall be referred to the Committee of Jurisprudence, published in the proceedings, then be reported on by the Committee of Jurisprudence, and adopted by a majority vote. (Amended [2004-94](#); 2021- )

**Section 35.021. EMERGENCY CHANGE OR REPEAL.** Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 35.020, an emergency change or repeal of any section of the Grand Lodge By-Laws may be proposed by submitting the amendment to the Grand Secretary in the form required in Section 35.005 with an additional statement as to why the proposal should be considered an emergency. The proposal must be submitted not later than ninety (90) days prior to the next Communication, either Annual or Special.

The Grand Secretary shall immediately forward the proposal to the Committee on Jurisprudence who shall report to the Grand Master on the form and advisability of the proposal not later than thirty (30) days prior to the next Communication, either Annual or Special. If the Grand Master, with the concurrence of the Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden, or any two of them, determines that the proposal should be considered at the forthcoming Communication, either Annual or Special, he shall instruct the Jurisprudence Committee to propose the same as an emergency action.

The proposal shall be read as part of the Jurisprudence Committee's Report on the first day of the Annual Communication, re-read the second day, and approval of same shall require a two-thirds vote. If a Special Communication of the Grand Lodge shall have been called for the purposed of considering emergency legislation, the proposal shall be read as a part of the Jurisprudence Committee's Report, which shall be presented promptly after the opening of the Special Communication and approval of same shall require a two-thirds vote.



An emergency is defined as a circumstance requiring the immediate enactment or repeal of one or more Grand Lodge By-Laws in the best interests of the Fraternity. (Added [1993-197](#))

**Section 35.023. BY-LAWS NOT AMENDED BY RESOLUTION.** The By-Laws cannot be altered, amended or repealed by resolution.

**Section 35.024. LIMITATIONS ON ASSESSMENTS ENACTED BY RESOLUTION.** Any assessment on lodges or Master Masons who are members of lodges, or requiring payment of monies by lodges per Master Mason, other than those fees, dues or fines set forth in these By-Laws, shall:

1. Not be applicable to any Master Mason whose dues are remitted or exempted under Article [18](#) of these By-Laws, to a Master Mason who is an endowed member pursuant to Article [22](#) of these By-Laws; and

2.\* Not be assessed against a lodge for any Master Mason in that lodge whose dues are remitted or exempted under Article 18 of these By-Laws or who is an endowed member pursuant to Article [22](#) of these By-Laws. (Added [2010-82](#))

\* *Committee Note: Apparent numbering error corrected. Appears as paragraph "3" in the 2009 and 2010 Proceedings. ([2009-170](#)); ([2010-82](#))*

**Section 35.025. REFERRAL TO WAYS AND MEANS.** The Jurisprudence Committee may seek advice from the Committee on Ways and Means in respect to any fiscal effect of any proposed legislation. (Added [1988-118](#))

**Section 35.030. GENERAL REVISION.** A revision of these by-laws, in total or for designated portions, may be ordered by resolution at any annual communication. A committee is appointed for the purpose and reports at a later annual communication, at which the revision may be amended and adopted or rejected, in whole or in part, by a majority vote.

**Section 35.040. EFFECTIVE DATE.** All changes in these by-laws become effective at the close of the annual communication at which the change is adopted, unless otherwise provided in the proposition.

## **ARTICLE 36. EFFECTIVE DATE OF REVISION**

**Section 36.010. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This revision becomes effective at the close of the 2011 Annual Communication.

*2011 update of the Constitution and By-Laws adopted and approved for distribution. (Res. [2011-111](#))*

**Section 36.020. REPEAL.** This revision embodies the entire By-Laws of the Grand Lodge of Missouri, and all other laws are repealed.

## Miscellaneous Decisions of the Grand Masters

*Political discussion, including anything having to do with government, in open lodge is improper; nor may a lodge be officially represented in any such meeting, partisan or not. ([1945-37](#), [38](#))*

*A candidate who refuses to "swear" may "affirm." ([1895-10](#); [1947-23](#))*

*An Entered Apprentice may serve as a member of a team conferring that degree. ([1945-38](#))*

*No particular dress, such as coat and tie, is required of an officer of the lodge. ([1961-20](#), [133](#))*

*A "Low Twelve" Club must be a separate entity, completely disassociated from any lodge. ([1961-20](#), [133](#))*

*Subordinate lodges may permit use of their name and number, with the letters "A. F. & A. M.," but not the square and compass, on the shirts of bowling teams composed of Freemasons, and on baseball suits for "Little League" teams. ([1963-22](#), [23](#), [128](#))*

*Approval of a group of Past Masters organizing to confer "the Actual Past Master's Degree" was denied. ([1965-164](#))*

*Requests to use lodge funds for a community Christmas charity and relief program; for a scholarship fund to be administered by a committee appointed by the Master; for a community hospital; and for a site for Cerebral Palsy Association Building, were disapproved. ([1965-165](#); [1976-131](#))*

*Highway approach signs are permissible. ([1971-48](#))*

*Irrespective of their degree, all who are members of a lodge when the charter is granted are charter members. ([1971-49](#))*

*Use of tape recorder in business meeting prohibited. See annotation under Section [7.060](#). ([1974-95](#))*

*"Universal League of Freemasons" declared clandestine. ([1974-13](#))*

*Purchase or use of filmstrips for use in the Second Section of the Second Degree prohibited. See annotations under Section [15.020](#). ([1974-14](#), [95](#))*

*Edict: Lodges shall display the Flag of the United States of America at every stated and special communication. The Master will lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America prior to the rap of the gavel at the opening of the lodge. The actual wording to be used shall be left to the discretion of the Master. ([1991-15](#), [80](#))*

*Only those Rainbow Assemblies that support and comply with the laws of the International Order of Rainbow For Girls are permitted to meet in subordinate lodges; assemblies electing to secede from the established organization or found to be conducting business in any manner that is non-supportive of, or subversive to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Order, or not promoting the best interests of the Masonic Family in general, are declared clandestine. ([1998-18](#))*

*Edict: With certain exceptions, It is a Masonic Offense for any individual Missouri Mason, or any Subordinate Lodge, to maintain a separate Web Site or Internet Informational System from any source other than the Grand Lodge Web Site that purports to represent, in any manner whatsoever, Missouri Freemasonry. ([2004-82, 83, 84](#))*

*Edict: The Grand Lodge exercises exclusive control of the conferral or exemplification of the three degrees of Craft Masonry within the State of Missouri and Special Dispensation from the Grand Master is required in advance for anyone, including an appendant body, to lawfully confer or exemplify the three degrees of Craft Masonry outside normal Missouri Lodge Business or in any other manner inconsistent with the approved Missouri Ritual or By-Laws of the Grand Lodge. ([2010-75](#))*

*Edict: Minor changes made to wording of the Ritual changed to be consistent with: 1) the elimination of the candidate “proficiency” with a vote of the lodge as a prerequisite for advancement in the degrees (and the other rights and privileges of a Master Mason); and 2) with the repeal of the By-Law’s definition of “suitable proficiency”. For purposes of advancement and degree conferrals, “suitable proficiency” shall mean “has received suitable instruction in the preceding degree”. ([2010-79](#))*

*“Suitable instruction” defined; does not impose a requirement that a candidate memorize any portion of Masonic Ritual as a prerequisite for advancement; lodges encouraged to provide candidates with Masonic Education through discussion and printed materials. ([2011-121](#))*

*The Grand Priory of the Scottish Reformed and Rectified Rite of the United States of America is not, and will not be, permitted to conduct or transact any Masonic related activity within the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Missouri and no Missouri Mason shall have interaction or Masonic communion with the Grand Priory of the Scottish Reformed and Rectified Rite of the United States of America as chartered through the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States as that Grand Priory is irregular and/or clandestine. (Decision dated July 26, 2011, [2011-122, 154](#))*

*Prior Decision of the Grand Master (Official Proceedings, [2011-122](#)) respecting the Grand Priory of the Scottish Reformed and Rectified Rite of the United States of America reaffirmed in all respects. No subordinate or affiliated body of the Grand Priory of the Scottish Reformed and Rectified Rite operating under the auspices of the Grand Priory of the Scottish Reformed and Rectified Rite or of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America shall be*

*charted, formed or permitted to operate within the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Missouri. (Decision dated September 25, 2012, [2012-145](#))*

*Recognition of the French National Grand Lodge, Grande Loge Nationale Francaise (GLNF) suspended; existing dual members permitted to maintain membership; Missouri Masons may visit but not petition a lodge under GLNF jurisdiction; a Mason who is a member of a lodge under GLNF jurisdiction may visit but may not petition a Missouri lodge. (Decision dated July 28, 2011)*

*\*Committee Note: This Decision was not published in the 2011 Official Proceedings but was recommended in the Report of the Committee on the Recognition of Foreign Grand Lodges and subsequently approved by the membership. ([2011-153](#))*

*Masonic Order of Athelstan Provincial Grand Court of the United States of America granted recognition. (November 21, 2011, [2012-146](#))*

*Constituent and Subordinate Missouri Lodges may open and maintain web sites under the conditions set forth in the Edict dated November 24, 2003, and in addition, the following alterations of said Edict are hereby effective:*

*1. Any Missouri Lodge desiring to open and maintain a Web Site other than as authorized by the Edict dated November 24, 2003, shall cause a vote of the lodge to be held, at a stated communication of the lodge wherein the ownership of the web site shall be vested in the lodge and without any liability to the Grand Lodge for ownership, payment of any fees associated with the maintenance or operation of said web site, the said expenses being and remaining the SOLE AND SEPARATE OBLIGATION AND EXPENSE OF THE SUBORDINATE LODGE OPERATING THE SAME.*

*2. No member of the lodge may own any interest in and to the web site; nor may any member copyright or otherwise cause any information to become the property of such member. All materials posted shall be and remain the property of the lodge.*

*3. The elected officers of the lodge shall, prior to opening any such web site, provide the office of the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri with any and all necessary passwords, and all other information necessary or expedient to permit the office of the Grand Secretary to close the web site as may be directed in the discretion of the Grand Master.*

*4. Any web site must be exclusively owned and operated by the lodge and not by any member or non-member. Violation of this provision will constitute grounds for Masonic discipline up to and including revocation of the lodge charter.*

*5. If so directed by the Grand Master, the lodge shall immediately cause any objectionable information to be immediately removed and any disclaimers required by the Grand Master shall be immediately posted on the lodge web site as a corrective measure if the Grand Master deems the same to be appropriate.*

*6. Primary use of the web site is for communication and discussion concerning lodge and Masonic matters. All contents of the lodge web site are subject to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri. For example: there will be no political advertisements, no vulgarity, profanity, pornography, or any similarly objectionable material posted. Further, no links to web sites containing objectionable material are permitted. Posting of such objectionable material or commentary may be considered a Masonic*

*offense, as would the failure to remove such posts from the web site within a reasonable time.*

*7. Except as herein amended and modified, the Edict of November 24, 2003 is hereby ratified, affirmed and re-adopted and shall be and remain in full force and effect. (January 28, 2012, [2012-147,148](#))*

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## LANDMARKS

First. All that is embraced in the unwritten charges, immemorial customs, and unwritten principles of Ancient Craft Masonry, as developed in the three degrees, in strict accordance with their universal application to the moral and social wants of Man.

Second. All that is contained in the "old charges" and "old regulations" as collated by Dr. Anderson, and approved by the committee appointed for that purpose by the Grand Lodge of England.

These we hold to be the only landmarks of Ancient Craft Masonry now extant. We therefore reject all rites and conglomeration or amalgamation or rites, of whatever name or nature, not having for their base the above named landmarks. We also reject all that is contained in Dermott's Ahiman Rezon, or any and all subsequent editions thereof, as well as what may be contained in any textbook, or other Masonic work, that is contrary to the principles established above. (Res. [1853-65](#))

*Committee Note: Dermott's Ahiman Rezon was the Book of Constitutions used by the "Ancient Masons" who arose 1738 independently beside the Grand Lodge of England that was formed in 1717. Both Grand Lodges chartered lodges in America. Dissentions between the two bodies lasted until 1813 when they consolidated under the name and title of the "United Grand Lodge of Ancient Freemasons of England". Four years later a final reconciliation took place in America by the union of the two Grand Lodges in South Carolina.*

## WORK AND LECTURES ADOPTED

The work and lectures as exemplified by the Grand Lecturer are adopted as the work and lectures of the Grand Lodge. (Res. [1869-102](#))

## SQUARE AND COMPASSES: EMBLEM OF FREEMASONRY

The Square and Compasses with the letter "G" in the center is the emblem of Freemasonry, and may be worn only by a Master Mason in good standing, his wife, widow, mother, sister or daughter. (Res. [1922-162](#); amended [1989-91](#))

## REPORTS PRESENTED WITHOUT READING

Except for the address of the Grand Master, all officially printed reports to the Grand Lodge are to be presented without reading but are to be printed in the Proceedings. (Res. [1914-192](#))

## BIOGRAPHY AND PORTRAIT

The printed Proceedings of each annual communication are to contain a biographical sketch and portrait of the Grand Master who presided. (Res. [1897-68](#))



## **FUNERALS OF GRAND OFFICERS**

A Masonic funeral service for any Past Grand Master or for any of the first six officers of the Grand Lodge for the time being may, at the request of the person entitled to direct the funeral, be conducted by the Grand Lodge or by any Grand Lodge Officer or District Deputy grand officer designated by the Grand Master. The expenses of the conducting officer, of all Past Grand Masters and of all remaining first six Grand Lodge officers and of one Grand Chaplain in attendance shall be paid by the Grand Lodge. (Res. [1967-141](#))

## **HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE GRAND LODGE**

General Lafayette. (Res. 1825-105) (reprint)  
George Washington Lafayette. (Res. 1825-105) (reprint)  
Right Worshipful Sir Alfred Robbins, P. G. W. of the United Grand Lodge of England. (Res. [1924-21](#))  
General John J. Pershing. (Res. [1941-57](#))  
Rev. Jonathan Nye. (Res. [1842-8](#))  
Charles W. Moore. (Res. [1847-16](#))  
Harry Carr. (Res. [1981-136](#))  
Max Carpenter (Res. [2009-\\*](#)) (*\*not published in the Official Proceedings*)

## **REPRESENTATIVES AT GRAND MASTERS' CONFERENCE AND GEORGE WASHINGTON NATIONAL MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION MEETINGS**

The only representatives of the Grand Lodge at the Grand Masters' Conference and at the meetings of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association shall be the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden and the Grand Secretary; their expenses in attendance are to be paid by the Grand Lodge. (Res. [1936-98](#); [1971-161](#); [2015-123](#))

## **FIFTY-YEAR BUTTONS**

A fifty-year or veterans' button may be awarded by the Grand Lodge to each Master Mason who is a member of a Missouri lodge (other than the Lodge of Research) and has been in good standing as a Master Mason for fifty years. His lodge authorizes the award. That action, with his Masonic record as shown by the records of the lodge, is certified to the Grand Secretary, who verifies the record. If the award is proper, the Grand Secretary notifies the Grand Master, who presents the button personally at his convenience, or delegates a Master Mason to do so. The presentation should be made in open lodge, if convenient, but may be made elsewhere. The Grand Lodge pays the cost of the button. (Res. [1934-49](#); [1960-130](#), [134](#))

*Years during which the member was under suspension cannot be counted for eligibility for the button, even though the dues for the years while under suspension are paid. ([1966-148](#); [1973-44](#))*

## **SUPPORT OF EXTRANEEOUS ORGANIZATIONS**

(SUPERSEDED BY AMENDMENTS TO [9.053](#))

### **DEMOLAY, JOB'S DAUGHTERS, RAINBOW GIRLS**

The Grand Lodge has expressed its commendation and congratulations to the Order of DeMolay upon the splendid work it is doing in building character and wholesome attitudes among young men whom it serves, so important in these days of nationwide concern with the increase in juvenile delinquency. (Res. [1957-93](#))

Subordinate lodges may sponsor with lodge funds, chapters of the Order of DeMolay, of Job's Daughters, or of the Order of the Rainbow for Girls and are encouraged to undertake such sponsorship where there is no present sponsorship.

Subordinate lodges which undertake, or continue the Sponsorship of such chapters shall do so subject to the regulations, if any, promulgated from time to time by the Grand Master. Such regulations, if any, shall remain in full force and effect, upon being promulgated, until changed by such Grand Master or a successor, unless sooner changed or disapproved by the Grand Lodge. (Res. [1967-143](#))

*The foregoing combines identical resolutions as to the organizations named.*

*“DeMolay Sororities” prohibited. ([2007-13](#))*

*Rainbow Assemblies not supporting or complying with the International Order of Rainbow For Girls declared clandestine. ([1998-18](#))*

## **RESOLUTION FOR VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR MASONIC YOUTH**

That annually the Grand Secretary shall provide forms to each constituent lodge for the collection of dues and voluntary contributions as part of the Dues Notice provided to each Member. Included on the form for the collection of dues shall be provided spaces for Voluntary Contribution of additional money for the benefit of The Missouri Order of DeMolay, Job’s Daughters International, Grand Guardian Council of Missouri and the International Order of Rainbow for Girls, State of Missouri. Each such Masonic Youth Group, shall be separately specified so that all monies collected shall be designated to be distributed to the Youth Group for which the donation by the Master Mason is made.

An additional voluntary contribution specification shall be provided on such form for donations to the Masonic Children’s Foundation.

All funds collected shall be forwarded to the Grand Secretary as part of the payments made to the Grand Lodge accompanying the Annual Returns.

Funds collected for the Benefit of the said Youth organizations shall be distributed to the respective Youth Groups. Such funds may be expended by the said Youth Groups only for activities within the State of Missouri. Under no circumstances shall any of such funds be used for employee expenses, salaries or similar or related items. All such funds may be used for purposes of Chapter, Bethel and Assembly development or for the purpose

of defraying the costs of transportation, housing, food and related expenditures of active youth members to attend statewide youth activities, excluding expenses of adult advisors and counselors.

Continuing participation by the Grand Lodge in the above described program with respect to each such Youth Group, shall be conditioned on the filing of an annual report by each such Youth Group with the Grand Secretary by August 1, of each year, itemizing all expenditures, the purposes of the same and a complete accounting. ([2005-171](#))

### **THE FREE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**

*Resolved*, The Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri, in Annual Communication declares:

It regards the free public school as the chief bulwark of the State and Nation, to be kept under the sole dominion and direction of the State, and so far as the efforts of Freemasonry in Missouri are concerned, its voice, vote, and influence will at all times be exerted in keeping it so.

It regards any individual or other influence that seeks to destroy or weaken the free public school system, as now operated in this country, as an enemy of one of our cherished American institutions.

It urges that all teachers in our free public schools shall be those who are in perfect sympathy with them.

It demands that the highest type of manhood and womanhood may be secured as teachers in our free public schools, and that they be paid generously, and be required to realize that loyal, efficient service will be expected at their hands. (Res. [1920-187](#))

### **MASONIC CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION MoCHIP\* PROGRAM**

Be it resolved that each Lodge shall pay \$2.00 (Two Dollars) per Master Mason who is a member of such Lodge, for the fiscal year of the Grand Lodge commencing in 2006 and ending in 2007, to maintain and enhance the MoCHIP program for the good of the Fraternity. (Res. [2006-192](#))

*\* By-Laws Committee Note: The original Proceedings denominated the program as "CHIPS", which apparently was the name in common usage at the time. The correct name and the name currently in use is the "Missouri Children's Identification Program", abbreviated "MoCHIP" in the singular.*

*Cross reference: Grand Lodge Dues, [10.040](#)*

### **WASHINGTON'S MASONIC BIRTHDAY**

*Whereas*, The Father of our Country, our First President, Brother George Washington, set forth upon his Masonic career on November 4, 1752, that being the date upon which he was initiated into the Lodge at Fredericksburg, Virginia, and

*Whereas*, The people of our Country so much need to absorb the sterling patriotism of that and the other immortal characters of his day, and become immersed in the principles of Americanism, American thought and ideals and institutions.

*Therefore, Be It Resolved,* That November 4 be celebrated by the Masonic Fraternity of Missouri, as Washington's Masonic Birthday, and that each Lodge in this Jurisdiction observe the same by appropriate ceremonies, to the end that our American institutions, our American form of government, and our principles shall become first in the hearts and minds of the people of this Country. (Res. [1922-59](#))

### **GRAND LODGE "LINE"**

It is the sense of the Grand Lodge that the progressive line of appointive grand officers should be shortened, so that ultimately the first appointment regarded as for further advancement will be that of Senior Grand Marshal, and the appointments as Junior Grand Marshal, Grand Sword Bearer, and Grand Pursuivant, like those of the Grand Chaplains, the Grand Orator, and the Grand Tiler, will be regarded as merely for one year, without contemplation of advancement by appointment or election to any office in any later years. (Res. [1960-47](#), [133](#))

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE SEAL OF THE GRAND LODGE. ARTICLE I. SECTION I. CONSTITUTION**

The description of the Seal of the Grand Lodge is: A Circle. At the top, *a Radiance*; on the left hand, *a Column and Plumb*; on the right, *a Column and Level*; between the columns, *a Book open*, the numerals *1821*; within the circle, *Stars on the right and left*; also, around the outer edge, the words, GRAND LODGE OF MISSOURI, and UNION & BROTHERLY LOVE. (Res. [1976-134](#))

### **RESOLUTION RE SECTION 323.8 OF ARTICLE 23 OF THE BY-LAWS OF THE ANCIENT ARABIC ORDER NOBLES OF THE MYSTIC SHRINE**

*Be It Resolved,* That this Grand Lodge Session reaffirm the supremacy of the Grand Lodge of Missouri over all organizations and activities Masonic in Missouri. That the lodges, severally, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge exercise exclusive jurisdiction over the membership of our Blue Lodges. And that membership in a Blue Lodge is a prerequisite to membership in any appendant body within the State of Missouri. ([1978-85](#))

### **RESOLUTION IN RE TIME "LOST" DURING PERIOD OF SUSPENSION FOR NONPAYMENT OF DUES WHILE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES DURING A PERIOD OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY**

*Be It Resolved,* That, if it shall be determined to the satisfaction of the Grand Master that a Master Mason was suspended for nonpayment of dues while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States during a period of National Emergency and said Master Mason is subsequently reinstated to membership, for the purpose of determining said Master Mason's eligibility to receive a 50-year or veteran's button from the Grand Lodge, said Master Mason shall be deemed to have been in good standing during that portion, if any, of the period during which he was in fact suspended, which the Grand Master shall determine to have resulted from his service in the Armed Forces of the United States during a period of National Emergency. ([1980-148](#))

### **RESOLUTION RE "THE TRUMAN MEDAL"**

*Be It Resolved*, That the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri establishes the Truman Medal, to be awarded by the Grand Master to individual Freemasons for their distinguished service to the Fraternity. Nominations may be sent to the Grand Secretary for consideration by the Grand Master.

The medal is described as follows: Bronze, one and one-half inches in diameter, suspended on a plain blue folded ribbon, to be pinned on the left breast.

*Obverse*: A head and shoulder image of Most Worshipful Brother Harry S. Truman, wearing the Grand Master's collar, with wording around periphery, Harry S. Truman - Grand Master of Missouri - 1940-1941.

*Reverse*: Lower center, within circular cable tow, Grand Lodge of Missouri, A.F. and A.M., with wording around periphery, For Distinguished Service to Freemasonry. ([1983-125](#))

### **RESOLUTION RE ENTITY FOR GRANTING SCHOLARSHIPS/LOANS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL GRADUATES**

*Be It Resolved*, That for the purpose of creating a legal entity for the granting of scholarships and/or loans to worthy graduates of Missouri Public High Schools to assist them in continuing their education at accredited colleges and universities, the Grand Master is hereby authorized to cause the creation of a corporation or other legal entity which shall be organized under the laws of the State of Missouri exclusively for the aforesaid charitable purposes and in such a manner as to qualify as a tax-exempt entity under the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, as the same may be amended from time to time, so that gifts and bequests to such organization shall qualify for deduction purposes under the federal income, gift and estate tax laws.

*Be It Further Resolved*, That for the purpose of identifying the relationship of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri to such organization, the words, "Masonic" and "Missouri" may be used in the name of the organization; and the Grand Secretary is hereby authorized to certify to the Secretary of State of Missouri this authorization.

*Be It Further Resolved*, That the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden, the Junior Grand Warden, and the Senior Grand Deacon shall be the Directors or Trustees of such entity and that the Grand Master shall be the Chief Executive Officer thereof. ([1985-132, 133](#))

### **RESOLUTION RE COMMEMORATIVE COINS - ENDOWMENT FUND**

*Be It Resolved*, That all profits now on hand and hereafter received from the sale of Commemorative coins be added to the Endowment Fund. ([1987-125](#))

### **GRAND LODGE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

Adopted by the Committee on Masonic Education of the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of the State of Missouri, 1975.

The Grand Lodge Achievement Award will recognize "Honor Lodges" and their [Worshipful] Masters for meeting established standards during the lodge year.

After meeting these standards during his lodge year, the [Worshipful] Master in office during that year has the responsibility for making application for the Award to the Chairman of the Committee on Masonic Education. This application must include the endorsement of the District Deputy Grand Master.

Note: A Master who has received the Grand Lodge Achievement Award medallion is encouraged to wear it at all lodge functions, and especially at Grand Lodge sessions.

APPLICATION TO BE MAILED TO CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON MASONIC EDUCATION.

Forms are available from the Grand Secretary.

### **GRAND LODGE OFFICIAL FLAG**

*WHEREAS*, the Grand Lodge of the State of Missouri does not have an official flag to be flown or displayed, and;

*WHEREAS*, an interest for such a flag has been expressed;

*Now Therefore Be It Resolved*, that a Standing Resolution be adopted establishing an official flag for the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri.

The flag shall be the emblem of Freemasonry, The Square and Compasses, set within the outline of the State of Missouri, over which are three stars, emblematic of the Three Degrees of Freemasonry, with the date of organization, 1821, of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri placed beneath. The stars and numerals placed on an arc with respect to the state outline.

The emblem, state outline, stars and numerals shall be in gold color placed on a dark blue field.

The flag may be flown at the location of the Grand Lodge of Missouri and its Subordinate Lodges and may be displayed within said locations. ([1987-84](#))

### **OFFICIAL FLAG PROTOCOLS**

*WHEREAS*, the Grand Lodge of Missouri has a distinctive official flag, by a standing resolution; and

*WHEREAS*, the location that the flag may be flown has been designated, however, no directions as to how it is to be flown; and

*WHEREAS*, there was no protocol for the flag after the recent death of our Most Worshipful Grand Master.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Standing Resolution ([1987-84](#)) be amended to include the following:

1. (A) That the flag be flown at full staff when flown on a separate staff or pole;  
or  
(B) Immediately under the United States Flag when flown on the same staff or pole.

2. (A) As a representation of respect, that The Flag of The Grand Lodge of Missouri should be flown at half staff under the following conditions, and for the following periods:
  - (1) At the death of the Grand Master, until the next Grand Master is elected and installed; and
  - (2) At the death of any sitting Grand Officer, as delineated in the *Constitution and By-Laws*, and all Past Grand Masters, the flag shall be flown at half staff for a thirty (30) day period.

([1996-102](#)) (*Standing Resolution reference added and otherwise modified by the Committee pursuant to Sec. [5.190](#)*)

### **ENTITY FOR THE PREVENTION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

*Resolved*, That for the purpose of creating a legal entity for the provision of funds for scientific, educational and charitable purposes in preventing and identifying substance abuse among children and to provide for referral of childhood victims of substance abuse for the appropriate care and treatment, the Grand Lodge is hereby authorized to cause the creation of a corporation or other legal entity which shall be organized under the Laws of the State of Missouri exclusively for the aforesaid charitable purposes and in such a manner as to qualify as a tax-exempt entity under the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, as the same may be amended from time to time, so that gifts and bequests to such organization shall qualify for deduction purposes under the federal income, gift and estate tax laws.

*Be It Further Resolved*, That for the purpose of identifying the relationship of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri to such organization, the words "Masonic" and "Missouri" may be used in the name of such organization, and the Grand Secretary is hereby authorized to certify to the Secretary of State of the State of Missouri this authorization."

*Be It Further Resolved*, That the Grand Master is authorized to appoint an interim Board of Directors to serve until their successors can be elected. ([1990-166](#))

### **DR. SAMUEL SMITH STEWART TRUST**

*Whereas*, Dr. Samuel Smith Stewart established a trust under which the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri would receive a distribution from said trust, to be used by the Grand Lodge solely as a fund, endowment or foundation for eleemosynary or free education purposes, as a memorial to his parents, Alphonso Chase Stewart and Elizabeth Smith Stewart; and

*Whereas*, the By-Laws of the Grand Lodge require the Grand Lodge's acceptance of said distribution from the Dr. Samuel Smith Stewart trust;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri accept said distribution, solely for the purposes set out in said trust. ([2000-76, 77](#))

### **THE ORDER OF THE PAST MASTER**

The Grand Lodge shall authorize the establishment of The Order of the Past Master and establish the requirements of membership, ritual, and purpose for such an order. The order shall be conferred by the Grand Lodge.

Membership shall be open to all Past Masters of duly constituted subordinate lodges as long as they remain members in good standing. The ritual shall be conceived and based on the teaching of the degrees of the Missouri blue lodge as a reminder to all that as they ascended to the highest station in rank they are now to resume the duties of the Faithful Brother.

The cost shall be a onetime charge of \$40.00, which shall be payable to the Grand Lodge and shall constitute a lifetime payment. The member shall receive for this payment The Order of the Past Master, a jewel, a card of identification and a certificate. All funds in excess of the cost of the above mentioned paraphernalia shall accrue to the Grand Lodge General Fund, to be used as necessary for the benefit of the Grand Lodge operation. ([2000-77](#))

### **GRAND LODGE RITUAL AWARD**

*BE IT RESOLVED*, That the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free & Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri does hereby Ordain, Create, Establish, and Authorize the, “GRAND LODGE RITUAL AWARD”, to be awarded annually by the Ritual Committee at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri. The Ritual Committee shall be responsible for establishing, determining, and maintaining the requirements for attainment of the Grand Lodge Ritual Award in Three (3) levels of proficiency, to-wit: A Bronze Ritual Award; A Silver Ritual Award; and A Gold Ritual Award.

The Grand Master shall annually determine the time and place for the presentation of the Grand Lodge Ritual Award during each Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge. The Ritual Committee is hereby authorized and empowered to cause a budget item to be created to generate and to create appropriate forms, certificates, and all other materials necessary, proper, or expedient so as to facilitate Subordinate Lodges in understanding the requirements for each level of the Ritual Award, and to properly understand the requirements for each level of the Ritual Award, and to properly recognize such Subordinate Lodges that attain or qualify for receipt of the Ritual Award. ([2000-77, 78](#))

### **FRATERNAL RECOGNITION OF PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE, F. & A.M. OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

WHEREAS, The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri has existed in the State of Missouri since 1821, and

WHEREAS, The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A.M. of the State of Missouri has existed in the State of Missouri since 1865, having initially been chartered by The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ohio who has been formally recognized by the United Grand Lodge of England on June 11, 1997, and does profess to adhere to Masonic principles and ideals similar to those of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri, and

WHEREAS, Each of the said Grand Lodges desires to remain autonomous within its jurisdiction and to operate hereafter as herebefore with its own Grand Master and other



Grand Lodge officers, Constitution, By-Laws, Ritual, Rules and Regulations, Subordinate Lodges and Membership, and

WHEREAS, Both Grand Lodges desire to fraternally recognize the other as a duly constituted Masonic Grand Lodge, and

WHEREAS, This resolution is not intended to and specifically does not authorize nor permit, (1) dual membership, (2) members of either of the named Grand Lodges to transfer membership to the other, nor (3) recognition and visitation between appended or concordant bodies unless so specified by those Masonic Bodies, and

WHEREAS, This resolution will not become effective until approved by each Grand Lodge at their respective Annual Sessions,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT it is mutually agreed that we will dwell together in Peace and Harmony, and each Grand Lodge does hereafter extend Fraternal Recognition to the other as a duly constituted Grand Lodge of Masons, and do, in the true spirit of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth hereby accord to the other rights of Visitation in Grand Lodges and Constituted Lodges by written invitation, where so ever assembled, subject always to the Rights, Powers and Authority of the Grand Master and the Masters of the Constituted Lodges to preside over their respective Grand Lodges and Lodges. ([2002-68, 69](#); committee report [2002-57, 58, 59](#))

### **MASONIC LIBRARY AND MUSEUM**

RESOLVED, that for the purpose of creating a legal entity for the establishment and maintenance of a public Masonic Library and Museum the Grand Master is hereby authorized to cause the creation of a corporation or other legal entity which shall be organized under the laws of the State of Missouri exclusively for the aforesaid charitable purposes and in such manner as to qualify as a tax exempt entity under the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code as the same may be amended from time to time, so that gifts and bequests to such organization shall qualify for deduction purposes under the applicable provisions of the federal income, gift and estate tax laws, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that for the purpose of identifying the relationship of the said organization to the Masonic Fraternity the said organization is authorized to use in connection with its operation, including the publication of information concerning the entity and fundraising, the traditional Masonic emblems and symbols, which include, but not by way of exclusion, the Square and Compasses and the traditional working tools of the Masonic Fraternity, and the Grand Secretary is hereby authorized to certify to the Secretary of State of the State of Missouri this authorization, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in order to carry out the aforesaid purposes the said organization shall be subject to the direction of a Board of Directors, which initially shall consist of five (5) Master Masons who shall be appointed by the Grand Master, with each director to serve for a period of five (5) years, except that the initial appointments shall be for terms of five (5), four (4), three (3), two (2) and one year, respectively, so that ultimately one new director will be appointed each year, except that in the event of a vacancy occasioned by death, resignation or other cause, a replacement appointee may be

designated to fill out the unexpired term of a member who shall have died, resigned and otherwise become incapable of serving, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that during each fiscal year of the organization the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Missouri, A.F & A.M., shall during the term of his office serve as an ex-officio voting member of the Board of Directors of such organization, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the said organization shall render an annual report to the Grand Lodge of Missouri, A.F. & A.M., concerning its operation, including the financial status of the organization. ([2002-70](#))

### **MANAGEMENT OF THE MASONIC LIBRARY AND MUSEUM**

WHEREAS, in order to establish a public museum and library, the Grand Lodge of Missouri enacted its Resolution concerning the Masonic Library and Museum at its 2002 Annual Communication (Resolution [2002-70](#)) authorizing the creation of a corporation or other legal entity qualified as a tax exempt entity under the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to said Resolution said organization was to be subject to the direction of a Board of Directors to be appointed by the Grand Master for stated terms; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Lodge of Research was organized as an Association under the Laws of the State of Missouri in 1941 as a charitable organization for literary, educational, and charitable purposes and is recognized as a tax exempt entity by the Internal Revenue Service pursuant to the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Lodge of Research and the Masonic Home of Missouri have entered into a contract providing space in the Masonic Complex for the Missouri Lodge of Research to manage and operate a Masonic Library;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the committee created by the Grand Lodge of Missouri to establish and maintain a public Masonic Library and Museum shall be the advancing line of the Missouri Lodge of Research; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, during each fiscal year of the organization the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Missouri, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, shall during the term of his office serve as an ex-officio voting member of the committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT all of the provisions of Resolution [2002-70](#) not inconsistent herewith shall remain in full force and effect. ([2012-71](#))

### **ASSESSMENT TO SUPPORT MASONIC YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS**

Repealed and adopted as By-Law Section [10.045](#) (2020-51-52)

### **RESOLUTION GOVERNING MILEAGE AND PER DIEM**

**Whereas**, Section [1.080](#) of the By-Laws governs the payment of mileage and per diem for attendance at Annual Communications; and

**Whereas**, said Section further requires that “[t]he amount of said per diem and per mile payments shall be authorized by resolution”; and

**Whereas**, for several years the Grand Lodge has paid thirty cents (\$0.30) per mile and forty dollars (\$40.00) per diem apparently without a formal resolution voted by membership at an Annual Communication; and

**Whereas**, Grand Lodge officers from time to time may be reimbursed for mileage when using their personal vehicles in the performance of their official duties, but the amount of such payment is in no place specified in the By-Laws; and

**Whereas**, equity requires that other persons using their personal vehicles in the performance of their official duties for the Grand Lodge should receive a mileage reimbursement not more than, and in an amount equal to, the amount paid to the general membership for attendance at Annual Communications;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons henceforth pay thirty cents (\$0.30) per mile and forty dollars (\$40.00) per diem for attendance at Annual Communications of the Grand Lodge, as specified in Section 1.080, and thirty cents (\$0.30) per mile reimbursement to other persons acting on behalf of the Grand Lodge at the discretion of the Grand Master when using personal vehicles, until such time as said amounts are changed pursuant to a subsequent resolution passed by the membership. ([2013-103-104](#))

### **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE “LEWIS JEWEL” FOR MISSOURI FREEMASONS**

The “Lewis Jewel” may be worn by a Missouri Master Mason if, at the time of his Initiation, his father was a Mason in good standing. The raising of the son of a deceased father- in good standing at the time of his death- would qualify. The jewel is suspended from two chains with two bars. The upper bar contains the name of the father and the date of his raising. The lower bar contains the name of the son and the date of his raising.

The cost of the Lewis Jewel shall be covered by the lodge or the brother. The Grand Lodge shall verify the information and have the jewel made for presentation to be conferred in the son’s lodge.

*\*Committee Note: Although not specified in the Resolution, additional bars shall be made available to commemorate paternal Masonic lineage.*

## Rules of Order in Grand Lodge

1. When a member desires to address the Grand Lodge, or deliver any matter for its consideration, he shall arise and respectfully address himself to the Most Worshipful Grand Master, and confine himself to the subject under consideration.

2. All motions, resolutions or propositions of any description shall be reduced to writing, and read by the Grand Secretary, and, if seconded, shall be considered as before the Grand Lodge for its action.

3. All communications, returns, petitions, motions, resolutions and documents, unless otherwise ordered, shall be referred to appropriate committees, who shall report thereon in writing, signed by the chairman of the committee making the report.

4. Any motion or proposition may be withdrawn by the mover, with the consent of the second, at any time before a decision, its amendment, or its reference to a committee.

5. A question will be divided at the request of a member. A member requesting a division of a question must state definitely into how many parts he would have it divided. Each of those parts must be able to stand alone, and the remainder must be able to stand in like manner, and be consistent and entire.

6. When an amendment is pending, motions to amend must be limited exclusively to that amendment.

7. A motion to amend an amendment precludes all further propositions to amend until it is decided; and the question on the proposition to amend last made must be first put.

8. All questions shall be put in the order in which they were moved; and, in filling blanks, the largest sum or quantity, and the longest time, shall be first put.

9. A motion substantially the same as one disposed of, or under advisement, or inconsistent with one adopted, can not be entertained at the same session.

10. When a question has been decided in the affirmative or negative, it shall be in order for any member who voted on the side which prevailed to move a reconsideration thereof on the same day on which the decision was had, or on the next day thereafter, if it has not gone into effect. A motion to reconsider, if rejected, cannot be moved again.

11. When a question is postponed indefinitely, it may not be acted upon again during the same session.

12. A motion to reconsider does not bring up the merits of the proposition for discussion. The propriety of reconsidering is the only matter debatable. If the proposition is reconsidered, it is before the Grand Lodge in the same form it was in immediately before it was voted on.

13. No member may speak more than once to the same question, without leave of the Grand Lodge, unless he is the mover, proposer, or introducer, of the matter pending; in which case he is permitted to reply, but not until every member choosing to speak has spoken.

14. When a member rises to a question of privilege or order, the Grand Master will recognize him, and the question of order or privilege shall be disposed of at once. The member temporarily interrupted then resumes the floor.

15. The Grand Master decides all questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Grand Lodge.

16. Every member having a right to vote, who is present when the question is put, must vote unless for special reasons he is excused.

17. No member may vote on any question where he is particularly and personally interested; nor may there be any debate after the question is put by the Grand Master.

18. When a question is under debate, no motion may be received unless to amend it, to commit it, to postpone it, or for the previous question.

19. The previous question being moved and seconded, the question is, "Shall the main question be now put?" and if a majority present vote in the affirmative, the main question is then put.

20. The ordering of the previous question shall only be to cut off debate and subsequent amendments; and the question is on amendments pending, beginning with the last and successively back to the original proposition.

21. The previous question shall be decided without debate.

22. These rules may not be modified or suspended, except by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at the time the vote is taken.

23. These rules are for the government of the Grand Lodge alone, and not for subordinate Lodges.