

**CONSTITUTION,
STANDING ORDERS and RESOLUTIONS,
EDICTS OF GRAND MASTERS,
MASONIC DIGEST
FORM OF BY-LAWS
and
RELATED ACTIONS
of the
GRAND LODGE
Of
ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS Of
MARYLAND**

As Amended and Adopted at the May Communication
A.L. 5906

As Revised and Adopted at the November Communication
A.L. 5998

As Amended and Adopted at the November Communication
A.L. 6020

COCKEYSVILLE, MARYLAND

REVISED June 1, 2021

ACTS OF 1822

CHAPTER 147

AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE

GRAND LODGE

OF

Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland

Passed February 8, 1822

SECTION 1. Be It Enacted By The General Assembly of Maryland, That William H. Winder, Grand Master; Benjamin C. Howard, Deputy Grand Master; William Steuart, Senior Grand Warden; William P. Farquhar, Junior Grand Warden; John D. Readell, Grand Secretary; Edward G. Woodyear, Grand Treasurer; and the other Grand Officers and members of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons of Maryland, and their successors, be, and they are hereby declared to be a community, corporation and body politic forever, by the name, style and title of The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland; and by that name they and their successors shall and may have perpetual succession, and shall and may at all times hereafter be capable in law to have, purchase, receive, possess, enjoy and retain to them and their successors, lands, tenements, rents, annuities, bank and other stocks, pensions and other hereditaments, in fee simple or for terms of years, life, lives or otherwise, and also goods, chattels, or effects of whatever nature, quality or kind so ever, by the gift, bargain, sale, devise or bequest, of any person or persons, bodies corporate or politic, capable of making the same; and the same at their pleasure to grant, alien, lease, transfer or dispose of in such manner as they may judge most conducive to the benevolent and charitable purpose of the said fraternity; Provided Always, that the said corporation or body politic shall not at any time hold or possess property, real, personal or mixed, exceeding in annual value the sum of twenty thousand dollars.

SECTION 2. And Be It Enacted, That the said corporation and their successors, by the name, style and title aforesaid, shall be forever thereafter capable in law to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered unto, defend and be defended, in all or any courts of justice, and before all or any judges, officers or person whatsoever, in all and singular actions, matters or demands whatsoever.

SECTION 3. And Be It Enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the said corporation to have a common seal for their use, and the same at their will and pleasure to change, alter and make new from time to time as they may think best; and shall in general have and exercise all such rights, privileges and immunities, as by law are incident or necessary to corporations, and what may be necessary to the corporation herein constituted, to enable the members of said society duly and fully to execute all things touching and concerning the design and intent of this corporation, for the benevolent succor and relief of distressed persons, and for the attainment of other equally laudable objects.

ACTS OF 1866
CHAPTER 141

An Act to amend an Act to incorporate the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland passed February eighth, eighteen hundred and twenty-two. *Passed January 22, 1866.*

SECTION 1. Be It Enacted By The General Assembly of Maryland, That the name style and title of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons of Maryland, conferred by the Act passed February eighth, eighteen hundred and twenty-two, chapter one hundred and forty-seven, incorporating and making a body corporate the incorporators therein named, be and the same is hereby changed and altered, and that said corporation and body politic shall be known as the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland, and by that name, style and title, shall possess the corporate powers embraced in said Act of February eighth, eighteen hundred and twenty-two.

SECTION 2. And Be It Enacted, That the said Act be further amended by striking out in the proviso of the first section the word "twenty," and inserting in lieu thereof, the word "fifty."

SECTION 3. And Be It Enacted That this Act shall take effect and be in force from the date of its passage.

The Maryland Code (1975) Sec. 5-701, Corporations and Associations Article, (as originally enacted by Chapter 135 of the Acts of 1951) provides as follows:

Restrictions on Property Holdings

"Any provision in the charter of the charitable or benevolent Maryland corporation existing on June 1, 1951, whether incorporated under any public general law or special act of the State, purporting to limit or restrict the tenure or enjoyment of property or income is ineffective to limit or restrict the right of the corporation to hold, enjoy, use, and deal with any property and income in any way."

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

Approved May 18, 1948

Freemasonry is a charitable, benevolent, educational and religious society adhering to its own Landmarks. Its principles are proclaimed as widely as men will hear. Its only secrets are in its methods of recognition and of symbolic instruction.

It is charitable in that it is not organized for profit and none of its income inures to the benefit of any individual, but all is devoted to the promotion of the welfare and happiness of mankind.

It is benevolent in that it teaches and exemplifies altruism as a duty.

It is educational in that it teaches by prescribed ceremonials a system of morality and brotherhood based upon the Sacred Law.

It is religious in that it teaches monotheism, the Volume of the Sacred Law is open upon its Altars whenever a Lodge is in session, reverence for God is ever present in its ceremonial and to its brethren are constantly addressed lessons of morality; yet it is not sectarian or theological.

It is a social organization only so far as it furnishes additional inducement that men may foregather in numbers, thereby providing more material for its primary work of education, of worship, and of charity.

It regards and values men not for their worldly wealth and honors but on the basis of their belief in the Supreme Being and strength of character. Thus men may seek to join us based on their age (at least 18 years of age), their belief in Deity, and their character as a man. Their specific religious affiliation or their race, or ethnicity is not a consideration for membership. We believe in making all good men, who seek us out and meet our qualifications, into better men.

Through the improvement and strengthening of the character of the individual man, Freemasonry seeks to improve the community. Thus it impresses upon its members the principles of personal righteousness and personal responsibility, enlightens them as to those things that make for human welfare, and inspires them with the feeling of charity, or good will toward all mankind that will move them to translate principle and conviction into action.

Masonry abhors Communism as being repugnant to its conception of the dignity of the individual personality, destructive of the basic rights which are Divine heritage of all men and inimical to the fundamental Masonic tenet of faith in God.

Masonic Creed

Approved May 18, 1948

I, AS A FREEMASON, BELIEVE IN THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD AND THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN. I WILL DO UNTO OTHERS, AS I WOULD HAVE THEM DO UNTO ME. I PLEDGE MY LOYALTY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, A GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE AND FOR THE PEOPLE, AND WILL NOT COUNTENANCE DISLOYALTY ON THE PART OF OTHERS.

FREEMASONRY IS FOUNDED UPON THESE PRINCIPLES AND I WILL USE MY UTMOST EFFORT TO PRESERVE THEM FOR POSTERITY.

SO MOTE IT BE.

THE TWENTY-FIVE LANDMARKS OF FREEMASONRY

- I. The modes of recognition.
- II. The division of Symbolic Masonry into three degrees.
- III. The legend of the third degree.
- IV. The government of the fraternity by a presiding officer called a Grand Master, who is elected from the body of the Craft.
- V. The prerogative of the Grand Master to preside over every assembly of the Craft, wheresoever and whensoever held.
- VI. The prerogative of the Grand Master to grant dispensations for conferring degrees at irregular times.
- VII. The prerogative of the Grand Master to grant dispensations for opening and holding Lodges.
- VIII. The prerogative of the Grand Master to make Masons at sight.
- IX. The necessity for Masons to congregate in Lodges.
- X. The government of every Lodge by a Master and two Wardens.
- XI. The necessity that every Lodge, when congregated, should be duly tiled.
- XII. The right of every Mason to be represented in all general meetings of the Craft, and to instruct his representatives.
- XIII. The right of every Mason to appeal from the decision of his brethren in Lodge convened to The Grand Lodge or General Assembly of Masons.
- XIV. The right of every Mason to visit and sit in every regular Lodge.
- XV. That no visitor, not known to some brother present as a Mason, can enter a Lodge without undergoing an examination.
- XVI. That no Lodge can interfere in the business or labor of another Lodge.
- XVII. That every Freemason is amenable to the laws and regulations of the Masonic jurisdiction in which he resides.
- XVIII. That every candidate for initiation must be a man, free born and of lawful age.
- XIX. That every Mason must believe in the existence of God as the Grand Architect of the Universe.
- XX. That every Mason must believe in a resurrection to a future life.
- XXI. That a book of the law of God must constitute an indispensable part of the furniture of the Lodge.
- XXII. That all men in the sight of God are equal, and meet in the Lodge on one common level.
- XXIII. That Freemasonry is a secret society, in possession of secrets that cannot be divulged.
- XXIV. That Freemasonry consists of a speculative science founded on an operative art.
- XXV. That the Landmarks of Masonry can never be changed.

These constitute the Landmarks, or, as they have sometimes been called, "the body of Masonry," in which it is not in the power of any man or body of men to make the least innovation.

HISTORY

At the May Communication in 1905, the Grand Master in his address stated that "he thought it advisable to revise the Constitution and Standing Resolutions." On motion of PGM. Carter, it was "resolved that a committee of three be appointed to report at the Annual Communication in November next." The Grand Master appointed John M. Carter, PGM., William M. Isaac, GS, and John L. Sanford, P.M. No. 120.

The Committee submitted their report that was laid over until the May Communication, 1906, and a copy thereof ordered sent to every subordinate Lodge in the Jurisdiction in accordance with Art. XXVI, Sec. 2, of the Constitution, See Proceedings, 1905, page 64.

At the May Communication, 1906, the report of the Committee, and the draft of the revised Constitution and Standing Resolutions was taken up, considered by sections, amended, and on motion of James F. Allen, Past Junior Grand Warden, it was unanimously resolved that the Constitution and Standing Resolutions as passed upon and agreed to, section by section, be adopted as the Constitution and Standing Resolutions of this Grand Lodge, and that all legislation heretofore enacted that may be inconsistent therewith be, and the same is, hereby repealed.

Since May 1906, certain changes of the Constitution and Standing Resolutions have been adopted and at the November Communication in 1920, a committee consisting of Daniel J. Emich, John L. Sanford and J.E. Laferty, was appointed to codify the Laws and Regulations.

At the November communication of 1921, the committee submitted certain recommendations that were finally approved at the May Communication of 1922. See Proceedings of 1921 and 1922.

The natural trend of events since the codification of the Laws and Regulations in 1921 and 1922 brought about certain changes in the Constitution and Standing Orders and Resolutions, including the adoption of the Code in 1935.

The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, consisting of Henry W. Schultheis, James W. Chapman, Jr., and W. Thomas Hormes, in submitting its report at the May Communication of 1938, recommended a study of the Constitution and Standing Orders and Resolutions for the purpose of rearranging and clarifying any inconsistencies. At the November Communication following, the Committee reported, which report was laid over and a copy thereof ordered sent to every subordinate Lodge of this Jurisdiction for their perusal and comments.

At the May Communication, 1939, the report of the Committee was taken up, considered and after certain minor amendments, was adopted. See Proceedings 1938 and 1939.

At the November Communication, 1944, Grand Master Hope appointed a committee, consisting of Past Grand Master John H. Hessey, Chairman, Past Grand Master George S. Yost and Past Grand Master Harry L. Robinson, to consider conflicts between the Masonic Code and the Constitution and to make recommendations to the Grand Lodge with respect to any appropriate changes. The final report was made at the November Communication, 1946, which report was adopted. In addition to a number of substantive changes, the committee recommended that the name "Masonic Code" be changed to "Masonic Digest", which recommendation was adopted.

On February 8, 1977, Grand Master Roy H. Stetler, Jr., appointed a Constitution Revision Committee consisting of Wm. Morris Kemp, Chairman, Past Grand Master W. Norman Penn; Past Grand Master Ernest L. Poyner, who was later replaced by Past Grand Master Edward R. Saunders; John W. Donaldson and John E. Sibrea to revise the Constitution and Standing Orders and Resolutions of this Grand Lodge.

The revision in its proposed form was presented to and accepted by Grand Lodge at the May Communication, 1978, with copies being mailed thereafter to the subordinate Lodges, in compliance with Article XXX, and to be acted upon at the November Communication, 1978. At the November Communication, 1978 a motion was made and adopted to defer action on the proposed revision for further committee review and final recommendation at a future communication.

In 1979, Grand Master William M. Koenig appointed a Review Committee consisting of Past Grand Master William B. Stansbury, Jr., Chairman, C. David Haacke and Annen B. Loosarian, who with the Constitution Revision Committee acted jointly to review further the proposed Constitution before presenting it to Grand Lodge.

This Joint Committee presented the revised Constitution at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge on November 19, 1979, which was adopted subject to any changes of a grammatical or editorial nature.

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**CONSTITUTION
of the
GRAND LODGE
Of
ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF MARYLAND**

WHEREAS, by the third section of an Act of the General Assembly of Maryland, passed on the 8th day of February 1822, and amended on the 22nd day of January 1866, entitled "An Act to Incorporate the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland", it is provided, among other things, that the corporations "shall, in general, have and exercise all such rights, privileges and immunities as by law are incident or necessary to enable the members the said Society duly and faithfully to execute all things touching and concerning the design and intent thereof for the succor and relief of distressed persons, and for the attainment of other equally laudable objects," and

WHEREAS, in the exercise of the authority thus granted to it, as well as in the exercise of the paramount right of the Grand Lodge, according to the Ancient Landmarks, to provide for its internal management and economy, it has been deemed expedient to adopt the following:

**CONSTITUTION
ARTICLE I**

Section 1. Duties of Grand Lodge

It shall be the duty of Grand Lodge to take charge of, regulate and control the interests of Freemasonry within the State of Maryland, to preserve and maintain the Ancient Landmarks; to exercise a supervisory power over all subordinate Lodges within its jurisdiction; to entertain and determine without delay all appeals; to grant warrants for the formation of new Lodges; to uphold the pecuniary credit of the Corporation and the Order; to exercise a judicious and, as far as practicable, a liberal charity among the needy of the Fraternity and their families; for these and other purposes to levy on the subordinate Lodges such assessments as a due regard to the best interests of Freemasonry may require; and generally to wield for the benefit and good name of the Fraternity, not only such powers as are granted by the Act of Incorporation but such as are inherent in the body, looking to its Masonic character.

Section 2. ¹Business and Property of Grand Lodge

The business and the property of the Grand Lodge, except as otherwise provided by statute, by its Charter, or by this Constitution, shall be conducted and managed as follows:

- A. With respect to the properties and responsibilities set forth in Article XII hereof, by a Board of Managers constituted, and with the powers, authority and duties, as set forth in Article XII of this Constitution and

B. With respect to the properties and responsibilities set forth in Article XIII hereof, by a Board of Trustees constituted, and with the powers, authority and duties, as set forth in Article XIII of this Constitution.

Section 3. ²Indemnification

The Grand Lodge shall indemnify all of its past, present and future Directors and Officers, and may indemnify its past, present, and future Employees or Agents in connection with any Proceeding to the fullest extent permitted by and in accordance with Section 2-418 of the Corporations and Associations Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland (the "indemnification Section") as amended from time to time. As used in this Section, any word or words that are defined in the Indemnification Section will have the same meaning as provided in the Indemnification Section, and the word "Directors" as used herein, will be construed to mean any member of the Board of Managers and the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE II
Meetings of Grand Lodge

Section 1. Stated Communications

³The Grand Lodge shall meet in the Grand Lodge, 302 International Circle, Cockeysville, Maryland 21030-1300, Annually, on the third Saturday of November; and Semi-Annually on the third Saturday of May.

- A. ⁴The Annual Communication shall be called at 10:00 AM, or such other hour as the Most Worshipful Grand Master may elect; to receive reports of Committees and transact such business as may be presented for consideration.
1. Should an additional day be required to complete the business of the Grand Lodge, the M.W.G.M. will announce the day and time prior to the conclusion of the first day's business.
- B. The Semi-Annual Communication shall be called at such hour as the Grand Master may elect.
- C. ⁵In case a State of Emergency is declared which could limit participation by members of the Grand Lodge of the Semi-Annual or Annual Communications, the Grand Master may move the Communication to another date provided the membership is given at least 30 days' notice.

Section 2. Special Communication

Special communications may be called by the Grand Master at his discretion. Constitutional changes or regulations affecting the general interest of the Craft can be altered or adopted only at the Annual or Semi-Annual Communication.

Section 3. Requirements for Opening

The Grand Lodge shall not be opened for its Annual, Semi-Annual or any Special Communication unless at least ten (10) subordinate Lodges are represented. This does not apply to Emergent Communications called at the pleasure of the Grand Master for the purpose of attending funerals, public ceremonies, etc. If the Grand Master is absent, the Deputy Grand Master shall preside; in his absence, the Senior Grand Warden; in his absence, the Junior Grand Warden. If none of these Officers is present, a Past Grand Master shall preside.

- A. The Grand Lodge is declared to be opened in "ample form" when the Grand Master presides, in "due form" when the Deputy Grand Master or a Past Grand Master presides, and in "form" at all other times.

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ARTICLE III
Membership of Grand Lodge

Section 1. ⁶Membership

The Grand Lodge shall consist of:

- A. Elected Grand Officers for the time being;
- B. ⁷All Past Elected Grand Officers;
- C. The Masters and Wardens for the time being of subordinate Lodges in good standing, or their duly authorized representatives;
- D. Past Masters who have presided at least one full term over a Maryland Lodge. A Past Master who has so presided shall be a permanent member of Grand Lodge; and
- E. Elected Members of the Board of Managers and Board of Trustees for the time being.

Section 2. Qualifications

No one shall be an officer or a member of Grand Lodge unless, at the same time, he is a member in good standing of a subordinate Lodge then in good standing within this jurisdiction.

ARTICLE IV
Officers of Grand Lodge

Section 1. Title and Rank

The Officers of Grand Lodge, elected and appointed, shall be styled and take rank as follows:

- A. Elected by Grand Lodge
 - Most Worshipful Grand Master
 - Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master
 - Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden
 - Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden
 - Right Worshipful Grand Secretary
 - Right Worshipful Grand Treasurer

- B. Appointed by Grand Master
 - Worshipful Grand Chaplain
 - Worshipful Grand Marshal
 - Worshipful Senior Grand Deacon
 - Worshipful Junior Grand Deacon
 - Worshipful Senior Grand Steward
 - Worshipful Junior Grand Steward
 - Worshipful Grand Standard Bearer
 - Worshipful Grand Sword Bearer
 - Worshipful Grand Pursuivant
 - Worshipful Grand Director of Ceremonies
 - Worshipful Grand Tyler
 - Worshipful Grand Lecturer
 - Grand Inspectors
 - Deputy Grand Lecturers

C. Designated by Grand Lodge-

As a tribute for excellence of services rendered, Grand Lodge may designate any Past Grand Officer an Emeritus Past Grand Officer. This designation is one of respect and affection, but shall not entitle the holder to any other honors, rights or privileges. Such designation should be judiciously exercised and used only in exceptional cases.

Section 2. ⁸Qualification of Officers

Except for the offices of Grand Chaplain, Assistant Grand Chaplain(s), Grand Tyler, Assistant Grand Tyler, Grand Organist, and Assistant Grand Organist, only a permanent member of Grand Lodge can be a Grand Officer.

Section 3. ⁹Compensation

The Board of Managers shall determine the compensation to be paid the Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Lecturer for their respective services.

Section 4. Mileage and Per Diem

The Board of Managers shall determine the mileage and per diem to be paid to all Grand Inspectors and Deputy Grand Lecturers who attend Communications of Grand Lodge.

Section 5. Fiduciary Bonds

Prior to entering upon the duties of their offices, the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer shall execute fiduciary bonds conditioned upon the faithful performance of their respective duties. The bonds shall be at the expense of Grand Lodge and in an amount to be determined by and deposited with the Board of Managers.

ARTICLE V
Duties of Grand Lodge Officers

Section 1. ¹⁰Duties of Grand Master

The Grand Master shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the corporate body and shall have authority for the general management and direction of the business of the corporate body and all powers ordinarily exercised by the president of an ordinary business corporation. He shall have authority to sign and execute, in the name of the corporate body, all authorized deeds, mortgages, bonds, contracts or other instruments. He has, ex-officio, the power to perform the following duties pertaining to his office:

- A. Grant dispensations for the formation of new Lodges, in his discretion under his hand and the seal of Grand Lodge during the recess of Grand Lodge
- B. Grant dispensations for public processions and such other purposes as the Constitution and ancient Regulations of the Craft authorize
- C. Be present and preside in each subordinate Lodge, and require the Senior and Junior Grand Wardens to attend with him. In the absence of the Senior and Junior Grand Wardens, the Grand Master may direct the Wardens of the subordinate Lodge to serve in these stations as Grand Wardens pro tern
- D. Appoint another member of Grand Lodge to serve during the absence, disability, or death of any Grand Officer
- E. Appoint Grand Representatives to the various Grand Jurisdictions for the term of three years, or until succeeding appointments shall be made
- F. ¹¹Issue rulings and edicts:
No ruling or edict shall remain in force after the retirement of a Grand Master unless it has been presented at a stated Communication of Grand Lodge. If presented to Grand Lodge, it shall continue in full force and effect for a period of six years and shall then become automatically null and void unless adopted by Grand Lodge as an amendment to the Constitution or as a Standing Order and Resolution.
- G. Arrange for the printing and distribution of all Rulings and Edicts of Grand Master included in Grand Master's Address for addition to the appendix of the Constitution, By-Laws and Standing Orders and Resolutions booklets distributed among the Lodges.
- H. Exercise such further powers and prerogatives that are inherent to his high office from time immemorial, but are not provided for by this Constitution.

Section 2. Duties of Deputy Grand Master

In the absence of the Grand Master or in the event of his death or disability, the duties and prerogatives of that office shall devolve upon the Deputy Grand Master.

Section 3. Duties of Grand Wardens

In the absence of the Grand Master and the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden, (and in his absence, the Junior Grand Warden) shall preside at the Communications of Grand Lodge, with the authority of the Grand Master.

A. If the offices of Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master should become vacant by death or otherwise, the Senior Grand Warden (or, in his absence, the Junior Grand Warden) shall call on a Past Grand Master to act as Grand Master. If there is no Past Grand Master available, the Grand Secretary by order of the Grand Wardens or, should they refuse or be absent, on the request of the Masters of three or more Lodges, shall summon the members of Grand Lodge to a special Communication in the Masonic Temple in Cokesville to choose a Grand Master and a Deputy Grand Master.

Section 4. Duties of Grand Secretary

The Grand Secretary shall perform the following duties pertaining to his office:

- A. Attend every Communication of Grand Lodge and have available all necessary books and papers of his office
- B. Record the proceedings at every Communication of Grand Lodge and transcribe them promptly into the printed report of Proceedings of Grand Lodge
- C. Keep a true and faithful register of all subordinate Lodges and their members
- D. Keep an account for all debtors of Grand Lodge; charge all moneys as they become due; credit all sums as they are received and pay them to the Grand Treasurer
- E. Keep all books, records, seal of Grand Lodge etc., by virtue of his office, in the Grand Secretary's Office in the Temple in Cokesville and present them, as the property of Grand Lodge, for inspection or deliver for audit whenever properly called for by the Grand Master or to whomever the Board of Managers shall appoint to receive them
- F. Notify the subordinate Lodges at least one month in advance of all stated Communications of Grand Lodge and notify them of special Communications as the Grand Master may direct
- G. Transmit to all Lodges, as soon as possible after each Annual Communication, printed reports of the Proceedings and assess charges for them in such form and numbers as directed by the Board of Managers

- H. Arrange for printing the Proceedings at five year intervals, including the names of Officers, Past Masters and members of Lodges
- I. Distribute to the Lodges the rulings and edicts of Grand Master which he presented in his address to Grand Lodge
- J. Correspond with other Grand Lodges, as directed by Grand Lodge or Grand Master
- K. Affix the seal of Grand Lodge to Charters and Dispensations to or for new Lodges; to certified copies of any portion of the proceedings of Grand Lodge; and all Grand Lodge diplomas or certificates (without the seal affixed they shall be null and void)
- L. Be accountable to and generally subject to the Grand Master or the Board of Managers for the operation of his office, including but not limited to personnel, procurement of services, supplies, equipment and expenditures in accordance with the policies established by the Board
- M. Perform such other Masonic duties which the Grand Lodge or Grand Master may require of him.

Section 5. Duties of Grand Treasurer

Qualifications: At least three years work experience in accounting activities or a minimum bachelor degree concentration in accounting/finance.

Nature of the Work: The Grand Treasurer prepares, analyzes and verifies to the Board of Managers and Board or Trustees the budgets, pertinent reports, taxes, and information provided from computer generated financial statements. Duties include the requirement for the personal knowledge of operating capability of various computer systems and the financial data specifically prepared for Grand Lodge and authorization of payment of orders duly drawn.

The Grand Treasurer shall perform the following duties pertaining to his office:

- A. Verify and maintain the collection records of all Grand Lodge funds received in the Grand Secretary's Office and deposited in financial institutions approved by the Board of Managers
- B. Keep complete records, containing an accurate account of all funds received and disbursed, which, as the property of Grand Lodge, shall be subject to its order and inspection by the Board of Managers and Board of Trustees
- C. Maintain custody of all funds of Grand Lodge; pay all orders duly drawn on him under its regulations; and deliver to his successor in office, or to whomever the Grand Master may appoint to receive them, all assets and records belonging to Grand Lodge and pertaining to his office

- D. Attend every Communication of Grand Lodge and have available all the necessary books and papers of his office; prepare and present a written budget report explaining all funds received and disbursed as approved by the Board of Managers, so that at each Communication Grand Lodge may be fully informed of its financial condition
- E. Implement Grand Lodge internal cost accounting Control
- F. In cooperation with the Grand Lodge Auditors, establish and monitor schedules for the annual audit report.

Section 6. Duties of Grand Chaplain

The Grand Chaplain shall attend upon Grand Lodge and perform such services as pertain to his office. The Grand Master may appoint Assistant Grand Chaplains in various sections of the Jurisdiction, as he deems necessary or appropriate.

Section 7. Duties of Grand Lecturer and Deputy Grand Lecturers

The Grand Lecturer and Deputy Grand Lecturers shall adhere to and disseminate the ritualistic work, forms and ceremonies of the fraternity in accordance with the Convention of 1843 as exemplified in, and approved by, Grand Lodge at its August 1863 Communication.

- A. The Grand Lecturer, Deputy Grand Lecturers and Committee on Ritualistic Work, under the direction of the Grand Master, shall establish as many Lodges of Instruction for proper instruction in the ritualistic work, forms and ceremonies of the fraternity as needed. They shall, upon the request of any Lodge, furnish, or cause to be furnished, such instruction as may be necessary.
- B. The Grand Lecturer shall supervise the work of the Deputy Grand Lecturers as are appointed by the Grand Master.
- C. The Grand Lecturer shall submit a report of his activities as well as those of the Deputy Grand Lecturers and Committee on Ritualistic Work at each stated Communication of Grand Lodge.

Section 8. Duties of Grand Marshal

The Grand Marshal shall perform the following duties pertaining to his office:

- A. Proclaim the Grand Officers at their installation; superintend public processions of Grand Lodge and see that no irregularities occur during them
- B. Assist the Grand Master in making official visits to the various Lodges and perform such other duties, which the Grand Master may require.

Section 9. ¹²Duties of Grand Tyler

The Grand Tyler shall perform the following duties pertaining to his office:

- A. Guard the door of Grand Lodge on the outside; report all persons claiming admission; see that none enter but those properly entitled;
- B. Perform such other Masonic duties, which Grand Master or the Board of Managers may require of him.

Section 10. Duties of Other Grand Lodge Officers

The Grand Lodge Officers not specifically mentioned shall perform such duties as pertain to their respective offices and which Grand Master may require of them.

ARTICLE VI
Grand Lodge Voting Procedures

Section 1. Voting and Balloting

Except for amending the Constitution as provided in Section I of Article XVIII, all matters arising before Grand Lodge shall be determined by a majority of the members present, unless a vote by Lodges shall be called for by at least two voting Lodges or by the Grand Master. When voting by Lodges, a majority of the votes (taken according to the following order) shall govern.

A. In balloting for Grand Officers and in voting by Lodges the Grand Secretary shall call the voters in the following order:

Most Worshipful Grand Master
Most Worshipful Past Grand Masters
Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master
Right Worshipful Past Deputy Grand Masters
Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden
Right Worshipful Past Senior Grand Wardens
Right Worshipful Junior Grand Wardens
Right Worshipful Past Junior Grand Warden
Right Worshipful Grand Secretary
Right Worshipful Past Grand Secretaries
Right Worshipful Grand Treasurer
Right Worshipful Past Grand Treasurers
Lodges according to seniority, by Representatives and Past Masters

B. Each Grand and Past Grand Officer named above is entitled to one vote only unless he is representing some Lodge when, in addition to his own vote, he shall have the vote of the Lodge he represents.

C. A Grand Officer, pro tern, who has not been elected and installed in any Grand Lodge Office, shall not vote as a Grand Officer.

Section 2. Tie Vote

In addition to his own vote, the Grand Master or presiding officer shall cast the tie breaking vote when needed, except in the election of Grand Officers.

Section 3. Eligible Votes of Lodges

The Representatives of each Lodge have, collectively, one vote and the Past Masters of each Lodge have, collectively, one vote. Should the Representatives or Past Masters of any Lodge be equally divided in opinion upon any question, the vote of the Representatives or Past Masters shall be lost.

A. No Lodge may vote, either by its Representatives or Past Masters, unless its dues, initiation fees, assessments, and Masonic Homes Maintenance Tax to Grand Lodge are fully paid or remitted.

B. No new Lodge may vote until it has been regularly constituted and its Officers installed.

Section 4. Voting by Representatives

The proper Representatives of a Lodge are the Worshipful Master and Wardens. If they cannot attend, the Lodge may appoint up to three brothers to represent it.

A. If no Representative attends, the Lodge may be represented by any of its Past Masters present who shall exercise all the authority vested in the absent Representatives.

B. In the absence of the Past Masters of a Lodge, its Representatives present may represent them.

C. Lodges at a distance from the City of Cockeysville may appoint Master Masons from other Lodges to represent them in Grand Lodge, but no brother shall represent more than one Lodge at the same time. The Representatives of the absent Lodge may also cast the vote of its Past Masters.

D. No brother appointed a Representative may delegate his authority to another, but the Worshipful Master of a Lodge, while acting as a Representative in the Grand Lodge, may delegate his authority in writing to a Past Master.

ARTICLE VII

¹³Qualifications and Nomination of Grand Officers and Board Members

Section 1. Qualifications of Nominees for election as Grand Officers

All nominees must be permanent members of this Grand Lodge and currently in good standing.

Eligibility for Grand Lodge Office, as established herein or by tradition, shall be determined by membership in the candidate's parent Subordinate Lodge, that being the Lodge that would submit the candidate's assessment to the Grand Lodge.

Section 2. Qualifications of Board Members

All nominees must be Master Masons, members in good standing of a Lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge who have a background of experience and expertise in business, or as executives, or who are otherwise, by occupation and practice, particularly suited for service, as members of the Board of Managers, in managing and directing the business, investments and affairs of the fraternity or, as members of the Board of Trustees, and in managing and directing the business and operation of the Masonic Homes, or as members of the Board of Directors of the Masonic Charities of Maryland, Inc. in managing and directing the business, investments and affairs of the corporation and administering all its funds in a charitable manner as detailed in the Articles of Incorporation of Masonic Charities of Maryland, Inc.

¹⁴Section 3. Limitations of Nominees

- A. No Brother's name may be placed in nomination for more than one elective office at anyone stated communication of the Grand Lodge
- B. No Brother's name may be placed in nomination without his consent.
- C. ¹⁵No Brother's name may be placed in nomination if, as the result of a Masonic Trial or by action of the Grand Master, he has been found guilty of either immoral, unmasonic, or gross unmasonic conduct.

Section 4. Time of Nominations

¹⁶Nominations shall take place promptly on the day of the Semi-Annual Communication at a time deemed appropriate by the Grand Master during the course of normal business. No nomination may be made later except in the case of death or withdrawal of a nominee, or to fill the unexpired term of a member of the Board of Managers, the Board of Trustees, or the Board of Directors of the Masonic Charities of Maryland who, at the same Communication, has been elected to another office. In such event the Nominating Committee shall have no jurisdiction.

ARTICLE VIII
Election of Grand Officers and Board Members

Section 1. Grand Officers

¹⁷The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden, Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer shall, except as provided in Section 4 hereof, be elected by ballot at the Semi-Annual Communication and shall hold their respective offices until their successors have been duly elected and installed. ¹⁸A Grand Secretary who has served ten (10) consecutive elective terms as Grand Secretary, and a Grand Treasurer who has served ten (10) consecutive elective terms as Grand Treasurer, shall not be eligible for re-election or appointment to his respective office for one year after his last term in that office.

Section 2. Board Members

Members of the Board of Managers shall be elected or appointed to their terms of office as provided in Article XII, Sections I and 2 and members of the Board of Trustees shall be elected or appointed to their terms of office as provided in Article XIII, Sections I and 2. ¹⁹Members of the Board of Directors of the Masonic Charities of Maryland, Inc., shall be elected or appointed to their terms of office in accordance with the By-Laws of Masonic Charities of Maryland, Inc, which shall provide for their election at the Semi-Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge.

Section 3. Time of Elections

²⁰The election of Grand Officers and Board members shall be held on the day of the Semi-Annual Communication at a time deemed appropriate by the Grand Master during the course of normal business.

Section 4. Uncontested Elections

If only one brother is nominated to an office, he shall be declared duly elected.

Section 5. Printed Ballot

²¹On a paper or electronic ballot the names of nominees for any contested election shall be printed on a ballot.

Section 6. Contested Elections

²²Except in the case of an election by an electronic ballot, in a contested election the Grand Master shall appoint a number of brothers as judges and tellers to distribute and collect the ballots. The ballot box may not be presented to any voter until his name or that of the Lodge has been called to answer by the Grand Secretary. When the balloting has been closed the judges and tellers shall retire, count the ballots, return to the Lodge room, and present their report to the Grand Master, who shall announce the results of the election.

- A. If more than two Brethren are balloted on and no one of them has a majority, the balloting shall be continued until one Brother has a majority. At every ballot succeeding the first, the Brother having the least number of votes shall be withdrawn from nomination.
- B. In the event of a tie vote, balloting shall continue until there is an election.

Section 7. ²³Caucusing, Lobbying, Electioneering

The following practices are contrary to the principles and traditions of this Grand Lodge:

- A. Caucusing, by which is meant the making in advance of agreements intended to bind the members of this Grand Lodge to support particular candidates or measures.
- B. Lobbying, by which is meant the solicitation of votes of the members of this Grand Lodge for particular measures;
- C. Electioneering, by which is meant the solicitation of votes of members of this Grand Lodge for particular candidates.

Full discussion of the merits of prospective candidates or measures may be held as long as such discussion does not seek to bind the parties in advance to any stated course of action or definitely solicit support of or opposition to prospective candidates or measures.

ARTICLE IX
Installation of Grand Officers

Section 1. Installation

²⁴All Grand Officers elected or appointed who are present shall be installed at the Annual Communication following the Semi-Annual Communication at which they were elected or appointed, either at the session of the first day or, if necessary, at the second day's session, at a time deemed appropriate by the Grand Master.

- A. The Grand Master elect, at his option, may be installed by the retiring Grand Master or by any Past Grand Master present. If neither the Grand Master nor any Past Grand Master is present, then he may be installed by a Past Master of some Lodge represented

Section 2. Delayed Installations

Any Grand Officers-elect or appointed who were not present on the day of installation may be installed in any subordinate Lodge by the Grand Master or his duly authorized representative upon signifying their acceptance of their office.

- A. All delayed installations shall be reported by the installing officer to the Grand Secretary.

ARTICLE X
Revenue of Grand Lodge

Section 1. Revenue

The revenue of Grand Lodge shall be derived as follows:

- A. From rents of the various apartments in the Temple, in such amounts as established by the Board of Managers
- B. From each dispensation to form a new, or revive an extinct Lodge, Ten Dollars (\$10.00);
- C. From each Charter granted to a Lodge working under a dispensation, Forty Dollars (\$40.00), and each Charter granted without a previous dispensation, Fifty Dollars (\$50.00);
- D. ²⁵From dues and assessments, which each Lodge shall pay in the following amounts when making its return to the Grand Secretary, as provided in Article XVI Section 11:
 - 1. ²⁶For each member, semiannual dues, effective January 1, 2019, Fourteen Dollars (\$14.00); effective January 1, 2020, Nineteen Dollars (\$19.00), except that no Lodge shall be charged any dues for the following members:
 - a. Clergymen who are exempt from the payment of dues by virtue of the Lodge By-Laws;
 - b. Members who are guests of The Maryland Masonic Homes; and
 - c. Members who are determined legally to be mentally incompetent;
 - 2. For each member, for the use, maintenance and support of the Maryland Masonic Homes, semiannually, Two Dollars (\$2.00), except that no Lodge shall be charged any assessments for the following members:
 - a. Members who are guests of The Maryland Masonic Homes; and
 - b. Members who are determined legally to be mentally incompetent;
 - 3. ²⁷For each Mason initiated or affiliated (if a Mason of another Grand Jurisdiction) during the period reported, Fifty Dollars (\$50.00);
 - 4. ²⁸For each member, for the use, maintenance, and support of the George Washington National Masonic Memorial Association, Alexandria, Virginia, One Dollar (\$1.00) per year payable at the time of the June return, except that no Lodge shall be charged any assessment for the following members:

- a. Members who are guests of the Maryland Masonic Homes; and
- b. Members who are determined legally to be mentally incompetent.

5. ²⁹For each member, for the use, maintenance and support of the Maryland Child Identification Program, Three Dollars (\$3.00) annually, beginning January 1, 2014 and lasting ten (10) years or until the Grand Lodge of Maryland decides to discontinue the program, whichever occurs first, except that no Lodge shall be charged any assessment for the following members:

- a. Members who are guests of the Maryland Masonic Homes; and
- b. Members who are determined legally to be mentally incompetent.

E. From each Grand Lodge Diploma, One Dollar (\$1.00), and from each copied page of Grand Lodge records, One Dollar (\$1.00).

Section 2. ³⁰Allocation of Certain Revenue

The portion of the initiation/affiliation fees received by the Grand Lodge shall be applied as follows:

Period	Allocation	
	Operating Fund	Dr. John Coats Memorial Fund
7/1/89 and thereafter	0	50.00

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ARTICLE XI
³¹Board of Grand Inspectors

Section 1. Territorial Supervision

Territorial supervision shall be provided by a Board of Grand Inspectors, consisting of Grand Inspectors for all Subordinate Lodges of the Grand Lodge of Maryland.

Section 2. Members of the Board

The Officers of the Board shall consist of a President, as many Vice Presidents as the Grand Master may deem necessary, and a Secretary. The Officers and members of the Board shall be selected and appointed by the Grand Master from the permanent members of Grand Lodge. They shall be received as Personal Representatives of the Grand Master when officially visiting the respective Lodge(s) to which they are assigned and shall be extended all courtesies pertaining to their office.

Section 3. Term of Office

As of each Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, the following Grand Inspectors are ineligible for reappointment:

- A. Those who have served for six or more consecutive years; or
- B. If more than one-third has served continuously for six or more years, the one-third who have the longest continuous service.

One year must elapse before a Grand Inspector who has served for six consecutive years may be re-appointed.

Section 4. Duties

Grand Inspectors shall see that subordinate Lodges under their charge strictly conform to, and abide by, the provisions of the Constitution, Standing Orders and Resolutions of Grand Lodge, Rulings and Edicts of Grand Masters, and requirements of the Grand Master and the Office of Grand Secretary.

- A. Grand Inspectors shall not interfere in the administration of any Lodge, nor shall they attempt to correct deviations in the ritualistic work of a Lodge, nor become involved in interpreting Masonic Law or any controversial subject during a visitation; they should note any questionable matters and report them promptly to the Vice President of their region who shall, in turn, report them to the President of the Board.
- B. Grand Inspectors may not attend trials of their assigned Lodges, unless the Worshipful Master requests the Grand Master to send a Grand Inspector. The Grand Master shall then instruct the Grand Inspector to attend. Such instruction shall be in writing over his

hand and seal. A copy of the correspondence shall be sent to the Worshipful Master of the requesting Lodge as confirmation.

- C. The President of the Board shall submit a report on the condition of Lodges under his jurisdiction to the Grand Master at least thirty days prior to each stated Communication of Grand Lodge.
- D. Grand Inspectors shall be individually responsible for schooling, examination, and certification of the Senior Wardens of their assigned Lodge(s) in the provisions of Article XVI of the Constitution, Standing Orders and Resolutions of Grand Lodge, Rulings and Edicts of Grand Masters, and the Masonic Digest as required elsewhere within this constitution.

ARTICLE XII
Board of Managers

Section 1. ³²Membership

The Board of Managers shall consist of thirteen: Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, and nine elected Master Masons, members in good standing of a Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, qualified as provided in Article VII, Section 2 of this Constitution. ³³Three of the nine elected members shall be elected at each Semi-Annual Communication for a term of three years beginning with the Annual Communication following the Semi-Annual Communication at which they were elected. Of the three elected each year, one must be a member of a Lodge in Baltimore City or Baltimore County and one must be a member of one of the other Lodges in Maryland. ³⁴In addition, the Senior Grand Warden and the Junior Grand Warden shall be ex-officio member of the Board without the right to vote.

Section 2. Vacancies

Vacancies in the Board during the recess of Grand Lodge shall be filled by appointment by the Grand Master. ³⁵The appointment shall continue until the next Annual Communication of Grand Lodge when the unexpired term shall be filled by the member elected at the Semi-Annual Communication prior to the Annual Communication to fill the vacancy.

Section 3. ³⁶Term of Office

No member of the Boards (BM, BT) who has served two consecutive terms of three years each shall be eligible for re-election or appointment for three years after his last term to any of the above Boards.

Section 4. ³⁷Meetings

The Board shall meet monthly, from September to June inclusive, at a time and place to be determined by the Board, and at other times as determined by Grand Master, upon forty-eight hours prior written notice or upon ³⁸electronic communication or telephone notice not later than the day before the day set for the meeting.

- A. Eight members shall constitute a quorum.
- B. The Grand Master shall preside at all meetings, and in his absence the Deputy Grand Master. In their absence a Chairman pro tem shall be chosen by majority vote of members present.
- C. The Grand Secretary shall be Secretary of the Board and shall keep a record of its proceedings.

Section 5. Duties

The Board shall manage the financial affairs of Grand Lodge. In the absence of special directions from Grand Lodge, they shall have the control and management of the Masonic Temple in Cockeysville Maryland and its income, together with all other assets of Grand Lodge, except those assets under the management and control of the Board of Trustees (as provided in Article XIII, Section 5 of this Constitution). They shall have and exercise general supervision and control over the business policies and practices of the Office of Grand Secretary.

- A. ³⁹The Board shall have full power and authority to appoint professional investment advisors with or without discretionary authority to buy or sell securities for or from the assets of the Grand Lodge under the said Board's management including the right to sell covered call options when the underlying common stock is held in the equity portfolio, which such options are actively traded on a public exchange and when the strike price provided for in any such option is above the market price at time of the sale of the option, and to purchase call options in order to close out a previously written call option position. Additionally, the Board shall have the right to enter into agency agreements with a bank or banks transferring custody of Grand Lodge securities to such bank or banks to register and hold such securities, in the name of its or their nominees, provided that all such securities and income therefrom shall be maintained by such bank, unless invested in or more collective investment funds maintained and operated by the bank.
- B. At the beginning of each fiscal year, the Board shall prepare a detailed budget of income and expenses. The format to be used shall show the previous year's budgeted amounts in one column, the actual amounts of income and expense in another column. No budget item may be exceeded without prior approval of the Board. A copy of the budget shall be placed in the booklet of reports and presented to the members of Grand Lodge at each stated Communication.
- C. The Board shall compile a history of Masonry in Maryland to supplement those published up to and including 1950, and to continue at twenty-five year intervals thereafter.
- D. All details of publication, including funding, shall be determined by the Board. If the Board has accumulated what it considers a reasonable surplus for sound financial policies for the government of Grand Lodge, it may refund to the Lodges of Maryland any portion of the income in excess of the expenses in anyone year. Such a refund shall be made on the basis of per capita tax due by the Lodges at the end of the year for which the refund is granted.
 - 1. If a Lodge is indebted to Grand Lodge for per capita tax at the time a refund is granted, the amount of refund due the Lodge, or as much thereof as may be necessary, shall be applied to the indebtedness before any payment is made to the Lodge.
 - 2. The granting of a refund for anyone year shall not be deemed a precedent for future years.

E. Fiduciary Bonds-The Board shall establish the amount and type of fiduciary bonds to be executed by the Grand Secretary and the Grand Treasurer and the bonds shall remain in its possession and control.

Section 6. Regulations of Board

The Board may adopt By-Laws, rules, and procedures for its government, consistent with this Constitution.

ARTICLE XIII
Masonic Home Fund and
⁴⁰Board of Trustees, Maryland Masonic Homes

Section 1. ⁴¹Membership

The Board of Trustees shall consist of thirteen: Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, and nine elected Master Masons, members in good standing of a Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, qualified as provided in Article VII, Section 2 of this Constitution. ⁴²Three of the nine elected members shall be elected at each Semi-Annual Communication for a term of three years beginning with the Annual Communication following the Semi-Annual Communication at which they were elected. Of the three elected each year, one must be a member of a Lodge in Baltimore City or Baltimore County and one must be a member of one of the other Lodges in Maryland. ⁴³In addition, the Senior Grand Warden and the Junior Grand Warden shall be ex-officio member of the Board without the right to vote.

Section 2. Vacancies

Vacancies in the Board during the recess of Grand Lodge shall be filled by appointment by the Grand Master. ⁴⁴The appointment shall continue until the next Annual Communication when the unexpired term shall be filled by the member elected at the Semi-Annual Communication prior to the Annual Communication to fill the vacancy.

Section 3. ⁴⁵Term of Office

No member of the Boards (BM, BT) who has served two consecutive terms of three years each shall be eligible for re-election or appointment for three years after his last term to any of the above Boards.

Section 4. ⁴⁶Meetings

The Board shall meet monthly, from September to June inclusive, at a time and place to be determined by the Board, and at other times be determined by Grand Master, upon forty-eight hours prior written notice or upon ⁴⁷electronic communication or telephone notice not later than the day before the day set for the meeting.

- A. Eight members shall constitute a quorum.
- B. The Grand Master shall preside at all meetings, and in his absence the Deputy Grand Master. In their absence, a Chairman pro tem shall be chosen by a majority vote of the members present.
- C. The Grand Secretary shall be Secretary of the Board and shall maintain a record of its proceedings.

- D. The Grand Treasurer shall be Treasurer of the Board and shall maintain proper records of all financial transactions affecting the various accounts and assets of the Homes.

Section 5. ⁴⁸Duties

The Board shall have and exercise sole control of the operation of the Homes including, but not limited to, all personnel, salaries and wages, job assignments, maintenance of buildings and grounds, rules governing admission and care of guests, and all other policies and practices necessary to attain the objective of providing a Home for eligible Master Masons of Maryland and their eligible dependents.

- A. **Control of Masonic Homes Property** - Subject only to all expressed and valid directives of the Grand Lodge, the Board shall have the exclusive and absolute control of all property, assets and funds of the Masonic Homes placed in its care, including all aspects of the financial management of the Homes, the power to sell real and personal property, and the power to invest and reinvest the assets subject to its administration and control; provided however that in the operations of the Homes, it shall not acquire land for use by the Homes, erect buildings, or dispose of any land now or hereafter used in the operation of the Homes, or usable buildings now or hereafter used in connection with the operation of the Homes, without the expressed prior approval of the Grand Lodge.
- B. **Endowment Fund** - The Board shall have full responsibility for the care and investment of all monies, securities, real and personal property of every description and the care and maintenance of all real estate which may be donated, bequeathed or devised to the Masonic Homes Endowment Fund. The principal of the fund shall not be used for any purpose except for investment. The income derived from the fund, to the extent necessary, shall be placed in the Homes operating fund and used to cover operational expenses of the Homes. ⁴⁹All contributions, devises or bequests to the Masonic Homes specifically designating the Endowment Fund shall be credited to the Endowment Fund; all other contributions, devices or bequests to the Masonic Homes shall be used by the Board for the benefit of the Masonic Homes as they see fit. A report on the status of this fund shall be presented at each Annual and Semi-Annual communication of Grand Lodge
- C. **Benevolence Fund** - The Board shall have control of the Benevolence Fund, which shall be kept separate and distinct from other Homes funds. The Board shall, in its discretion, make donations from this fund for the care and support of persons who deserve assistance from the Fraternity but can be helped more advantageously outside the Homes. The Grand Treasurer shall report all expenditures at each stated Communication of Grand Lodge that then shall appropriate funds required to replenish this fund.
- D. **Other Funds** - The Board shall have control of any other funds that they feel necessary to designate from time to time in keeping with the Homes operation.

- E. **Reports to Grand Lodge** - The Board shall submit at each stated Communication an operational and statistical report on the general care and welfare of the Homes Guests. A report of the status of all accounts, funds and investments under its control shall be furnished for inclusion in the Annual Proceedings.
- F. ⁵⁰**Masonic Home Fund** - The foregoing funds shall be known, collectively, as the Masonic Home Fund.
- G. ⁵¹**Investment Procedures** - The Board shall have full power and authority to appoint professional investment advisors, with or without discretionary authority to buy or sell securities for or on behalf of the Masonic Home Fund, including the right to sell covered call options when the underlying common stock is held in the equity portfolio when such options are actively traded on a public exchange, and when the strike price provided for in any such option is above the market price at the time of the sale of the option, and to purchase call options in order to close out a previously written call option position. Additionally, the Board shall have the right to enter into agency agreements with a bank or banks transferring custody of securities of the Masonic Home Fund to such bank or banks for the purpose of collecting the income therefrom and authorizing such bank or banks to register and hold such securities in the name of its or their nominee, provided that all such securities and the income therefrom shall be maintained in separate accounts from the securities and funds of such bank or other accounts maintained by such bank, unless invested in one or more collective investment funds maintained and operated by the bank.

Section 6. Regulations of Board

The Board may appoint Committees and adopt By-Laws, rules, and regulations, for its Government consistent with this Constitution and Grand Lodge Directives, as it may deem necessary.

Section 7. ⁵²Charitable Uses and Purposes

The Board is organized and shall operate exclusively for charitable purposes. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Constitution, the Board shall not carry on any activities or use any funds except as permitted by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170 (c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law). No part of the net earnings of any activity or fund placed in the Board's care shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, any private individual, except that the Board shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of its charitable purposes.

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ARTICLE XIV
Reserved for Future Use

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ARTICLE XV
Standing Committees

Section 1. Appointments

Within thirty days after each Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, the Grand Master shall appoint the Standing Committees. They shall serve until the next Annual Communication or until their successors have been appointed.

Section 2. Committee on Conference

This Committee shall consist of at least three Past Masters. Their duty shall be to examine the returns of Lodges and report to Grand Lodge those entitled to seats therein. They shall, when required, examine the credentials of those who present themselves as Representatives of subordinate Lodges, and examine all persons desiring admission into Grand Lodge who are not properly vouched for.

Section 3. Committee on Grievance

This Committee shall consist of five Past Masters. Their duty shall be to examine all cases of grievance or appeal that may be referred to them by Grand Lodge and to report as early in each Communication as possible.

Section 4. Committee on Unfinished Business

The Committee shall consist of three Past Masters. Their duty shall be to examine the most recent proceedings of Grand Lodge and report all unfinished business from the last Communication. Their report shall be made immediately after the Committee on Conference has made their report.

Section 5. Committee on Masonic Education

This Committee shall consist of at least six members, of whom at least four shall be Past Masters. The Curator and Librarian each shall be ex officio members of this Committee. It shall be their duty to:

- A. Formulate and develop an educational program, to be approved by the Grand Master, and superintend the dissemination of Masonic information among the Craft;
- B. Maintain a Speakers Bureau and a Catalog of films and slides which are available to Lodges for the promotion of Educational Programs;
- C. Disseminate to Lodges, from time to time, brief items of an educational nature and suitable for inclusion in Lodge notices;
- D. Consult with the Masonic Museum and Library staff.

Section 6. Committee on Work

⁵⁴This Committee shall consist of not more than six Deputy Grand Lecturers, qualified to instruct in the mysteries of Ancient Craft Masonry, along with one who is conversant for each foreign speaking Lodge. The Worshipful Grand Lecturer shall be Chairman of this Committee

- A. Their duty shall be to aid in the work of the Lodges of Instruction, and in the preservation and dissemination of the ritual of the Craft.

Section 7. Committee By-Laws

This Committee shall consist of five Past Masters. Their duty shall be to review all proposed By-Laws and Amendments to the By-Laws of subordinate Lodges. The Committee shall approve or reject them according to the laws and usages of Masonry and notify the interested Lodge promptly of their action.

Section 8. Committee on Fraternal Relations with other Jurisdictions

This Committee shall consist of three Past Masters. Their duty shall be to review all questions referring to the recognition of Grand Lodges and all questions affecting the relations of this Grand Lodge with other Grand Jurisdictions.

Section 9. Committee on Masonic Halls

This Committee shall consist of three Brethren, at least one of whom shall be a permanent member of Grand Lodge. Their duty shall be to review the plans for the erection of new buildings for Masonic purposes and plans for a Lodge meeting place in an existing building. They shall also consider the financial status of each such undertaking and submit their recommendations to the Grand Lodge for its consideration and approval.

Section 10. Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence

This Committee shall consist of three Past Masters. Their duty shall be to review and report thereon, all proposed amendments to the Constitution or to the Standing Orders and Resolutions of Grand Lodge, before any action is taken by Grand Lodge. This Committee shall also report for action by Grand Lodge all other matters, including questions pertaining to Masonic Jurisprudence, as Grand Lodge or the Grand Master may direct.

Section 11. Committee on Reinstatement

This Committee shall consist of five Past Masters. Their duty shall be to investigate thoroughly each petition for reinstatement after sentence of expulsion and to make its recommendations to Grand Lodge.

- A. An investigation by this Committee shall not be limited to the evidence introduced at the trial, but shall include reports on the petitioner's present attitude, his present manner

of living, his standing in the community and such other pertinent information as might have a bearing on the recommendation of the Committee.

Section 12. Committee on Masonic History

This Committee shall consist of three Brethren, at least one of whom shall be a Past Master. Their duty shall be to keep a current abstract of the activities of Grand Lodge for use in compiling supplements to the history of Grand Lodge last published in 1975. A copy of the abstracts shall from time to time be presented to the Grand Secretary and be kept by him among the permanent papers of Grand Lodge.

Section 13. Committee on Masonic Homes Endowment

This Committee shall consist of ten to fifteen members. Their duty shall be to devise and carry out plans for securing an adequate endowment for the Maryland Masonic Homes.

Section 14. Committee on Public Relations

This Committee shall consist of at most ten members. Their duty shall be to keep the Craft informed of the activities of Grand Lodge and subordinate Lodges. They shall encourage and guide subordinate Lodges in sharing with the public at large, including the press, community, family and friends, those events, activities and personalities which exemplify the purposes and objectives of Masonry.

Section 15. Blood Donor Committee

This Committee shall consist of at least three Past Masters and such other Brethren as needed. Their duty shall be to fulfill the responsibilities of the Craft in providing life-blood for its eligible members and their eligible dependents.

Section 16. The Committee on Masonic Research and Information

This Committee shall consist of at least six members, of whom at least four shall be Past Masters. The Curator and Librarian each shall be members of this Committee. The duties of the committee shall be to:

- A. Superintend the dissemination of Masonic information among the Craft;
- B. Render assistance to Grand Master and other officers of Grand Lodge, to subordinate Lodges, and to the general membership, through the acquisition, preparation, and distribution of printed material, the purpose of which is to increase the interest and knowledge of the members;
 1. No book, pamphlet, brochure or article may be printed in the name of the Grand Lodge unless authorized and approved by the Board of Managers and the Grand Master. The

funding for all publications shall require the approval of both the Board of Managers and Grand Master;

C. Consult with the Masonic Museum and Library.

ARTICLE XVI
Subordinate Lodges

Section 1. Formation of Lodges

A. Petition for a Warrant - To form a Lodge, a Petition for a Warrant to work under Dispensation shall be submitted to the Grand Secretary in the form as prescribed by Grand Lodge. It must be accompanied by:

1. The required fee; and
2. Copies of the proposed By-Laws for the Lodge to be formed.

B. Dispensation - No dispensation to form a new Lodge shall be granted to fewer than seven Master Masons.

1. The Grand Master may not issue such a Dispensation unless it has been recommended in open session by the Lodge nearest the place in which the petitioners desire to form a Lodge.
2. Such Dispensation shall not remain in force longer than to the next stated Communication of Grand Lodge.
3. The Lodge recommending such a Dispensation shall certify to the fact that the Worshipful Master named in the petition is competent to confer the three degrees according to the ritual of the Convention of 1843.

C. Charter - No Charter for a new Lodge shall be granted to fewer than seven Master Masons. The petition must be recommended the same as for a Dispensation, except when the petitioning Brethren have already been working under a Dispensation.

1. A Lodge working under Dispensation, which desires to obtain a Charter, shall submit its Petition for a Charter with a copy of its By-Laws and proceedings to Grand Lodge. The Dispensation shall be returned to Grand Lodge at the next stated Communication.
2. If Grand Lodge approves the Petition, the Grand Secretary shall issue a Charter to the newly formed Lodge.
3. ⁵⁵Each Lodge shall have a suitable seal and file an impression thereof with the Grand secretary

D. Revival of a Charter - An extinct Lodge that has neither made returns nor paid dues to Grand Lodge for three years, may apply for a new charter, or for a revival of the old one. The Lodge, if revived, shall take rank junior to all Lodges that have maintained their standing, unless it pays all its arrearage to Grand Lodge.

Section 2. By-Laws

- A. ⁵⁶**Committee Approval**- Each Lodge shall provide the Office of the Grand Secretary a copy of its most current set of By-Laws that have been approved by the Grand Lodge Committee on By-Laws for its records. Before presenting a complete revision or proposed amendments to existing By-Laws to its membership, each Lodge shall first transmit a copy thereof bearing the signatures of the Worshipful Master and Secretary to the Office of the Grand Secretary showing the current language and the proposed amendments for approval by the Grand Lodge Committee on By-Laws.
- B. **Notification** - Following the receipt of written approval from the Grand Lodge Committee on By-Laws, a copy of the proposed By-Laws or proposed amendment of the By-Laws shall be mailed to each member of the Lodge with notice of the date of the regular communication at which action shall be taken. The date of the action shall be at least thirty days following the date on which the notice was sent to the membership.
- C. **Certification to Grand Lodge** - Within fifteen days after the date action is taken by the Lodge, the Secretary thereof shall forward to the Office of the Grand Secretary a written certification, signed by the Worshipful Master and the Secretary, with the Lodge seal affixed, stating:
1. The date on which the required copy and notice were mailed to each member;
 2. The date on which action by the Lodge was taken; and
 3. That the proposed By-Laws, or the amendment, either was adopted or was rejected in the exact form as previously approved by the Grand Lodge Committee on By-Laws.⁵⁷
The Lodge shall provide a copy of its new By-Laws as amended and as approved by the membership to the Office of the Grand Secretary for its records.

Section 3. Officers

- A. **Elections** - Every Lodge shall annually elect its officers by ballot, either at the stated meeting immediately preceding St. John the Evangelist's Day or at the first stated meeting in December, as the Worshipful Master may elect. ⁵⁸Nominations for the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Secretary and Treasurer can be made and seconded in open Lodge (in the same manner as done at Grand Lodge). Nomination declarations shall consist only of the name of the nominating Brother, who must be a Lodge member, the name of the nominee and the office to be elected. A second is required. The second Brother will give his name and declare a second for the nomination. There shall not be nominating speeches. The nominee may stand, in place, to be recognized. He may only accept or reject the nomination. ⁵⁹Lodge voting requirements remain the same, secret and written. Uncontested officers will be declared elected from the East, and contested offices will be balloted on individually, secret and written.
- B. **Qualifications of Worshipful Masters** - Only a Warden, Past Warden, or Past Master may be elected as Worshipful Master, except by dispensation of the Grand Master.

C. Prerequisites to Installation - Previous to his installation the Worshipful Master - Elect of each Lodge shall:

1. Present a certificate from the Grand Lecturer, Deputy Grand Lecturer or Committee on Work stating that he is qualified to confer the three degrees of Masonry;
2. Pass a satisfactory examination of Article XVI of the Constitution and the Standing Orders and Resolutions of Grand Lodge pertaining to the government of Subordinate Lodges, before the Grand Inspector of his Lodge;
3. Have the Past Master's Degree conferred upon him by a Past Masters' Association or his subordinate Lodge.
4. ⁶⁰Certify on the back of the certification of qualification to confer the degrees that he, and the Wardens-Elect, together with the Grand Inspector of such Lodge, will read Article XVI of the Constitution and Standing Orders and Resolutions of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, as required by Section 3.F of Article XVI.

D. Installation of Officers - Worshipful Masters Elect shall be installed by their Subordinate Lodges during the month of January of each year. Their Installation at any other times requires a special dispensation of the Grand Master.

1. The installation ceremonies of the officers shall begin with the Worshipful Master, who shall be installed by the outgoing Worshipful Master or in his absence by the Junior Past Master present. The Worshipful Master shall then proceed to install the other officers, except that;
2. If the Worshipful Master-Elect cannot be installed at the scheduled meeting, the other officers who are present shall be installed by one of the Past Masters of the Lodge.
3. The Worshipful Master-Elect shall thereafter be installed by the Junior Past Master of the Lodge, then present, at the earliest convenient regular meeting of the Lodge before he may assume the duties of his office.

E. Proxy - An officer of a Lodge may not be installed by Proxy.

F. ⁶¹Reading of Article XVI, etc. - Within thirty days before or after their installation, the Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens of each Lodge shall, together with the Grand Inspector of such Lodge, together read Article XVI of the Constitution, the Standing Orders and Resolutions of Grand Lodge, and Edicts of Grand Masters pertaining to Subordinate Lodges. They shall certify the fact of such reading in the returns of the Lodge to the Grand Secretary. The Grand Master shall have the authority to waive the requirements of this Subsection F.

G. School of Masonic Law - The Senior and Junior Wardens of each Lodge shall attend all meetings for instruction in the school of Masonic Law. The Senior Warden must take the

examination. The Junior Warden is not required to take the examination until qualifying for the office of Worshipful Master.

Section 4. Meetings and Lodge Functions

A. **Required Meetings** - Each Lodge shall assemble for work at least once each month, except the months of June, July, August and September. During these months it may assemble or not, at the option of the Worshipful Master, provided that option is specified in the Lodge By-Laws.

1. No Lodge may meet on Sunday to confer any of the degrees of Masonry.

2. Each Lodge that fails to assemble for one year shall forfeit its Charter.

B. **Place of Meetings** - No Lodge may erect a building or change its place of meeting from one village, town, city or county to another, without approval of the Committee on Masonic Halls, Grand Master and Grand Lodge. If a Lodge moves to an existing Masonic meeting place, only the approval of Grand Master and Grand Lodge shall be required.

C. **Approved Activities** - A Lodge may sponsor and conduct in its name and under its auspices any of the following events, which may include family members and friends: dinner and entertainment within or without its temple, ⁶²bull roasts, crab feasts and similar social events, visitations and excursions to other Lodges, to any Masonic Home, and to any other place of general or Masonic interest within or without the State of Maryland.

1. Except for the foregoing, no Lodge may hold any public event without written dispensation of Grand Master.

D. ⁶³**Flag and Masonic Creed Ceremonies** - The flag ceremony shall be carried out at the opening of the Lodge as prescribed by the Committee on Work.

1. The Masonic Creed shall be repeated, in unison, by all members present prior to the flag ceremony.

2. A member who is not a citizen of the United States shall not be required to recite the Masonic Creed., Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag nor salute or place his hand over his heart. He shall, however, remain standing.

E. ⁶⁴**Transaction of Business** - At the discretion of the Worshipful Master a Lodge may be opened in any of the three degrees and all business except that which relates specially to a particular degree, may be transacted in the Lodge sitting in any of the three degrees. Provided, however, that only Master Masons who are members of the Lodge may cast a ballot, vote, or participate in debate on any matter coming before the Lodge or exercise any other right or privilege of membership relating to the business of the Lodge.

1. No Lodge may, at a special meeting, alter or expunge any part of the proceedings of a stated one.

2. The Worshipful Master of each Lodge shall appoint a Committee to conduct a thorough audit of its books, accounts, records and assets annually. A detailed report of this audit shall be furnished to the Grand Inspector who, after verifying the physical assets, shall authorize the Audit Committee to submit its report to the Lodge.

F. Avouchment and Examination of Visiting Members - No visitor may enter into a Lodge without undergoing an examination, unless he is known and is vouched for as a Master Mason by a Brother then present.

1. Information necessary to enable one Mason to vouch for another may be acquired only as follows:
 - a. By one Brother sitting with another in a regular constituted Lodge of Masons or an authorized tiled Lodge of Instruction; and
 - b. By one Brother vouching to another that an individual then in their presence, and in the presence of each other, is a Mason.
2. Admission may also be obtained by passing an Examination before a Committee appointed by the Worshipful Master of a regular Lodge or a tiled Lodge of Instruction.
3. Any Masonic diploma, patent, or other type of identification shall not alone be sufficient for admission to a Lodge.

Section 5. Petition for Initiation, Affiliation and Reinstatement

A. Qualifications of Petitioner - No Lodge may accept the petition of an applicant:

1. ⁶⁵Who is under eighteen years of age;
2. Whose physical defects prevent him from conforming literally to the requirements of the three degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry with the use of any necessary artificial appliances and aids; literal compliance may be waived by the Grand Master whenever, in his sole judgment, the applicant can conform to a substantial part of the requirements of the degrees;
3. ⁶⁶Who has not been a resident of Maryland for at least twelve months immediately preceding the submission of his petition, except by dispensation of the Grand Master;
4. Who is in arrears to an extinct Lodge at the time of its demise, until he has paid the arrearages to Grand Lodge (unless the dues of the subordinate Lodge shall have been remitted by Grand Lodge).

B. Procedure - All petitions must be in writing, signed by the applicant and recommended by at least two members of the Lodge in which the petition is placed.

1. Every applicant for initiation shall state in his petition whether he has been rejected by any Lodge.
2. No petition subject to a Waiver of Jurisdiction may be officially accepted until the Waiver is received.
3. All petitions shall lie over four weeks from the date of the stated meeting when officially received before a ballot may be taken.
4. All petitions shall be sent to the Grand Secretary to have the statements of previous rejection verified before action may be taken thereon.
5. ⁶⁷The names and addresses of all applicants with date of action on their petitions shall be sent to members by means of the usual notice or special notice.

C. **Investigating Committee** - The Committee to investigate the character of an applicant shall consist of three Master Masons. Their inquiry shall be thorough in determining the worthiness of the applicant seeking to become a Mason.

1. The prescribed Grand Lodge report form shall be completed and signed by each Committee member.

D. ⁶⁸**Fees and Assessments for Initiation and Affiliation**

1. **Initiation** - No Lodge shall confer the three degrees of Masonry for a less sum than \$100.00 and in addition thereto a non-refundable fee as determined by the Board of Managers for a background check of the candidate.⁶⁹
2. **Affiliation** - No Lodge may grant affiliation to Masons from another Jurisdiction for a fee less than \$50.00.
3. **Assessments for George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association** - In addition to the initiation and affiliation fees, each Lodge shall impose an assessment of \$5.00 for the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association, Alexandria, Virginia, which shall be paid over to the Grand Lodge for transmission to such Association.
4. **Exemptions** - Clergymen are exempt from fees and assessments if the Lodge By-Laws provide.
5. **Credit** - No degree may be conferred on credit. No Lodge may act on any petition for initiation or affiliation unless all fees and assessments accompany the petition.

E. **Balloting** - No Lodge shall admit to membership or initiate a candidate without the unanimous consent, by ballot, of the members present. Casting a ballot is a sacred duty. Any violation of

its secrecy is a Masonic offense and may subject a member to being charged with unmasonic conduct.

1. No petition for initiation received by a Lodge may be withdrawn, except by dispensation of Grand Master upon request of the Lodge submitting justifiable cause upon which he can base his decision.
2. A Petition shall be acted upon within three months after its reception except in the case of an applicant's death or his removal from the jurisdiction. If the three-month expiration date occurs during summer recess, as specified in the Lodge By-Laws, action shall be taken at the first stated Communication in the fall.
 - a. A petition is officially presented on the date when it is first read at a stated Communication by the Worshipful Master or the Lodge Secretary.
3. ⁷⁰When balloting for the degrees, advancement, or membership, the ballot must be entirely completed before the Lodge may be called off or closed. Only the result of the ballot may be made known. No one may enter or leave the Lodge until the ballot is completed, except the Tyler so that he may vote.
 - a. After an initial ballot, up to three re-ballots may be taken to correct an error. (This means not more than four ballots).
4. All requests for waiver of personal jurisdiction received by a Lodge must, like other petitions, lie over for four weeks from the date received before a ballot can be taken. Notice shall be given to the membership, giving the name of applicant and the date of action to be taken. The waiver is granted by the unanimous consent by ballot by the members. The waiver shall be signed by the Worshipful Master and Secretary and bear the Seal of the Lodge.
5. A Mason shall not be reinstated without the unanimous consent by ballot of members. This does not apply to members under definite suspension or those suspended for less than six months for non-payment of dues.
 - a. A petition for reinstatement of a member after sentence of expulsion must be approved by vote at a stated Communication of Grand Lodge before action may be taken by the subordinate Lodge. If the petition is approved by Grand Lodge and the applicant is then rejected by his Lodge, the petition may not be renewed until the expiration of six months. The rejecting Lodge shall retain jurisdiction unless a Waiver is granted. No further Grand Lodge action is required.
 - b. A petition for reinstatement of a member after sentence of indefinite suspension shall be within the power of the subordinate Lodge which suspended him. The vote shall be by unanimous ballot. If applicant is elected he shall be reinstated to membership. If he is rejected his petition may not be renewed until the expiration of six months. The rejecting Lodge shall retain jurisdiction, unless waiver is granted.

6. A Lodge may not act upon the petition of an applicant who has been rejected by another Lodge without the consent of the rejecting Lodge, if it is in existence.
7. A Lodge may not act upon the petition of an applicant for initiation who has been rejected within six months.
8. The Secretary shall immediately inform Grand Secretary of all rejections, suspensions, expulsions or reinstatements.

Section 6. Initiation and Conferring of Degrees

A. Authorized Officers - The Degrees of Masonry may be conferred only by a Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Past Master or Past Warden, except by dispensation of Grand Master.

B. Conferral of Degrees - The Degrees shall be conferred as follows:

1. Entered Apprentice - The first section of the Entered Apprentice Degree may be conferred collectively upon at most five (5) candidates.
 - a. The second section of the Entered Apprentice Degree may be conferred collectively upon at most five candidates.
 - b. A Lodge may not initiate more than five candidates at one meeting.
 - c. A Lodge may not initiate a candidate on the night of his election, except by dispensation of the Grand Master.
2. Fellowcraft - The first section of the Fellowcraft Degree may be conferred collectively upon at most five candidates and as many units of five or less as the Worshipful Master may direct.
 - a. The second section of the Fellowcraft Degree may be conferred collectively.
3. Master Mason - The first section of the Master Mason Degree may be conferred collectively upon five candidates and as many units of five or less as the Worshipful Master may direct.
 - a. The second section of the Master Mason Degree shall be conferred in full form upon each candidate individually. Prior to conferring the second section, and out of presence of the candidate, the following shall be read:

"My Brethren-

A candidate is about to be raised to the sublime Degree of Master Mason. The Lodge Room will be used as a stage to enact a drama that, symbolically, unfolds the great lesson of the immortality of the soul. To properly impress the candidate with

the seriousness of this ceremony, there must be no talking, whispering, laughing or other commotion during the conferral. Bear in mind the Temple, for this period of the Degree, is supposed to be silent and unoccupied.

Only the participants in the drama are to speak, and they are instructed to make no facial expressions, gestures, or unusual oral deliveries which might induce levity. The cooperation of each one present is solicited. An adherence to these instructions will help serve as an impressive climax to the candidate's progress in Freemasonry. This section of the Degree could well be one of the richest experiences of life."

- b. The third section of the Master Mason Degree may be conferred collectively, but it may not be divided into parts in the subordinate Lodges (even on Colts' Night or Past Masters' Night) except by dispensation of Grand Master.

C. Limitation of Initiation and Advancement - When an applicant has been elected to receive the degrees of Masonry, any member of the Lodge may, without witnesses; make known to the Worshipful Master his objection to the candidate's being initiated. The Worshipful Master must sustain the objection and declare the candidate rejected. The objection may be made at any time before the candidate is obligated in the First Degree and not necessarily while the Lodge is in session.

1. **Candidate** - If a candidate does not receive the first degree within twelve months after his election, he shall be automatically dropped. The fee which accompanied his petition shall be returned.
2. **Entered Apprentice** - If an Entered Apprentice does not receive the second degree within twelve months after his initiation, he shall be automatically dropped.
3. **Fellowcraft** - If a Fellowcraft does not receive the third degree within twelve months of his passing, he shall be automatically dropped.
4. **Extended by Dispensation** - If, for extenuating circumstances, a candidate fails to be initiated or advanced in the degrees within the time specified, he may have his time extended by dispensation of the Grand Master.
5. **Penalty, Failure to Advance** - An Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft, not under censure for misconduct, may be dropped from the returns of the Lodge if:
 - a. He moves out of Maryland, or
 - b. A Lodge determines by majority vote that he is not disposed to advance further in Masonry.
6. **Reinstatement** - A dropped candidate may be reinstated only by making a new application and by the unanimous consent, by ballot, of the Lodge. The application is to be handled as in the case of a new petition.

- a. Application shall be made to the Lodge, if in existence, where the Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft degree was received. No fee is required unless the initiation fee has been increased in the interim.
 - b. If his application is rejected by the Lodge, he becomes an unaffiliated Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft. He may then petition any other Lodge within this Grand Jurisdiction without a waiver of personal Jurisdiction, but he shall pay the full initiation fee of the Lodge to which he applies. He shall be required to stand a satisfactory examination in the last degree conferred upon him before advancing to the next degree.
 - c. No Lodge may confer any degree on a Brother who has been initiated in another existing Lodge without first obtaining its permission, except when the Brother is an unaffiliated Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft.
7. **Degree Work Limitation** - Not more than one degree may be conferred upon a candidate at any stated or special Communication, except by dispensation of Grand Master.
8. **Non-Conferral of Degrees by Courtesy** - A Maryland Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft, who has moved to another Grand Jurisdiction that will not confer the remaining degrees by courtesy, may apply to the Lodge that conferred his degrees for a waiver of territorial jurisdiction.

D. Proficiency Examinations - Lodges shall exact an examination in open Lodge from all candidates for advancement from one degree to another. No Lodge may advance a Brother until he has shown sufficient proficiency. The proficiency shall be determined by ballot.

- 1. Lodges shall also exact from candidates who have received their Master Mason Degree an examination in open Lodge as to their proficiency in that degree. The proficiency shall be determined by ballot as in previous degrees.
- 2. The examination shall be exacted within twelve months from date of raising.
 - a. Until passing a satisfactory examination, a Master Mason may not make application to any Masonic Order or Organization that requires its members to be Masons.
 - b. Any violation may subject a member to disciplinary action.
 - c. If a Brother fails to pass his examination within twelve months, he shall be summoned by the Worshipful Master to show cause and, upon failure to do so, is subject to charges for unmasonic conduct.
 - d. In the event of extenuating circumstances (such as illness, removal from the jurisdiction, etc.) the Grand Master may extend or waive the requirement.

E. Balloting on Proficiency - If five negative ballots are cast when balloting on the proficiency of a Brother, his advancement will be postponed until suitable proficiency is shown.

1. Balloting on proficiency may be taken upon more than one candidate at the same time; however, in the event of five negative votes, each candidate shall be balloted on separately.
2. If a candidate fails his proficiency, he may apply for examination at any meeting. However, it is within the discretion of the Lodge whether it will act upon the request.
3. A Master Mason who is examined on his proficiency in the Master Mason Degree shall remain in the Lodge room and ballot on his own proficiency.

Section 7. Membership

A. Master Mason - Only a Master Mason may be a member of a Lodge. Every Brother, when he receives the degree Master Mason, shall have his name enrolled among the members of his Lodge.

B. ⁷¹Plural and Dual Membership - A member of a Maryland Lodge may affiliate with other Maryland Lodges and shall be known as a **Plural Member** if he is subsequently elected to membership in those Lodges. A member of a Lodge or Lodges in other Grand Jurisdictions, whose Laws do not forbid dual membership, may affiliate with a Maryland Lodge if he is at least eighteen years of age meets and all other requirements of affiliation and shall be known as a **Dual Member** if he is subsequently elected to membership in that Lodge. In both situations his application must be accompanied by a current certification of good standing from his home Lodge.

1. A member of a Lodge in Maryland may request a Certificate of Good Standing for the purpose of transferring his membership or applying for plural membership in another Maryland Lodge or dual membership in a Lodge of another Grand Jurisdiction.
2. The membership of a plural or dual member in a Maryland Lodge shall not be affected by his demit or suspension for nonpayment of dues from another Maryland Lodge or any Lodge in any other Grand Jurisdiction. Expulsion or suspension for cause by another Maryland Lodge or by a Lodge in any other Grand Jurisdiction shall automatically terminate his membership in a Maryland Lodge upon receipt of certified action by the other Lodge.
3. Dual membership entitles an affiliating Brother from any other Grand Jurisdiction to all the rights and privileges of a member of the Maryland Lodge with which he affiliates, without regard to such honors and offices he may have received or attained in any other Grand Jurisdiction. However, a Brother who affiliates with a Maryland Lodge and relinquishes his membership in all other Lodges or another Grand Jurisdiction shall be recognized by his Maryland Lodge as having all of the honors that were accorded him in his former Lodge.

4. If a Brother is a member of two or more Maryland Lodges, he shall pay to all Lodges the dues and assessments required of him under the Bylaws of those Lodges, but only his home Lodge shall be required to pay Grand Lodge dues and assessments with respect to him.
5. ⁷²If a Plural Brother is a member of two or more Maryland Lodges, and Lodge membership is a factor in a particular situation, such as eligibility for appointment to a Grand Lodge Committee or to the Grand Line or for election to the Board of Managers or Board of Trustees, he shall be considered a member of his home Lodge.

C. **Life Membership** - A Lodge may, if its By-Laws permit, create Life Members, provided all per capita dues and Masonic Homes assessments are paid to the Grand Lodge. Where years of service would preclude payment of dues and assessments by a member, such Life Memberships are discouraged as being economically unsound.

D. **Diploma or Certificate** - No Master Mason shall be entitled to a Grand Lodge Diploma or Certificate unless he furnishes certification from the Secretary of his Lodge that he is in good standing and that he bears a good character.

E. ⁷³**Service Awards** - To be eligible to receive a service award emblem, a Brother must have been a member of some regular Lodge or Lodges for a total of fifty, sixty or seventy years. The presentation shall be made upon receipt from the Grand Lodge.

1. Secretaries of the Lodges shall report the names of their eligible members at the beginning of each calendar year to the Grand Secretary. The Grand Secretary shall verify the eligibility and forward the emblem for presentation at the proper time.
2. The presentation of these emblems on behalf of Grand Lodge shall be made by the Grand Inspector of the member's Lodge. On special occasions the presentation may be made by the Grand Master or a Brother designated by him.

F. ⁷⁴**Transfer of Membership** - A Lodge may accept a petition for affiliation from a Brother who is a member of another Lodge in this jurisdiction but wants to transfer his membership. His petition shall be accompanied by a Certificate of Good Standing. When he has been elected and his demit is received, he then shall be enrolled as a member. A Brother of a Lodge in another jurisdiction may, under similar conditions, affiliate with a Maryland Lodge.

G. ⁷⁵**Demits**-

1. General - A member may voluntarily sever his connection with a Lodge only by the grant of a demit.
2. Grant - A member shall request a demit in writing. If his dues and assessments are fully paid and no charges are pending against him, it shall be unconditionally granted.

3. Status - After the grant of the demit, the member becomes an unaffiliated Mason and shall enjoy no further Masonic rights, except those extended him by courtesy.

H. ⁷⁶**Suspensions, Non-Payment of Dues and Assessments** - Any member of a Lodge who fails to pay his regular dues and the per capita assessments for the support and maintenance of the Masonic Homes for one year shall be suspended, without trial, effective on December 31 of the year of his delinquency.

1. The Notice to a member of the intention to suspend shall explain the penalty for which he renders himself liable for non-payment of dues and assessments, which includes the loss by him and his dependents of eligibility for admission to the Maryland Masonic Homes. The notice shall be sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, to his residence if known, or if unknown, then to the address of his last known residence, which shall be deemed a legal notice. This notice shall be sent at least one week prior to December 1, and at least 30 days prior to action being taken on his delinquency by the Lodge. Proof of notice shall be maintained by the Lodge and recorded in the minutes of its proceedings.
2. The Lodge shall take action to suspend a delinquent member at its first or second regular Communication in January. The suspension shall be effective as of December 31, and the suspended member's name shall not be included in the returns of the Lodge to the Grand Secretary.
3. Notice of suspension shall include a statement of how a suspended member may regain his membership. It shall be sent promptly by registered or certified mail to his residence if known, or if unknown, then to the address of his last known residence.
4. ⁷⁷If a member thus suspended pays all his arrearage plus the cost of all notices and postage associated with his suspension within six (6) months from the date of his suspension, he shall automatically be reinstated to all the rights and privileges of Masonry. Failing to do so within six (6) months, he may be reinstated only by paying all arrearage up to the time of his suspension plus the cost of notices and postages and petitioning the Lodge for reinstatement.
5. ⁷⁸If a member pays his arrearage plus the cost of postage and notices after six months and his petition for reinstatement is rejected, he becomes an unaffiliated Mason. He may then petition any other Lodge for affiliation.
6. Nothing herein shall affect the right of the Lodge to remit the dues, per capita tax and assessments of a member.

I. **Jurisdiction** - The territorial jurisdiction of all Lodges within the State of Maryland is concurrent.

1. Territorial jurisdiction over an applicant is relinquished when he moves into another Grand Jurisdiction.

2. A request for a Waiver of territorial jurisdiction shall be acted upon by the next communication following its receipt.
3. Personal jurisdiction over a rejected applicant is relinquished when he moves to another Grand Jurisdiction.
4. An unaffiliated Mason residing in Maryland may deposit his demit in any Lodge. If rejected, he may immediately apply for membership in another Lodge, within or without the Jurisdiction of Maryland. He is not required to state that he has been previously rejected.
5. Any prospective petitioner, who resides in Maryland, irrespective of the length of his residence, is considered to be within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Maryland. A Waiver from the subordinate Lodge nearest his residence shall be secured before he may be accepted in another jurisdiction. Requests for waivers of jurisdiction from other jurisdictions shall be considered for extenuating circumstances (such as relationship, convenience in attending Lodge, exceptional friendship and so on). All Waivers shall be instituted through the office of the Grand Master, and he in turn shall forward the Waiver for action to the subordinate Lodge nearest the residence of the petitioner. The Lodge may, if necessary, appoint an investigation committee for a Waiver and action shall be taken at the next stated Communication following the receipt of the request for Waiver.
6. In the absence of a waiver of territorial jurisdiction, any man within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Maryland who resides nearer a subordinate Lodge of this jurisdiction than a subordinate Lodge of another jurisdiction and who receives the degrees of Masonry in a sister jurisdiction during this residence shall be barred from all the rights and privileges of Freemasonry in this jurisdiction until the disability shall be removed by this Grand Lodge.

Section 8. Charges and Trials

- A. Charges Against a Brother** - All charges against a Brother, to be tried in any Maryland Lodge, shall be in writing, specifically setting forth the cause of grievance and signed by the complainant or complainants. A copy shall be served on the accused, except when he is beyond the jurisdiction of the Lodge. An unaffiliated Mason has no right to prefer charges against a Brother in good standing.
1. When all the parties shall have been summoned to attend a hearing on the Charges and the case has been investigated, such order and adjudication may be made as shall be authorized by the laws and regulations of Masonry.
- B. Charges Against the Presiding Officer** - A Lodge shall not try charges against its presiding officer. Any three members of a Lodge may prefer charges for neglect or mal-conduct against him to the Grand Master or Grand Lodge.

C. ⁷⁹**Charges Against an Unaffiliated Mason** - The following Lodges shall have jurisdiction over unaffiliated Masons and may exercise discipline for unmasonic conduct over such unaffiliated Masons:

1. The Lodge issuing the demit, whether such unaffiliated Mason resides in Maryland or elsewhere, and
2. A Lodge in whose vicinity such unaffiliated Mason resides.

D. **Trials** - When a Brother is tried on any charge, the Secretary of the subordinate Lodge shall take down in writing, or have taken down, the evidence offered, decisions and rulings of the Master, and action taken by the Lodge. He and the Master shall certify the correctness of the proceedings. Each member present at a Masonic Trial is an interested party within the meaning of Section 8 of "Charges and Trial for the Guidance of Subordinate Lodges."

E. **Form of Charges and Trial** - Charges and trials shall be governed by Procedures adopted by the Grand Lodge entitled "Charges and Trial for the Guidance of Subordinate Lodges."

F. **Appeals** - All cases of suspension or expulsion by a subordinate Lodge may be appealed to the Grand Lodge.

1. No appeal may be heard unless made within six months after the Lodge's action.
2. All appeals to the Grand Lodge shall be made by written notice to the Secretary of the subordinate Lodge and the Grand Secretary. During the recess of Grand Lodge appeals shall be brought to the attention of the Committee on Grievance, whose duty it shall be to inquire into the matter, so that it may be prepared to report at the next communication.
3. The investigation of an appeal shall be confined to the charges and evidence before the subordinate Lodge, its action and the decision of the Master thereupon.

G. ⁸⁰**Action by Grand Master** – In all cases where a Master Mason has been found guilty or has pleaded guilty to one or more criminal offenses in a court of competent jurisdiction of the State of Maryland a court of competent jurisdiction of any other State; or in a Federal Court of the United States of America, the Worshipful Master of a Lodge may refer the charges pending before the Lodge to the Grand Master along with sufficient documentation of such conviction. Upon receipt of the charges and documentation the Grand Master may dispense with a trial in the Lodge and may summarily dispose of the charges at his discretion. The Grand Master may impose such penalty or penalties as the Grand Master deems appropriate. In the event the Grand Master elects not to act pursuant hereto, he shall refer the charges back to the Worshipful Master and the Lodge shall proceed with a trial as provided for by this Constitution and the Form of Charges and Trial.

Section 9. Religious, Memorial and Burial Services

A. **Divine Services** - Having belief in an infinitely wise, beneficent and Supreme Being is an essential tenet of our Institution. Lodges are therefore encouraged to attend Divine Services whenever convenient, and at least once a year on Sunday nearest the Festival of either St. John.

1. When members of a Lodge attend Divine Services, they may assemble at the place of Worship, or a Special Communication of the Lodge may be held for that purpose, at the discretion of the Worshipful Master.
2. Other Masonic or Collateral Bodies may participate in the service, but only the regalia or jewels of the subordinate Lodge may be worn.
3. A non-profit meal may be held either before or after the services.
4. No dispensation is required for any of these functions.

B. Memorial and Burial Services - Every Master Mason affiliated and in good standing at the time of his death is entitled to a Masonic Memorial or Burial Service.

1. At the beginning of his term in office, the Worshipful Master shall open a Lodge of Sorrow, which shall be closed at the conclusion of his term.
2. Memorial and Burial services shall be conducted in compliance with the ritual established by the Committee on Work.
3. A Lodge shall conduct a Memorial or Burial Service if it has been requested by a Brother prior to his death, or by a family member thereafter, provided:
 - a. He is a member in good standing at the time of his death; and
 - b. He has been identified to the satisfaction of the Worshipful Master or his delegated subordinate officer.
4. A Memorial or Burial Service may be conducted for an unaffiliated Mason upon dispensation by the Grand Master.
5. Refusal by the Worshipful Master or his delegated offices to conduct a Memorial or Burial Service may subject the Brother to disciplinary action, unless excused by a written dispensation from the Grand Master. Such a dispensation shall be read in open Lodge at the next stated communication.
6. The Lodge Service is used if a Lodge is convened for the purpose of conducting a Burial Service. Minutes shall be recorded for the meeting.
7. Whenever a Burial Service is not conducted in a place of worship (such as from a home, an undertaker's establishment, etc.), and there is no clergyman present to conduct a religious ceremony, the official Lodge Service, prescribed by the Committee on Work, shall be used at the gathering place and the Burial Service at the grave.

8. A Masonic Burial Service shall be under the control of the Lodge, and all pallbearers must be Masons. It shall immediately follow the services of the Church, except where military regulations of the U.S. Government interfere. A clergyman may commit the body.
 - a. No members of other societies or organizations may participate in the services until the Masonic Ceremonies are fully completed.
9. The Burial Service may be conducted when the body is to be cremated. After cremation, or in the absence of the body for other reasons, a Memorial Service may be conducted at a place of worship, at the home of the deceased member, or at some other appropriate place, provided the ritual of the Memorial Service conforms to the body's absence.
10. By agreement among the Grand Lodges of Delaware, District of Columbia, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Maryland, Lodges are not required to obtain dispensations to conduct Funeral Services in the following cases:
 - a. Where the funeral originates in the State of Maryland, and the funeral procession passes through or interment takes place within any of these Grand Jurisdiction, and
 - b. Where the funeral originates in one of these Grand Jurisdictions and the funeral passes through, or interment takes place within, any of them or the State of Maryland.
11. When the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania or West Virginia is involved, the Maryland Lodge performing the burial service shall, as far in advance as possible, give notice of the proposed interment to the Grand Secretary of Maryland or to the Lodge nearest the place of burial in Pennsylvania or West Virginia.
12. All requests by Lodges of these Grand Jurisdictions for a Maryland Lodge to perform a courtesy memorial or burial service, and similar requests by Maryland Lodges, may be arranged directly between the Lodges.

Section 10. Limitations on Lodges and Members

- A. **Actions at Law** - No Lodge may apply to the General Assembly or the State Department of Assessments and Taxation or to any other State Administrative Agency for charters or amendments to any existing charters, without first obtaining the permission of Grand Lodge.
- B. **Furnishing of Membership Information** - Some Grand Lodges consider membership information as highly confidential. The Grand Secretary shall furnish the names and addresses of only those Grand Secretaries of Grand Lodges, which care to furnish such information.
 1. The Grand Secretary or Lodge Secretaries may furnish Maryland membership information to recognized Masonic organizations. Other requests shall be considered on their own merits.

C. **Grand Honors** - The Grand Master and Past Grand Masters of the Grand Lodge of Maryland are entitled to be received with Grand Honors when visiting a subordinate Lodge. The Grand Master alone shall be received under staffs.

1. Grand Masters from other jurisdictions may be given Grand Honors only upon dispensation by the Grand Master.

D. **Laying of Cornerstones** - A Lodge may lay cornerstones, unveil statues, and so on, only upon dispensation by the Grand Master. These ceremonies lie within the province of Grand Lodge, and shall be done while the Lodge is opened in the third degree.

E. ⁸¹**Lodge Notices** - Masonic Notices may or may not be sent in sealed envelopes, as circumstances require. Notices of Divine Services and burials may be sent on post cards. ⁸²At the election of a member, if the Lodge desired to offer such election, Masonic Notices may be sent by means of electronic communication including, but not limited to, email. Such elections shall be made by means of either verbal or written notice of election to any officer of the member's Lodge, who shall communicate such election to the secretary of the Lodge as soon as practicable following receipt of such notice. Email notice of election shall be considered written notice for this purpose. All communications sent pursuant to this Section shall conform to the privacy standards established in Article XVI, Section 10(F).

F. **Membership Rosters** - A roster that includes addresses of the members of a Lodge, whether mailing addresses and/or e-mail addresses and/or addresses used for other forms of electronic communication is considered a mailing list and shall be restricted to the officers of the Lodge for strictly Lodge business.

1. Mailing lists shall not be released to any unauthorized persons (such as to a printer, for mailings); ⁸³provided, however, that mailing lists may be released to printers or mailing houses after they have executed a non-disclosure document, approved by the Grand Lodge, guaranteeing that the printer or mailing house will not disclose or use the lists for any purpose other than the Lodge's business as specified by the Lodge.
2. Any member who uses or permits such lists to be used for any improper purpose may be subject to charges of unmasonic conduct.
3. ⁸⁴To further protect the privacy of the membership, and communications sent via electronic methods shall be completed in a manner, in which the individual addresses of members shall not be exposed. These methods include, but are not limited to, use of BCC (blind carbon copy) and omission of the "To:" field.

G. **Press Information** - Information regarding the esoteric work of Masonry or regarding business matters of a Lodge or Grand Lodge shall not be released for publication. Publication of general news items; social events; burial, memorial or divine services; and information stating the date and meeting place of a Lodge and the degree to be conferred, if any, is encouraged.

H. **Public Processions** - No public procession may take place without a dispensation, except for burial of the dead or attendance at Divine Services.

I. **Right of Visitation** - Every Master Mason in good standing has the privilege of visiting Lodges other than his own, when no objection is made. The objection shall be made only by a member of the Lodge visited and may be made either before or after the visitor has been admitted. The member objecting shall not have to state his reason. The objection must be sustained by the Worshipful Master. This does not apply to a Grand Lodge Officer visiting on official business, or to a personal representative of Grand Lodge.

1. An unaffiliated Mason may visit a Lodge only upon the invitation of the Worshipful Master. He has no Masonic rights and privileges, except those extended to him by courtesy.

J. **Ritual Rehearsals** - Ritual rehearsals should be held in a Masonic Temple or other regular meeting place of the Lodge. Rehearsals on Sunday are permitted with the approval of the Master and the governing body of the Temple if they do not conflict with any regularly scheduled Church Service in the community.

K. **Soliciting Aid from other Grand Jurisdictions** - No Lodge may solicit aid from other Grand Jurisdictions without the permission of Grand Master.

L. **Uniforms or Regalia** - The uniform or regalia of other fraternal organizations shall not be worn during Lodge meetings.

M. **Visitations of Lodges** - Visitations between Maryland Lodges and with Lodges of other Grand Jurisdictions are encouraged. With the neighboring jurisdictions (Delaware, District of Columbia, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia), no dispensation is required when the visiting Lodge will not confer any Degrees or take part in the Degree work (1962 agreement with these jurisdictions). Dispensations are required for visiting any Lodge outside of the neighboring jurisdictions and for the conferring of Degrees by the visiting Lodge.

N. **The Word** - Taking of "GMW" shall be done only by the Worshipful Master or Grand Inspector at a stated Communication of the Lodge.

Section 11. Returns to Grand Lodge

A. **Semi-Annual and Annual Returns** - As of the last day of June and December of each year, every Lodge shall make a return of its members to the Grand Secretary, stating particularly: the date of each initiation, passing and raising; the degrees of its members; admissions; deaths; rejections of candidates; suspensions, expulsions and reinstatements of members; the Lodge name and number; and the time and place of its stated meetings. The returns shall be in the form that Grand Secretary directs, and shall be signed by the Worshipful Master and Wardens and attested to by the Secretary. Returns of June 30th shall include a complete list of all members. Returns of December 31st shall be an abstract of the membership. These returns shall be

forwarded to the Grand Secretary on or before the 31st day of July and January of each year, together with payment in full of amounts due.

B. Penalty for Failure to Report - If a Lodge fails to comply with the requirements of Section 11.A it shall lose its vote at the following Communication of Grand Lodge.

1. Any Lodge that fails to make its returns or pay its dues, initiation fees, assessments and Masonic Homes Maintenance Tax to Grand Lodge for four stated Communications shall be deemed extinct and its Charter forfeited.

C. Report of Officers Elect - Immediately after the annual election of a Lodge, the Secretary shall forward a list of officers elect and their post office addresses to the Grand Secretary so that they may be published with the Proceedings of Grand Lodge.

D. Applications for Remission of Dues - All Lodges applying to Grand Lodge for remission of dues shall submit their application with their books of account for inspection.

Section 12. Dissolution of a Lodge

A. A Lodge may be dissolved by -

1. Voluntary surrender of its Charter, or
2. Revocation of its Charter by Grand Lodge.

B. Dissolution - A Lodge cannot be dissolved by its own act, as long as seven members vote to retain the Charter.

C. Surrender to the Grand Lodge - Upon dissolution of a Lodge, the last Secretary and Treasurer shall immediately deliver to Grand Secretary, or any other Brother appointed by Grand Master to receive them, the Charter, seal, books, papers, jewels, furniture, funds and other assets of the Lodge.

Section 13. ⁸⁵Merger of Lodges

Any two or more Lodges may merge under the name, number and Charter of any of said constituent Lodges in the following manner: A resolution proposing such merger and the terms and conditions thereof, shall be presented at a stated meeting of each constituent Lodge and acted on at a subsequent stated meeting held within six months, of which all members shall be notified by mail directed to the last known address of each of such members at least ten days prior to the meeting date at which the resolution is to be voted upon.

Such resolution, with a certificate stating notice was given as aforesaid, and a statement that such resolution carried, and the vote thereon, signed by the Master and the Secretary, and sealed by the seal of the Lodge, shall be sent to the Grand Master and to the Master of each constituent Lodge.

Adoption of the resolution shall require a vote of two-thirds of the members present at such meeting of each constituent Lodge.

If the Grand Master approves the action he shall attach his approval thereto and transmit all of the documents to the Grand Secretary for the permanent records of the Grand Lodge and immediately notify the Master of each interested Lodge of his approval of such merger and the merger shall be effective from the date of his approval.

The Master of the Lodge(s) ceasing to exist shall immediately transmit the Charter and seal of such Lodge to the Grand Secretary and such Master shall rank as a Past Master from the date such Charter and seal are transmitted to the Grand Secretary without regard to the term for which such Master was elected, and such Master shall be and become a permanent member of the Grand Lodge, whether or not he has served a full term.

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

All Past Masters shall retain and enjoy all rights and privileges as such in the surviving Lodge. The name of the surviving Lodge may thereafter be changed by a vote of two-thirds of the member present at a stated Communication, due notice of which has been given to the membership of the surviving Lodge, and with the approval of the Grand Lodge at a subsequent Communication.

ARTICLE XVI-A
⁸⁶Memorial Lodge

Section 1. Formation

A Memorial Lodge, to be known as "The Dr. John Coats Memorial Lodge No. 1787", is hereby formed.

Section 2. Funds

All funds of such Memorial Lodge shall be under the control of the Board of Managers of the Grand Lodge. ⁸⁷All contributions, devices or bequests to the Grand Lodge specifically designating the Dr. John Coats Memorial Fund shall be credited to that Fund; all other contributions, devices or bequests to the Grand Lodge shall be used by the Board for the benefit of the Grand Lodge as they see fit.

Section 3. By-Laws

The rules and regulations under which such Memorial Lodge shall operate shall be set forth in By-Laws approved, from time to time, by the Grand Lodge.

⁸⁸**ARTICLE XVI-B**
Non-Conforming Lodges

Section 1. Formation

A Non- Conforming Lodge is a number of brethren, duly assembled, with a charter or warrant empowering to assemble for masonic purposes except as limited by Section 2. hereof.

Section 2. Limitation Of Authority

A Non-Conforming Lodge shall not be authorized to confer any of the three degrees of masonry nor shall it be required to meet as provided for by Article XVI, Section 4A of the Constitution, provided the dates and times of the monthly meetings are set forth in the Lodge Trestle Board. In all other respects a Non-Conforming Lodge shall be required to abide by and conform to all other requirements of the Constitution, Standing Orders And Resolutions, Edicts Of Grand Masters And Related Actions Of The Grand Lodge Of A.F. & A.M. of Maryland. A Non-Conforming Lodge shall not have a vote at Grand Lodge, nor will its Past Masters be deemed to have passed the chair.

Section 3. By-Laws

The rules and regulations of a Non-Conforming Lodge by which it shall be governed shall be its By-Laws which shall be adopted and approved by the Grand Lodge in accordance with Article XVI Section 2 of the Constitution.

Section 4. Conduct Of Meetings

All meetings shall be opened and closed in the same manner and form as a regular lodge.

Section 5. Dispensations

The Most Worshipful Grand Master may, from time to time, grant such dispensations, which in his discretion, may be necessary or desirable for the proper conduct of the Lodge.

ARTICLE XVII
General Masonic Limitations

Section 1. ⁸⁹Sunday Activities

The Grand Lodge of Maryland, acting in its supreme and sovereign authority and power, hereby declares that whatever superstructure is erected, basing membership therein on Freemasonry and its morals, is built upon the foundation laid by the Grand Lodge, and no such entity will be permitted to conduct on Sunday any activities other than those permitted under Article XVI, Sections 4C and 10J to promote their interest, except upon prior written request and approval of the Grand Master.

Section 2. ⁹⁰Lotteries and Games of Chance

Subordinate Lodges will be permitted to have lotteries, games of chance, raffles, drawings, 50-50's, Bingo and like fund raising activities. All profits shall be used for the Lodges operating expenses, charitable activities and other Lodge functions. Slot Machines, Card Game Machines, Money Wheels and other gambling devices are prohibited.

Section 3. Chain Letters

The circulation of Masonic chain letters or any chain letters enclosing or requesting, suggesting or enjoining the mailing of any sum, matter or thing of value is unmasonic conduct and any Mason subject to the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Maryland who affixes or permits his name to be affixed to, or who consents to the use of his name in any such chain letter deposited in the United States mail, or who knowingly deposits any such chain letter in the United States mail, shall be deemed to have committed a Masonic offense and shall be subject to having charges preferred against him for unmasonic conduct.

Section 4. Participation of Non-Masons-Masonic Activities

Subordinate or collateral Masonic bodies who participate in functions requiring its members to wear uniforms or other identifying articles of wearing apparel, when playing in bands, marching units in processions or participating in groups which identify them as Masons, shall not permit non-Masons to participate and wear such uniform or article designating him as a member of the organization. Any collateral or subordinate body permitting violations shall be brought to the attention of the Grand Master.

ARTICLE XVIII
⁹¹Recognition of Masonic Bodies

Section 1. Recognition

While recognizing no degrees of Masonry except those conferred under the regulations of the Grand Lodges of the various States and Territories of the United States and the Grand Lodges of other countries or jurisdictions to which fraternal recognition has been extended by this Grand Lodge, nevertheless, this Grand Lodge recognizes the following named organizations to be Masonic:

- A. The General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch. Masons International; The Grand Royal Arch Chapters of the several States and Territories of the United States, and the Royal Arch Chapters and other Bodies under their jurisdiction.
- B. The General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International, The Grand Councils of Royal and Select Masters of the several States and Territories of the United States, and the Councils under their jurisdiction.
- C. The Grand Encampment of the United States, The Grand Commanderies of the several States and Territories of the United States, and the Commanderies under their jurisdiction.
- D. The Supreme Councils of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for the Northern and Southern Jurisdictions of the United States, and various Bodies under their jurisdiction.
- E. The Imperial Council of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine for North America, and the Temples under its jurisdiction.
- F. Tall Cedars of Lebanon.
- G. National Sojourners, Incorporated, and the chapters under their jurisdiction.
- H. Supreme Council, Mystic Order, Veiled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm Grottoes of North America, and the Grottoes under its jurisdiction.
- I. Masonic Veteran Association of Maryland.
- J. Maryland Masonic Research Society
- K. Order of the Amaranth
- L. Daughters of the Nile
- M. Order of DeMolay

N. The International Order of Job's Daughters

O. International Order of The Rainbow for Girls

P. The Order of the Eastern Star

Q. The White Shrine of Jerusalem

R. Ladies Oriental Shrine of North America

S. The United Grand Imperial Council of the Red Cross of Constantine and its appendant orders.

T. The Royal Order of Scotland and its provincial Grand Lodges.

Section 2. Other Masonic Bodies

The recognition of any rite, body, or organization named in this section shall not be prejudicial to the rights of any other legitimate Masonic organization.

ARTICLE XIX

⁹²Amendments to Constitution

Section 1. Proposed Amendments

⁹³No amendment shall be made to this Constitution unless it is proposed in writing at a previous stated Communication of Grand Lodge. A fair copy thereof, certified by Grand Secretary not less than sixty days prior to the next stated Communication, shall be forwarded to every subordinate Lodge for consideration. Such proposed amendment shall be adopted if there shall appear in favor of it a two-thirds majority of the members present who are eligible to vote, unless a vote by Lodge shall be called for by at least two Lodges having the right to vote, or by the Grand Master in his discretion, whereupon a two-thirds majority of the votes cast according to the order prescribed in Section 1.A, of Article VI hereof shall govern. Provided, however:

- A. If a proposed amendment has been defeated at a stated communication of Grand Lodge and has not received a simple majority favorable vote, it cannot be proposed again at the next stated communication of Grand Lodge.
- B. If a proposed amendment has been defeated at a stated communication of Grand Lodge but has received a simple majority favorable vote, it shall be introduced a second time only, in the original unaltered form, at the next stated communication of Grand Lodge. If such proposed amendment introduced this second time, does not receive a two-thirds majority favorable vote, it will be ruled defeated and not eligible to be introduced at the next communication of Grand Lodge.

Section 2. Adoption

The adoption of this Constitution shall not affect the existing term of any officer of Grand Lodge or any member of Board of Managers or Board of Trustees; and all legislation heretofore enacted that may be inconsistent with this Constitution is hereby repealed and declared null and void.

Section 3. Adherence to Ancient Rules and Regulations

In all matters not specifically provided for in this Constitution, the Grand Lodge shall adhere to and be governed by the Ancient Rules and Regulations of Masonry.

**STANDING ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS
OF THE GRAND LODGE OF MARYLAND**

FRATERNAL RECOGNITION WITHDRAWN FROM GRAND ORIENT OF FRANCE

No. 1 WHEREAS, The Grand Lodge of Maryland adopted May 1870, the following Standing Resolution:

That until the Grand Orient of France shall withdraw its recognition of the so called Supreme Council of the A and AS. Rite, of the Sovereign and Independent State of Louisiana, all fraternal relations and correspondence between that Grand Orient and this Grand Lodge be, and the same are, hereby suspended; and

WHEREAS, The Grand Orient of France has eliminated from its Constitution the name of Deity - the belief in and recognition of Whom, from time immemorial has been a fundamental principle of Freemasonry, as also an essential prerequisite for anyone who desires to enter her portals - therefore, in order to be more emphatic in the severance of our relations with the Grand Orient of France, be it

Resolved, That all Masonic communication and intercourse by the Freemasons of Maryland with the Grand Orient of France, its subordinates, or any Mason who owes allegiance thereto, is hereby prohibited by this Grand Lodge.

MASONIC RELIEF ASSOCIATION

No. 2 Resolved, That the Masonic Relief Association of the United States and Canada is requested to furnish the Lodges of this Jurisdiction with the warning circular issued by the Association, for which the Grand Lodge will pay the agreed per capita.

No. 3 Revoked May Communication, 1985

FRATERNAL RECOGNITION DENIED TO GRAND ORIENT OF SPAIN

No. 4 Resolved, that all Lodges in the United States holding Charters from the Grand Orient of Spain are hereby declared clandestine Lodges, and all persons affiliating with these Lodges are to be considered clandestine Masons.

MASONIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION

No. 5 Resolved that the Grand Lodge of AF & AM of Maryland hereby formally confirms and adopts the constitution of the Masonic Service Association and hereby enrolls itself as a member of the Association. The Grand Master, or his successor or successors, or such Brother as he or they may appoint under the Seal of the Grand Lodge, duly certified by the Grand Secretary, shall be the accredited representative of this Grand Lodge in the Association.

**FRATERNAL RECOGNITION WITHDRAWN
FROM GRAND ORIENT OF BELGIUM**

No. 6 WHEREAS, The Grand Lodge of Maryland considers belief in God to be the foundation of Freemasonry and believes the Holy Bible to be an essential part of the furniture of every Masonic Lodge; and

WHEREAS, it appears that the Grand Orient of Belgium does not insist upon these fundamentals of Freemasonry; therefore, be it

Resolved, That all relations between the Grand Lodge of Maryland and the Grand Orient of Belgium be, and they hereby are, severed, and that no person claiming allegiance to the Grand Orient may be admitted to any Lodge in this jurisdiction; and that all members of Lodges in the State of Maryland are hereby forbidden to visit any Lodge or to have Masonic intercourse with any person holding allegiance to the said Grand Orient of Belgium.

FRATERNAL RECOGNITION

No. 7 Resolved, that fraternal recognition may be extended to a Grand Lodge when it appears to the satisfaction of this Grand Lodge (a committee having first considered and reported thereon):

- A. That the Grand Lodge can trace its lineage to one of the Grand Lodges of the British Isles or, if its formation was merely irregular as distinguished from clandestine, can meet the requirements of Paragraphs 3,4,5 and 6 of this Resolution:
- B. That it has been formed lawfully by at least three just and duly constituted Lodges by the action of this Grand Lodge or by a Grand Lodge in fraternal relations with this Grand Lodge;
- C. That it is an independent, self-governing, responsible organization with entire, undisputed and exclusive dogmatic and administrative authority over the Symbolic Lodges within its jurisdiction, and is not in any sense whatever subject to or dividing its authority with a Supreme Councilor other body claiming ritualistic or other supervision or control;
- D. That it makes Masons of men only;
- E. That it requires conformity to:
 - 1. Acknowledgment of a belief in God the Father of all men,
 - 2. Secrecy,
 - 3. The Symbolism of Operative Masonry,
 - 4. The division of Symbolic Masonry into the three degrees,
 - 5. The Legend of the Third Degree,
 - 6. The indispensable presence in the Lodge while at work of the Holy Bible, Chief among the Three Great Lights of Masonry;

- F. That its dominant purposes are charitable, benevolent, educational and for the development of a sincere reverence for God as the Father of all men, and that it excludes controversial politics and sectarian religion from all activities under its auspices;
- G. That it occupies exclusively its territorial jurisdiction or else shares it with another Grand Lodge by mutual consent, and that it does not presume to extend its authority into, or presume to establish Lodges in, a territory occupied by a lawful Grand Lodge, without expressed assent of such supreme governing Masonic Body.

⁹⁴STATEMENT ON SECRECY

No. 8 Resolved, that the edict of Grand Master C. David Haacke entitled "Statement on Secrecy" heretofore presented to the May 1986 Semi-Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Maryland be, and the same is, hereby adopted as a Standing Resolution, which reads as follow:

It has been of serious concern to me that we have been inconsistent in our instructions to new members, Brothers, and ourselves regarding what may or may not be disclosed about Masonry to those who are uninitiated.

⁹⁵In order that a proper understanding of "Masonic Secrets" may be conveyed to and understood by a newly initiated Brother, the following statement shall be read to the Brother by his Catechism Instructor for each of the three degrees of Masonry. Also, a copy of the statement will be given to the Brother for his record.

"My Brethren:

The twenty-third landmark of Freemasonry states that 'Freemasonry is a secret society, in possession of secrets that cannot be divulged.'

This naturally raises the question of what is 'secret' and what is not. We would like to impress upon you that our Order is not a secret one in the sense that everything that goes on in the Lodge room may never be revealed; rather it is an Order, which has certain secrets, which we do not share with the world outside these doors. You are not to talk about these secrets to anyone whom you do not know to be a Mason, or who has not been properly vouched for by another Brother whom you know to be a Mason.

Please do not take these remarks to mean that nothing you have done or heard here this evening may be discussed with your family or friends, for that is not our intention. We ask only that you do not talk about the secret parts of our Ritual with the uninitiated. Your catechism instructor will gladly help you in determining what is, and is not, of a secret nature.

The following guidelines are offered for (1) members of the fraternity and (2) officers and instructors of the Catechism when discussing the subject of Masonry with newly initiated Brethren as to what may, or may not, be disclosed to the uninitiated. In conversation with the uninitiated, the following may be discussed:

- 1. It teaches service to God, to a Brother, and to all mankind.**
- 2. It uses the tools of the builder's trade as emblems and symbols to teach Masons how to build character and moral stature.**
- 3. The Morals behind our teachings, but not the way we go about teaching those morals.**
- 4. We open all of our meetings with prayer and honors to the flag of our country.**
- 5. We are a society that attempts to take good men and make better men of them.**
- 6. The fact that we conduct a normal business meeting.**

At the same time, the following should not be discussed:

- 1. Signs, Words and Modes of Recognition.**
- 2. The secret meaning of our symbols.**
- 3. The manner in which our degrees are conferred.**
- 4. Exact ritualistic ceremonies.**

Masonry is not a secret society in the sense that its existence is secret; rather, it is a private society that has certain reservations, which it makes known only to Masons. The purpose of Masonry in the world is not secret. Anybody who wishes to do so can find out where Masonic Lodges meet. Its members are known. Its history and its philosophy are open to anyone who wishes to read its extensive literature."

MASONIC CHARITIES OF MARYLAND, INC.

No. 9 Whereas, discussions between representatives of Grand Lodge of Maryland (Grand Lodge) and Masonic Charities of Maryland, Inc. (Masonic Charities) resulted in the adoption of Amended By-Laws by the Board of Directors of Masonic Charities effective as of today, a copy of which is attached hereto; and

Whereas, these Amended By-Laws provide for supervision and control by the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge of the acts, activities, and programs of Masonic Charities so as to prevent any un-masonic conduct while still permitting Masonic Charities to operate independently as a charitable corporation; and

Whereas, as a result of the adoption of these Amended By-Laws it is now appropriate for this Grand Lodge to recognize and support Masonic Charities; therefore, be it Resolved:

- 1. That Masonic Charities is hereby authorized to conduct its business in the name of this Grand Lodge and with the support of this Grand Lodge.**
- 2. That this Grand Lodge agrees that at its Annual Communications it will elect directors of Masonic Charities as set forth in the Amended By-Laws of Masonic Charities; the election procedures (nominations and elections) will be the same procedures used by Grand Lodge for the election of members of the Board of Managers and the Board of Trustees.**

3. The Edict of then Grand Master B. Hope Harrison dated May 30, 1990 dealing with the disassociation of this Grand Lodge from Masonic Charities, which Edict was presented to this Grand Lodge at its Annual Communication held on November 19,1990, is hereby revoked.

4. Grand Master John McWilliam Smith, Jr., has agreed to revoke, upon passage of this Standing Order and Resolution, his Edict dated May 20, 1991 to the extent that it applies to future golf tournaments sponsored by Masonic Charities.

ALCOHOL

No. 10 Resolved, that the edict of Grand Master William M. Clark, Jr., entitled "Alcohol" heretofore presented to the May 1994 Semi-Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Maryland be and the same is hereby adopted as a Standing Resolution, which reads as follows:

One of the most perplexing problems to confront your Grand Master in recent months has been the dispensing of alcoholic beverages in some of our Masonic buildings.

I am fully aware that many of our Blue Lodges, particularly on Ladies Night or other social events, have forsaken their lodge building to go to another establishment where alcoholic beverages are available. In many cases this action has deprived Masonic associations or trustees from revenue, which they might otherwise have received. Conversely, it has also come to my attention that alcoholic beverages are, and have been, made available in some Masonic buildings in violation of present unwritten Masonic dogma.

It is my understanding that where this has been done, it has been to prevent lodges from going outside for accommodations and thereby get an extra rental for the use of the banquet facilities. I am also aware of the increasing operational costs of our lodges, such as utilities and maintenance. Nor can I overlook the dilemma of shrinking membership and associated loss of revenue.

In view of the many problems facing our Blue Lodges at the present time, and taking into consideration the trend of the times, your Grand Master, after due consideration hereby rules that alcoholic beverages may, with the concurrence of a majority of its members, be dispensed in any Masonic building.

Social Halls are subject to the following restrictions and limitations.

1. At no time shall alcoholic beverages be introduced into a Lodge Room, except for authorized ceremonial purposes, or those rooms used directly in connection therewith, such as the preparation room, Tyler's room, or corridors adjacent thereto.
2. At no time shall officers of a Lodge partake of alcoholic beverages after a meal and before the opening of a lodge that they are to attend.
3. At no time shall any member be admitted to a lodge meeting under the influence of alcoholic beverages.

4. At no time shall there be any area allotted to, or construction of, a permanent servicing facility within any Masonic building under this jurisdiction.
5. The temperate use and dispensing of alcoholic beverages during exclusively social functions, fellowship and banquet periods, always in the confines of the social rooms, banquet rooms, or dining halls and always under the control of responsible persons, is not prohibited.
6. The foregoing is not to be construed as a mandate that the use and dispensing of alcoholic beverages must be allowed; whether such use is allowed or prohibited, is for the local Masonic lodge, and the building association, to determine as the case may be.
7. All applicable laws and regulations, both of the State of Maryland and of the local authorities, shall be observed and complied with at all times.
8. No lodge or recognized collateral body as such shall apply for or hold any license required by the foregoing laws or regulations.
9. Reference to alcoholic beverages, in any connotation, such as cocktails, bar, BYOB, etc., *is not permitted* in any lodge notice, or as an enclosure in the mailing of a lodge notice. The use of the phrase "Social Hour" or "Social Period" is not prohibited.

We recognize that times change and it is easily demonstrated that in the 1990's a substantial number of our members use alcoholic beverages, always within the bounds of temperance, and the temptation is to leave our meeting places, in connection with a social function, for an atmosphere and surroundings which often can be contradictory to the atmosphere and surroundings of a lodge building.

It is to devise a policy that recognizes that there are various points of view on this question, and at the same time, to preserve our time-honored sacred places and ideas, that the above stated edict is directed.

ALCOHOLIC USE REGULATIONS

In compliance with the Edict issued by Grand Master William M. Clark, Jr., at the Semi Annual Communication of May 16, 1994, the following standards must be adhered to:

1. Alcohol may be used in specific areas only.
2. Alcohol is allowed at social functions and after lodge meetings only.
3. Alcohol cannot be sold without a state permit, but the lodge may give it away.
4. Alcohol may be used in our lodge buildings by the members and also by public rentals under specific agreement.
5. It is allowed to a BYOB if there is no cover charge.
6. A permanent license is not allowed in a Masonic building.
7. State and local regulations must at all times be followed.

8. Building Holding Corporation Members are required to monitor the use of alcohol in their buildings and insure that all rules are adhered to.

The above stated regulations are valid for the use of alcoholic beverages in a lodge building with the concurrence of the lodge members.

MASONIC MEMORIAL SERVICES

No. 11 Resolved, that the edict of Grand Master Stephen J. Ponzillo, Jr. entitled "Masonic Memorial Services" heretofore presented to the May, 1995 Semi-Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Maryland be and the same is hereby adopted as a Standing Resolution, which reads as follows:

On many occasions, I have been privileged to observe and to participate in the Masonic Memorial Service. When effectively performed, this final tribute to a Brother is full of meaning and reflects credit on the Fraternity and those involved. I have become concerned that the proper decorum and dignity required has too often been missing from recent memorial services. Additionally, representatives of funeral establishments have expressed concern about the demeanor of members while waiting to conduct the memorial service.

Wishing to insure that memorial services are conducted in a way that reflects credit to the fraternity and all concerned, I am issuing the following edict, and

THEREFORE, as the Grand Master of Masons in Maryland I hereby decree that the following procedures will be required and followed for the conduct of the Masonic Memorial Services.

1. The appropriate dress for all participants will be dark clothes.
2. The Worshipful Master, Chaplain, and Marshal will wear tuxedos. The only substitute for tuxedos will be dark suit for the Chaplain and Marshal.
3. The Worshipful Master will conduct Memorial Service from memory without the assistance of the ritual book.
4. The Chaplain is permitted to use the ritual book and, if needed, may act as a prompter for the Worshipful Master.
5. The Senior Warden must perform, from memory, the Masonic Memorial ritual as part of the exemplification of the degrees. The Grand Lecturer will be responsible for assuring that his Deputies strictly adhere to this procedure.
6. Any Past Master elected to serve as Worshipful Master for a subsequent term will not be required to be re-certified with their ritualistic work; however, he will be required to be certified in the conduct of the Masonic Memorial Service, by memory, before being qualified for installation as Worshipful Master.

7. During the Schools of Instruction, the Grand Lecturer, through his Deputy Grand Lecturers, will ensure that the enunciation and pronunciation of the words of the ritual are taught properly.
8. If for some unforeseen reason the Worshipful Master is not available to conduct the Memorial Service, the Senior Warden or any Past Master may substitute for him. All substitutes must comply with the prerequisites required of the Worshipful Master.
9. The Worshipful Master will be responsible for insuring that proper decorum is observed at all times while in attendance at the Funeral Home.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

No. 12 Resolved, That the edict of Grand Master William M. Koenig entitled "Life Memberships" heretofore presented to the May 1986 Semi-Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Maryland be, and the same is, hereby adopted as a Standing Resolution, which reads as follows:

I have received several inquiries from Subordinate Lodges regarding Life Memberships.

On September 21, 1970, Most Worshipful Brother William B. Stansbury, Jr., then the Grand Master of Masons in Maryland, issued an edict that "There shall be no sale of Life Memberships by Subordinate Lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction." It appears that a limited type of Life Membership would not be detrimental, and might be an asset, to the future financial stability of Lodges. Therefore it is my ruling:

That the granting of Life Memberships by Subordinate Lodges be permissible, upon adoption of a revision of the Lodge By-Laws, to be approved by the Grand Lodge Committee on By-Laws, incorporating the following provisions:

1. That the fee for the granting of Life Membership(s) shall not be less than twenty (20) times the annual dues of the Lodge in the year granted (including Grand Lodge fees, assessments, or tax).
2. That the action granting Life Membership(s) may not be rescinded, nor is the fee refundable.
3. That the fee collected for Life Membership(s) shall be deposited in an Escrow Account, in the name of the Lodge, and shall be maintained as long as the Lodge retains its charter. However, the fee may be withdrawn upon the demise of each Life Member and upon approval of the Lodge, deposited in the general funds of the Lodge for operating expenses, or other purposes.
4. Also, the income derived from the Escrow Account, annually, upon approval of the Lodge, may be withdrawn and deposited in the general funds of the Lodge for operating expenses, or other purpose.

5. A dues card shall be issued, annually, to each Life Member in good standing.
6. That the granting of Life Memberships is optional with the several Lodges and of applicants in good standing, and no undue influence is to be exerted to secure applicants. Nor shall Life Memberships heretofore granted by the Lodge be invalidated.
7. That all dues, assessments, and taxes payable to Grand Lodge, or for the operation or maintenance of the Masonic Homes, shall be returned to Grand Lodge for Life Members, as also regular dues - paying Members.

REPRESENTATION OF GRAND MASTER AND GRAND LODGE OF MARYLAND IN SISTER JURISDICTIONS

No. 13 Resolved, that the edict of Grand Master Joseph C. Bryan, III, entitled "Representation Of Grand Master And Grand Lodge Of Maryland In Sister Jurisdictions" heretofore presented to the May 1987 Semi-Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Maryland be and the same is hereby adopted as a Standing Resolution, which reads as follows:

It being the sole responsibility and prerogative of the Grand Master, pursuant to Article V, Section 1. E., to appoint Grand Representatives to the various Grand Jurisdictions, members of the Craft are hereby prohibited from representing either the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge of Maryland in other jurisdictions without the express prior approval of the Grand Master.

USE OF SUBORDINATE LODGE MEMBERSHIP LISTS

No. 14 Resolved, that the edict of Grand Master Joseph C. Bryan, III, entitled "Use Of Subordinate Lodge Membership Lists" heretofore presented to the November 1987 Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Maryland be and the same is hereby adopted as a Standing Resolution, which reads as follows:

It has been called to my attention that several organizations have improperly solicited, or attempted to solicit, funds for various causes either through Subordinate Lodges or by way of lists of members of Subordinate Lodges heretofore published by the Grand Lodge. Therefore, the following Edict is issued:

Unless authorized by written dispensation of the Grand Master

- a. No Subordinate Lodge or members or employees thereof shall furnish a list of the names of the members of any Subordinate Lodge to anyone to be used to circularize or solicit the members for business, charitable, or other purposes;
- b. The Grand Lodge and Subordinate Lodges shall not, nor shall any officer, member, or employee thereof, use or permit the use of any list or lists of names of members of Subordinate Lodges for any purpose whatever, and shall not furnish any such list to anyone except the Grand Lodge and the Subordinate Lodges of which those listed are members; providing the foregoing shall not prohibit (i) the publication or use of the list or lists of

officers and committee members of the Grand Lodge or Subordinate Lodges for the conduct of their respective official affairs or (ii) the solicitation of funds for the Maryland Masonic Homes at Bonnie Blink, Cockeysville, Maryland.

REINSTATEMENT TO CONCORDANT BODIES, AND TO LODGE PLURAL MEMBERSHIP, FOLLOWING DEFINITE SUSPENSION

No. 15 Resolved, that the edict of Grand Master John R. Biggs, Jr., entitled "Reinstatement To Concordant Bodies, And To Lodge Plural Membership, Following Definite Suspension" heretofore presented to the November 2008 Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Maryland be and the same is hereby adopted as a Standing Resolution, which reads as follows:

Whereas our constitution does not address a member's return from suspension with respect to re-admittance into plural Lodges, and/or other organizations that require Masonic membership as a requirement to join.

When a member is suspended for cause, his name is removed from all Masonic roles during the term of his suspension, and upon completion of the period of suspension, he is then re-admitted into his primary Lodge automatically. No provision is made in our constitution for plural memberships or memberships in Concordant Bodies.

Whereas, it is my strong feeling that membership in a Lodge, whether plural or not, and membership in a Concordant Masonic Body, is not a guaranteed right, but a privilege. It is also my strong feeling that when a member is suspended for cause, Lodges where this individual held prior plural membership, and Concordant Bodies in which this individual held prior membership, should then have the right to decide whether they wish to grant said member, reinstatement in the Lodge or Concordant Body.

Whereas, after considerable research of the Constitution, By-Laws, Standing Orders and Resolutions, Edicts of Grand Masters, Masonic Digest and related actions of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland, I can find no reason to prevent my issuance of this Edict.

Now therefore, it is my order that from this day forward, any and all members returning to the fraternity from any period of definite suspension, must petition for reinstatement all Lodges where he held plural membership, and all Concordant Bodies in which he was a member, in the same manner as a first time petitioner.

ACCELERATED CLASS PROCEDURES DEFINED

No. 16 Resolved, that the edict of Grand Master John R. Biggs, Jr., entitled "Accelerated Class Procedures Defined" heretofore presented to the November 2008 Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Maryland be and the same is hereby adopted as a Standing Resolution, which reads as follows:

Whereas, in the beginning of my term as Grand Master, I announced that I would not continue the practice of One Day Classes. In my opinion, the majority of the candidates we see coming into the fraternity today seem interested in the esoteric parts of our ritual and aren't necessarily looking for short-cuts. In addition, I feel a One Day Class presents far too much information in far too short of a time period to allow candidates to benefit from our beautiful ritual.

Whereas, I am fully cognizant of the time constraints placed on many petitioners, such as those heading to college, service in the armed forces, job and home related circumstances, etc., that, in order to not lose what may be a suitable member, special procedures should be adopted.

From this time forward permission for Lodges to conduct "Accelerated Classes" is granted, predicated on the strict adherence to guidelines established by Grand Lodge, and overseen by your Deputy Grand Lecturer.

All subordinated Lodges, who wish to participate in the "Accelerated Class" program, may accept and process petitions, in the normal manner. Prior to receiving Grand Lodge dispensation for the "Accelerated Class" the subordinate Lodge shall follow these requirements:

- Dispensations for an "Accelerated Class" are required.
- The subordinate Lodge shall establish a firm date for the conferral of the E.A. Degree, and then request a Special Dispensation from the Grand Master for permission to conduct an "Accelerated Class"
- Conferral of the Entered Apprentice (EA) Degree shall be conducted in nearly the normal manner. However, up to five candidates at a time are permissible in the first section of the EA Degree, much as in the Fellowcraft (FC) Degree.
- The Worshipful Master, prior to conferring the Degrees, must assure himself that there is a sufficient number of costumes available for each candidate, and that his line officers are capable of conferring the Degrees in an exemplary fashion.
- The subordinate Lodge, once the petition process has been completed, shall then schedule and confer the Entered Apprentice Degree. Following the Degree, the candidate(s) must read the "Portals" and the Entered Apprentice portion of this manual, and then complete the associated test. This must be completed prior to conferral of the FC Degree.
- Once the EA Degree is completed, the Worshipful Master may schedule and confer the Fellowcraft Degree. Following the Degree, the candidate(s) must begin the reading of the FC portion of the manual, and then complete the associated test prior to the MM conferral
- Once the FC Degree is completed, the Worshipful Master may schedule and confer the Master Mason (MM) Degree. Bear in mind, per Grand Lodge Constitution, the second section of the MM Degree must be done individually - short forming of this Degree can only be done with permission of, and in the presence of the Grand Master. As soon as

practical, the candidates shall begin the reading of the Master Mason portion of the manual and complete the associated test

- Permission is granted for any Grand Lodge authorized Degree Team such as the Tall Cedars Degree Team, Boumi Shrine Knights of Mecca Degree Team or the Maryland Shield and Square Club Degree Team, to confer the Master Mason Degree. However, prior to scheduling a Degree team, verification from the Grand Master that this Degree Team has satisfactorily exemplified its proficiency in the conferral of the Degree is mandatory.
- The Deputy Grand Lecturer, assigned to your Lodge, shall attend a minimum of two rehearsals of the Lodge officers prior to the date of the "Accelerated Class" to assure that all preparations are complete, and to assure that the Lodge is capable of conferring the three Degrees. He, or his approved substitute, shall also be in attendance during the conferrals. The D.G.L. shall, by written report to the Grand Lecturer, confirm all "work" was performed in a manner consistent with those traditions established by the Grand Lodge of Maryland.
- The Grand Inspector, assigned to your Lodge, shall be in attendance at the conferral, and shall represent the Grand Master. He shall convey the Grand Master's personal welcome to the newly "Raised Brother/Brethren."
- Proficiency in the Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft Degrees will be waived for the "Accelerated Class." Proficiency in the Master Mason catechism shall be required. Those Brothers who, for whatever reason, elect not to stand proficiency in the Master Mason Degree shall remain members of the Lodge, however, they will not be permitted to petition any collateral body that requires membership in a Masonic Lodge as a requisite for membership, serve on a committee or hold any office appointed or elected, until they have satisfied this requirement.
- The Grand Master's Class booklet, revision five (5) is available from Grand Lodge at no cost for members of the "Accelerated Class" only.

RENDERING HONOR TO THE FLAG OF OUR COUNTRY

No. 17 Resolved, that the edict of Grand Master John R. Biggs, Jr., entitled "Rendering Honor To The Flag Of Our Country" heretofore presented to the November 2008 Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Maryland be and the same is hereby adopted as a Standing Resolution, which reads as follows:

Pursuant to the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (PL 110-181) Section 591 of this law states that "Members of the Armed Forces and Veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute."

It is my personal belief we need to begin a review of those elements of our Grand Lodge "traditions" where their continued usage serves no useful purpose to our fraternity.

Where as, After consultation with the Worshipful Grand Lecturer and a search of the Constitution, Bylaws, Standing Orders and Resolutions, Edicts of Grand Masters, Masonic Digest and Related Actions of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland I can determine no reason to prevent my issuance of this Edict.

It is, therefore, my order that from this day forward, while presenting the U.S. flag during the Lodge opening ceremonies, those members of the Armed Forces and veterans of the armed forces may render a hand salute, if desired, instead of placing the hand over the heart. This order includes the Worshipful Master, and does not pertain to those members of the Masonic Veterans Association who are not veterans of the Armed Forces.

DEMITTS

No. 18 Resolved, that the edict of Grand Master John R. Biggs, Jr., entitled "Demits" heretofore presented to the November 2008 Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Maryland be and the same is hereby adopted as a Standing Resolution, which reads as follows:

It has been brought to my attention that on at least one occasion a member of the fraternity has requested and received a demit in anticipation of being charged with a crime in civil court. This was done in order to avoid being charged with n-masonic conduct. After a time, he deposited his demit at his Lodge of record and was accepted back into the fraternity with the Lodge being unaware of what transpired during the time of his unaffiliation.

Where as, After consultation with the R. W. Deputy Grand Master and a search of the Constitution, Bylaws, Standing Orders and Resolutions, Edicts of Grand Masters, Masonic Digest and Related Actions of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland I can determine no reason to prevent my issuance of this Edict.

It is, therefore, my order that from this day forward, that the word "charges" in Article 16, Section 7,G,2 be interpreted to include not only Masonic but civil and criminal charges as well and that the request for the demit include a declaration that on his honor the member knows of no civil or criminal charges or indictments that may be pending against him.

VISITATION OF PRINCE HALL

No. 19 Resolved, that the edict of Grand Master Thomas M. Velvin, Jr., entitled "Visitation of Prince Hall" heretofore presented to the May 2009 Semi-Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Maryland be and the same is hereby adopted as a Standing Resolution, which reads as follows:

Whereas, The Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland did enter into a compact of mutual recognition with The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Maryland on April 10, 2005 with the only restriction being that visitation could only occur through a formal invitation; and

Whereas, both Grand Lodges have operated mutually and successfully under said compact for a period exceeding four years and now view the final step in solidifying our relationship with each other as being the mutual removal of the aforesaid restriction on visitation; now be it therefore,

Resolved, that The Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland afford to The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Maryland full recognition without restriction and that the members of both Grand Lodges be allowed to visit each other's Lodges at will in accordance with The Constitution or Governing Document of each respective Grand Lodge.

LODGE/GRAND LODGE EVENTS SCHEDULING⁹⁶

No. 20 Resolved, that the edict of Grand Master Thomas M. Velvin, Jr., entitled "Lodge/Grand Lodge Events Scheduling" heretofore presented to the November 2009 Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Maryland be and the same is hereby adopted as a Standing Resolution, which reads as follows:

I have observed over the past several weeks that there seems to be no respect for the activities of the several bodies and organizations that make up the Greater Masonic Family in Maryland. This seems to be particularly true where the Grand Lodge is concerned. There are five Saturdays during the year when important events are scheduled by the Grand Master for the good of the Fraternity in general and the members of subordinate Lodges in Maryland and their families specifically. Every effort has been made in recent years to schedule these events on the same day in the month in which they fall so as not to interfere with activities of subordinate Lodges and other Masonic organizations.

These events are listed below along with the day of the year and the hours set aside for each:

- Semi-annual Communication – ~~Saturday before the third Monday~~ third Saturday in May 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
- Family Day Picnic – Second Saturday in June – 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
- Grand Master's Ball – fourth Saturday in July – 6:00 PM to midnight
- Harvest Home Day – First Saturday in October – 4:00 AM to noon
- Annual Communication - ~~Saturday before the Third Monday~~ third Saturday in November – 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM

All subordinate Lodges will conform to this edict and ensure no activities are scheduled during these dates and times.

All organizations within the jurisdiction of Maryland with Masonic affiliation should avoid scheduling any event for their members which will conflict with the Grand Lodge activities listed above. This will enable Brothers who wish to participate in activities of the Grand Lodge as well as those of the affiliated organization the opportunity to do so without having to choose where their allegiance lies.

Organizations that feel compelled to disregard these guidelines will find themselves in an unfavorable position with regard to the Grand Lodge.

Please review your event calendars and adjust them accordingly.

PLACING THE SQUARE AND COMPASS UNDER THE HOLY BIBLE DURING THE CLOSING CEREMONIES

No. 21 Resolved, That the edict of Grand Master John A. Young, Jr. entitled " Placing The Square And Compass Under The Holy Bible During The Closing Ceremonies" heretofore presented to the May 2014 Semi-Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Maryland be, and the same is, hereby adopted as a Standing Resolution, which reads as follows:

In 1995, Most Worshipful Grand Master Stephen J. Ponzillo, Jr. issued a directive requiring the Subordinate Lodges under the Grand Lodge of Maryland to place the Square and Compass under the Holy Bible during the closing ceremonies.

It is my personal belief we need to begin a review of those elements of our Grand Lodge "traditions" where their continued usage serves no useful purpose to our fraternity.

Whereas, after considerable research of the Constitution, Bylaws, Standing Orders and Resolutions, Edict of Grand Masters, Masonic Digest and Related Actions of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland as well as conversations with the Grand Lecturer, I can determine no useful reason to prevent my issuance of this Edict.

Now therefore, it is my order that from this day forward, at the end of the closing ceremonies, the Square and Compass shall be place on top of the closed Holy Bible. The Lodge may choose either one of the attached examples, to comply with this edict.

Furthermore, The Grand Lecturer is requested to instruct his Deputy Grand Lectures to incorporate this change in their schools of instruction and the President of the Board of Grand Inspectors will instruct his Grand Inspectors to report the compliance or non-compliance of this edict.

REPORTING THE FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES OF LODGE BUILDING HOLDING/TEMPLE COMMITTEES

No. 22 Resolved, That the edict of Grand Master John A. Young, Jr. entitled "Reporting The Financial Activities Of Lodge Building Holding/Temple Committees" heretofore presented to the May 2014 Semi-Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Maryland be, and the same is, hereby adopted as a Standing Resolution, which reads as follows:

The reporting history to the Subordinate Lodge, from their appointed or elected various Building/Temple/Holding Company/Committees, henceforth called Property Committee, of their financial activities has proven to be very arbitrary in practice. This Grand Lodge has long been aware that the members of these Property Committees have agreed to financial commitments, binding on all members of their Lodge, which in some instances has proven to be catastrophic.

An instance has been known where numerous members were uninformed as to the Lodge responsibility for the total monthly bank mortgage payment and the final payout amount, known as a balloon payment. There have been many instances, where the Lodge By-Laws did not require a yearly report or audit of funds either presently available to or dispersed by the Property Committee and no report was ever presented. **This Grand Master does not have knowledge of, nor does he believe there have been any improper or illegal actions taken by those dedicated Lodge members.** I do believe however, that **all Lodge members** have the right to know the entire financial condition of their Lodge including an audit from the Property Committee, whatever name it functions under.

All subordinate Lodges are required to submit an audit of Lodge funds annually to their members. The assigned Grand Inspector must review and give his approval of this report before it is presented on the floor. Try as I might, I am unable to separate in my own mind, Lodge dues and operating funds from those monies required to maintain operation of the Lodge property. The time for a full accounting is upon us before this fraternity suffers another disturbing event.

Sometimes, my Brothers, history has a way of repeating itself and this Grand Lodge can wait no longer to protect the funds and buildings of the subordinate Lodges. While this edict may add an additional burden on the membership, the safeguards herein are worth the effort for future protection of the fraternity.

Therefore, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me as the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Maryland, I do hereby issue the following edict:

- **All Property Committees, etc. or whatever the name of the committee that has the authority for management of the Lodge property, shall present an annual written Audit Report to the general membership at a regularly scheduled Lodge communication. The Trestle Board shall give prior notice, of at least 30 days, to the Lodge membership of the scheduled Audit Committee report. Those Lodges that do not issue either regular monthly or bi-monthly Trestle Boards shall give this prior notice in some other form of written communication. There are no exceptions!**
- **The audit shall be performed by three (3) members, in "Good Standing" of the Lodge with the full cooperation of all members of the Property Committee. No member of the Property Committee shall serve as a member of the Audit Committee.**
- **Each member of the Audit Committee will sign his name as evidence of his responsibility for the content of the Audit Report. Those members of the Property Committee including the President, Secretary, Treasurer, Director, Trustee, etc., who are primarily responsible for its management, shall also sign the Audit Report. Their signatures shall indicate they have reviewed the Audit Report prior to its presentation to the Lodge. Should they be in opposition to the report it shall be so noted with their remarks. The report to the Lodge shall not be delayed for any reason.**
- **All bills paid including, but not limited to, utility, insurance, grounds keeping, repair bills, property tax, payroll needs, etc. shall be paid via a check under the two (2)**

signatures of those members who are primarily responsible for its management. Where banking provisions permit, the cancelled checks for the audit year, shall be maintained and made part of the annual review by the Audit Committee.

- **A copy of the annual Audit Report from the Property Committee shall be made a part of the minutes of the Lodge and maintained by the Lodge Secretary. The assigned Lodge Grand Inspector shall be present when the Audit Committee presents the report. The Grand Inspector shall receive a copy of the Audit Report well in advance of the Lodge communication at which it is to be presented.**

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MASONIC TRIALS

No. 23 Resolved, That the edict of Grand Master John R. Biggs, Jr. entitled "Establishment Of The Committee On Masonic Trials" heretofore presented to the May 2014 Semi-Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Maryland be, and the same is, hereby adopted as a Standing Resolution, which reads as follows:

In the beginning of my term as Grand Master I became very aware of the fact that many of our Lodges did not know how to conduct a proper-Masonic trial. Procedures of trials that had been held were reviewed, and it came to light that more often than not, incorrect procedures were being followed.

Therefore, I am establishing a Committee on Masonic Trials to go into effect immediately. This committee will provide assistance to Worshipful Masters, and Lodge officers in the proper manner of conducting a Masonic trial, or by request of the Worshipful Master, assume all responsibilities of the trial.

From this time forward, it will be required that when a trial is forthcoming in a Masonic Lodge, it will be required that the Worshipful Master contact the chairman of the Trial Board Committee on Masonic Trials, and notify him of the impending charges and the proposed date of the trial. The chairman of the Committee will review the charges, and will either review proper trial procedures with the Worshipful Master, or assign a member of the Trial Board Committee to advise and assist the Worshipful Master and his officers in the proper procedures to follow during the conducting of the trial. This contact with the committee member is to be a continuing process throughout the trial.

The Worshipful Master has the sole prerogative of turning the entire trial over to the Committee on Masonic Trials if he so desires. The Committee will then assume all aspects of the Masonic trial.

A report of these proceedings will be forwarded to the Grand Master for his review and approval.

MEMORIAL & BURIAL SERVICES

No. 24 Resolved, That the edict of Grand Master John R. Biggs, Jr. entitled "Memorial & Burial Services" heretofore presented to the May 2014 Semi-Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Maryland be, and the same is, hereby adopted as a Standing Resolution, which reads as follows:

Recently, there have been requests for dispensation to allow Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts to participate in or receive Memorial or Burial services. In the past, only a Master Mason in good standing was allowed this honor. It is my opinion that all members of our fraternity, Master Mason, Fellowcraft and Entered Apprentices, are entitled to participate in and receive these honors.

Whereas, after consultation with the R. W. Deputy Grand Master and a search of the Constitution, Bylaws, Standing Orders and Resolutions, Edicts of Grand Masters, Masonic Digest and Related Actions of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland I can determine no reason to prevent my issuance of this Edict.

It is, therefore, my order that from this day forward, that all members of our Fraternity in good standing, regardless of station, be entitled to the Masonic Memorial or Burial Service as outlined in Article 16, Section 9,B.

VISION 25

No. 25 Resolved, the proposal by R.W. Deputy Grand Master Richard P. Naegele entitled "Vision 25" heretofore presented to the May 2017 Semi-Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Maryland be, and the same is, hereby adopted as a Standing Resolution, which reads as follows:

Mission

"To attain and sustain positive growth in membership in the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Maryland in engaged family-oriented Lodges actively teaching the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God."

Vision

- Strong effective leadership in lodges.
- Lodges around the state that confers degrees and teaches catechism in an exemplary manner without assistance.
- Fraternity involved in the community with positive support.

Values

- We value the quality of an individual's character when seeking admission.
- Maintaining a strong consistent ritual in our lodges throughout the state.
- Families as a major part of a healthy lodge.
- Helping and giving to others in a charitable manor.

Goals

- Recruit a minimum of 1,000 prospective new quality members annually. (700-800 EA's annually)
- Reduce demits and suspension for non-payment of dues by 10% from previous year.
- Reduce delay in pipeline for degree work by 25%.

OPEN INSTALLATION NOTIFICATION PROCESS

No. 26 Resolved, the proposal by M.W. Grand Master Kostas Vourvoulas entitled "Open Installation Notification Process" heretofore presented to the November 2017 Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Maryland be, and the same is, hereby adopted as a Standing Resolution, which reads as follows.

Whereas Open Installations have become a regular occurrence and are encouraged by the Grand Lodge to involve family, friends and prospective members; and

In order to eliminate the necessity for the Lodge to acquire Dispensation from the Grand Master to hold an Open Installation and cancel a Stated Communication in January in lieu thereof;

We resolve the following procedure is introduced:

No dispensation from Grand Master is required under the following protocols:

1. On the night of Lodge Elections, the Lodge may vote to hold an Open Installation in January and may substitute the Open Installation for one of its Stated Communications in January.
 - a. The date and time of the Open Installation may differ from the Lodge's Stated Communication.
 - b. The Lodge may hold its Open Installation at another Lodge's meeting place or alternate location which is already approved by the Committee on Masonic Halls.
2. The Lodge Secretary includes with the notice of Lodge Elections:
 - a. That the Lodge voted to hold an Open Installation;
 - b. The date and time of the Open Installation;
 - c. The location of the Open Installation;
 - d. The date of the Stated Communication if one is to be called off in lieu of the Open Installation.
3. The Grand Inspector includes in his report for the meeting, the outcome of the elections and the information listed for the Secretary to include with the notice of Lodge Elections. The Grand Inspector must copy the Grand Lodge Office on his Grand Inspector's Report.
4. If the Open Installation is cancelled for any reason, Dispensation must be obtained for a new date.

INTERNET & SOCIAL MEDIA STRAW POLLING

No. 27 Resolved, the edict of Grand Master Stephen J. Ponzillo, III, entitled “Internet & Social Media Straw Polling” heretofore presented to the May 2018 Semi-Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Maryland be, and the same is, hereby adopted as a Standing Resolution, which reads as follows.

It has come to our attention that lodges are beginning to attempt to collect information from lodge members over the internet and on social media pertaining to voting and other issues. This is not allowed and can be considered Un-Masonic Conduct. No lodge may poll their membership on issues pertaining to the lodge or how they desire the lodge to vote on issues pertaining to the Grand Lodge.

Voting on lodge issues, bills or any other matters pertaining to lodge business is to be conducted in a tiled lodge **only**. Lodge business is lodge business and must be conducted by those members in attendance only. Social media and the internet are not tiled lodges, hence the need for this clarification. Any lodge engaged in this information collection process must cease and desist immediately, including pulling down any polls or questions currently on their lodge web pages pertaining to lodge voting at the upcoming Semi-Annual Communication.

AMNESTY PROGRAM

No. 28 Resolved, the proposal by R.W. Deputy Grand Master Richard P. Naegele entitled “Amnesty Program” heretofore presented to the November 2018 Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Maryland be, and the same is, hereby adopted as a Standing Resolution, which reads as follows.

1. A Brother who has been suspended for Non-Payment of Dues, for a time exceeding the grace period of six (6) months after his suspension, may be considered for the Amnesty Program by Dispensation.
2. It is the prerogative of the Worshipful Master of the Lodge to request Amnesty from the Grand Master. The request does not come from the Brother seeking reinstatement. Remember that by asking for Amnesty, you are certifying that the Brother petitioning for reinstatement would have passed a vote of the ballot box.
3. Under Amnesty, only the current year’s dues (one year) may be collected (no other back fees) and no petition or vote of the Lodge membership is required.
4. The Worshipful Master at his discretion may have the former Brother investigated prior to requesting Amnesty.

RULINGS AND EDICTS OF GRAND MASTERS

**EDICT OF GRAND MASTER MARLIN L. MILLS
REVOCATION OF STANDING RESOLUTIONS, EDICTS, AND RELATED
ACTIONS MADE AND ISSUED AFTER MAY 17, 2019.
*ISSUE DATE – DECEMBER 18, 2020***

Brethren,

There was a time when men worked in each of the officer's chairs, learned all the work for each chair and were required to be certified in the funeral ritual before they could become certified to earn the distinction of becoming Worshipful Master of their lodge. Going forward, there will be no "passes" allowed and only those properly certified by the Grand Lecturer or his appointed Deputy in the three degrees of masonry as well as the funeral ritual will be eligible to be elected as Worshipful Master of a lodge in Maryland.

As Most Worshipful Grand Master, I do hereby issue the following EDICT:

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY AND IN KEEPING WITH THE CONSTITUTION OF MARYLAND, I HEREBY SUSPEND, CANCEL, TERMINATE AND REVOKE ALL STANDING RESOLUTIONS, EDICTS, AND RELATED ACTIONS MADE AND ISSUED AFTER MAY 17, 2019.

Marlin L. Mills
Grand Master

**EDICT OF GRAND MASTER MARLIN L. MILLS
ABSENCE OF GRAND MASTER ART. V SEC. 2 CONSTITUTION
*ISSUE DATE – MAY 15, 2021***

I have recently received questions regarding the RWDGM attending lodges, how to receive him and his authority.

Therefore, in accordance with the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, Article V, Section 2 which states, "In the absence of the Grand Master or in the event of his death or disability the duties and prerogatives of that office shall devolve on the Deputy Grand Master."

ABSENCE definition: the absence of the physical presence of the party (The Law Dictionary)

THEREFORE:

The RWDGM while attending a Maryland Lodge, has the full power, authority and responsibility as described in Article V, Sec. 1 of the Book of Constitution to include but not limited to all policies and procedures or any other matter pertaining to Masonry.

His directions and decisions will have the same effect and authority as if made by me.

In my absence he is my representative and shall be extended all courtesies pertaining to the office of Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master.

Whereas, after considerable research of the Constitution, By-Laws, Standing Orders and Resolutions of Grand Masters, Masonic Digest, Advice of Counsel, and review by the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, I can find no reason to prevent my issuance of this Edict.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Marlin L. Mills
Grand Master

**FORM OF BY-LAWS
FOR
SUBORDINATE LODGES SUGGESTED BY THE GRAND LODGE**

**ARTICLE I
*Lodge Name***

Section 1. Name

The name of this Lodge shall be.....Lodge, No....., Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

**ARTICLE II
*Lodge Communications***

Section 1. Communications

The stated communications of this Lodge shall be held on the.....day of each month, beginning at.....o'clock P.M., except during the months of June, July, August and September, during which months the Lodge may assemble or not, at the option of the Worshipful Master.

Section 2. Holidays and Special Communications

At the option of the Worshipful Master, and upon dispensation of the Most Worshipful Grand Master first had and obtained, a stated communication which may fall upon a legal or religious holiday may be omitted, or the stated hour of a stated communication may be changed, or a special communication may be called.

**ARTICLE III
*Election, Appointment and Installation of Officers***

Section 1. Elections, Appointments, Installation of Officers

The Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Secretary, Treasurer, Tyler (where the Tyler is provided by the Lodge), shall be elected annually, by a majority of written ballots, either at the stated communication, immediately preceding St. John the Evangelist's Day, or at the first stated communication in December, as the Worshipful Master may elect. They shall hold office until their successors shall have been respectively duly elected and installed.

Section 2. Installation of Elected Officers

The Elected Officers shall be installed at the next stated communication, following their election, or as soon thereafter as practicable, but not later than the thirty-first day of January, following.

Section 3. Appointed Officers

The Worshipful Master shall appoint a Senior Deacon, a Junior Deacon, a Senior Steward, a Junior Steward, a Chaplain and a Marshal, who shall be installed at the communication of Installation.

Section 4. Other Optional Officers

The Worshipful Master may appoint an Organist, a Chorister, an Orator, a Trumpeter and Master of Ceremonies and such committees, the appointment of which are not herein specifically provided for, as may seem necessary and expedient, for the proper conduct of the business and affairs of the Lodge.

Section 5. Audit Committee

The Worshipful Master shall appoint an Auditing Committee of three members of the Lodge. The Auditing Committee shall examine the books and accounts of the Secretary and Treasurer, semi-annually, and shall report thereon to the Lodge, not later than the first stated communication of the Lodge in May and November.

ARTICLE IV *Duties of Officers*

Section 1. Worshipful Master

The duties of the Worshipful Master and Wardens, being well established by ancient usage and custom, shall not be enumerated.

Section 2. Secretary

The Secretary, in addition to the usual duties of that office, shall receive all moneys due and payable to the Lodge and shall pay the same over to the Treasurer as promptly as possible; he shall give notice of all Communications, in sealed envelopes, as circumstances require (except notices of Divine Services and funeral services, which may be sent on U.S. Postal cards), stating the business to be transacted thereat; he shall prepare and forward to the members, bills for annual dues, in advance; he shall notify members of their appointment on committees and shall perform such other duties as may, from time to time, be assigned to him by the Lodge.

Section 3. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall receive from the Secretary, all moneys collected by the Secretary for and on behalf of the Lodge and shall promptly deposit the same in the name of the Lodge, No..., A.F. & A.M., in such bank or banks as shall, from time to time, be designated by the Lodge. All funds of the Lodge shall be disbursed only upon order signed by the Worshipful Master or, in his absence or incapacity, by the Senior Warden and the Secretary and/or Treasurer, pursuant to

authorization of the Lodge. The Treasurer shall keep a full and accurate account of all moneys received and disbursed.

ARTICLE V
Bonding of Officers

Section 1. Secretary and Treasurer

The Secretary and Treasurer shall provide a Fidelity Bond to the Lodge in such corporate surety as shall be acceptable to the Worshipful Master and Wardens, in the penalty of not less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00). The premium on such bond shall be an expense of the Lodge.

ARTICLE VI
Salaries

Section 1. Secretary

The Secretary shall receive, for his services, the sum of.....dollars, \$.....per annum, payable as the Lodge may direct, and he shall be exempt from the payment of dues and Grand Lodge assessments.

Section 2. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall receive, for his services, sum of.....dollars, \$.....per annum, payable as the Lodge may direct, and he shall be exempt from the payment of dues and Grand Lodge assessments.

Section 3. Tyler

The Tyler shall receive the sum of.....dollars for each communication at which he performs his duties and shall be exempt from the payment of dues and Grand Lodge assessments. (This section for Lodges, which provide the Tyler)

Section 4. Organist and Choristers

The Organist and Chorister shall respectively receive for their services such compensation as shall, from time to time, be fixed by the Lodge.

Section 5. Chaplain

The Chaplain, if he be an Ordained Minister of the Gospel, shall, for his services, be exempt from the payment of dues and Grand Lodge assessments.

ARTICLE VII
Standing Committee

Section 1. Standing Committee

The Worshipful Master and Wardens shall constitute a standing committee, which shall take cognizance of all applications for charity that may be referred to them by the Lodge, or that may arise during the recess of the Lodge. A majority of the Committee may draw upon the funds of the Lodge for any sum not exceeding Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00), in anyone case, during the recess of the Lodge, and shall report to the Lodge at each communication, upon any and all such funds to expended.

ARTICLE VIII
Petitions for Initiation and Affiliation, Demits

Section 1. Applicants for Initiation into Masonry

Applicants for initiation into Masonry, through this Lodge, shall apply by petition, in writing, signed by himself, upon forms prescribed by the Grand Lodge of Maryland, with the recommendation of two members of this Lodge and accompanied by an initiation fee of.....dollars \$.....

Section 2. Applications for Affiliation or Membership

Applications for affiliation or membership in this Lodge shall be made by petition, in like manner as applications for initiation, as herein provided. The said petition shall be accompanied by a demit from the previous Lodge of the applicant and by an affiliation or membership fee of.....dollars \$....., if the applicant be from out of the Maryland jurisdiction and a fee of.....dollars \$....., if he be from within the Maryland jurisdiction. No action shall be taken upon any petition for affiliation or membership unless prior thereto the petitioner shall have visited the Lodge at a stated communication.

Section 3. Regularly Ordained Ministers

Regularly Ordained Ministers of the Gospel (may) (shall) be exempt from the payment of the fees for initiation and affiliation or membership in this Lodge.

Section 4. Action

All petitions to this Lodge shall be treated and acted upon in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, By-Laws and Standing Orders and Resolutions of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, A.F. & A.M.

Section 5. Demits

Any member of this Lodge may demit there from by signifying his desire to do so, in writing, presented at a stated communication and paying unto the Secretary any and all indebtedness on his part to the Lodge, whereupon, a demit shall be granted him, provided there are no charges pending against him. Nothing in this section shall prevent the Lodge from remitting dues of any member for the purpose of granting a demit.

ARTICLE IX
Dues

Section 1. Address

Every member of this Lodge, unless specifically exempt, shall pay as dues, the sum of.....dollars \$.....annually, together with such per capita tax or assessment as may, from time to time, be levied upon subordinate Lodges by the Grand Lodge of Maryland. The said dues shall be payable in advance, through the Secretary, during the month of January.

Section 2. Calculation

Dues shall be calculated from the beginning of the quarter in which the Brother is raised or affiliated to the end of the first year.

Section 3. Ordained Ministers

Regularly Ordained Ministers of the Gospel (may) (shall) be exempt from the payment of dues and Grand Lodge assessments.

Section 4. Failure to Pay

Any member, who shall fail to pay his dues as in this Article IX provided, shall be subject to suspension pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution, By-Laws and Standing Orders and Resolutions of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, A.F. & A.M.

Section 5. Change of Address

A Brother changing his place of residence shall so notify the Secretary of the Lodge as promptly thereafter as practicable. Notices sent by U.S. Mail to the last known address of a brother shall be deemed due legal notice.

Amended April 2021 by BOM – Delete reference to Board of relief from Article III, Section 1

ARTICLE X
Lodge Finances

Section 1. General Fund

All moneys belonging to this Lodge shall constitute a general fund which shall be deposited in the name of the Lodge, in such bank or banks as the Lodge shall, from time to time, designate. The Lodge may, from time to time, make such investments and dispose of previously acquired investments as shall be authorized by a two-thirds vote of the members present at a regular communication, provided at least two weeks written notice has been given the entire membership of such contemplated action.

Section 2. Securities

Any and all securities belonging to the Lodge shall be deposited and kept in a Safe Deposit box, rented in the name of the Lodge, in the vault of such bank as the Lodge shall designate, subject to access by the Secretary or Treasurer, when accompanied by the Worshipful Master.

ARTICLE XI
Life Membership

(provisions of this Article shall be optional with the Lodge, according to its practice.)

ARTICLE XII
Lodge Seal

Section 1. Seal

The seal of the Lodge shall be circular in form. In the center shall be the square and compasses with the words "Instituted" and around the circle shall be the words, ".....Lodge No.....AF & AM, (place city name here), Maryland."

ARTICLE XIII
Past Master's Jewel and Apron

Section 1. Past Master's Jewel and Apron

Every retiring Master of this Lodge, who shall have served one full term as Master, shall be presented a Past Master's Jewel and a Past Master's Apron. The said Jewel and Apron shall be of the same style and design as heretofore adopted by the Lodge and shall be procured by the Secretary, at the expense of the Lodge.

ARTICLE XIV
Voting

Section 1. Voting

Unless otherwise specifically provided in these By-Laws, or in the Constitution, By-Laws and Standing Orders and Resolutions of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, AF. & AM., a majority vote of the members present shall be sufficient for the adoption of any question or resolution coming before any communication of the Lodge.

ARTICLE XV
Constitution and By-Laws of the Grand Lodge of Maryland

Section 1. Constitution, Etc., of Grand Lodge of Maryland

This Lodge, being an integral part of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, AF & AM., the same shall be governed pursuant to the Constitution, By-Laws and Standing Orders and Resolutions of that Grand Lodge, in all matters and situations not specifically provided for in these By-Laws. In the event of any inconsistency between the Constitution, By-Laws and Standing Orders and Resolutions of said Grand Lodge and the By-Laws of this Lodge, the provisions of the Constitution, By-Laws and Standing Orders and Resolutions of said Grand Lodge shall prevail.

ARTICLE XVI
Amendments

Section 1. Amendments

Following approval by the Grand Lodge Committee on By-Laws, these By-Laws may be altered or amended by the proposed alteration or amendment being presented, in writing, at a regular communication of the Lodge, a copy thereof being thereafter forwarded to each member of the Lodge, with notice of the date of action thereon, and the same thereafter being presented for action at a regular communication of the Lodge, which shall be not less than thirty (30) days nor more than sixty (60) days from the communication at which the proposed alteration or amendment shall have been presented. The affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present shall be necessary for the adoption of any such proposed alteration or amendment.

Amended 2021-4-22 by BOM – Article XVI Amendments

FORM OF CHARGES AND TRIAL
For The Guidance of Subordinate Lodges
Adopted by the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A. Masons of Maryland
May Communication, 1875
Amended, May and November Communication, 1960;
May Communication, 1961
Amended, November 2020 – Section 6

When a Brother belonging to a Lodge in this jurisdiction, or a Mason residing therein, is accused of an offense, which, if proved, would subject him to Masonic punishment, the proceedings shall be conducted as follows:

Section 1.

The accusation shall be reduced to writing by the Brother preferring the charges, who shall be the accuser within the meaning of the term as used throughout this Form of Charges and Trial, reciting the charge, and specifying the circumstances and facts, so far as the same are proper to be written, together with the time and place as nearly as may be ascertained, in form as follows:

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren ofLodge, No.....I, a Master Mason, and a member of.....Lodge, No...., held at.....and under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of....., hereby charge Bro....., a member (or E.A. or F.C. as the case may be) of.....Lodge No....., held at....., and under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of..... (if the accused be an affiliated Mason), with (immoral, unmasonic or gross unmasonic) conduct, according to the grade of the offense, whereby the dignity of his profession has been debased and the Craft brought to shame.

Specification 1. In that the said Bro.....Did (here state the particular circumstances or set of circumstances, if more than one, and annex additional specifications).

And I declare upon my honor as a Master Mason that I am not impelled to make this charge by any personal motives or animosity, but for the general good of Masonry, and defense of the best interests of the Fraternity. I therefore pray that a prompt and thorough investigation may be made by.....Lodge, No.....and such adjudication pronounced as the circumstances and the Usages and Regulations of Masonry may demand and warrant.

Fraternaly submitted,
.....

In support of the foregoing allegations, the following are offered as witnesses:
.....

Section 2.

The charge and specifications shall be presented to the Worshipful Master of the Lodge to which the accused may belong; or in case of a non-affiliated Mason or a sojourner, they shall be presented to the Worshipful Master of the Lodge in whose jurisdiction he may reside; if received at a stated communication of the Lodge, the Worshipful Master shall cause the same to be then and there read by the Secretary in open Lodge; or if received during the recess they shall be read at the next stated communication; they shall then be referred by the Worshipful Master to a Committee of five, three of whom shall constitute a quorum, for investigation, to which Committee the Secretary of the Lodge shall be the Secretary, as an additional ex-officio member.

Section 3.

The Committee shall cause a copy of the charge and specifications, attested by the Secretary and under the seal of the Lodge, to be served on the accused, together with a list of the witnesses, and a notice of the time and place of the meeting of the Committee at which testimony will be taken, at least ten days prior to the time appointed for said meeting, provided he be within the jurisdiction of the Lodge and his residence be known; should he be beyond the jurisdiction of the Lodge or his residence be unknown, then a copy of the charge and specifications, as aforesaid, duly addressed and mailed to the accused at the Post Office nearest to his last known place of residence, provided thirty days notice be allowed from the time of mailing, shall be deemed a legal service, and in case the accused does not appear in person or by counsel, the committee shall proceed ex-parte.

Section 4.

Both the accused and the accuser shall have the power to appoint counsel who shall be Master Masons and of furnishing witnesses at any time during the investigation.

Section 5.

The Committee shall have the power to compel the attendance of all persons connected with the case who are Masons, by summons under the authority of the Lodge, and to send for papers.

Section 6.

No one shall be present during the session of the Committee but the Committee, the Secretary, the accused and accuser and their counsel, and the witness under examination; witnesses who are Masons shall testify upon their honor, but the testimony of profanes must be taken under oath or affirmation before a person legally authorized to administer the same. The accused and accuser or their counsel shall be notified in writing of the time and place where such testimony will be taken, at least two days prior thereto. If the testimony is to be taken by a stenographer and/or the witnesses are to be sworn, the

stenographer may be present at the session of the Committee in addition to the persons mentioned above, so far as is necessary to the proper discharge of their duties.

Section 7.

The Committee shall receive all the testimony offered which is relevant to the case and a fair record made of all such as is proper to be written, together with the regular minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of said Committee; hearsay evidence shall not be admitted; the accused may testify in his own behalf but shall not be compelled to incriminate himself.

Section 8.

A fair hearing having been afforded all parties interested, and all testimony received, the Committee shall lay the same, together with the minutes of the proceedings of its meetings, before the Lodge at its next succeeding stated communication, at which no one but members of the Lodge, the accused and accuser and their counsel, or designated representatives of Grand Master bearing proper credentials, shall be present.

Section 9.

The minutes of the proceedings of the Committee, the charge and specifications and proof of service and the testimony being read, the accused, the accuser and their counsel and all parties interested shall be afforded an opportunity to discuss the guilt or innocence of the accused, as set forth in the charge and specifications and under the evidence submitted by the Committee, after which the accused and the accuser and their counsel shall be required to retire, when the Lodge shall proceed to ballot upon the guilt or innocence of the accused, upon which question every member of the Lodge present shall be required to vote.

Section 10.

A majority vote of the members present shall be sufficient to establish guilt; those voting in the affirmative shall deposit a white ball, and those voting in the negative a black ball in the ballot box.

Section 11.

Should the accused be declared guilty, the Lodge shall then proceed to declare by ballot the punishment to be inflicted, the grades of which shall be:

- First - EXPULSION
- Second - INDEFINITE SUSPENSION
- Third - DEFINITE SUSPENSION
- Fourth - PUBLIC REPRIMAND IN OPEN LODGE BY THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER

To inflict either penalty a majority vote shall suffice. The voting in all cases shall be as required by Section 10, and commencing with the highest grade. Should the penalty fixed by the Lodge be Definite Suspension, the Worshipful Master shall fix the duration of such suspension, after consultation and agreement with the Senior and Junior Wardens, which action shall be subject to approval by a majority vote of the Lodge, and, after such approval, the Worshipful Master shall announce the same to the Lodge and his finding or ruling as to the duration of such suspension shall be recorded as part of the proceedings.

Section 12.

In cases wherein a Brother has been adjudged guilty of an offense against the civil law, it shall be competent for the Worshipful Master of the Lodge having jurisdiction to instruct the Senior Deacon to prefer charges. Due notice shall be given the accused in accordance with Section 3, and the Lodge may proceed upon the facts and evidence, publicly made and known, without reference to a Committee, and adjudge in accordance therewith. While the Lodge may proceed upon the public record which shall be made part of the proceedings, this shall not preclude the right of the accused to testify in his own behalf at the hearing as to any facts which he desires to present in mitigation or explanation of the charge of which he was found guilty in the civil proceedings.

Section 13.

Charges preferred against a Master Mason do not affect his standing or privileges during the time they are pending, except the right to demit; should the accused, however, be an officer, other than the Worshipful Master, he shall be incompetent to discharge the duties of his office until final decision may be made in his favor. Charges against the Worshipful Master must be made in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of this Grand Lodge.

Section 14.

Should the accused be an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft, the report of the Committee and the discussion upon the guilt or innocence of the accused shall be had in a Lodge of the highest degree to which the Brother has attained; the final decision must be had in a Lodge of Master Masons.

Section 15.

A Lodge cannot try a Brother for acts committed before he applied for admission into Masonry, but he may be tried for fraudulently concealing or withholding the knowledge of matters, which, if known at the time, would have resulted in his rejection.

Section 16.

Charges cannot be preferred against a Mason by a profane, but where Masonic character is involved, a Lodge may appoint a Committee with instructions to prefer charges in their discretion.

Section 17.

In all cases of suspension or expulsion by a subordinate Lodge wherein an appeal is taken to this Grand Lodge, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of said subordinate Lodge to transmit to the Grand Secretary within thirty days after notice of appeal is received, a copy of all the evidence and proceedings in the case, including the decisions of the Worshipful Master and the action of the Lodge. Said papers shall be delivered by the Grand Secretary to the Committee on Grievance.

A LODGE UNDER DISPENSATION
Defined By
M. W. Grand Master, John S. Berry May 13, 1862

On last evening you asked my opinion as to the nature, power and privileges of a Lodge under dispensation; the following resolution at the time pending:

Resolved, That dues to the Grand Lodge cannot accrue against a new Lodge while under dispensation, but are chargeable only from the date of its charter.

The first question to be considered is what is a dispensation?

It is the warrant of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, upon the petition of seven Master Masons in good standing, recommended by the Lodge nearest the place where they desire to form and hold a Lodge, empowering and authorizing them to form and open a Lodge, after the manner of (not as) A. F. and A. Masons, and therein to make Freemasons according to the ancient custom, and not otherwise.

This I conceive to be the full extent of the powers delegated to, or which can be legally exercised by Lodges working under dispensation. They are Lodges in abeyance and not in reality.

Their presiding officers are not entitled to the rank of Past Master, nor are they privileged to vote as representatives in the Grand Lodge. Neither have such Lodges the right of electing their officers or changing them, except by permission of the creating power.

They are in a state of probation, preparatory to being invested with the full powers and privileges of Lodges.

They differ from Lodges working under charters, not only to the extent already named, but, in that they have no power to perpetuate themselves; they are subject to the will of the M. W. Grand Master, who can revoke their dispensation at pleasure. They cannot add to the number of their members, neither can they fill vacancies, should their original number be diminished below the constitutional requirements, except by special permission from the authority which empowers them.

An essential difference between a Lodge under dispensation and chartered Lodges lies in the fact that charters are granted to the petitioners, and their successors, while dispensations run to the petitioners only. In the latter case, the petitioners alone are known to the Grand Lodge, and they are responsible for the acts of the body they represent.

Their initiates are not returned to the Grand Lodge as members, for not having been constituted, the Lodge possesses no power to admit members. The members of it are themselves a mere association, working after the manner, and not in the full capacity of a Lodge. They are therefore required to return their initiates for just what they are, and nothing more, viz: initiates.

The petitioners should continue their membership in the Lodge of which they were members at the time of making their application for the dispensation, until the Grand Lodge grants

them a Charter. For should the Grand Lodge refuse to grant, the petitioners having withdrawn their membership, they of course are *non-affiliated Masons*.

Being returned to this Grand Lodge as members of a regular Lodge, and their dues being paid by said Lodge, I submit that it would not be just to make them also pay because they are working under dispensation. For all, however, whom they have made Masons they are justly chargeable.

I therefore rule that the resolution is just and proper.

I beg to say, my brethren, as giving additional weight to the opinion here expressed that I am indebted to the clear and forcible writer on Masonic Law, whose renown is world-wide, Bro. Charles W. Moore, editor and publisher, "Free Masons' Magazine" Boston, for these views.

I also find in Bro. Moore's "Magazine" that which I consider the best form of application for a dispensation and form of dispensation.

I suggest their adoption by this Grand Lodge that Brethren may not hereafter be at a loss for full information.

Grand Lodge of Maryland
FORM OF PETITION FOR A
WARRANT TO WORK UNDER DISPENSATION

..... Masonic Hall, A. L. 60

Most Worshipful Grand Master
of the Grand Lodge of Maryland:

We, the undersigned, respectfully represent that we are members in good standing of
..... Lodge, No....., AF & A Masons.

Having the prosperity of the Fraternity at heart, we are willing to exert our best endeavors to promote and diffuse the genuine principles of Masonry. For the convenience of our respective dwellings, and for other good reasons, we are desirous of forming a new Lodge in the town of
..... to be named.....Lodge No....

In consequence of this desire, and for the good of the Craft, and being recommended by
..... Lodge No....., nearest to our residence, we pray for a dispensation to empower us to assemble, as a legal Lodge, at.....on.....(time of meeting), to discharge the duties of Masonry in several degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason, in a regular and Constitutional manner, according to the ancient usages and landmarks of the Fraternity, and the laws and regulations of the Grand Lodge. We have nominated and do recommend

- Bro. A. B. to be First Master,
- " C. D. to be First Senior Warden and
- " E. F. to be First Junior Warden of said Lodge.

The prayer of your petitioners being granted, we promise full obedience to the Commands of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, faithful adherence to the ancient usages and landmarks of the Order, and strict conformity to the Constitution, Laws, Rules, Regulations and Edicts of the Grand Lodge.

.....
.....
.....
.....

The above must be signed by at least seven regular Master Masons (Article XVI, Section A Constitution), and accompanied by a recommendation of the Lodge nearest the place in which the petitioners desire to form and hold a Lodge, in form to wit:

..... Masonic Hall,.....A.L. 60.....

Most Worshipful Grand Master

of the Grand Lodge of Maryland:

At a regular meeting of.....Lodge No.....held this evening on application of Brothers (here name the petitioners) for a recommendation to form a new Lodge, the following was adopted:

Resolved, That having confidence in the above name Brethren, their knowledge of the ancient usages and landmarks of our Fraternity, as also their ability to confer the three degrees of Masonry, we cheerfully recommend them as in all respects worthy to receive your dispensation to form a new Lodge.

Fraternally Yours,

.....W.M.
.....S.W.
.....J.W.

(SEAL OF THE LODGE)

Attest.....Secretary

The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland

PETITION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Every applicant must have been a resident of the State of Maryland for 12 months and must state whether he has or has not, heretofore, applied to any Lodge, anywhere, to become a Mason.

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of

Lodge, No. _____

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland

The undersigned respectfully prays that he may be initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry and become a member of your Worshipful Lodge.

He declares his belief in the existence of a Supreme Being.

He further declares that he is free by birth, unbiased by improper solicitations of friends, and uninfluenced by mercenary or other improper motives; that he is prompted solely by a favorable opinion conceived of the Institution, and a desire of knowledge; that he freely and voluntarily offers himself a candidate; and that, if his petition is approved, he will conform to the Ancient usages and Customs of the Fraternity.

Name in full
(Do not use initials) _____
(First Name) _____ (Middle Name) _____ (Last Name) _____

Age _____ yrs. Date of Birth _____

Place of Birth _____
(City, County or Province) _____ (State or Country) _____

Occupation _____
(State specifically and in detail the character of the occupation, and if employed, give the name and address of the employer)

Name of Employer _____

Business of Employer _____

Business Address _____

Residence of Petitioner _____
(Street, Number, Town, Zip and Post Office)

Which is in _____ County

Where I have continuously resided since _____ Immediately before that my residence was at

_____ for _____ years preceding that at _____ for

_____ years, and before that at _____ for _____ years.

☛ Have you any physical infirmities? Yes No

Have you petitioned any Lodge before? Yes No

If so, what Lodge? _____

Have you ever been rejected by any regularly constituted Lodge of Masons? Yes No

If the answer is Yes, give the following information:

Rejected by _____ Lodge, No. _____, located at _____
(City) (State) Date of Rejection _____

☛ Have you ever been convicted of any crime? Yes No

Fee enclosed \$ _____

I have read carefully all of the answers to questions on this petition and take full responsibility for them, and the signature is my own handwriting.

Date _____ Signature of Applicant _____

Residence Telephone No. _____ Cell No. _____ Email _____

(Prior to signing, ALL SPACES MUST be filled in.)

☛ If answer to either or both is Yes, furnish full and complete details on separate sheet. For portions that you have or choose to print, please do so legibly.

CANDIDATES WILL GIVE REFERENCES
(not including recommenders)

Name _____ Phone # _____
 Address _____ E-mail _____
 City _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

Name _____ Phone # _____
 Address _____ E-mail _____
 City _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

Name _____ Phone # _____
 Address _____ E-mail _____
 City _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

Name _____ Phone # _____
 Address _____ E-mail _____
 City _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

This Section is Optional.

Are you married? Yes No
 If so, spouse's name? _____ Spouse's E-mail _____
 Are you a relative of a Master Mason? Yes No
 If so, who? _____ His Loc. # _____
 Relation to you _____
 Are you a present or former member of DeMolay? Yes No
 If so, what Chapter? _____
 Are you currently or did you serve in the armed services? Yes No
 If so, what Branch? _____

**RECOMMENDATIONS MUST BE MADE BY MEMBER OF THE LODGE
 PETITIONED**

I recommend _____ as worthy, and certify that I have been personally acquainted with him for _____ years immediately preceding this date. GL or Member Referral

 Signature of recommender Membership No. _____
 _____ Date _____
 (Print name here)

I recommend the petitioner as worthy, and certify that I have been personally acquainted with him for _____ years immediately preceding this date. GL or Member Referral

 Signature of recommender Membership No. _____
 _____ Date _____
 (Print name here)

Solomon II Petition? Yes No

Name of Builder: _____

Builder's Lodge No. _____ Membership Number _____

The secretary must have the statements hereon verified by the Grand Secretary's Office before referring to the Committee.

NOTICE

This form of Petition for Initiation and Membership is an Official Document of the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Maryland. The Master must require all blanks to be properly filled out, and the Secretary must file and preserve this paper among the archives of the Lodge.

KENNETH R. TAYLOR
Grand Secretary

Amended by the Grand Lodge May 18, 1919; May 20, 1947; November 17, 1948;
November 16, 1949; May 18, 1954; May 20, 1958; May 19, 1970; December 14, 2017

INFORMATION TO THE SUBSCRIBER OF A PETITION FOR THE DEGREES IN FREEMASONRY

As the exact nature of the institution of Freemasonry is unknown to you, it is deemed advisable that before signing the attached petition you should be informed on certain features and phases of the institution which may affect your decision to apply for membership therein.

Free masonry has in all ages required that men should conform to its honors entirely of their own free will; not as the result of importunity nor from feelings of curiosity but from a favorable opinion of the institution, a desire for knowledge, and a sincere wish to be serviceable to their fellow creatures.

Masonry is a system of morality based on the belief in the existence of God, the immortality of the soul, and the brotherhood of men; therefore no atheist can be made a Mason. It strives to teach a man the duty he owes to God, to his country, to his family, to his neighbor and to himself. It inculcates the practice of every virtue and makes an extensive use of symbolism in its teachings. It interferes with neither religion nor politics, but strives only after light and truth, endeavoring always to bring out the highest and noblest qualities of men.

It should be clearly borne in mind that Freemasonry is not to be entered in the hope of personal gain or advancement. Admission must not be sought from mercenary or unworthy motives. Anyone so actuated will be bitterly disappointed. The aim of the true Freemason is to cultivate a brotherly feeling among men, and to help the distressed and afflicted to the extent of his ability.

It cannot be too strongly emphasized that Freemasonry is not a benefit Society, although the practice of charity is a fundamental virtue taught in Freemasonry. We do not pay so much a year to entitle us to draw sick pay or other benefits, or to make provisions for those we leave behind. There are other excellent societies founded for this purpose.

Loyalty to one's country is an essential qualification in Freemasonry, and those only are acceptable who cheerfully conform to every lawful authority. Disloyalty in any form is abhorrent to the teachings of Freemasonry and is regarded as a serious Masonic offense. Freemasonry is not contrary to the beliefs of any man of upright heart and mind, and has in it nothing inconsistent with his civil, moral or religious duties.

No Master Mason may make application for membership in any Masonic order or appendant organization which requires as a requisite for membership, membership in a subordinate Masonic Lodge, until he has successfully passed the Master Mason Catechism. Ref.: Article XVI, Section 6, D.

The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of Maryland

**PETITION FOR REINSTATEMENT
FROM SENTENCE OF SUSPENSION/EXPULSION**

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of

_____ *Lodge, No.* _____

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland

I respectfully represent that I was formerly a member of your Lodge; that on or about the _____ of _____, _____ I was indefinitely suspended expelled therefrom, and all of the rights and privileges of Masonry for _____

I now petition for reinstatement to good standing in the Fraternity and to membership in your Lodge.

Name in full _____
(Do not use initials) (First Name) (Middle Name) (Last Name)

Age _____ yrs. Date of Birth _____ Male and Member No. _____

Place of Birth _____
(City, County or Province) (State or Country)

Occupation _____
(State specifically and in detail character of occupation, and if employed, give the name and business of the employer.)

Name of Employer _____

Business of Employer _____

Business Address _____

Residence of Petitioner _____
(Give Street, Number, Town, Zip and Post Office)

Which is in _____ City or _____ County

Where I have continuously resided since _____ Immediately before that my residence was at _____ for _____ years preceding that at _____ for _____ years, and before that at _____ for _____ years.

I have read carefully all of the answers to questions on this petition and take full responsibility for them, and the signature is my own handwriting.

Date _____ *Signature of Applicant* _____

Residence Telephone No. _____ *Cell No.* _____

Email: _____

(Prior to signing, ALL SPACES *MUST* be filled in.)

The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of Maryland

PETITION FOR AFFILIATION

Select the one that applies:

Dual Membership: If the Master Mason petitioning wishes to become a member in a Maryland lodge and maintain his lodge membership in another jurisdiction

Plural Membership: If the Master Mason petitioning wishes to become a member of more than one Maryland lodge

Affiliation: If the Master Mason petitioning intends to leave his home lodge in Maryland, or in another Jurisdiction, upon election in a Maryland lodge **OR** is applying with a **DEMIT**.

⊕ **A Certificate of Good Standing or Demit is required to accompany this petition. Plural and Affiliation petitions between Lodges in our Jurisdiction REQUIRE a Maryland Member Number.**

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of

Lodge No. _____

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland

I hereby declare that I am a Master Mason and a member of _____
Lodge, No. _____ located at _____
As appears by my Certificate of Good Standing herewith presented; and that I am desirous of becoming a member of your lodge.

I hereby declare that I am a Non-Affiliated Master Mason in Good Standing and late member of _____
Lodge No. _____ located at _____
as appears by my Demit herewith presented; and that I am desirous of becoming a member of your lodge.

Name in full _____
(Do not use initials) First Name Middle Name Last Name

Age _____ yrs. Date of Birth _____ Maryland Member No. _____

Place of Birth _____
(City, County or Province) (State or Country)

Occupation _____
(State specifically and in detail the character of the occupation, and if employed, give the name and business of the employer.)

Name of Employer _____

Business of Employer _____

Business Address _____

Residence of Petitioner _____
(Give Street, Number, Town, Zip and Post Office)

Which is in _____ City or _____ County

Where I have continuously resided since _____ Immediately before that my residence was at _____
_____ for _____ years preceding that at _____ for _____
_____ years, and before that at _____ for _____ years.

Fee enclosed \$ _____

I have read carefully all of the answers to questions on this petition and take full responsibility for them, and the signature is my own handwriting. I will supply my Maryland Membership Number for Plural or Affiliation Petitions.

Date _____ Signature of Applicant _____

Residence Telephone No. _____ Cell No. _____

Email: _____ Maryland Membership Number _____

(Prior to signing, ALL SPACES *MUST* be filled in.)

**RECOMMENDATIONS MUST BE MADE BY MEMBER OF THE LODGE
PETITIONED**

I recommend the petitioner as worthy, and certify that I have been personally acquainted with him for _____ years immediately preceding this date. Referral

Signature of Recommender Recommender's Maryland Membership No.

Date

(Print name here)

I recommend the petitioner as worthy, and certify that I have been personally acquainted with him for _____ years immediately preceding this date. Referral

Signature of Recommender Recommender's Maryland Membership No.

Date

(Print name here)

The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of Maryland

**PETITION FOR REINSTATEMENT
FROM SENTENCE OF SUSPENSION/N.P.D.*
*N.P.D. – Non-payment of Dues**

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of

Lodge, No. _____

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland

I respectfully represent that I was a formerly a member of your Lodge; that on or about the _____ of _____, 20____ I was suspended therefrom, and from all the rights and privileges of Masonry for non-payment of dues, in which event I have enclosed dues for the one year in which I was in arrears at the time of my suspension plus the current year's dues

I now petition for reinstatement to good standing in the Fraternity and to membership in your lodge.

In the event my suspension was for non-payment of dues, and my petition for reinstatement is not granted, I hereby request a demit. It is my understanding that the current year's dues will be credited in the event of rejection of this petition.

Name in full _____
(Do not use initials) (First Name) (Middle Name) (Last Name)

Age _____ yrs. Date of Birth _____ Maryland Member No. _____

Place of Birth _____
(City, County or Province) (State or Country)

Occupation _____
(State specifically and in detail the character of the occupation, and if employed, give the name and business of the employer.)

Name of Employer _____

Business of Employer _____

Business Address _____

Residence of Petitioner _____
(Give Street, Number, Town, Zip and Post Office)

Which is in _____ City or _____ County

Where I have continuously resided since _____ Immediately before that my residence was at

_____ for _____ years preceding that at _____ for

_____ years, and before that at _____ for _____ years.

I have read carefully all of the answers to questions on this petition and take full responsibility for them, and the signature is my own handwriting.

Date _____ **Signature of Applicant** _____

Residence Telephone No. _____ **Cell No.** _____

Email: _____

(Prior to signing, ALL SPACES *MUST* be filled in.)

**RECOMMENDATIONS MUST BE MADE BY MEMBER OF THE LODGE
PETITIONED**

We recommend the petitioner to the Lodge for its favor consideration.

Signature of recommender

Recommender's Account No.

(Print name here)

Date

Signature of recommender

Recommender's Account No.

(Print name here)

Date

SAMPLE

The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of Maryland

PETITION FOR REINSTATEMENT

(Demit REQUIRED to accompany this Petition)

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of

Lodge, No. _____

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland

I hereby declare that I am a Non-Affiliated Master Mason in good standing and late member of _____ Lodge, No. _____ located at _____, as appears by my demit, herewith presented; and that I am desirous of becoming a member of your Lodge.

Name in full _____
(Do not use initials) (First Name) (Middle Name) (Last Name)

Age _____ yrs. Date of Birth _____ Maryland Member No. _____

Place of Birth _____
(City, County or Province) (State or Country)

Occupation _____
(State specifically and in detail the character of the occupation, and if employed, the name and business of the employer.)

Name of Employer _____

Business of Employer _____

Business Address _____

Residence of Petitioner _____
(Give Street Number, Town, Zip and Post Office)

Which is in _____ City or _____ County

Where I have continuously resided since _____ Immediately before that my residence was at _____ for _____ years preceding that at _____ for _____ years, and before that at _____ for _____ years.

I have read carefully all of the answers to questions on this petition and take full responsibility for them, and the signature is my own handwriting.

Date _____ Signature of Applicant _____

Residence Telephone No. _____ Cell No. _____

Email: _____

(Prior to signing, ALL SPACES *MUST* be filled in.)

DUES CARD

20XX
This Certifies that



Signature

Mbr#

Whose signature is written in the margin has paid his dues for the year printed above and is a member in good standing of this lodge

Secretary

(Front)

Grand Lodge, A. F. & A. M., of Maryland

This is to certify that the Lodge named on the reverse side hereof is a legally constituted Lodge working under a charter granted by the M.W. Grand Lodge of Maryland



Grand Secretary

(Back)

REGULATIONS - MARYLAND MASONIC HOMES

1. The following persons may, at the discretion of the Board of Trustees, be admitted to the Maryland Masonic Homes:
 - A. Master Masons from any jurisdiction recognized by the Grand Lodge of Maryland and in good standing prior to application for admission.
 - B. Members of the Order of the Eastern Star from any jurisdiction recognized by the Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star of Maryland and in good standing prior to the application for admission.
 - C. Wives, husbands, widows, widowers, grandparents, parents, daughters, sons, step-daughters, step-sons, sisters, brothers, mothers-in-law, fathers-in-law, daughters-in-law, sons-in-law, uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews, half-sisters, and half-brothers or eligible Master Masons or eligible members of the Order of the Eastern Star.
 - D. Remarried widows or widowers of a Master Mason or member of the Order of the Eastern Star who meet the qualifications in subsections (a) and (b) above and their spouses.
 - E. Others as may be deemed appropriate by the Board of Trustees to be in the interest of maintaining a viable census level and/or meet the financial needs of the Maryland Masonic Homes.
2. An applicant must be not less that sixty (60) years of age at the time his or her application is received by the Board of Trustees, provided, however, that in special cases involving extreme conditions this minimum age requirement may be waived by the Board of Trustees. Respite

care admissions can be made for up to one (1) month regardless of the age of the applicant for residency.

3. Application for admission can be made directly to the Maryland Masonic Homes, 300 International Circle, Cockeysville, MD 21030.
4. Applicants must be of good character, of temperate habits, and not addicted to the use of narcotics or alcoholic beverages. They must be free from any contagious or infectious disease or any mental or physical ailment which, in the opinion of the Medical Director of the Masonic Homes, would cause danger to other residents or require care and attention for which the Masonic Homes is not licensed.
5. The Maryland Masonic Homes was established primarily for the care of Maryland Master Masons and their eligible dependents that are without sufficient means of support, unable to earn a livelihood and without relatives who have the ability to support them.
6. Individuals admitted to the Maryland Masonic Homes are required to pay for their care on a fee-for-service basis. Residents are expected to have financial assets sufficient to pay for their care. Each applicant is required to submit financial information requested by the Grand Lodge which may include information for the five (5) years prior to the admission date.
7. The Board of Trustees may approve the admission of an applicant otherwise eligible who does not meet financial admission requirements if the applicant is a Master Mason who is and has been in good standing for ten (10) consecutive years, the most recent five (5) years of which have been as a member of a Maryland Lodge, or is the wife of such Mason or is the un-married widow, never re-married daughter, or mother of a deceased Master Mason who, at the time of his death, satisfied the foregoing requirements of good standing.
8. Residents must refrain from the use of profane or obscene language and conduct themselves in conformity with the rules adopted by the Board of Trustees from time to time for the regulation and conduct of the Homes.
9. Any person (1) admitted under a misstatement or concealment of facts, (2) who fails to pay fees, (3) whose health status or behavior constitutes a substantial threat to the health or safety of that person or other residents, or (4) who materially breaches his or her Residence and Care Agreement with the Grand Lodge, may, by action of the Board of Trustees, be dismissed therefrom.
10. The applicant shall furnish all transportation and be responsible for all pre-admission expenses (i.e., financial reports, medical assessments and reports) required and/or requested by the Maryland Masonic Homes for application processing. The Master of Subordinate Lodge will be notified by the Maryland Masonic Homes when an applicant has been admitted.

**GRAND OFFICERS
of the
Grand Lodge of Maryland**

Since its organization in 1787

The following statement of the Grand Lodge, as prepared by R. W. Brother John D. Readel, Grand Secretary in 1825, is taken from the Grand Lodge Records:

The Grand Lodge of Maryland was instituted in the Town of Easton, Talbot County, on Tuesday, September 17, A.L. 5787. A Grand Convention, consisting of Lodges Nos. 6,7,17,29, 34, was held in the month of June, 1783, in Easton, and in the month of December of the same year in Chestertown, where it was decided that the Lodges of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, (being sufficiently numerous to form a Grand Lodge,) were of right free and independent of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, from which they had obtained their charter.

At said Convention, the RW. John Coats, P.D.G.M. of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, was chosen Grand Master; James Kent, Deputy Grand Master; Thomas Bourke, Senior Grand Warden; William Forrest, Junior Grand Warden; Charles Gardiner, Grand Secretary; and William Perry, Grand Treasurer. This convention adjourned to meet in Cambridge, in June, 1784, but from "accident and other causes" the adjourned meeting did not take place; nor was any meeting held until April 17, 1787, when Deputies from Lodges Nos. 6,7,29,34, and 37, met in Talbot Court House, Easton, decided upon the formation of a Grand Lodge, and elected Brother John Coats, M.D., Most Worshipful Grand Master; Peregrine Lethrbury, R.W. Deputy Grand Master; Thomas Bourke, RW. Senior Grand Warden; John Done, R.W. Junior Grand Warden; Charles Gardiner, RW. Grand Secretary; and Samuel Earle, RW. Grand Treasurer. And having resolved to write to the Lodges of Delaware and of the Western Shore of Maryland to unite with them, determined the first meeting of the Grand Lodge of the State of Maryland should be held at Talbot Court House, on the third Tuesday of September, A.L. 5787, when and where it met, adopted a Constitution, and proceeded to work as an independent Grand Lodge.

Its authority was acknowledged by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in December 5789, and subsequently by all other Grand Lodges.

GRAND LODGE OF MARYLAND							
YEAR	GRAND MASTERS	DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS	SENIOR GRAND WARDENS	JUNIOR GRAND WARDENS	GRAND SECRETARIES	GRAND TREASURERS	YEAR
1787	John Coats	Peregrine Letherbury	Thomas Bourke	John Done	Charles Gardiner	Samuel Earle	1787
1788	John Coats	Peregrine Letherbury	Thomas Bourke	John Done	Charles Gardiner	Samuel Earle	1788
1789	John Coats	Peregrine Letherbury	John Done	Nicholas Hammond	Charles Gardiner	Samuel Earle	1789
1790	John Coats	Peregrine Letherbury	Nicholas Hammond	Joseph Lacey	Charles Gardiner	Samuel Earle	1790
1791	Peregrine Letherbury	Nicholas Hammond	John Erskine	William Martin	Charles Gardiner	David Kerr	1791
1792	Peregrine Letherbury	Nicholas Hammond	John Erskine	William Martin	Charles Gardiner	David Kerr	1792
1793	John Coats	Henry Wilmans	John Erskine	Joseph Clark	Charles Gardiner	David Kerr	1793
1794	Henry Wilmans	David Kerr	Joseph Clark	Richard Johns	Lambert Smith	William Jacobs	1794
1795	David Kerr	Joseph Clark	Robert Ferguson	John Weaver	G'by Goldsborough	Alexander McCaskey	1795
1796	David Kerr	Gustavus R Brown	John Weaver	William Belton	Philip Eckel	Alexander McCaskey	1796
1797	Gustavus R Brown	William Belton	Tubman Lowes	Abraham Jarrett	Pierce L Tanner	Thomas B Hugo	1797
1798	William Belton	Andrew Wisenthal	David Crane	Samuel Jacobs	Peter Little	George Woelper	1798
1799	William Thomas	John Crawford	Levin Hardy	Roger Nelson	Samuel Vincent	George Woelper	1799
1800	William Thomas	John Crawford	Gabriel Christie	Jesse Green	Samuel Vincent	William McDonald	1800
1801	John Crawford	Roger Nelson	Basil Wood	Jesse Green	Samuel Vincent	William McDonald	1801
1802	John Crawford	Roger Nelson	Jesse Green	Tubman Lowes	Samuel Vincent	William Bull	1802
1803	John Crawford	Roger Nelson	Allen B Duckett	Roger Nelson	Samuel Vincent	James L Hawkins	1803
1804	John Crawford	Roger Nelson	Allen B Duckett	RH Goldsborough	Samuel Vincent	Peter Little	1804
1805	John Crawford	Roger Nelson	John Gassaway	Frisby Tilghman	Samuel Cole	Peter Little	1805
1806	Richard Pindell	John Kitty	Frisby Tilghman	RH Goldsborough	Oliver B Hays	Peter Little	1806
1807	John Crawford	John Kitty	John Scott	Leonard Frailey	J Lewis Wampler	Peter Little	1807
1808	John Crawford	John Scott	Tobias Watkins	Otho S Williams	J Lewis Wampler	Abraham Larsh	1808
1809	John Crawford	Tobias Watkins	Alex McCormick	Otho S Williams	J Lewis Wampler	Abraham Larsh	1809
1810	John Crawford	Tobias Watkins	Archibald Vanhorn	John Fisher	J Lewis Wampler	Abraham Larsh	1810
1811	John Crawford	Tobias Watkins	Peter Little	Samuel Ringgold	John Wales	Abraham Larsh	1811
1812	John Crawford	Tobias Watkins	Peter Little	Peter Galt	John Wales	Abraham Larsh	1812
1813	Tobias Watkins	Peter Little	Thomas Jennings	Peter Galt	Archibald Dobbin	Abraham Larsh	1813
1814	Levin Winder	William Camp	Thomas Jennings	Peter Galt	Archibald Dobbin	Edward G Woody ear	1814
1815	Levin Winder	William Camp	Thomas Jennings	Peter Galt	Benjamin C Howard	Edward G Woody ear	1815
1816	Tobias Watkins	Peter Little	Charles Wirgman	William H Winder	Benjamin C Howard	Edward G Woody ear	1816
1817	Tobias Watkins	Peter Little	Charles Wirgman	William H Winder	Benjamin C Howard	Edward G Woody ear	1817
1818	Peter Little	Benjamin C Howard	Charles Wirgman	William H Winder	Richard Makubin	Edward G Woody ear	1818
1819	Peter Little	Benjamin C Howard	Charles Wirgman	William H Winder	Richard Makubin	Edward G Woody ear	1819
1820	Charles Wirgman	William H Winder	Benjamin C Howard	William P Farquhar	John D Readel	Edward G Woody ear	1820
1821	Charles Wirgman	William H Winder	Benjamin C Howard	William P Farquhar	John D Readel	Edward G Woody ear	1821
1822	William H Winder	Benjamin C Howard	William Steuart	Isreal D Maulsby	John D Readel	Edward G Woody ear	1822
1823	William H Winder	Benjamin C Howard	William Steuart	Isreal D Maulsby	John D Readel	Edward G Woody ear	1823
1824	Benjamin C Howard	William Steuart	Robert H Goldsboro	Otho H Williams	John D Readel	Edward G Woody ear	1824
1825	Benjamin C Howard	William Steuart	Robert H Goldsboro	Otho H Williams	John D Readel	Edward G Woody ear	1825
1826	Benjamin C Howard	William Steuart	Robert H Goldsboro	Otho H Williams	Thomas Phenix	Edward G Woody ear	1826
1827	Benjamin C Howard	William Steuart	Robert H Goldsboro	Dennis Claude	Thomas Phenix	Edward G Woody ear	1827
1828	Benjamin C Howard	William Steuart	Robert H Goldsboro	Dennis Claude	Thomas Phenix	Edward G Woody ear	1828
1829	Benjamin C Howard	William Steuart	Edward G Woody ear	William H Barroll	Thomas Phenix	Robert Neilson	1829
1830	Benjamin C Howard	William Steuart	Edward G Woody ear	William H Barroll	Thomas Phenix	Robert Neilson	1830
1831	Benjamin C Howard	William Steuart	Edward G Woody ear	William H Barroll	Thomas Phenix	Robert Neilson	1831
1832	Benjamin C Howard	William Steuart	Anthony Kimmel	Thomas Burchenal	Thomas Phenix	Francis J Dallam	1832
1833	Benjamin C Howard	William Steuart	Anthony Kimmel	Isreal D Maulsby	G W Williamson	Francis J Dallam	1833
1834	Benjamin C Howard	William Steuart	Anthony Kimmel	Isreal D Maulsby	G W Williamson	Francis J Dallam	1834
1835	Benjamin C Howard	William Steuart	Anthony Kimmel	Isreal D Maulsby	Richard Makubin	Samuel Keerl	1835

GRAND LODGE OF MARYLAND							
YEAR	GRAND MASTERS	DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS	SENIOR GRAND WARDENS	JUNIOR GRAND WARDENS	GRAND SECRETARIES	GRAND TREASURERS	YEAR
1836	Benjamin C Howard	William Stewart	Israel Maulsby	Thomas Hayward	Richard Makubin	Samuel Keel	1836
1837	Benjamin C Howard	William Stewart	Israel Maulsby	Thomas Hayward	Richard Makubin	Samuel Keel	1837
1838	Benjamin C Howard	Charles Gilman	Thomas Hayward	William Denney	Richard Makubin	Samuel Keel	1838
1839	Benjamin C Howard	Charles Gilman	William Denney	Thomas Burchenal	Richard Makubin	Samuel Keel	1839
1840	Benjamin C Howard	Charles Gilman	William Denney	Thomas Burchenal	Richard Makubin	Samuel Keel	1840
1841	Benjamin C Howard	Charles Gilman	William Denney	Thomas Burchenal	Richard Makubin	Samuel Keel	1841
1842	Charles Gilman	Anthony Kimmell	William Denney	Cornelius Smith	Joseph Robinson	Samuel Keel	1842
1843	Charles Gilman	Anthony Kimmell	Thomas Hayward	Cornelius Smith	Joseph Robinson	Christian G Peters	1843
1844	Charles Gilman	Anthony Kimmell	Thomas Hayward	Cornelius Smith	Joseph Robinson	Samuel Keel	1844
1845	Charles Gilman	Hugh Ely	JRW Dunbar	Charles H Ohr	Joseph Robinson	Christian G Peters	1845
1846	Charles Gilman	Hugh Ely	Daniel A Piper	Robert C Morse	Joseph Robinson	Jesse T Peters	1846
1847	Charles Gilman	John D Readel	M Topham Evans	William Demy	Joseph Robinson	Jesse T Peters	1847
1848	Charles Gilman	John D Readel	Charles Goodwin	George M Lamb	Joseph Robinson	Samson Carriss	1848
1849	Charles H Ohr	Thomas H Hicks	Enoch S Courtney	John W Ball	Joseph Robinson	Samson Carriss	1849
1850	Charles H Ohr	Simeon Alden	Jacob H Medairy	Robert Y Starr	Joseph Robinson	Samson Carriss	1850
1851	Charles H Ohr	John D Readel	Charles Webb	John Heckart	Joseph Robinson	Samson Carriss	1851
1852	John D Readel	Wm F Hopkins	Lawrence Sangston	Samuel M Magraw	Joseph Robinson	Samson Carriss	1852
1853	Charles Webb	William Denny	Edward T Owens	Samuel M Magraw	Joseph Robinson	Samson Carriss	1853
1854	Charles Webb	Edward T Owens	JMS Macculbin	George L Kennard	Joseph Robinson	Samson Carriss	1854
1855	Charles Webb	Edward T Owens	George L Kennard	James Bruster	Joseph Robinson	Samson Carriss	1855
1856	James A McKenry	John S Berry	James Bruster	William McClymont	Joseph Robinson	Samson Carriss	1856
1857	Charles Webb	Anthony Kimmell	William McClymont	Robert Gallaher	Joseph Robinson	Samson Carriss	1857
1858	Charles Goodwin	John J Heckert	William Carpbell	Samuel M Haller	Joseph Robinson	Samson Carriss	1858
1859	Anthony Kimmell	John Coates	John L Yates	James S Chaplain	Joseph Robinson	Frederick Fickey, Jr	1859
1860	John S Berry	Nicholas Brewer	Samuel M Haller	James S Chaplain	Joseph Robinson	Frederick Fickey, Jr	1860
1861	John S Berry	Nicholas Brewer	W L W Seabrook	James Logue	Joseph Robinson	Frederick Fickey, Jr	1861
1862	John N McJilton	W L W Seabrook	James Logue	William H Jordan	Joseph Robinson	Frederick Fickey, Jr	1862
1863	John Coates	W L W Seabrook	William J Wroth	Andrew K Stake	Jacob H Medairy	Frederick Fickey, Jr	1863
1864	John Coates	John A Lynch	William J Wroth	Walter H Thompson	Jacob H Medairy	Frederick Fickey, Jr	1864
1865	John Coates	Francis Burns	Lawrence Sangston	Levin Woolford	Jacob H Medairy	Frederick Fickey, Jr	1865
1866	John Coates	Francis Burns	Lawrence Sangston	Levin Woolford	Jacob H Medairy	Frederick Fickey, Jr	1866
1867	John Coates	Francis Burns	Lawrence Sangston	Charles A Wailes	Jacob H Medairy	Frederick Fickey, Jr	1867
1868	John Coates	Francis Burns	Lawrence Sangston	Charles A Wailes	Jacob H Medairy	Frederick Fickey, Jr	1868
1869	John S Berry	Francis Burns	Lucius A C Gerry	George L McCahan	Jacob H Medairy	Frederick Fickey, Jr	1869
1870	John H B Latrobe	Francis Burns	Lucius A C Gerry	George L McCahan	Jacob H Medairy	Frederick Fickey, Jr	1870
1871	John H B Latrobe	Francis Burns	Lucius A C Gerry	William A Cunningham	Jacob H Medairy	Frederick Fickey, Jr	1871
1872	John H B Latrobe	Francis Burns	Lucius A C Gerry	William A Cunningham	Jacob H Medairy	Woodward Abrahams	1872
1873	John H B Latrobe	Francis Burns	John S Tyson	A Hall Richardson	Jacob H Medairy	Woodward Abrahams	1873
1874	John H B Latrobe	Francis Burns	John S Tyson	Charles E Hayward	Jacob H Medairy	Woodward Abrahams	1874
1875	John H B Latrobe	Francis Burns	Charles E Hayward	John M Carter	Jacob H Medairy	Woodward Abrahams	1875
1876	John H B Latrobe	Francis Burns	John M Carter	Edmund J Oppelt	Jacob H Medairy	Woodward Abrahams	1876
1877	John H B Latrobe	Francis Burns	John M Carter	Charles G Edwards	Jacob H Medairy	Woodward Abrahams	1877
1878	John M Carter	John S Tyson	Edmund J Oppelt	Issac Amos	Jacob H Medairy	Woodward Abrahams	1878
1879	John M Carter	John S Tyson	Ferd JS Gorgas	Thomas J Shryock	Jacob H Medairy	Woodward Abrahams	1879
1880	John S Tyson	Woodward Abrahams	Thomas J Shryock	Edwin L Parker, Jr	Jacob H Medairy	James D Mason	1880
1881	John S Tyson	Woodward Abrahams	Albert Ritchie	William F Cochran	Jacob H Medairy	James D Mason	1881
1882	John S Tyson	Woodward Abrahams	Albert Ritchie	J Augustus Parsons	Jacob H Medairy	James D Mason	1882
1883	John S Tyson	Woodward Abrahams	William M Isaac	Graham Dukehart	Jacob H Medairy	James D Mason	1883
1884	John S Tyson	Thomas J Shryock	Edward T Schultz	John W Horn	Jacob H Medairy	James D Mason	1884
1885	Thomas J Shryock	George L McCahan	Henry Lloyd	William H Martin	Jacob H Medairy	James D Mason	1885

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YEAR	GRAND MASTERS	DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS	SENIOR GRAND WARDENS	JUNIOR GRAND WARDENS	GRAND SECRETARIES	GRAND TREASURERS	YEAR
1886	Thomas J Shryock	George L McCahan	Henry Lloyd	William H Martin	Jacob H Medairy	William H Shryock	1886
1887	Thomas J Shryock	Jas M Anderson	SL Stockbridge	William H Clark	Jacob H Medairy	William H Shryock	1887
1888	Thomas J Shryock	Syl L Stockbridge	William S Keech	George R Medairy	Jacob H Medairy	William H Shryock	1888
1889	Thomas J Shryock	Wm H Clark	John R Dorsey	James A Diffenbaugh	Jacob H Medairy	William H Shryock	1889
1890	Thomas J Shryock	Jacob E Krebs	Henry Branch	Columbus C Isaacs	Jacob H Medairy	William H Shryock	1890
1891	Thomas J Shryock	Jacob E Krebs	Dr W Clement Claude	Andrew E Warner	Jacob H Medairy	William H Shryock	1891
1892	Thomas J Shryock	Robert K Martin	Anton H Fetting	Francis B Sappington	Jacob H Medairy	William H Shryock	1892
1893	Thomas J Shryock	Robert K Martin	Theo J Vaneman	Hugh B Jones	Jacob H Medairy	William H Shryock	1893
1894	Thomas J Shryock	Anton H Fetting	Chas B Finley	Peter E Tome	Jacob H Medairy	William H Shryock	1894
1895	Thomas J Shryock	Anton H Fetting	George FM Hauck	John A Russell	Jacob H Medairy	William H Shryock	1895
1896	Thomas J Shryock	Anton H Fetting	Charles Clark	Thomas Footer	Jacob H Medairy	William H Shryock	1896
1897	Thomas J Shryock	Anton H Fetting	George W Golden	James F Allen	Jacob H Medairy	George B Baker	1897
1898	Thomas J Shryock	Jno A Russell	William S Henning	Sebedee Householder	Jacob H Medairy	George B Baker	1898
1899	Thomas J Shryock	Jno A Russell	Thomas L Matthews	William H Barton	Jacob H Medairy	George B Baker	1899
1900	Thomas J Shryock	Henry C Larabee	SB Medairy	James E Green	Jacob H Medairy	Peter E Tome	1900
1901	Thomas J Shryock	Henry C Larabee	Lewis R Keiser	J Clement Clark	Jacob H Medairy	Peter E Tome	1901
1902	Thomas J Shryock	James R Brewer	A Frank Gilbert	Edward R Tripppe	Jacob H Medairy	Peter E Tome	1902
1903	Thomas J Shryock	James R Brewer	Henry C Griffin	David M Fisher	William M Isaac	Peter E Tome	1903
1904	Thomas J Shryock	James R Brewer	Robert D Grier	George E Taylor	William M Isaac	Peter E Tome	1904
1905	Thomas J Shryock	James R Brewer	George R Gehr	John L Sanford	William M Isaac	Peter E Tome	1905
1906	Thomas J Shryock	James R Brewer	George Cook	Jacob Rohrbach	William M Isaac	Peter E Tome	1906
1907	Thomas J Shryock	James R Brewer	Samuel Mansfield	Charles W Donnelly	William M Isaac	Peter E Tome	1907
1908	Thomas J Shryock	James R Brewer	Charles C Homer, Jr	Richard T Carter	William M Isaac	Peter E Tome	1908
1909	Thomas J Shryock	James R Brewer	Daniel J Finch, Jr	John H Janar	William M Isaac	Peter E Tome	1909
1910	Thomas J Shryock	James R Brewer	Gustav A Eitel	S Chester Coursey	William M Isaac	Peter E Tome	1910
1911	Thomas J Shryock	Charles C Homer, Jr	Edwin J Griffin	Herman D Billmeyer	George Cook	Peter E Tome	1911
1912	Thomas J Shryock	Charles C Homer, Jr	Martin J Kohn	John H Kimble	George Cook	Peter E Tome	1912
1913	Thomas J Shryock	Charles C Homer, Jr	Frederick C Burger	Thomas G Brown	George Cook	Peter E Tome	1913
1914	Thomas J Shryock	Charles C Homer, Jr	William Mohr	James A McLuckie	George Cook	Peter E Tome	1914
1915	Thomas J Shryock	Charles C Homer, Jr	Warren S Seipp	William M Chipley	George Cook	Peter E Tome	1915
1916	Thomas J Shryock	Charles C Homer, Jr	George W Livingston	A LeRoy McCardell	George Cook	Peter E Tome	1916
1917	Thomas J Shryock	Charles C Homer, Jr	Robert M Roether	George E Lewis	George Cook	Peter E Tome	1917
1918	Charles C Homer, Jr	Warren S Seipp	William Silver	Robert L Graham	George Cook	Peter E Tome	1918
1919	Charles C Homer, Jr	Warren S Seipp	William Schmidt, Jr	Harry R Snyder	George Cook	Peter E Tome	1919
1920	Warren S Seipp	George W Livingston	G Guy Shoemaker	Thomas A Wonder	George Cook	Peter E Tome	1920
1921	Warren S Seipp	George W Livingston	G Guy Shoemaker	Thomas A Wonder	George Cook	Peter E Tome	1921
1922	Warren S Seipp	George W Livingston	John H Duancan	Albert A Parker	George Cook	Peter E Tome	1922
1923	Warren S Seipp	George W Livingston	LePage Crousmiller	Conrad J Raider	George Cook	Peter E Tome	1923
1924	Warren S Seipp	George W Livingston	Chas W Zimmermann	J Roscoe Wheatley	George Cook	Peter E Tome	1924
1925	Warren S Seipp	George W Livingston	Jedidiah Gittings	George JD Disney	George Cook	Peter E Tome	1925
1926	Warren S Seipp	George R Gorsuch	George W Little	Samuel G Duvall	George Cook	Peter E Tome	1926
1927	Warren S Seipp	George R Gorsuch	Lewis A Kirk	William S Love	George Cook	Peter E Tome	1927
1928	Warren S Seipp	George R Gorsuch	Robert G Davis	William L Morgan	George Cook	Peter E Tome	1928
1929	Warren S Seipp	George R Gorsuch	T Scott Offutt	William F Broening	George Cook	Peter E Tome	1929
1930	Warren S Seipp	George R Gorsuch	Edward Lee Hickman	William E Daugherty	George Cook	Peter E Tome	1930
1931	George R Gorsuch	George W Livingston	Daniel Hope	Chas H Wildt	George Cook	Peter E Tome	1931
1932	George W Livingston	George W Livingston	William F Ekas	J Lloyd Harshman	George Cook	Peter E Tome	1932
1933	George W Livingston	Chas W Zimmermann	Harry B Wright	J Brower Gardner	George Cook	Peter E Tome	1933
1934	George W Livingston	Chas W Zimmermann	Marrion L Elliott	Joseph S Haas	Harry C Mueller	Peter E Tome	1934

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YEAR	GRAND MASTERS	DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS	SENIOR GRAND WARDENS	JUNIOR GRAND WARDENS	GRAND SECRETARIES	GRAND TREASURERS	YEAR
1935	George W Livingston	Harry B Wright	Walker W Dawson	Albert H Samuel	Harry C Mueller	Peter E Tome	1935
1936	Harry B Wright	John H Hessey	Harry L Robinson	Arthur H Doll	Harry C Mueller	Peter E Tome	1936
1937	Harry B Wright	John H Hessey	Herman L Punell	Karl H Peltz	Harry C Mueller	Peter E Tome	1937
1938	Harry B Wright	John H Hessey	C Ellwood Smyrk	Henry S Wood	Harry C Mueller	Peter E Tome	1938
1939	John H Hessey	George S Yost	A Wayne Reed	Jacob Gross, Jr	Harry C Mueller	William Schmidt, Jr	1939
1940	John H Hessey	George S Yost	Chester H Katenkamp	Norman P Walters	Claud Shaffer	William Schmidt, Jr	1940
1941	George S Yost	Harry L Robinson	Martin H Kinsinger	William T Karow	Claud Shaffer	William Schmidt, Jr	1941
1942	George S Yost	Harry L Robinson	Otis G Wilbur	George W Bustin	Claud Shaffer	John D Hespelhorn	1942
1943	Harry L Robinson	Daniel Hope	Philip B Matthews	Charles W Skipper	Claud Shaffer	John D Hespelhorn	1943
1944	Harry L Robinson	Daniel Hope	Charles A Crate	George S Riley	Claud Shaffer	John D Hespelhorn	1944
1945	Daniel Hope	Harry L Huether	Charles Leslie Moats	Allan Cleveland	Claud Shaffer	John D Hespelhorn	1945
1946	Daniel Hope	Harry L Huether	Henry W Schultheis	C Norman Jefferson	Claud Shaffer	John D Hespelhorn	1946
1947	Harry L Huether	Harry O Schroeder	Henry T Converse	Dr Wilbur F Skillman	Claud Shaffer	John D Hespelhorn	1947
1948	Harry L Huether	Harry O Schroeder	Robert Hockaday	Allan C Fisher	Claud Shaffer	John D Hespelhorn	1948
1949	Harry O Schroeder	Jacob S New	Whiner Fell Davis	Thomas R Sullivan	Claud Shaffer	John D Hespelhorn	1949
1950	Harry O Schroeder	Jacob S New	George B Wells, Jr	C Albert Maslin	Claud Shaffer	John D Hespelhorn	1950
1951	Jacob S New	John S Hespelhorn	William D Bragunier	William F Peltz	Claud Shaffer	Ernest L Poyner	1951
1952	Jacob S New	John S Hespelhorn	Reginald Abercrombie	Charles O Hartsock	Claud Shaffer	Ernest L Poyner	1952
1953	John D Hespelhorn	Arthur W Dowell	Maurice C Elliott	John Muth	Claud Shaffer	Ernest L Poyner	1953
1954	John D Hespelhorn	Arthur W Dowell	Harold H Hirzel	W Norman Penn	Claud Shaffer	Ernest L Poyner	1954
1955	Arthur W Dowell	Charles H Cover	Fletcher W Sears	Norman F Fritze	Claud Shaffer	C Milton Lancaster	1955
1956	Charles H Cover	Charles H Cover	Edward W Vansant	James H Falk	Claud Shaffer	C Milton Lancaster	1956
1957	Charles H Cover	A Wayne Reed	Edward W Vansant	Herbert E Neumann	Claud Shaffer	C Milton Lancaster	1957
1958	Charles H Cover	A Wayne Reed	John H Morawe	George M Harris	Claud Shaffer	C Milton Lancaster	1958
1959	A Wayne Reed	Martin H Kinsinger	Dennis C Simmonds	William L Gouline	Claud Shaffer	C Milton Lancaster	1959
1960	A Wayne Reed	Martin H Kinsinger	Donald M Jett	Samuel O Sowers	Gerald M Pine	C Milton Lancaster	1960
1961	Martin H Kinsinger	Ernest L Poyner	Gus G Koste, Sr	Frank Feldman	Gerald M Pine	C Milton Lancaster	1961
1962	Martin H Kinsinger	Ernest L Poyner	Wm B Stansbury, Jr	Edward T Brueckmann	Gerald M Pine	C Milton Lancaster	1962
1963	Ernest L Poyner	Edward R Saunders	E Hunt Burroughs	Martin Roos	Gerald M Pine	C Milton Lancaster	1963
1964	Ernest L Poyner	Edward R Saunders	Norman W Gerhardt	Joseph L Evans	Gerald M Pine	C Milton Lancaster	1964
1965	Edward R Saunders	W Norman Penn	Clyde C Hill	Louis R Rosenthal	Gerald M Pine	C Milton Lancaster	1965
1966	Edward R Saunders	W Norman Penn	Edward F Reid	Samuel H Grimsey	Gerald M Pine	C Milton Lancaster	1966
1967	W Norman Penn	Wm B Stansbury, Jr	Harry E Beck	James Thomas Middleton	Gerald M Pine	C Milton Lancaster	1967
1968	W Norman Penn	Wm B Stansbury, Jr	Don K Covington, Jr	J Irwin Martin	Gerald M Pine	C Milton Lancaster	1968
1969	Wm B Stansbury, Jr	John R Fogle	William L Merrick, Jr	Harvey T Hopkins	Gerald M Pine	C Milton Lancaster	1969
1970	Wm B Stansbury, Jr	John R Fogle	Stanley R Uppercue	Harry J Rohrbaugh	Gerald M Pine	C Ellwood Smyrk	1970
1971	John R Fogle	Philip B Matthews	S Flory Diehl	Horace B Hatton	Gerald M Pine	C Ellwood Smyrk	1971
1972	John R Fogle	Philip B Matthews	Wm Stuart Hommerbocker, Jr	Homer L Michael	Gerald M Pine	C Ellwood Smyrk	1972
1973	Philip B Matthews	J Thomas Middleton	Gordon T Seward	G Herbert Muir	Gerald M Pine	C Ellwood Smyrk	1973
1974	Philip B Matthews	J Thomas Middleton	George Resnick	John A Hughes, Jr	Gerald M Pine	C Ellwood Smyrk	1974
1975	J Thomas Middleton	Roy H Stetler, Jr	Bernard E Rothman	Moses Appel	Stanley R Uppercue	C Ellwood Smyrk	1975
1976	J Thomas Middleton	Roy H Stetler, Jr	Ernest L Drohan, Jr	Lewis E Biggs	Stanley R Uppercue	C Ellwood Smyrk	1976
1977	Roy H Stetler, Jr	William M Koenig	Wm Penn Testerman	Wm Morris Kemp	Stanley R Uppercue	C Milton Lancaster	1977
1978	Roy H Stetler, Jr	William M Koenig	John J Desata, Sr	Austin N Rowan	Stanley R Uppercue	Elias W Nuttle	1978
1979	William M Koenig	Bernard E Rothman	Leroy E Smith	Stephen J Pozzillo	Stanley R Uppercue	Elias W Nuttle	1979
1980	William M Koenig	Bernard E Rothman	L Bernard Worrell	Norman W Gaither	Stanley R Uppercue	W Meredith S Young	1980
1981	Bernard E Rothman	Harry T Hopkins	B Hope Harrison	Clarence O Theis, Jr	Jack R Frazier	W Meredith S Young	1981
1982	Bernard E Rothman	Harry T Hopkins	Albert S Halm	John R Newcomb	Jack R Frazier	W Meredith S Young	1982
1983	Harvey T Hopkins	C David Haacke	William M Clark, Jr	Henry Funk	Jack R Frazier	W Meredith S Young	1983
1984	Harvey T Hopkins	C David Haacke	Lawrence E Dodson	Kenneth A Robertson	Jack R Frazier	Carl J Wisner	1984
1985	C David Haacke	Joseph C Bryan, III	A Ray Bulgin	William H Jones	Jack R Frazier	Carl J Wisner	1985

GRAND LODGE OF MARYLAND

YEAR	GRAND MASTERS	DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS	SENIOR GRAND WARDENS	JUNIOR GRAND WARDENS	GRAND SECRETARIES	GRAND TREASURERS	YEAR
1986	C David Huacke	Joseph C Bryan, III	John M Smith, Jr	John E Edmondson	Jack R Frazier	Carl J Wisner	1986
1987	Joseph C Bryan III	B Hope Harrison	Joseph F Chalkey	Constantine D Anagnos	Jack R Frazier	Earl L Peddicord, Sr	1987
1988	Joseph C Bryan III	B Hope Harrison	Richard A Ort, Sr	Harvey E Yale	Jack R Frazier	Wayne D Gingrich	1988
1989	B Hope Harrison	John M Smith, Jr	John C Naquin	George F Payne, Jr	Jack R Frazier	Wayne D Gingrich	1989
1990	B Hope Harrison	John M Smith, Jr	James L Sadler, Jr	Paul G Shireliff	Jack R Frazier	Wayne D Gingrich	1990
1991	John M Smith, Jr	William M Clark, Jr	Walter L Harmsen	Theodore A Harding	Jack R Frazier	Wayne D Gingrich	1991
1992	John M Smith, Jr	William M Clark, Jr	Larry L Theis	Charles W Wagner, Jr	Jack R Frazier	Wayne D Gingrich	1992
1993	William M Clark, Jr	Stephen J Ponzillo, Jr	Frederick E Reel	Edward B Kraft	Jack R Frazier	Wayne D Gingrich	1993
1994	William M Clark, Jr	Stephen J Ponzillo, Jr	Murray K Lilly	Donald E Baker	Jack R Frazier	Wayne D Gingrich	1994
1995	Stephen J Ponzillo, Jr	John C Naquin	John C Naquin	William H Smith	Jack R Frazier	Wayne D Gingrich	1995
1996	Stephen J Ponzillo, Jr	John C Naquin	Wayne F Allen	Joseph H Wagner	Jack R Frazier	Wayne D Gingrich	1996
1997	John C Naquin	Francis E Larimore	Ralph L Perry	John W Hooks, Jr	Jack R Frazier	Wayne D Gingrich	1997
1998	John C Naquin	Francis E Larimore	John A Young, Jr	Robert L King	Jack R Frazier	Wayne D Gingrich	1998
1999	Francis E Larimore	Bennie G Owens	John T Middleton, Sr	Paul L Fishell	Jack R Frazier	Theodosio V Gandini	1999
2000	Francis E Larimore	Bennie G Owens	John R Biggs, Jr	Ronald G Belanger	Jack R Frazier	Theodosio V Gandini	2000
2001	Bennie G Owens	John A Young, Jr	John W Hall	Morris L Bohlayer	Jack R Frazier	Theodosio V Gandini	2001
2002	Bennie G Owens	John A Young, Jr	George T Weisbecker	David L Hall	Jack R Frazier	Wm Raymond Bosley	2002
2003	John A Young, Jr	Ronald G Belanger	R Gary Perce	Wayne C Penley, Sr	Jack R Frazier	Wm Raymond Bosley	2003
2004	John A Young, Jr	Ronald G Belanger	George E Hunt	Thomas M Velvin, Jr	Jack R Frazier	Wm Raymond Bosley	2004
2005	Ronald G Belanger	John R Biggs, Jr	David L Schneider	Thomas J Winebrenner	Herbert Y Holcomb, III	Wm Raymond Bosley	2005
2006	John R Biggs, Jr	John R Biggs, Jr	Stephen J Ponzillo, III	Carl W Todd	Herbert Y Holcomb, III	Wm Raymond Bosley	2006
2007	John R Biggs, Jr	Thomas M Velvin, Jr	Gerard E Piepiora	Henry C McDonald, Jr	Herbert Y Holcomb, III	William E Gyr	2007
2008	Thomas M. Velvin, Jr.	Thomas M Velvin, Jr	Spyridon G. Trekkas	Marvin E. Prantz	Herbert Y Holcomb, III	William E Gyr	2008
2009	Thomas M. Velvin, Jr.	Stephen J Ponzillo, III	Kenneth R. Taylor	Kostas Vourvoulas	Herbert Y Holcomb, III	William E Gyr	2009
2010	Thomas M. Velvin, Jr.	Stephen J Ponzillo, III	Arthur R. Dickerson, Jr.	Jay W. Hodges	Herbert Y Holcomb, III	William E Gyr	2010
2011	Stephen J Ponzillo, III	Gerald E Piepiora	Thomas A. Keller	Robert W. Chase	Herbert Y Holcomb, III	William E Gyr	2011
2012	Stephen J Ponzillo, III	Gerald E Piepiora	Michael E. Holcomb	William D. Hooper, Jr.	Herbert Y Holcomb, III	William E Gyr	2012
2013	Gerald E Piepiora	Kenneth S. Wyvill, Jr.	Charles L. Carmichael	Davis R. Sandy	Herbert Y Holcomb, III	William E Gyr	2013
2014	Gerald E Piepiora	Kenneth S. Wyvill, Jr.	Richard P. Naegele	Randall L. Watson	Herbert Y Holcomb, III	William E Gyr	2014
2015	Kenneth S Wyvill, Jr.	Kostas Vourvoulas	Richard E. Mainley, Jr.	Robert W. Reynolds	Herbert Y Holcomb, III	William E Gyr	2015
2016	Kenneth S Wyvill, Jr.	Kostas Vourvoulas	Frederick A. Spicer	Terry L. Royce	Herbert Y Holcomb, III	William E Gyr	2016
2017	Kostas Vourvoulas	Richard P. Naegele	Roger D. Dunn	Michael A. Youse	Kenneth R. Taylor	Randall L. Watson	2017
2018	Kostas Vourvoulas	Richard P. Naegele	Drew M. Taylor	Miguel P. Banaagan, Jr.	Kenneth R. Taylor	Randall L. Watson	2018
2019	Richard P. Naegele	Marlin L. Mills	Mark E. Pearlslein	Ian M. McIntosh	Kenneth R. Taylor	T. Scott Cushing, Sr.	2019
2020	Richard P. Naegele	Marlin L. Mills	Walter F. Burgess	Bradley D. Andriukaitis	Kenneth R. Taylor	T. Scott Cushing, Sr.	2020
2021	Marlin L. Mills	Frederick A. Spicer	Thomas W. Foster	Robert C. Candler	Kenneth R. Taylor	T. Scott Cushing, Sr.	2021

**MASONIC DIGEST
OF THE GRAND LODGE OF
ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF MARYLAND**

HISTORY

The first Masonic Digest, then called "Masonic Code", was compiled by a special committee, as indicated below, which did much original research on the Masonic principles involved, and gathered from many sources the rules and regulations which should govern Subordinate Lodges under principles of Masonic Jurisprudence, as well as under the Grand Lodge Constitution. This was adopted by the Grand Lodge on November 19, 1935.

In 1944, a second committee was appointed to revise the Code and bring it to date, in the light of numerous changes in the Constitution of the Grand Lodge which had been made since the original code was adopted. This committee recommended that the name be changed from Masonic Code to Masonic Digest, because it was not actually a Code of Laws but rather a statement of governing principles interpreting the law. The report of this committee was adopted at the Annual Communication of November 20, 1946.

In 1953, Grand Master Hospelhorn appointed a committee to revise and bring to date the Digest. This committee not only made such changes as were appropriate to reflect changes made by the Grand Lodge in the Constitution and Standing Orders and Resolutions, but also revised the form of some of the comments, and added to the various paragraphs of the Digest annotations to the Constitution, Standing Orders and Resolutions, rulings of Grand Masters, and Masonic text books, showing the authority for the statements made in the text of the Digest. This revision was submitted to the Grand Lodge and adopted by it at its Annual Communication on November 16, 1954.

On November 19, 1979, the Grand Lodge adopted a completely revised Constitution. The Constitution Revision Committee revised the Digest to conform to the provisions of the newly adopted Constitution.

It is thought that the annotation of the sources of authority will be substantial help to the Masters of the Lodges and all others interested in the interpretation of Masonic Law of Maryland.

MASONIC DIGEST

Digest Originally Compiled by

GEORGE W. LIVINGSTON
M. W. Grand Master

GEORGE D. HENRY
P.M. No. 101

HARRY C. MUELLER
R. W. Grand Secretary

HENRY W. SCHULTHEIS
P.M. No. 160

Adopted November 19, 1935

Digest Revised by

JOHN H. HESSEY
M. W. Grand Master

GEORGE S. YOST
M. W. Past Grand Master

HARRY L. ROBINSON
M. W. Past Grand Master

Adopted November 20, 1946

Digest Revised and Annotated by

**GEORGE S. YOST
W. Past Grand Master**

ARTHUR W. DOWELL
R. W. Deputy Grand Master

GEORGE M. MULLEN
P. M. No. 202

REGINALD ABERCROMBIE
R. W. Senior Grand Warden

W. NORMAN PENN
R. W. Junior Grand Warden

WILLIAM F. REINDOLLAR
P. M. No.3

HENRY W. SCHULTHEIS
R. W. Past Senior Grand Warden

Ex officio

JOHN D. HOSPELHORN
M. W. Past Grand Master

CLAUD SHAFFER
R. W. Grand Secretary

Adopted November 16, 1954

Digest Revised May 1981 by

EDWARD R. SAUNDERS
M. W. Past Grand Master

WM. MORRIS KEMP
R. W. Past Junior Grand Warden

JOHN W. DONALDSON
P. M. No. 124

JOHN E. SIBREA
P. M. No. 222

**MASONIC DIGEST
OF THE GRAND LODGE OF
ANCIENT, FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF MARYLAND**

All references to "Mackey's Jurisprudence of Freemasonry," are to the 13th Edition unless otherwise noted.

All references marked Article.....Section....., are to the Constitution of the Grand Lodge.

LODGE

The word Lodge is used in two senses; First, as applied to an assemblage of Masons; Second, to the place of meeting. A Lodge should not be confused with a Lodge room. With a good many Masons the word Lodge is expressive of both the individual Masons and the building or place where they hold their meetings, which is erroneous.

A Lodge is the organized body of Freemasons, duly congregated for labor or business. Or, as defined in our lectures, "A Lodge is a number of Brethren duly assembled with the Holy Bible, Square and Compasses and a charter or warrant empowering them to work."

DUTIES OF A LODGE

Required Meetings

Every Lodge shall assemble for work at least once in each month, except the months of June, July, August and September. During these months it may assemble or not, at the option of the Worshipful Master, provided that option of the Master is specified in the Lodge By-Laws. No Lodge may meet on Sunday to confer any of the degrees of Masonry. Each Lodge that fails to assemble for one year shall forfeit its charter.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 4A (1) and (2)

Elections

Every Lodge will annually elect its officers by ballot, either at the stated meeting immediately preceding St. John the Evangelist's Day or at the first stated meeting in December, as the Worshipful Master may elect.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 3A

Place of Meetings

Lodges shall provide a safe and suitable room for its meetings. No Lodge may erect a building or change its place of meeting from one village, town, city, or county to another, without the approval of the Committee on Masonic Halls, Grand Master and Grand Lodge. If a Lodge moves to an existing Masonic meeting place, only the approval of Grand Master and Grand Lodge shall be required.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 4B

Returns to Grand Lodge

On the last days of June and December of each year, every Lodge shall make a return of its members to the Grand Secretary, stating particularly: the date of each initiation, passing and raising; the degrees of its members; admissions; deaths; rejections of candidates; suspensions, expulsions and reinstatement of members; the Lodge name and number; and the time and place of its stated meetings. The returns shall be in the form which the Grand Secretary directs, and shall be signed by the Worshipful Master and Wardens and attested to by the Secretary. Returns of June 30th shall include a complete list of all members. Returns of December 31st shall be an abstract of the membership. These returns shall be forwarded to the Grand Secretary on or before the 31st day of July and January of each year, together with payment in full of amounts due.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 11A

Failure of any Lodge to comply with these requirements shall cause the Lodge to lose its vote at the following Communication of Grand Lodge.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 11B

Any Lodge that fails to make its returns, pay its dues, or initiation fees assessments and Masonic Homes Maintenance Tax to Grand Lodge for four stated Communications, shall be deemed extinct and its Charter forfeited.

Ref.: Article XVI Sec. 11B (1)

All Lodges applying to Grand Lodge for remission of dues shall submit their application with their books of account for inspection.
Masonic Digest.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 11D

By-Laws

Every Lodge shall have a set of By-Laws which shall conform to the Constitution, laws, and regulations of the Grand Lodge, and not violate the ancient landmarks.

A petition for a Warrant to work under dispensation shall be submitted to the Grand Secretary in the form as prescribed by Grand Lodge. It must be accompanied by the required fee and copies of proposed By-Laws for the Lodge to be formed.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 1A

Three copies of its proposed By-Laws must also be submitted to the Grand Lodge Committee on By-Laws, for approval, to see that they contain nothing contrary to the Constitution of Grand Lodge or the Ancient Rules and Regulations of Free Masonry.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 2A

Each Lodge shall in a like manner transmit to Grand Secretary for submission to Grand Lodge Committee on By-Laws, for its approval, a copy in triplicate of every proposed alteration or amendment of its By-Laws. No action shall be taken by the membership of the Lodge on any such proposed By-Laws and/or alterations or Amendments until prior approval shall have been received from the Grand Lodge Committee on By-Laws.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 2A

Lodge Seal

Each Lodge shall have a suitable seal, and file an impression thereof with the Grand Secretary.

⁹⁷Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 1.C.3

Approved Activities

A Lodge may sponsor and conduct in its name and under its auspices any of the following events, which may include family members and friends: dinner or entertainment within or without its Temple; visitations and excursions to other Lodges, to any Masonic Home, and to any other place of general Masonic interest within or without the State of Maryland. Except for the foregoing, no Lodge may hold any public event without written dispensation of Grand Master.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 4C

Actions at Law

All Lodges subordinate to this Grand Lodge are forbidden to apply to the General Assembly or to the State Department of Assessments and Taxation or to any other state administrative agency, for charters or any amendments to any existing charters, without first obtaining the permission of Grand Lodge.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 10A

Soliciting Aid

No Lodge may solicit aid from other Grand Jurisdictions for any purpose whatever, without permission of Grand Master.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 10K

Press Information

Information regarding the esoteric work of Masonry or regarding business matters of a Lodge or Grand Lodge may not be released for publication. Publication of general news items, social events; burial, memorial or Divine Services; and information stating the date and meeting place of a Lodge and the degree to be conferred, if any, is encouraged.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 10G

Public Processions

No public procession may take place without a dispensation, except for burial of the dead or attendance at Divine Services.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 10H

Divine Services

Lodges are encouraged to attend Divine services whenever convenient to do so and at least once a year, on Sunday nearest the festival of either St. John.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 9A

When a Lodge attends Divine services, other groups of Masons or Collateral Bodies may participate, but all who attend must do so as Master Masons and no other regalia or jewels except those of the Blue Lodge may be worn.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 9A (2)

When a Lodge attends Divine services, the Master may decide whether his Lodge shall be opened and closed as a Master Mason Lodge, or whether its members shall assemble and disband informally at the place of worship. No dispensation shall be required in either event.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 9A (1) and (4)

Suspension, Non-Payment of Dues

Lodges are required to suspend, without trial, members who fail to pay their dues or the per capita assessment for the maintenance of Masonic Homes for one year. (For procedure in such cases, see "Suspensions," pages 158 and 159 of this Digest.)

Ref. Article XVI, Sec. 7H

Sunday Activities

Lodges and any other organizations basing their membership therein on Masonry and its morals are not permitted to conduct on Sunday any activities other than those granted under Article XVI, Sec. 4C and 1, to promote their interest, except upon prior written request and approval of Grand Master⁹⁸.

Ref.: Article XVII, Sec. 1

Having a nonprofit meal arranged immediately before or following the close of divine services, solely for Lodge members, their families and friends attending such services shall not be considered in violation of the moral code of the Grand Lodge.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 9A (3)

Ritual Rehearsals

With approval of the Worshipful Master of a Lodge and the governing body of the Masonic Temple, a Temple may be used for the purpose of rehearsals of Masonic Ritual on Sundays, but only if it does not conflict with any Church Service in the Community. However, rehearsals on days other than Sunday are preferable.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 10J

Lotteries and Games of Chance

Subordinate Lodges will be permitted to have Raffles, Drawings, 50-50's, Bingo and like fund - raising activities. All profits shall be used for the Lodge operating expenses, charitable activities and other Lodge functions. Slot Machines, Card Game Machines, Money Wheels and other gambling devices are prohibited.

Ref.: Article XVII, Sec. 2

Participation by Non-Masons Prohibited

Except he be a member of the Masonic Fraternity and in good standing, it is not permissible for anyone to participate and wear a uniform which designates him as a member of the Masonic

Fraternity and a dues paying member of the particular unit or organization identified with the uniform.

Ref.: Article XVII, Sec. 4

Dissolution of -A Lodge may be dissolved-

1. By voluntary surrender of its charter, or
2. Revocation of its charter by Grand Lodge
3. A Lodge can not be dissolved by its own act, as long as seven members vote to retain the charter.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 12A (1), (2) and 12B

4. Upon dissolution of a Lodge the last Secretary and Treasurer shall immediately deliver to the Grand Secretary, or to any other Brother who may be appointed by the Grand Master to receive them, the charter, seal, books, papers, jewels, furniture, funds and other assets of the Lodge.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 12C

5. Should any extinct Lodge that has neither made returns nor paid dues to the Grand Lodge for three years apply for a new charter, or for a revival of the old one, the Lodge, if so revived, shall rank junior to all Lodges that have maintained their standing, unless it shall pay all its arrearages to the Grand Lodge.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 1D

OFFICERS

In order that there shall be some system of authority, certain officers are necessary in a Masonic Lodge. They are of two classes, elective and appointive, and are determined by the Lodge By-Laws. The elective officers of a Lodge are necessarily the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Secretary and Treasurer. The appointive officers are usually the Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Senior Steward, Junior Steward, Chaplain, Marshal, Organist and Tyler.

A Master of Ceremonies is often provided, and a creature of modern conditions is the stereopticonist, or, in everyday parlance, the "man who runs the projector."

The elective officers are chosen separately by ballot at the annual meeting of the Lodge. The appointive officers are selected by the Master prior to his installation.

The practice still in vogue in some Lodges which permits the Senior Warden to name the Junior Deacon and the Junior Warden the Stewards, is contrary to the best authorities on Masonic usage and is an infringement on the prerogatives of the Master. As he alone has the power to accept the resignation of an appointive officer, he should also have the power of appointment.

The tenure of office is for the time the incumbent is elected, usually one year, and extends until his successor is duly elected and installed.

No elective officer can resign; nor can a demit be granted to him by his Lodge until after his successor has been regularly elected and duly installed.

Vacancies

Should an elected officer of the Lodge die or move from this Grand Jurisdiction, the fact may be certified to the Grand Master who may issue a dispensation to hold an election to fill the existing vacancy, and also such other vacancies as may be caused by the election.

Conferring Degrees

No one below the office of Junior Warden is permitted to confer a degree, unless first obtaining a dispensation from Grand Master.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 6A

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

The chief officer in a Masonic Lodge is the Worshipful Master. His proper title is as given above, the term Worshipful having been borrowed from Old English Tradition and means honor or reverence. However, it is quite common and proper to use the word Master in ordinary usage, but in all ritualistic or ceremonial observances he should be addressed and referred to as Worshipful Master.

The station of Master is one of dignity and honor. Any Mason who is thus elevated in the Lodge has a right to feel justly proud.

Habits

The Master himself should be a man of irreproachable character and good morals. He must avoid profanity, licentiousness and intemperance. A Masonic Lodge is judged wholly by the character of the men who compose it, and when Lodge officers deport themselves improperly it reflects upon the Lodge and the institution of Masonry.

Dress

When attending the meetings of his Lodge, the Master should present a neat appearance and thus set a good example for his brethren. The proper apparel for all Masonic occasions is dark clothing and the fashion for the Master in these modern times is a dress coat and silk hat, black vest and tie. (Sec. p. 101 of Grand Lodge Proceedings, 1939.)

Powers and Prerogatives

The powers and prerogatives of the Master are many and varied, so much so that he is often referred to as an autocrat. All matters relative to the progress, discipline and cementing of good order depend upon the Master. He is responsible to the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master only for his acts.

No Lodge has power to try charges against the presiding officer thereof. Any three members of a Lodge may prefer charges for neglect or mal-conduct against him to the Grand Master or Grand Lodge.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 8B

Charges do not suspend a Worshipful Master from office. However, he may be suspended by the Grand Master until the next Communication of Grand Lodge.

**Ref.: Form of Charges and Trial-Section 13
And Mackey's Jurisprudence of Free Masonry, p. 250**

His prerogatives may be given as follows:

1. To convene his Lodge in regular meeting at the time prescribed by the By-Laws.
2. To superintend the official acts of his officers and see that their respective duties are performed.
3. To cause to be issued all notices and summonses and to see that disobedience of a summons is met with prompt discipline.
4. To fill any vacancy in any office for the term of one meeting, or longer if necessary.
5. To make the work and ritual practiced in his Lodge conforms to that adopted by the Grand Lodge.
6. To prohibit the discussion of political, sectarian, or other subjects not Masonic, in his Lodge.
7. To require every member present to vote upon all questions of business which may come before the Lodge?
8. To permit no appeal from his decision to be made to the Lodge.
9. To appoint all committees.
10. To be the lawful custodian of the Lodge charter.
11. To preside at all meetings of his Lodge or appoint someone to preside in his stead, when present in person.
12. To cast the deciding vote in case of a tie.
13. To control the admission and retirement of members and visitors.
14. To accept the resignation of any appointive officer of the Lodge and appoint and install his successor.
15. To regulate the order of business.
16. To control all debate.
17. To preserve good order and decorum in his Lodge and to exclude any Brother who conducts himself in an improper manner.
18. To remove for good cause an appointive officer and select and install his successor.
19. To see that the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge and the By-Laws of his lodge are obeyed.
20. To install the officers of his Lodge after he himself has been installed, and to install his successor in office.
21. To listen patiently to all complaints, sorrows, and afflictions which may be brought to him and offer such counsel and advice as circumstances may warrant.
22. To see that a proper audit of the books, accounts, records and assets of his lodge be made annually, and the Lodge which fails to have such an audit and submit a copy of the same to its Grand Inspector is a proper subject for Grand Lodge action. (See Article XVI, Sec 4E (2).

Election of

When. At the stated meeting immediately preceding St. John the Evangelist's Day or at the first stated meeting in December, as the Worshipful Master may elect.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 3A

Who is Eligible. Only a Warden, Past Warden or Past Master; except by dispensation of Grand Master.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 3B

A Warden of a Lodge under dispensation is not eligible.

Prerequisites of Installation

1. ⁹⁹Must present a certificate that he is qualified to confer the three degrees of Masonry from the Committee on Work, or the Grand Lecturer, or Deputy Grand Lecturer.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 3C (1)

2. ¹⁰⁰Must pass examination on Article XVI of the Constitution and the Standing Orders and Resolutions of Grand Lodge pertaining to the government of subordinate Lodges, before the Grand Inspector of his Lodge.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 3C (2)

3. ¹⁰¹Must endorse the above certificate, certifying that he and the Wardens elect have, within thirty days before or after the date thereof, read the Constitution and Standing Orders and Resolutions of the Grand Lodge.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 3C (4)

4. Must have the Past Master's Degree conferred upon him by the Past Masters' Association or by this subordinate Lodge

Ref: Article XVI Sec. 3C (3)

Time of Installation

Must be installed during the month of January, unless dispensation granted by Grand Master for later installation.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 3D

Subsequent to Installation

Must within thirty days after his installation, together with the Senior and Junior Wardens, and the Grand Inspector of the Lodge, read Article XVI of the Constitution, the Standing Orders and Resolutions of Grand Lodge and Edicts of Grand Masters pertaining to subordinate Lodges. They shall certify the reading in the returns of the Lodge to the Grand Secretary at the next stated Communication of Grand Lodge.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 3F.

Delegation of Power

The Worshipful Master cannot delegate his power by designating any other person to preside in his absence. The duty falls upon the Senior Warden.

The Lodge cannot be opened in the absence of the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden except by the Grand Master or his proxy, appointed in writing with the Grand Master's Seal.

Ref.: Mackey's Jurisprudence of Freemasonry

- Exceptions:** a. Funerals
b. Memorial Services
c. Divine Services

Opening and Closing Lodge

If the Worshipful Master is present, he may advance the Line to open or close the Lodge or he may invite a Past Master to preside. In the absence of the Worshipful Master, the Senior Warden succeeds to this prerogative and in the absence of both the Worshipful Master and the Senior Warden; the Junior Warden has the same prerogative.

Ref: Digest, page 153 "Time for Opening"

Divine Services

When a Lodge attends divine services, it is within the discretion of the Worshipful Master to decide whether the Lodge shall be opened and closed as a Master Mason Lodge, or whether its members shall assemble and disband informally at the place of Worship.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 9A (1)

Conferring Degrees

A Past Master or Past Warden of a subordinate Lodge, or a visiting Master, Past Master, Warden or Past Warden may confer a degree in a subordinate Lodge by consent of the Worshipful Master only.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 6

Resignation or Demit - See "Officers" - Pages 123 and 124.

SENIOR WARDEN

The Senior Warden is the second officer in a Masonic Lodge and the first in rank under the Master. His station is in the West and in the symbolism of the fraternity represents strength. In the absence of the Master he presides and succeeds to all the rights and prerogatives of that officer, and is held amenable for his conduct the same as the Master. In fact, he is Master for the time being.

Duty

The Senior Warden is the exponent of harmony and it should be his moral duty to see that harmony prevails among the brethren.

Discipline

A Warden may be tried for any Masonic offense during his term of office. He is incompetent to discharge the duties of his office until final decision is made in his favor.

Ref.: Form of Charges and Trial-Sec 13

Calling Meetings

In the absence of the Master, he can take full charge of the Lodge even though the Master may have delegated that authority to someone else. But no Warden may call a special meeting of the Lodge while his official superior is within the territorial jurisdiction thereof, and able to

authorize a call, but a Warden presiding in the Master's absence may, while thus acting, perform any act which the Master might do were he present.

Ref.: Mackey's Jurisprudence of Freemasonry

Prerequisites to Installation

¹⁰²The Senior Warden-elect of any Lodge in this Jurisdiction must certify on the back of the Certificate of the Committee on Examination of Masters or that of the Grand Inspector of his District, that he will within thirty days before or after his installation read the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Maryland, and resolutions appended thereto.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 3C (4)

Subsequent to Installation

¹⁰³The Senior Warden must within thirty days before or after his installation, together with the Worshipful Master, Junior Warden, and Grand Inspector of the Lodge, read Article XVI of the Constitution the Standing Orders and Resolutions of the Grand Lodge and Edicts of Grand Masters pertaining to subordinate Lodges. They shall certify the reading in the returns of the Lodge to the Grand Secretary at the next stated Communication of Grand Lodge.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 3F

Resignation or Demit - See "Officers" - Pages 123 and 124

JUNIOR WARDEN

The Junior Warden is the third officer of a Lodge. His station is in the South, and in the symbolism of the fraternity represents the pillar of beauty. He is governed by the same rules and regulations as the Senior Warden. In the absence of both Master and Senior Warden he succeeds to the prerogatives of Master.

Duty

The Junior Warden is charged with the superintendence of the craft during the hours of refreshment, which means during that time the Lodge is at recess. A liberal interpretation of his duty means that he is to look after the general welfare of the craft. In cases of sickness of the members or their families, he is expected to call upon them and look after their wants, reporting same to the Relief Committee of the Lodge for their action.

Ref.: Mackey's Jurisprudence of Freemasonry

Resignation or Demit - See "Officers" - Pages 123 and 124

Discipline

A Warden may be tried for any Masonic offense during his term of office. He is incompetent to discharge the duties of his office until final decision is made in his favor.

Ref.: Form of Charges and Trial-Section 13

Prerequisites to Installation

¹⁰⁴The Junior Warden-elect of any Lodge in this Jurisdiction must certify on the back of the Certificate of the Committee on Examination of Masters or that of the Grand Inspector of his

District that he will within thirty days before or after his installation read the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Maryland, and Resolutions appended thereto.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 3C (4)

Subsequent to Installation

¹⁰⁵The Junior Warden must within thirty days before or after his installation, together with the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, and Grand Inspector of the Lodge, read Article XVI of the Constitution, the Standing Orders and Resolutions of the Grand Lodge and Edicts of Grand Masters pertaining to subordinate Lodges. They shall certify the reading in the returns of the Lodge to the Grand Secretary.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 3E

SECRETARY

The Secretary is the recording and corresponding officer of a Lodge. His place is on the left and in front of the Master.

Service

A Secretary must be courteous and tactful. He must study the best interests of the Lodge and be always ready to serve the craft. He must first of all learn to obey the will and pleasure of the Master. Very often Secretaries who have served long in that place forget that the Master is a superior officer, and proceed to do things upon their own initiative. This the Master resents and as a result trouble ensues. Let the Secretary remember that the Master, and not he, is charged with the responsibility of the Lodge, and let his best endeavors be to serve his Master as Entered Apprentices did theirs in former times, with freedom, fervency and zeal.

Duties

The duties of the Secretary are many and varied and are usually specified by the By-Laws of the Lodge. Among the more important, the following may be mentioned:

1. To keep a true and correct record of the proceedings of the Lodge, proper to be written.
2. To record the items and amounts of all moneys received by him, not only at the meeting, but during the interim between stated communications of the Lodge.
3. To preserve in appropriate files all papers and documents belonging to the Lodge.
4. To conduct the correspondence of the Lodge under direction of the Master.
5. To issue all summonses and notices when so directed.
6. To see that proper returns of work, etc., are semi-annually transmitted to the Grand Secretary, and that the Grand Lodge dues are promptly paid, and report all Initiations, Passing and Raising, Deaths, Suspensions, etc., as they occur.
7. To receive all moneys paid into the Lodge, entering same in his cash book and paying same over to the Treasurer promptly.
8. To notify all committees of their election or rejection and promptly to return the fees of rejected candidates.
9. To have the custody of the Lodge seal and to affix the seal and his signature to all documents requiring verification.
10. To attend Masonic trials and take evidence, except when relieved by employment of a stenographer.

11. To read all official communications from the Grand Master or Grand Secretary in open Lodge at the stated meeting next following their receipt.

Books

The Secretary should be provided with certain books, as follows: a record book, which may have a printed heading with blanks for filling in all necessary information relative to opening and officers. A ledger, which may have a printed heading with blanks for name, age, residence, occupation of candidate, also data respecting recommenders, committee referred to, date of initiation, passing, raising, affiliation, demit, suspension, expulsion, death. A loose-leaf ledger is permitted.

A cash book, to show receipts and source, also warrants drawn and payments to the Treasurer.

A roll of membership, with the By-Laws written in the front pages, followed by blank pages for the member to sign.

Taking Minutes

¹⁰⁶The Secretary should take his minutes and enter them in his Record Book for the Lodge approval at the next stated meeting.

When Absent

When the Secretary is absent from the Lodge the Master may appoint some Brother to act in his place. The Brother who acts as Secretary pro tern should sign the minutes when they are written up, and in case it is necessary to issue warrants or other papers may sign them as Secretary pro tern.

Custody of Books

The Secretary is the proper custodian of the Lodge books and seal and may keep them wherever he deems them safe, but must have them in Lodge when meeting.

Funds

The Secretary has no right to retain funds of the Lodge but must pay them over to the Treasurer promptly, taking his receipt therefor, nor can the Secretary pay bills of the Lodge with funds in his hands.

Facsimile Signature

The use of a rubber stamp bearing a facsimile of the signature of the Secretary upon receipts and other official papers is bad practice.

Bond

The Secretary should give corporate bond in such amount as required by the Lodge.

General

The Secretary should give all brethren proper notice of the amounts they owe and make every reasonable effort to collect same. The minutes cannot be confirmed when read from Memoranda, and can be confirmed only when read in final form from the Minute Book.

Resignation or Demit - See "Officers", Pages 123 and 124.

Discipline

A Secretary may be tried for any Masonic offense during his term of office. He is incompetent to discharge the duties of his office until final decision is made in his favor.

Ref.: Form of Charges and Trial-Section 13

Distribution of Notices

The Secretary is charged with the responsibility of forwarding notices of petitions for initiation and affiliation to interested Lodges at least two weeks before action thereon is scheduled. He is also responsible for the mailing of all Lodge notices to the membership and may not delegate the duty to the printer.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 5B (5)

Information as to Masonic Affiliation

Lodge Secretaries may furnish information as to the membership of their Lodges if request is addressed to them.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 10B (1)

TREASURER

The Treasurer is an elective officer and his place is on the right of the Master. He is the lawful custodian of the funds of the Lodge, together with all fiscal property except in cases where custody is committed to trustees under the By-Laws of the Lodge. He should keep a Cash Book in which entries are made of all funds received and paid out by him. He can payout moneys only upon presentation of a warrant issued by order of the Lodge and signed by the Master and Secretary.

Duty

It is the duty of the Treasurer to keep all moneys in a bank deposited in the name of the Lodge. Under no circumstances should the Treasurer keep Lodge moneys with his personal account nor should stocks, bonds, mortgages or paper owned by the Lodge and held by the Treasurer be kept with his personal papers but should be preserved in a separate package marked as the property of the Lodge.

Inspection of Funds

The Treasurer and/or the Trustees must at all times hold the accounts, vouchers, funds and securities of the Lodge subject to the inspection of the Finance or other proper committee or by the Grand Inspector and make a detailed report of the financial condition of the Lodge at each annual meeting or whenever requested by the Worshipful Master or the Lodge.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 4E (2)

Bond

The Treasurer should give corporate bond in such amount as required by the Lodge.

Resignation or Demit - See "Officers" Pages 123 and 124.

Discipline

A Treasurer may be tried for any Masonic offense during his term of office. He is incompetent to discharge the duties of his office until final decision is made in his favor.

Ref.: Form of Charges and Trial-Section 13

SENIOR DEACON

The place of the Senior Deacon is in front of and at the right of the Master, and in the discharge of his duties he carries a rod or staff.

Duties

He is the messenger of the Master. His principal duties are to introduce and accommodate visiting brethren, to pass the ballot box and to perform such other duties as the ritual and regulations of the fraternity may require. The Senior Deacon in his official capacity prefers charges against wayward brethren when ordered to do so by the Lodge, and becomes the prosecutor at the trial.

JUNIOR DEACON

The place of the Junior Deacon is in the West, at the right of the Senior Warden. He is the messenger of the Senior Warden, and in the discharge of his duties carries a rod or staff.

Duties

His principal duty is the custody of the door entering from the Tyler's room. He is to permit no one to enter or retire without permission from the Master. This applies equally to a Lodge at ease which to all intents and purposes is the same as a Lodge at labor.

THE STEWARDS

A necessary part of the line of officers of every Lodge is two Stewards. Some Lodges regard these officers of such little importance that their appointment is not a matter of serious consideration. However, anyone acquainted with the workings of a well governed Lodge will at once recognize the value of competent Stewards.

The position of these officers is in front of the Junior Warden, the Senior Steward at being on the right and the Junior Steward on the left.

Attention to Visitors

It is a part of the duty of the Stewards to look after the welfare of visiting brethren. This little duty is so often neglected in our Lodges that brethren should be impressed with the importance of it. The Stewards should take particular pains to see that the visitor is introduced to each member of the Lodge present, see that he has a good seat in the Lodge room, and that his wants are properly attended to, thus assuring him that the much boasted doctrine of the universality of Masonry is not a myth.

Committee on Refreshments

In some Lodges the Stewards are made a Committee on Refreshments and whenever the Lodge desires to serve the members, these brethren look after all the details. Such an arrangement is to be commended as it relieves the overworked Master.

TREATMENT OF CANDIDATES

No subject connected with the government of a Masonic Lodge should receive more serious consideration than that of the treatment of candidates.

Every man who petitions a Masonic Lodge should be regarded as a gentleman in every respect and as such he is entitled to every consideration on the part of the members.

When he appears at the Lodge room to receive his first degree he should be cordially greeted; his hat and coat taken and disposed of, and he should be escorted to the room where he is to await the pleasure of the Lodge. It is a most courteous act to assign some member to keep the candidate company.

Joking with the candidate about the degree which he is to take, or remarks of any kind tending to scare him are as foreign to the intents and purposes of Masonry as to merit the highest condemnation. Any Mason who will indulge in such a practice with a candidate who is receiving his degrees is a fit subject for Masonic investigation. And any Deacon or Steward who employs these tactics in the preparation room should be placed on trial for unmasonic conduct.

First impressions are lasting and the idea which a man forms of Freemasonry on his first night will be a deep and lasting one. All through his progress in Masonry he should be treated with such courtesy and decorum as will convince him that he is being received into a society of gentlemen distinguished for gentility and good breeding.

Thus the opinion which he gains of the Fraternity will be one that will make him a lover of the Fraternity and a zealous Freemason.

ADJOURNMENT

The adjournment of Lodges is forbidden. They must be closed at the order of the Worshipful Master. A Lodge having held its communication should be closed in due form the same day or night and not left open or "called off" until a meeting two or three days later. Such an adjourned meeting would be a special communication.

Ref.: Mackey's Jurisprudence of Freemasonry

AFFILIATION

Affiliation is a term applied to that process whereby a Master Mason holding a demit or a certificate of good standing, or a Mason wishing to transfer his Lodge relationship or to apply for dual membership, petitions for and is elected to membership in a Lodge. The word membership is

very often used to convey the same meaning as affiliation, but as it is so often confused with petitioning for degrees the term affiliation is preferred.

Procedure for Demitted Mason

When a Master Mason who holds a demit desires to become a member of a Lodge he fills out a petition for affiliation and deposits same with the Secretary of the Lodge. This petition must be signed by the petitioner who must be recommended by two members of the Lodge who can vouch for him as a Master Mason. No Mason should recommend a demitted Mason for affiliation until after he has satisfied himself that the petitioner is a Master Mason and that the Lodge from which he presents his demit is a regular Lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of that particular State. A petitioner must visit the Lodge in which he places his demit once before action is taken on his petition.

Ref.: Mackey's Jurisprudence of Freemasonry

Jurisdiction

A demitted Mason is not bound by territorial jurisdiction and may deposit his demit wherever he desires. In case of rejection he may renew his petition at once and as often as he likes to any Lodge whether within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Maryland or not. He is not required to state that he has been previously rejected.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 71 (4)

Rejection

The rejection of a demitted Mason's petition for affiliation does not in any way affect his standing as a Master Mason. His demit must be returned to him at once without any notation as to rejection together with any fee that he may have paid.

Dual Membership

A brother may belong to other Lodges in Maryland and as many Lodges in other Grand Jurisdictions as their rules may permit.

Ref.: Article XVI Sec. 7B

A brother affiliating with a Maryland Lodge either as a full transfer of membership or as a dual member shall pay such fees and dues as may be required by the Grand Lodge Constitution and the Lodge By-Laws.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 5D

A petition for dual membership shall be handled in the same manner as a petition for affiliation, as to committee, time of action, reference to the Grand Lodge Secretary, notice to other Lodges, etc.

The petition for dual membership must be recommended by two members of the Lodge petitioned, and he must have visited the Lodge at least once. There is no requirement as to residence on a petition for dual membership.

The rejection of a petition for dual membership does not in any way affect the Masonic standing of the petitioner. Any fees paid shall be returned promptly. A petitioner for dual membership may renew his petition to any Lodge at any time.

The membership of a dual member in a Maryland Lodge will not be affected by his demit or suspension for non-payment of dues from any Lodge in any other Grand Jurisdiction, but expulsion or suspension for cause shall automatically terminate his membership in the Maryland Lodge upon the Maryland Lodge's receipt of certified action of the other Lodge.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 7B (2)

Dual membership entitles the affiliating brother to all the rights and privileges of a member of the Maryland Lodge with which he affiliates, without regard to such honors and offices he may have received or attained in any other Grand Jurisdiction. A brother who affiliates with a Maryland Lodge and relinquishes his membership in all other Lodges shall also be recognized by his Maryland Lodge as having all of the honors which were accorded to him by the Lodge or Lodges to which he formerly belonged.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 7B (3)

Defunct Lodges

A member of an extinct Lodge desiring a certificate of his standing as shown by the books of the defunct Lodge must apply to the Grand Secretary for such a certificate. If he was in arrears for dues to the Lodge of which he was a member and, unless remitted by Grand Lodge, he must pay all arrearages to the Grand Secretary, who will issue a certificate which will be in lieu, and have the full force, of a demit.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 5A (4)

AGE

One cannot apply for the Degrees in Masonry until he has attained his eighteenth birthday. A petition cannot be received from a minor. When the petitioner reaches the age of majority, he may then petition and the petition may be acted upon in the usual way.

Ref.: Landmark 18. Article XVI, Sec. 5A

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN OTHER MASONIC ORGANIZATIONS

No Master Mason may make application for membership in any Masonic order or appendant organization which requires, as a requisite for membership, his membership in a subordinate Masonic Lodge, until he successfully passes the Master Mason Catechism.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 6D (2) (a)

AVOUCHMENT

The legal information necessary to enable one Mason to vouch for another may be acquired by sitting together in a regularly constituted Lodge of Masons, by an examination authorized by

the proper officer of a Lodge at a regular meeting, or by one Mason definitely stating to another whom he knows to be a Mason that he vouches for a third person then present with them as a Mason. No Mason can legally acquire necessary information to vouch for another by sitting with him in any other body than a Lodge of Ancient Craft Masons, nor unless the brother vouched for is actually present.

Telephone

An avouchment made over the telephone is not legal. All parties to the transaction must be actually present to validate the avouchment.

Procession

The presence of one in a Masonic public procession does not furnish sufficient evidence of Masonic standing to warrant an avouchment.

School of Instruction

The Worshipful Master of the Lodge where a School of Instruction, under the supervision of the Grand Lecturer or the Deputy Grand Lecturer, is being held has the authority to appoint a committee to examine a visiting Brother. If the Brother is found worthy he would then be permitted to sit in the School and could be vouched for in any of the Lodges there represented at any future period if he applied for admission.

Ref.: Landmark 15 and Article XVI, Sec. 4F, (1), (a), (b), (2) and (3)

BALLOTING

Any secret form of voting, whether by ball or slips of paper, is called balloting. The term is most often used as applied to the election or rejection of petitioners for the degrees, the vote always being taken secretly and by the use of white balls and black cubes.

The ballot box should be of the usual form, divided into compartments. The number of ballots in the box is to be determined by each Lodge, but the number of black cubes should be approximately one-third the number of white balls. When balloting for suspension, expulsion, and findings on charges, a white ball and black cube for every member present must be in the ballot box.

Balloting

When this order of business is reached the Master at once orders the Senior Deacon to prepare the ballot box. This he does by putting the box in proper condition for balloting. As soon as this is done the box is submitted to the Master, who thoroughly examines it to determine whether it is in accordance with the above requirements.

Entering or Retiring During Balloting

Members, except for the Tyler, cannot enter or retire during the casting of the ballot. If several candidates are to be balloted upon, members may be admitted during the interim between the ballots on different candidates.

Ref. Article XVI, Sec. 5E (3)

Secrecy of Ballot

The ballot on petitions for degrees or membership is strictly secret. No one except the proper officers has a right to know the number of white balls or black cubes cast, and any officer revealing the contents of the box is subject to charges. It is a Masonic offense for any member of the Lodge to announce his intentions before balloting or, after the ballot is cast, to disclose his ballot, violation of which will subject the member to Masonic charges.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 5E

Discussion

There can be no discussion of the ballot either before or after it is taken, and no remarks upon the merits of a candidate are ever admissible in open Lodge.

Unanimity

The ballot upon a petition for degrees or affiliation must be unanimous.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 5E

Appeal

There is absolutely no appeal from the result of the ballot.

Excuse from Balloting

Every member present must ballot. The fact that a member has no personal knowledge of a candidate is not sufficient for his being excused. He should show his faith in the report of the Investigating Committee.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 5E

Conditions

No ballot can be had upon a petition for degrees or membership unless the same has been received at a stated meeting of the Lodge and laid over at least four weeks. Such petition must be acted upon within three months after its presentation, except in case of the petitioner's death or removal, and unless the three months expiration date occurs during the summer recess, as specified in the Lodge, By-Laws, when action must be taken at the first regular communication in the fall.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 5B (3) and E (2)

A petition for initiation shall be deemed to have been "presented" on the date of the stated meeting of the Lodge at which the petition is first read in open Lodge by the presiding officer or secretary of the Lodge, after it has been properly completed and signed by the applicant, accompanied by the initiation fee required by the Lodge's By-Law, and either (1) showing on its face the required residence within the State, and no indication of physical disability requiring waiver by the Grand Master, or (2) accompanied by such documents (waiver personal, Grand Master) as are required to vest sole jurisdiction in the Lodge to which it is addressed.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 5A (2) and (3); 5E (2) (a)

Postponement

After a ballot has been begun it cannot be suspended or postponed but must be carried to its completion.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 5E (3)

Information to Candidate

The only information that a candidate is entitled to or a member of the Lodge is privileged to give, is contained in the words "elected" or "rejected".

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 5E (3)

Declaration

When the Master declares a candidate rejected such declaration is final and conclusive and cannot be set aside.

Ref.: Mackey's Jurisprudence of Freemasonry

Order of Ballot

Petitions shall be balloted upon individually in the order that they were received by the Lodge.

Requests for Waiver of Personal Jurisdiction

All requests for waiver of personal jurisdiction received by a Lodge shall lie over four (4) weeks before ballot thereon. Notification shall be given to the membership of the Lodge holding personal jurisdiction. The consent of the rejecting Lodge shall be determined by a unanimous ballot.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 5E (4)

Right of Ballot

The right of ballot cannot be denied any member of the Lodge in good standing. Discipline is the only way to reach a brother who makes threats or is using the ballot to mar the peace and harmony of the Lodge.

A Master Mason who stands examination in open Lodge as to his proficiency in the Master Mason Degree shall ballot on his own proficiency.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 6E (3)

Invalidation

The failure of any member to vote, or the departure of a member from the Lodge room, does not invalidate the ballot.

Counting Ballots

The Master may count the ballots at the conclusion of the ballot to see if they correspond with the number present but is not required to do so.

Examination Committee

When brethren are out of the Lodge room performing Masonic duties at the time of balloting, they should be called in long enough to be allowed to exercise their prerogative.

CANDIDATES

No Lodge shall accept the petition of an applicant who is under eighteen years of age, nor of one whose physical defects prevent him from conforming literally to the requirements of the three degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry with the use of any necessary artificial appliances and

aids; provided, however, that literal compliance may be waived by Grand Master whenever, in his sole judgment, the applicant can conform to a substantial part of the requirements of the degrees.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 5A (1) and (2)

No Lodge shall receive a petition from, initiate, pass or raise any candidate until he has been a resident of or resided in Maryland for more than twelve months, except by dispensation of the Grand Master, nor shall any Lodge confer the Entered Apprentice Degree upon a candidate on the night of election, except by dispensation of the Grand Master.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 5A (3) and 6B (1) (c)

CERTIFICATE OF GOOD STANDING

For the purpose of transferring membership from a Maryland Lodge to another Lodge, either within this or any other Grand Jurisdiction, or for the purpose of applying for dual membership in a Lodge in another Grand Jurisdiction, a Brother may request a Certificate of Good Standing; and, if the dues of the Brother making the request are paid to and including the current year and there are no charges pending against him, the Worshipful Master shall order the Secretary to issue a Certificate of Good Standing at the meeting next following receipt of his request.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 7F, G and (1)

CHAIN LETTERS

The circulation of Masonic chain letters, or any chain letters enclosing or requesting, suggesting or enjoining the mailing of any sum, matter or thing of value, is unmasonic conduct, and any Mason subject to the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Maryland who affixes or permits his name to be affixed to, or who consents to the use of his name in any such chain letter deposited in the United States mails, or who knowingly deposits any such chain letters in the United States mails, shall be deemed to have committed a Masonic offense and shall be subject to having charges preferred against him for unmasonic conduct.

Ref.: Article XVII, Sec. 3

CONTRACTS, CIVIL (CHARGES)

While Masons are under every honorable obligation to fulfill their civil contracts, neither Masonry nor Masonic Lodges are mediums for enforcing civil obligations: It is only when a Brother is guilty of a Masonic offense that the Lodge takes up the matter and deals with the offender.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

A Mason's obligation to the Fraternity demands that when appointed a member of a committee on a petition, he shall exercise the utmost diligence in bringing to the Lodge a report based upon the merits of the petitioner. The Lodge as such is dependent upon the report of the committee in order to arrive at a correct conclusion and whenever a member of a committee fails to do his full duty he is guilty of a Masonic offense and should be disciplined.

Duty

When a man is a member of a committee to investigate a petitioner he should first obtain from the Secretary such data as the petition contains. He should then carefully read and follow out the instructions on the blank on which he is to make his committee report.

If the petitioner has resided but a short time within the jurisdiction of the Lodge then the inquiry should extend to the several places where he may have resided. In order to determine the question of fitness for Masonic honors, it is necessary to know something of a man's character, habits, and business, where he spends his idle time; and this information should be gained not from those who have recommended him but from reliable sources. In our larger cities where men scarcely know each other Masonic committee service is most important.

Report

Each member of a committee is expected to conduct his own investigation and to report "favorable" or "unfavorable" regardless of the report of any other member of the committee. A report is either favorable or unfavorable and can only be so announced. A favorable report is the unanimous favorable report of every member of the committee. An unfavorable report is one on which one or more members report "unfavorable". The ballot must be taken no matter what the report of the committee may be. A Lodge cannot act upon a partial report of the committee.

No petition for initiation or membership shall be acted on in any Lodge at the same meeting at which it is received.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 5B (3)

Committees for the purpose of inquiring into the character of candidates shall always consist of three Master Masons.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 5C and (1)

In no case shall a degree be conferred by any Lodge upon credit and no Lodge shall act on any petition for initiation unless the whole amount to be paid for the three degrees accompanies the petition.

Ref.: Mackey's Jurisprudence of Freemasonry Article XVI, Sec. 5D (2)

By action of the Grand Lodge in Semi-Annual Communication May 16, 1961, the Report of the Investigating Committee forms must be destroyed after the ballot is taken.

CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence relating to Masonic business between Lodges in different jurisdictions should be conducted through their respective Grand Secretaries.

COURTESY DEGREES

A Lodge may confer the degrees on request of the Lodge electing the applicant. Arrangement for conferring of courtesy degrees between Lodges of this jurisdiction should be handled by the Lodges concerned.

DEGREES

The only degrees known to Ancient Craft Masonry are those of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason, and are the steps whereby a candidate ascends from a lower to a higher degree of Masonic knowledge and responsibility. It is the opinion of the highest authorities that the division of Masonry into three degrees was the work of the revivalists in the eighteenth century. In 1717 the Fraternity consisted of only Entered Apprentices, there being but one degree. A degree called Fellow Craft was in existence, but was simply a recognized qualification for holding the office of Warden or Master, and was conferred by the Grand Lodge. Master Mason was a term applied to all those who had served their Lodges as Masters.

Ref.: Mackey's Jurisprudence of Freemasonry

Limit

No candidate can receive more than one degree on the same day, without dispensation from the Grand Master.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 6C (7)

No petition for initiation or membership shall be acted on in any Lodge at the same meeting at which it is received. Committees for the purpose of inquiring into the character of candidates shall always consist of three Master Masons.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 5B (3) and C

In no case shall a degree be conferred by any Lodge upon credit and no Lodge shall act on any petition for initiation, unless the whole amount to be paid for the three degrees accompanies the petition.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 5D (2)

Advancement

The advancement of Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts must be of their own free will and accord. The Lodge cannot force them to advance, neither can they demand rapid advancement from the Lodge.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 6C (5)

Should a candidate be elected to receive the degrees, and if, for any reason whatever, the first degree is not conferred upon him within the space of twelve months after his election, he shall be automatically dropped and the fee which accompanied his petition shall be returned.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 6C (1)

Should a candidate receive the first degree and if, for any reason whatever, the second degree is not conferred upon him within twelve months, he shall be automatically dropped.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 6C (2)

Should a candidate receive the second degree and if, for any reason whatever, the third degree is not conferred upon him within twelve months, he shall be automatically dropped.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 6C (3)

The Grand Master can waive the provisions of the three paragraphs above in case of extenuating circumstances.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 6C (4)

Should a candidate be dropped for any reason, he can be reinstated, by making a new application and by unanimous consent of the Lodge; the application to be handled in each case as regards committee, time, approval by the Grand Secretary, etc., as in case of new petitions.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 6C (6)

Lodges shall exact from all candidates for advancement from one degree to another, an examination in open Lodge, and no Lodge shall advance a Brother until he has shown proficiency in the degree he has received, his proficiency to be determined by ballot, five negative ballots being necessary to postpone the Brother's advancement.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 6D and E

Balloting upon proficiency for advancement to the Fellow Craft and Master Mason Degrees may be taken upon more than one candidate at the same time. In the event of five negative votes, each candidate shall be balloted on separately.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 6E (1)

General

Any Lodge may, by a majority vote, drop the name of an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft from its return whenever in the opinion of the Lodge the individual has either moved out of its jurisdiction or is not disposed to advance further in Masonry. This does not apply to anyone under censure for unmasonic conduct.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 6C (5)

No Lodge shall initiate more than five candidates at one meeting; nor confer more than one degree of Masonry on a Brother at the same meeting, unless by dispensation.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 6B (1) (b) and C (7)

The first section of the Entered Apprentice Degree must be conferred upon each candidate individually. The second section of the Entered Apprentice Degree may be conferred collectively upon not more than five (5). The first section of the Fellow Craft Degree and the first section of the Master Mason Degree may be conferred upon five (5) candidates collectively, and as many units of five (5), or parts thereof, may be handled at one meeting as the Worshipful Master may decide upon. The second section of the Fellow Craft Degree and the third section of the Master Mason Degree may be conferred in groups as now practiced. The second section of the Master Mason Degree must be conferred upon each candidate individually in full form, unless in the exercise of his prerogative the Grand Master confers it in short form.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 6B (1), (a), (2), (a), (3), and (a)

No one below the office of Junior Warden is permitted to confer a degree, unless first obtaining a dispensation from the Grand Master. A Past Master or Past Warden of a subordinate Lodge, or a visiting Master, Past Master, Warden or Past Warden may confer a degree in a subordinate Lodge by consent of the Worshipful Master only.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 6A

Lecture of Master Mason Degree cannot be divided in the subordinate Lodges even on Colts' Night or Past Masters' Night except by dispensation from the Grand Master.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 6B (3) (b)

Lodges shall exact from candidates who have received the Master Mason Degree, an examination in open Lodge, as to their proficiency in that degree; proficiency to be determined by ballot as in previous degrees. Master Masons standing examination in open Lodge shall ballot on their own proficiency.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 6D (1) and E (3)

DEMIT

The only way a member can voluntarily sever his connection with a Lodge is to demit. When a Mason demits from a Lodge, he resigns, and the Lodge granting the demit accepts his resignation.

Ref.: Mackey's Jurisprudence of Freemasonry p. 160

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 7G and (1)

Right of

Any member of a Lodge whose dues are paid and against whom no charges are pending, has a right to ask for a demit and the Lodge cannot refuse his request. A Lodge cannot place any conditions upon the issuance of a demit. However, he thereafter enjoys no further Masonic rights except those extended him by Courtesy.

Ref.: Mackey's Jurisprudence of Freemasonry Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 7G (1)

Insane

A Lodge cannot grant a demit to an insane Brother either upon his petition or that of his committee.

Refusal to Accept

A Brother's refusal to accept a demit when once regularly granted does not restore him to Lodge membership.

Reconsideration

Action granting a demit cannot be reconsidered after it has been once taken.

Date

A demit dates from the Lodge record granting the same. Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts cannot demit.

Elected Officers

No elected officer can resign, nor can he demit from his Lodge until after his successor has been regularly elected and installed.

Cancellation

The demit of one who petitions for affiliation should be canceled and filed with the Lodge records if and when elected. In case of rejection, the demit should be returned to the petitioner at once without any notation as to rejection.

Evidence

A demit is no evidence that the holder is a Master Mason.

Duplicate Demits

Duplicate demits cannot be issued; an excerpt of the minutes granting the demit can be furnished, certified by Secretary under the seal of the Lodge.

Transfer of Membership

A Lodge may accept a petition for affiliation, accompanied by a Certificate of Good Standing, from a member of another Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction and, after the applicant's demit has been received from his former Lodge, enroll him as a member. Under the same conditions, a brother of a Lodge in another Grand Jurisdiction may also affiliate with a Maryland Lodge.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 7F

DISPENSATIONS

Dispensations are granted in the discretion of the Grand Master.

Ref.: Landmark No. 6 and No. 7

- a. The application for a dispensation should state fully the reasons for the request of the Lodge.
- b. The dispensation itself should set forth the substance of the application including the reasons therefore as given therein.
- c. The dispensation should state specifically the purpose for which the dispensation is granted.
- d. A dispensation granted by the Grand Master must be read in open Lodge at the proper place in the opening ceremonies.

Under certain circumstances, dispensations will not be required in the conduct of memorial and burial services and Masonic visitations involving a subordinate Lodge of Maryland and one or more of our neighboring Grand Jurisdictions, namely the Grand Jurisdictions of Delaware, District of Columbia, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

Ref.: Agreement with Grand Masters of these jurisdictions, May 15, 1962; and Article XVI, Sec. 9B (10), (a), (b), (11) and (12)

When a Lodge attends divine services on the Sabbath Day, it is within the general authority of the Master to decide whether his Lodge shall be opened and closed as a Master Mason Lodge or whether its members shall assemble and disband informally at the place of worship. No dispensation shall be required in either event.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 9A (1) and (4)

DISSOLUTION

See "Lodge," Article XVI, Sec. 12

DUES

Dues are those yearly payments made by the members of a Lodge to enable it to pay current expenses and to care for a distressed Master Mason, his widow and orphans.

Remission

A Lodge may remit the dues of such brethren as are unable to pay upon a majority vote of the members present.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 7H (6)

Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts

Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts cannot be charged Lodge dues.

Advance

Every Lodge should collect its dues in advance. This furnishes each member with a receipt showing him to be in good standing for the current year. A Lodge cannot, however, force the payment of dues in advance by disciplinary proceedings or otherwise. It should be a matter of education and Masonic pride.

Dues after Notification of Intention to Suspend

A member who has been notified of the intention of the Lodge to suspend him for non-payment of dues may pay one year's dues any time prior to December 31st and retain his membership.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 7H

Suspension

No dues can be charged against a brother during his term of suspension.

Ref. Article XVI, Sec. 7H (4)

A member suspended for non-payment of dues and seeking reinstatement cannot be required to pay current dues in addition to arrearages, but he may voluntarily do so.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 7H (4)

ELECTIONS

Every Lodge shall elect its officers by ballot annually, either at the stated meeting immediately preceding St. John the Evangelist's Day, or at the first stated meeting in December as the Worshipful Master may elect.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 3A

Only a Warden, Past Warden, or Past Master shall be eligible for Worshipful Master, except by dispensation of Grand Master.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 3B

The Senior and Junior Wardens of each Lodge shall attend all meetings for instruction in the School of Masonic Law. However, only the Senior Warden is required to take such examination. (The Junior Warden is required to take such examination only when qualifying for Worshipful Master.)

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 3F

No brother shall be installed Worshipful Master of a Lodge in Baltimore City unless he presents certificate from the Committee on Work, or the Grand Lecturer, that he is qualified to confer the three degrees of Masonry, and pass a satisfactory examination on the XVIth Article of the Constitution, and the Standing Resolutions of the Grand Lodge pertaining to the government of Subordinate Lodges, and no brother outside the city, unless he presents such a certificate from said Committee, or from the Deputy Grand Lecturer of his Lodge, and pass a satisfactory examination on the XVIth Article of the Constitution and the Standing Resolutions of the Grand Lodge, pertaining to the government of Subordinate Lodges. Such examination on the XVIth Article and the Standing Resolutions shall be conducted by the Committee on Work, for Worshipful Masters in Lodges in Baltimore City. Worshipful Masters of Lodges located outside of Baltimore City may pass such examination either before said Committee on Work or before the Grand Inspector of their respective Lodges.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 3C (1) and (2)

¹⁰⁷Previous to their installation, the Worshipful Master and Wardens-elect of any Lodge in this Jurisdiction shall certify on the back of the Certificate of the Committee on Examination of Masters or that of the Grand Inspector of their Lodge, that they have within thirty days before or after the date thereof read the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Masons of Maryland, and Resolutions appended thereto.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 3C (4)

¹⁰⁸Within thirty days before or after their installation, the Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens of each Lodge shall together read Article XVI of the Constitution, also the Standing Orders of Grand Lodge and Edicts of Grand Masters pertaining to Subordinate Lodges, and they shall certify the fact of such reading in the returns of the Lodge to the Grand Secretary at the next Communication of Grand Lodge.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 3E

Elections to Fill Vacancies

Should an elective officer of the Lodge die or move from this jurisdiction the fact may be certified to the Grand Master, who may issue a dispensation to hold an election to fill the existing vacancy, and also such other vacancies as may be caused by such election.

Electioneering

Caucusing, lobbying, electioneering, making slates are so contrary to the principles of Masonry as to subject the offender to the contempt and detestation of all good Masons, if not to the penalty of misconduct.

Ref.: Article VIII, Sec. 7 (1), (2) and (3)

Form

All elections must be conducted by secret ballot, slips of paper being usually employed for that purpose.

Separate Ballot

Each Officer must be elected by a separate ballot, a majority of the whole number cast being necessary to a choice.

Casting the Ballot

There is no such thing in Masonry as "casting the ballot." Reconsideration. The reconsideration of the result of an election of officers is an unknown proceeding in Masonry.

Absentees

An absentee may be elected to any office in the Lodge provided he is eligible. Refusal to Accept. Should an elected officer refuse to accept the office to which he had been chosen and the regular night of election has passed, a dispensation must be requested to hold another election.

Failure to Elect

In case a Lodge fails to elect its officers at the time named in the Bylaws, the matter, with a statement of the facts, should at once be laid before the Grand Master for his action.

Dual Officership

No member of a Lodge can hold more than one line office at the same time.

Charges

The fact that charges have been preferred against a brother does not affect his eligibility for office. Such charges, however, make him incompetent to discharge the duties of his office until final decision has been made in his favor. Hence it follows no such officer can be installed or invested until such time.

Ref.: Form of Charges and Trial Sec. 13

FEES (INITIATION)

No Lodge shall confer the three degrees of Masonry for a less sum than One Hundred Dollars; nor shall any Lodge grant affiliation to Masons from other Jurisdictions for a less sum than Fifty Dollars. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to Clergymen petitioning Lodges whose By-Laws exempt them from the payment of fees provided above.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 5D and (1)

In no case shall a degree be conferred by any Lodge upon credit, and no Lodge shall act on any petition for initiation unless the whole amount to be paid for the three degrees accompanies the petition.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 5D (2)

Rejection

When a candidate for the degrees is rejected the Lodge must at once return the fee to the applicant.

Custody

When a fee is paid to the Secretary it should be promptly turned over to the Treasurer.

FESTIVALS

The Festivals of St. John the Baptist, on the 24th of June, and of St. John the Evangelist, on the 27th of December, are recognized as the Festivals of the Patron Saints of Freemasonry and it is recommended that every Lodge, annually, celebrate one or both in such way as will be most conducive to its advantage and the honor and benefit of the Institution.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 9A

Dispensation

No dispensation is necessary to attend Divine Services, whether Lodge is opened or not.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 9A (4)

FUNDS (ASSETS)

Funds of a Lodge include fees, dues, donations, legacies, mortgages, stocks, bonds, notes and all other property.

Custody

The Treasurer of the Lodge is the custodian of all assets, except to the extent the By-Laws provide for the custody by Trustees. They cannot be taken out of his hands and placed in the custody of any other member. He alone is responsible for their safekeeping.

Sale or Disposition of Assets

Subordinate Lodge or Temple Holding Corporation can dispose of without the specific approval of Grand Lodge.

Payment

Lodge funds can be paid out only as ordered by the Lodge upon order signed by the Master and the Secretary and/or Treasurer. Funds should be deposited in some bank in the name of the Lodge.

Payment by Secretary

The Secretary is required to deliver to the Treasurer promptly all moneys received by him.

Interest

It is customary for the Treasurer to collect interest, though the Secretary may do so. When the Treasurer makes the collection he should promptly report the amount to the Secretary, who will enter it on his books. (See Article XVI, Sec. 12C as to disposition of funds and property of a Lodge upon the demise of a Lodge.)

Inspection

The Treasurer and/or Trustees must submit the books, accounts and assets for the inspection of the proper Officers of the Lodge or the Grand Inspector at least once a year, or whenever requested to do so by the Worshipful Master or the Lodge.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 4E (2)

FUNERAL AND MEMORIAL SERVICES

Every Master Mason affiliated and in good standing at the time of his death, is entitled to and may receive a Masonic burial or Memorial Service at his own request or that of his family. A Lodge shall conduct a Burial or a Memorial Service for a Master Mason when requested to do so by him or his family, and provided he was affiliated and in good standing at the time of his death.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 9B (3) and (a)

Should a Lodge be called upon to bury a brother the Clergyman may commit the body during the Masonic burial service, but all the pallbearers must be Masons and the funeral services of the Lodge must be conducted immediately after the services of the Church, except where military regulations of the United States Government interfere.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 9B (8)

The Lodge may attend the funeral even though other societies attend, but they cannot allow any other society to participate in the ceremonies until the Masonic ceremonies are fully completed.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 9B (8) (a)

The Grand Master may, by dispensation, for any reason deemed sufficient by him, permit the burial of an unaffiliated Master Mason.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 9B (4)

General

Promptly upon the receipt of notice of the death of a member of a Lodge, the officers, or some of them, should visit the home and offer the services of the Lodge; not to bury the brother, but to offer any necessary assistance to the family at this trying time. It would hardly be proper to ask whether or not the family desires the Lodge to bury the brother. The Master is derelict in this duty that does not see that every possible attention is given to the family of a deceased brother as soon as he knows the death. In his absence the Wardens should act promptly.

If the deceased has made no request for a Masonic burial or memorial service and the family does not desire it, it does not mean that the Lodge is absolved from any further interest in the case, but the Officers should continue their efforts to render to the family every comfort which the trying hour may demand.

If a Masonic burial or memorial service is desired, then arrangements should be made at once according to the customs of the Craft. If the participation of other societies is desired, the Master should fully explain to the family the position of Masonry in this respect.

Pallbearers

When the Fraternity is in charge of a funeral, all pallbearers must be members of the Masonic Fraternity.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 9B (8)

Expense

When a Mason dies away from his home Lodge, and it becomes necessary to incur some expense in connection with his burial, it is advisable to communicate with his Lodge and arrive at some understanding as to the amount involved.

Funeral Ritual

The only proper ritual is the one adopted by the Grand Lodge of Maryland.

Lodge of Sorrow

If the funeral is conducted under the Lodge of Sorrow, the Lodge may assemble at the place of burial (undertaker, home, church, etc.) and may disperse at the cemetery. If there is no Clergyman present to conduct a religious ceremony, the official "Lodge Service," prescribed by the Committee on Work shall be used at the gathering place and the "Burial Service" at the grave. Otherwise the "Lodge Service" shall be omitted.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 9B

A record of burial may be made in the minutes of the next regular meeting or on a page set aside for the purpose.

On special occasions, the Worshipful Master may elect to open Lodge, in which event the Lodge Service would be used and minutes kept.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 9 (6)

Delayed Burials

The performance of the Masonic service over remains that have been taken up to be re-interred, or which have been contained in a vault for a period, shall be performed only in those instances where there has been no previous Masonic burial service.

Cremation

When the body of a member in good standing is to be cremated, the burial service may be conducted. However, after cremation or in the absence of the body for other reasons, the memorial

service may be conducted at the home of the deceased member, a Church or other appropriate place, provided that the ritual of the memorial service conforms to the body's absence.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 9B (9)

Entered Apprentices and Fellow Craft

Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts are not entitled to Masonic funerals, nor are they allowed to participate as Masons in the funeral or memorial service for a brother.

Identification

When requested to conduct a Masonic funeral or memorial service for a departed brother Master Mason who is a member in good standing of the Subordinate Lodge, it is the duty of the Worshipful Master of that Lodge to properly identify the departed brother to his own satisfaction. Masonic funerals or memorial services are conducted principally for the consolation of the bereaved family. It is to be desired that a funeral be conducted only in such cases as the deceased is entitled to such burial. However, where an error in identification is possible, it is preferable to err by burying a man who has been improperly identified as a Master Mason in good standing than to refuse burial to one entitled to it. To cause a family additional grief would not be consistent with the purpose of our Masonic burial ceremony. Therefore, if the Worshipful Master of the Lodge is satisfied with the identity of the deceased brother, he may conduct a Masonic burial or memorial service.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 9B (3) (a) and (b)

Dispensation

Not required for burial or memorial service.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 10H

Under certain circumstances, dispensations will not be required in the conduct of memorial and burial services involving a subordinate Lodge of Maryland and one or more of our neighboring Grand Jurisdictions.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 9B (10), (a), (b), (11) and (12)

Dress

The proper dress to be worn at a Masonic funeral is black or dark clothing, black shoes, white gloves, a black hat and a plain white apron. The Master's gavel, the Deacons' and Stewards' Rods, the Tyler's sword and the Marshal's baton, if used, should be suitably trimmed with black ribbon. The officers of the Lodge should wear their respective jewels and aprons. Grand Officers and Past Officers of Grand or constituent Lodges may also wear their official jewels and aprons.

INSTALLATION

The ceremonies must begin with the installation of the Worshipful Master.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 3D (1)

The Master having been legally installed, it becomes his duty, as well as his privilege, to install the other Officers, elected and appointed.

Ref.: XVI, Sec. 3D (1)

If for any reason the Worshipful Master-elect cannot be installed at the regular scheduled meeting, the other officers elected and appointed, who are present, shall be installed by one of the Past Masters of the Lodge; and the Worshipful Master-elect shall thereafter be installed by the Junior Past Master of the Lodge, then present, at the earliest convenient regular meeting of the Lodge before he may assume the duties of his office.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 3D (1) (a) and (b)

An Officer of a Lodge cannot be installed by proxy.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec 3D (2)

JURISDICTION

Ref.: Landmark No. 17

Personal Jurisdiction

Personal jurisdiction is that control which a Lodge acquires over a profane by rejecting him, or over all unfinished material in its jurisdiction, and is the penal discipline which it exercises over its members, the Master excepted, no matter how far removed they may be from the limits of the Lodge - also over all Master Masons of other jurisdictions who may be found within its confines.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 5E (5) (a), (b), 5E (6), (7) and (8)

Rejected Material

No Lodge shall act upon the application for initiation of any candidate who has been rejected, within six months after such rejection, and the Secretary of every Lodge in which a rejection, suspension, expulsion or reinstatement takes place shall immediately inform the Grand Secretary.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 5E (7)

No Lodge shall receive the petition of a candidate who has been rejected by another Lodge without the consent of the rejecting Lodge, provided it is in existence; nor confer any degree on a Brother who has been initiated in another Lodge, without first obtaining, if practicable, its permission.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 5E (6) and 6C (6) (c)

Personal jurisdiction over a rejected petitioner is lost when he moves from the State.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 71 (3)

Territorial Jurisdiction

Territorial jurisdiction of all Lodges within the State of Maryland is Concurrent so far as Masons filing petitions for membership in the several Blue Lodges are concerned.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 71

Generally speaking, territorial jurisdiction, so far as Blue Lodges are concerned, can be defined as that jurisdiction which a Lodge exercises over the territory in which it is situated so far as it extends to all profanes, or sojourning Masons who reside therein. It includes rights of discipline where un-masonic conduct is concerned.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 71 (5) and 8C

In addition, when a new charter is requested by a group of Masons for the formation of a new Lodge, it must be recommended in open session by the Lodge nearest the place where those petitioning desire to form and hold a Lodge before the Grand Master may grant the dispensation.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 1B (1)

The Grand Lodge of Maryland retains exclusive territorial jurisdiction as between the Grand Lodge of Maryland and sister Grand Jurisdictions.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 71 (5)

The Grand Lodge has jurisdiction over the change of place of meeting of any Lodge from one village, town, or county to another, and permission must be obtained from the Committee on Masonic Halls, Grand Master and Grand Lodge, except when a Lodge moves to an existing Masonic meeting place in which case only the approval of Grand Master and Grand Lodge shall be required.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 4B

Blue Lodge

Territorial jurisdiction has been abolished but Blue Lodge retains all rights of discipline over sojourning Masons residing in vicinity of Lodge.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 71 and Be

Conditions Precedent

Before a Lodge can receive a petition from any prospective candidate, he must have been a resident or resided in Maryland for more than twelve months, except by dispensation of the Grand Master.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 5A (3)

Grand Lodge of Maryland

The Grand Lodge of Maryland retains exclusive territorial jurisdiction in the State except for specific rulings and reciprocal agreements with sister Grand Jurisdictions.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 71 (5)

Jurisdiction after Waiver

When a Lodge waives jurisdiction in favor of another Lodge, the Lodge accepting the waiver becomes vested with complete personal jurisdiction in the case and is the only Lodge which can waive in favor of a third Lodge.

Requests for Waiver

All requests for waiver of personal jurisdiction received by a Lodge shall lie over four (4) weeks before ballot thereon. Notification shall be given to the membership of the Lodge holding personal jurisdiction, giving the name of the applicant and the date of action to be taken by the Lodge. The consent of the rejecting Lodge shall be determined by a unanimous ballot.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 5E (4)

Territorial Waivers

All prospective petitioners who reside in Maryland, irrespective of their length of residence, are considered in the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Maryland. They cannot be accepted in another Grand Jurisdiction unless a waiver is secured from the Subordinate Lodge nearest to the petitioner's residence in Maryland. The Grand Lodge of Maryland will consider requests for Territorial Waivers where the reason is relationship, convenience in attending Lodge, exceptional friendship or other extenuating circumstances. The request for any such waiver should be instituted through the office of the Grand Master and he, in turn, will forward it to the Subordinate Lodge nearest the residence of the petitioner.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 71 (5)

Grand Master will not ask a Subordinate Lodge to waive jurisdiction on a request from another Grand Jurisdiction unless the petitioner has resided in Maryland for one year and is therefore eligible to petition a Maryland Lodge.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 5A (3) and 71 (5)

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

When life memberships are issued by any Lodge the provisions of Article XVI, Sec. 7C must be complied with. Subordinate Lodges may adopt By-Laws requiring Life Members to pay the per capita assessment for the support and maintenance of the Masonic Homes.

There shall be no sale of Life Membership by Subordinate Lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction unless provided for in the Lodge By-Laws and it conforms to Edict of Grand Master William M. Koenig.

MEETINGS

In Masonry, Lodge meetings, masonically referred to as communications, are either stated or special. Stated meetings are such as are fixed by the By-Laws. At these meetings the regular business of the Lodge is transacted. Special meetings are such as called at the will and pleasure of the Master, but such meetings, except for funeral, memorial or divine services, may be called only on dispensation from the Grand Master. Such dispensation must be procured and in the possession of the Lodge before notice of such meeting is given. At such special meetings no business can be transacted except the business for which such special meeting has been called.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 4

Transaction of Business

All business, except that which relates specially to the subordinate degrees, may be transacted in the Lodge sitting in any of the three degrees.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 4E

Frequency of Meeting

Every Lodge shall assemble for work at least once in each month, except the months of June, July, August and September. During these months it may assemble or not, at the option of the Worshipful Master, provided that such option is specified in the Lodge By-Laws.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 4A

Every Lodge that fails to assemble for one year shall forfeit its Charter.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 4A (2)

No Lodge may meet on Sunday to confer any of the degrees of Masonry.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 4A (1)

The summer vacation period permitted by Article XVI, Sec. 4A must be included in computing the three months' period provided for by Article XVI, Sec. 5E (2) and must be complied with even though the Lodge might otherwise, under the provisions of Section 4A be permitted to recess during the months of June, July, August and September.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 4A and 5E (2)

Refreshment

A Lodge cannot be called to refreshment for any period beyond the limits of the current day.

Sunday Meetings

Meetings of Lodges on Sunday, except for funeral, memorial, or Divine Services are contrary to the principles of Masonry and are strictly prohibited.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 4A (1) and 10H

Time for Opening

Every Lodge must be opened at the hour named in its By-Laws. The Master cannot authorize anyone to open the Lodge or preside, in his absence, to the exclusion of a Warden present; and in the absence of the Master and both the Wardens, a Lodge cannot be opened for any purpose, nor can its business or work be carried on, except by the Grand Master or his special proxy appointed in writing, under the Grand Master's Seal.

If the Worshipful Master is present, however, he may advance the Line to open or close the Lodge or he may invite a Past Master to preside. In the absence of the Worshipful Master, the Senior Warden succeeds to this prerogative and in the absence of both the Worshipful Master and the Senior Warden; the Junior Warden has the same prerogative.

MEMBERSHIP

No Lodge may admit to membership any brother, who is a member of another Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, but may accept his petition for affiliation accompanied by a Certificate of Good Standing and, after his demit has been received from his former Lodge, enroll him as a member. Under the same conditions, a brother of a Lodge in another Grand Jurisdiction may also affiliate with a Maryland Lodge. A brother of a Lodge in another Grand Jurisdiction, whose laws do not forbid dual membership, may affiliate with a Maryland Lodge if he meets all requirements of affiliation. His application must be accompanied by a current certification of good standing from his home Lodge. A brother of a Lodge in Maryland may request a Certificate of Good

Standing for the purpose of transferring his membership or applying for dual membership in a Lodge of another Grand Jurisdiction.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 7B and F

No Brother, except he be a Master Mason, can be a member of a Lodge. Every Brother, when he receives the Degree of Master Mason, shall have his name enrolled among the members of the Lodge which confers the degree as a member thereof, except when conferred by courtesy to another Lodge. The foregoing requirement includes the signing of the Membership Register by all newly raised Masons.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 7A

Rosters of Members

A Lodge may authorize printing a roster of members but such printing should not include their addresses. A combination of the two would be a mailing list which should be restricted to the officers of a Lodge for strictly Lodge business. Even so care should be exercised in the distribution of the roster to make sure copies do not fall into the hands of those who might use them improperly.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 10F (1) and (2)

MINUTES

The records of the transactions of a Lodge are called minutes and are expected to be a correct record of the Lodge proceedings. At each stated meeting the minutes of preceding stated and special communications shall be read for approval. No Lodge can, at a special meeting, alter or expunge any part of the proceedings of a stated one.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 4E (1)

Receipts

The minute book must show all receipts from dues, fees or other sources received by the Secretary since the last meeting.

Investigating Committee Report

The minutes of the Lodge should not indicate whether the report of an Investigating Committee was favorable or unfavorable but should merely state that the committee reported.

Time

Lodge minutes should show the time the Lodge was opened and closed.

Visiting Members

The names of all members and visitors may be recorded in the minutes. However, a Secretary may keep a register in the Tyler's room for the purpose of registering all members, which becomes a part of the records of the Lodge.

Details of Ballot

No details of a ballot shall be made a part of the record except the statement that the petitioner was elected or rejected.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 5E and (3)

Lost Motions

Motions which fail for the want of a second need not be made a part of the record.

NON-AFFILIATES

A non-affiliate is a Mason who is not a member of any Lodge. The severance of the connection between a Master Mason and his Lodge and his failure to affiliate with another Lodge is called non-affiliation. As a non-affiliate contributes nothing to the support of either the Fraternity or the Lodge, he is therefore entitled to none of its benefits.

A non-affiliate is still bound by those duties and obligations which belong to the fraternity as a whole, but not to those which relate to the Lodge.

He may be accorded such assistance and relief as the Fraternity may be disposed to give him. He has no claim on any individual Lodge.

No Lodge is permitted to bury an unaffiliated Mason, except upon dispensation from the Grand Master.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 9B (4)

No Master Mason residing within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, and not an affiliated member of some subordinate Lodge, shall be allowed to visit in a Lodge, without invitation from the Master.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 101 (1)

Every Lodge may exercise all the rights of discipline over Masons, not members of any Lodge, who reside in the vicinity of such Lodge, so far as may relate to the Masonic conduct of such Masons while resident therein.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 8C

NOTICES

All Lodge notices must be issued by the Secretary under direction of the Lodge or Master.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 5B, 7H (1), (3) and 10E

Distribution of notices of petitions for initiation and affiliation

The Secretaries of the Subordinate Lodges are charged with the responsibility of forwarding notices of petitions for initiation and affiliation to interested Lodges at least two weeks before action thereon is scheduled.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 5B (5)

Request for waiver of personal jurisdiction

All requests for waiver of personal jurisdiction received by a Lodge shall lie over four (4) weeks before ballot thereon. Notification shall be given to the membership of the Lodge holding

personal jurisdiction, giving the name of the applicant and the date of action to be taken by the Lodge.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 5E (4)

Monthly Lodge notices

The Secretary is responsible for the mailing of all Lodge notices to the membership. He may not delegate this duty to the printer or other outside help.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 10F (1) and (2)

The Grand Secretary is to be included among those to whom monthly Lodge notices are delivered.

PAST MASTERS

A brother duly elected and installed as Worshipful Master of a regular Lodge, after serving one full term, is called a Past Master. Past Masters have no rights in the subordinate Lodges which are not possessed in common with all other brethren.

Ref.: Article III, Sec. 1A and Article VI, Sec. 3

PETITIONS FOR DEGREES

No Lodge shall admit to membership or initiate a candidate without the unanimous consent of the members present, by ballot.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 5E

No petition for initiation, when once before the Lodge, can be withdrawn, except by request of the Lodge submitting justifiable cause to Grand Master upon which he can base his decision as to whether it is proper to grant a dispensation for its withdrawal.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 5E (1)

A petition shall be acted upon within three months after its presentation, except in case of the petitioner's death or removal from the jurisdiction or if the three-month expiration date occurs during summer recess, as specified in the Lodge By-Laws, when action shall be taken at the first stated communication in the fall.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 5E (2)

Form

See Grand Lodge Constitution p. 90 to 93

When Presented

A petition for initiation shall be deemed to have been "presented" on the date of the stated meeting of the Lodge at which the petition is first read in open Lodge by the presiding officer or secretary of the Lodge, after it has been properly completed and signed by the applicant, accompanied by the initiation fee required by the Lodge's By-Laws, and either (1) showing on its face the required residence within the State, and no indication of physical disability requiring

waiver by the Grand Master or (2) accompanied by such documents (waiver personal, Grand Master) as are required to vest sole jurisdiction in the Lodge to which it is addressed.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 5E (2) (a)

Signature

A petition must be signed by the full name of the applicant. A petition cannot be legally signed by proxy, or by a man making his mark.

Failure to Read

Failure to read a petition does not exempt a petitioner from the responsibility for the truth of his answers.

Personal Jurisdiction

The Lodge does not acquire personal jurisdiction over a man until it receives his petition.

REJECTIONS

A candidate who has applied for the degrees or for membership and against whom one or more black cubes have appeared, is said to be rejected.

Notice

When a candidate for degrees or for membership is rejected, notice must be given him and the fee paid by him returned at once.

Renewal

A petitioner for the degrees cannot renew his petition until the expiration of six months from the date of his rejection and then only to the Lodge rejecting him, except by waiver of jurisdiction. A petitioner for affiliation may renew his petition to any Lodge at any time.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 5E (7), 7H (5) and 7 (4)

Jurisdiction

Personal jurisdiction over a rejected candidate living in Maryland is perpetual. Personal jurisdiction over a rejected petitioner is relinquished when such petitioner is not a resident of the Grand Jurisdiction of Maryland.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 5E (6) and 71 (3)

Information

The only information that a rejected candidate is entitled to is the statement of his rejection. He is not entitled to know who was present, the report of the Committee, or the number of black cubes cast. The giving out of such information is a Masonic offense.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 5E

SUMMONS

A summons is a written document served personally or by registered mail upon a member demanding his appearance at a meeting of the Lodge, a trial, or before a committee appointed to take evidence.

Form of

A summons must be a written or printed document signed by the Master and Secretary and attested by the seal of the Lodge. No other matter need be inserted in a summons beyond the time and place of the meeting. It is not necessary to state the object.

Disobedience

The disobedience of a summons regularly issued by a Lodge is one of the most serious Masonic offenses, and upon sufficient evidence of willful or careless evasion may subject the offender to charges.

Limit

A Lodge may summons any Master Masons residing within its jurisdiction, whether a member of the Lodge or not.

Purpose

The object of a summons is to secure the attendance of any member of the Fraternity within its jurisdiction, when the interest of the Lodge or those of the Fraternity demand it. It is not good policy to summons the members merely to secure a quorum.

SUSPENSION AND REINSTATEMENT

Refer to Charges and Trial. (Constitution of the Grand Lodge, A. F. & A.M. of Maryland)

Parties Interested

Each Lodge member present at a Masonic Trial is an "interested party" within the meaning of section 9 of the Form of Charges and Trial.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 8D

Suspension is the second degree of Masonic punishment and is inflicted by a majority vote of the Lodge.

Notice

Notice of the suspension must be mailed to the Brother receiving the sentence at his last known place of residence. Due notice must also be given the Grand Secretary. Reinstatement is a term applied to the act of placing in good standing one who has been suspended either for nonpayment of dues or some other cause.

How Attained

A Brother definitely suspended is restored automatically and assumes all his rights and prerogatives at midnight the day his suspension ends. A Brother suspended for nonpayment of

dues must pay all arrearages and petition the Lodge for reinstatement, unless done within six months. A Brother who may be indefinitely suspended for a Masonic offense must likewise petition the Lodge for reinstatement.

Subordinate Lodges shall suspend from the rights and privileges of Masonry, without trial, any member who shall fail to pay his regular dues for one year, including those who shall fail for a like period to pay the per capita assessment for the support and maintenance of the Masonic Homes, levied under Article X, Sec. ID (1) and (2) of the Constitution of this Grand Lodge. Provided, however, that no member of any subordinate Lodge shall be suspended under these sections until he shall have had at least one month's notice of the intention of the Lodge to take action upon his delinquency, and the penalty to which he renders himself liable for failure to liquidate his indebtedness. Should any member who shall be so suspended within six months after the effective date of his suspension, pay all arrearages up to the time of his suspension, he shall automatically be restored to all the rights and privileges of Masonry, and failing to do so within six months, he can regain those rights and privileges only by paying all arrearages due by him up to the time of his suspension and petitioning the Lodge in regular form for reinstatement. Should the latter be denied him by his Lodge, he shall be considered a non-affiliated Mason, and shall have the right of petitioning another Lodge. Nothing herein shall be construed, in any way, as affecting the right of a Lodge to remit the dues and/or assessments of any member.

Notice to a member in arrears for dues and/or assessments and of the intention of the Lodge to suspend him for non-payment thereof, shall be sent to such member at least one week prior to December first. This notice shall be sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, to such member so in arrears, to his residence, if known; if unknown, then said notice duly mailed to him at the Post Office nearest his last known place of residence shall be deemed a legal notice; proof of service of notice shall be required by the Lodge and the same duly recorded among the minutes of the proceedings. Notice of actual suspension shall also be sent promptly to such member by registered or certified mail in the same manner as provided herein for the notice of intention to suspend.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 7H, (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) and (6)

Deceased Members

The status of a Brother at the time of his death cannot be changed. A Lodge cannot reinstate a Brother for the purpose of giving a Masonic burial.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 9B

Payment in Advance

A Lodge cannot reinstate a Brother from the sentence of suspension upon his promise to pay the amount of back dues. The amount due must accompany the petition for reinstatement.

Current Dues

A member suspended for non-payment of dues and seeking reinstatement cannot be required to pay current dues in addition to arrearages, but he may voluntarily do so.

Ref: Article XVI, Sec. 7H (4)

Insane Members

See "Dues" p. 143 and 144

VISITORS

Every Master Mason in good standing has the privilege of visiting Lodges other than his own, when not stayed by objection.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 10.1

Examination of

When a visitor presents himself for examination he should fill out a visitor's card found in the Tyler's room of every regular and well furnished Lodge. This card should be sent to the Master in the regular way, who should appoint a committee of at least three Master Masons to retire and examine the visitor. It is the first duty of the committee to satisfy themselves that the visitor has been regularly made a Master Mason, in a regular Lodge working under the Grand Lodge of this State or a Grand Lodge with which it is in fraternal correspondence. This may be done by a request for a receipt for dues, diplomas, or other documentary evidence. No examination should be commenced until the committee is thoroughly satisfied upon this important point. The examination should be conducted in a gentlemanly and Masonic manner, within the Masonic Temple. It is an excellent policy for the Secretary to send notices of all visitors to the Lodges from which they hail, the reason for which will be apparent.

Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts

Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts may visit Lodges of the degrees attained by them when not barred by objection and when accompanied by a Master Mason.

Tyler's Oath. "I,.....(name), do hereby and hereon solemnly swear, that I have been regularly initiated as an Entered Apprentice, passed to the degree of Fellowcraft and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. I am now a member of..... Lodge, No....., under the jurisdiction of" "I do not stand suspended or expelled from any regular Lodge and know of no just cause why I should be so dealt with."
(Kiss the Bible.)

This oath is a necessary part of any examination of a visiting Brother and should precede all other ceremonies.

Avouchment by Telephone

An avouchment made by telephone is not legal. The actual presence and identity of the three parties involved is necessary to legal avouchment.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 4F, (1) and (b)

Joint Examinations

The examination of two or more visitors at the same time is illegal. They should be examined separately.

Waiver of Examination

The fact that a visitor presents accredited documentary evidence does not relieve him from an examination.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 4F (3)

Exchange of Visits with Lodges of neighboring Grand Jurisdictions. Dispensations will not be required in the exchange of visits between Maryland Lodges and Lodges of certain neighboring Grand Jurisdictions, where the visiting Lodge will not confer any degrees and will not take part in the work.

See Article XVI, Sec. 10 M, in reference to agreement with Grand Masters of the Grand Jurisdictions of Delaware, District of Columbia, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

VOTING

Each member of the Lodge must vote upon all matters before the Lodge, unless excused by the Master, and must be allowed to vote his individual preference.

Ref.: Mackey's Jurisprudence of Freemasonry p. 89-90, 94, 394-395

Form

Voting by aye and nay in a Subordinate Lodge is a modern practice. The proper way to vote in a Masonic Lodge is by a show of hands, i.e., by holding up the right hand. If the vote is clearly unequal the Master may at once declare the result; if not, then the Master should either count the votes himself, or order the Secretary to do so. The usual way of putting a question for the vote of the Lodge is as follows:

"As many as are in favor of the *** will signify the same by the Ancient Voting Sign of the Craft; Those opposed, by the same sign."**

Majority

At least a majority is necessary in deciding all questions where a vote is taken by a show of hands, or viva voce; also in deciding guilt or punishment in trials.

Ref.: Charges and Trial-Section 10

Unanimous

A ballot for Membership by initiation or affiliation, or for reinstatement after indefinite suspension or expulsion, must be unanimous.

Ref.: Mackey's Jurisdiction of Freemasonry p. 92, 126, Article XVI, Sec. 5E, (5) (a) and (b)

Tie Vote

In case of a tie vote, the Master shall decide the question by declaring it either carried or lost.

Ref.: Mackey's Jurisprudence of Freemasonry p. 245

Refusal to Vote

A Brother who refuses to vote and is not excused by the Master should be requested to leave the Lodge. In case of his refusal to leave, charges should immediately be preferred by the Senior Deacon.

Ref.: Mackey's Jurisprudence of Freemasonry p. 91 and 94

WAIVER OF JURISDICTION

All requests for waiver of jurisdiction over a rejected applicant, upon being received by the rejecting Lodge, must lie over four (4) weeks before ballot thereon. Notification to the membership of the Lodge holding personal jurisdiction is required, giving the name of the applicant and the date of action on the request for waiver. A request for waiver of personal jurisdiction may be granted by unanimous ballot only. The consent of the rejecting Lodge must be properly authenticated over the signatures of the Worshipful Master and Secretary with the seal of the Lodge. Action waiving jurisdiction is final and cannot be reconsidered or rescinded.

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 5E (4) and (6)

In case of a rejected candidate, his petition cannot be renewed more often than once in every six months.

Conditional

A Lodge cannot make conditions of any kind in waiving jurisdiction.

Change of Jurisdiction

When a Lodge waives personal jurisdiction over a rejected candidate, it thereby surrenders all control whatsoever over the candidate and the Lodge receiving the waiver acquires all control and is the only Lodge that can waive in favor of a third Lodge.

Request

A request for waiver of jurisdiction cannot be made by an applicant. It must be made by the Lodge to which the applicant has presented his petition.

Ballot

To waive jurisdiction over one who has been rejected requires a unanimous secret ballot.

PERSONAL WAIVERS

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 5E (4), (S) (a), (b), (6), (7) and 71 (3)

TERRITORIAL WAIVERS

Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 71, (1), (2), (5) and (6)

TABLE OF VOTING

Explanation a/Voting

In the following table where the word "vote" is used, the law permits the voting to be done openly by viva voce or by show of hands. The Master, however, may in such cases, require the voting to be done by secret ballot if in his judgment the peace and harmony of the Lodge would be preserved thereby. Where the word "ballot" is used the voting must be by balls and cubes or paper ballots (written or printed), and must be conducted in such a way as to insure absolute secrecy.

**GRAND LODGE OF MARYLAND
TABLE OF VOTING**

PURPOSE	CONDITIONS PRECEDENT	NECESSARY TO MAKE EFFECTIVE
Bylaws – To Amend	As provided in Bylaws	See Bylaws of Lodge
Dues – To Remit	Unpaid	Majority vote
Election of Officers	At time named in Article XVI, Sec. 3A of the Grand Lodge Constitution	Written ballot: majority of all votes cast
Election (to degrees or membership)	Four weeks or more after petition has been received	Unanimous ballot*
Jurisdiction (Personal waiver over candidates)	Four weeks or more after petition has been received. Notification to the membership of the lodge holding personal jurisdiction.	Unanimous ballot*
Payment of Bills	Reading of Bills	Majority vote
Removal of Lodge (when jurisdiction is thereby changed)	Previous notice, authority of Grand Lodge or Grand Master and consent of Lodges whose jurisdiction is affected. Article XVI, Sec. 4B	Three-fourths vote
Suspensions for non-Payment of Dues	Due notice as prescribed by law	Declaration by Worshipful Master
Suspension for other causes	Article XVI, Sec. 8. Also Form of.	Majority*
Expulsion	Charges and Trial, PP. 39-41	Majority*
Reinstatement within six months after Suspension for Non-Payment of Dues	Payment of arrearages	No vote required
Reinstatement after six months after Suspension for Non-Payment of Dues	Payment of arrearage, written petition must lay over four weeks	Unanimous ballot*
Reinstatement after Definite Suspension	Elapsing of prescribed time	Automatic – No vote required
Reinstatement after Indefinite Suspension	See Article XVI, Sec. 5E (5)(b)	Unanimous ballot*
Reinstatement and Affiliation after Expulsion	Petitioner must apply to his former Lodge. Petition is then referred to Grand Lodge for reinstatement as unaffiliated Mason. Article XVI, Sec. 5E (5)(a).	Majority vote by Grand Lodge. Unanimous ballot by subordinate Lodge*
Verdict (to find guilty after Trial)	Every member present must vote	Majority ballot*
Punishment (to fix)	Every member present must vote	Majority ballot*

Where the ballot in the above table shows (*), the ballot must be taken by use of the ballot box.

¹ Adopted May, 1980	Article I, Section 2 Business and Property of Grand Lodge
² Adopted November, 1982	Article I, Section 3 Indemnification
³ Amended November, 1994, 2003, 2017	Article II, Section 1 Stated Communications
⁴ Amended November 2017	Article II, Section 1 A.
⁵ Amended November 2020	Article II, Section 1 C
⁶ Amended May, 1984	Article III, Section 1 Membership
⁷ Amended November 2020	Article III Section 1 word rearrangement
⁸ Amended November, 1993	Article IV, Section 2 Qualification of Officers
⁹ Amended November, 1993	Article IV, Section 3 Compensation
¹⁰ Amended May, 1980	Article V, Section 8 Duties of Grand Master
¹¹ Amended May, 1991	Article V, Section 8 F
¹² Amended November, 1993	Article V, Section 9 Duties of Grand Tyler
¹³ Amended May, 1984	Article VII – Qualifications and Nominees for election as Grand Officers
¹⁴ Amended November 2020	Article VII, Delete Section 3 & renumerate
¹⁵ Adopted November 2005 Section 4 Deleted November 2020	Article VII Section 4 C
¹⁶ Amended November, 2004. Amended May, 2007	Article VII, Section 5 Time of Nominations
¹⁷ Amended May, 2007	Article VIII, Section 1 “The Grand Master,...”
¹⁸ Adopted May, 2005	Article VIII, Section 1 Sentence 2 “A Grand Secretary...”
¹⁹ Amended May, 2007	Article VIII, Section 2 Sentence 2 “Members of the...”
²⁰ Amended November, 2004. Amended May, 2007	Article VIII, Section 3 Time of Elections
²¹ Amended November 2017	Article VIII, Section 5 Printed Ballot
²² Amended November 2017	Article VIII, Section 6 Contested Elections
²³ Subsections 1, 2, and 3 re-designated A, B, and C	Article VIII, Section 7 Caucusing, Lobbying, Electioneering
²⁴ Amended May, 2007	Article IX, Section 1 Installation
²⁵ Amended November, 1987	Article X, Section 1 D
²⁶ Adopted November, 1987. Amended May, 2004, Amended May, 2018	Article X, Section 1, D, 1
²⁷ Amended November, 1986 & 1995	Article X, Section 1, D, 3
²⁸ Adopted November, 1995. Amended November, 2006	Article X, Section 1, D, 4
²⁹ Amended November, 2012	Article X, Section 1, D, 5
³⁰ Amended November, 1986	Article X, Section 2 Allocation of Certain Revenue
³¹ Amended May, 1998	Article XI Board of Grand Inspectors
³² Adopted May, 1984. Amended May, 1984. Amended November, 2005	Article XII, Section 1 Membership
³³ Amended May, 2007	Article XII, Section 1, Sentence 2 “Three of the ...”
³⁴ Adopted November, 2009	Article XII, Section 1, Sentence 4 “In addition, ...”
³⁵ Amended May, 2007	Article XII, Section 2, Sentence 2 “The appointment ...”
³⁶ Amended May, 1984. Amended May, 1991. Amended November, 2016	Article XII, Section 3 Term of Office
³⁷ Amended May, 1980	Article XII, Section 4 Meetings
³⁸ Amended November 2020	Article XII, Section 4 add electronic communication.
³⁹ Amended May, 1982	Article XII, Section 5, A
⁴⁰ Amended November, 1982	Article XIII Masonic Home Fund and Board of Trustees
⁴¹ Adopted May, 1981. Amended May, 1984. Amended November, 2005	Article XIII, Section 1 Membership
⁴² Amended May, 2007	Article XIII, Section 1 Sentence 2 “Three of the ...”
⁴³ Adopted November, 2009	Article XIII, Section 1 Sentence 3 “In addition...”
⁴⁴ Amended May, 2007	Article XIII, Section 2 Sentence 2 “The appointment shall...”
⁴⁵ Amended May, 1980. Amended May, 1991. Amended November, 2016	Article XIII, Section 3 Term of Office
⁴⁶ Amended May, 1980	Article XIII, Section 4 Meetings
⁴⁷ Amended November 2020	Article XIII, Section 4 Meetings add electronic communication.
⁴⁸ Amended May, 1983	Article XIII, Section 5 Duties
⁴⁹ Amended November, 2006	Article XIII, Section 5, B Sentence 4 “All contributions,...”
⁵⁰ Amended May, 1982	Article XIII, Section 5, F Masonic Home Fund
⁵¹ Amended May, 1982	Article XIII, Section 5, G Investment Procedures
⁵² Amended May, 1980	Article XIII, Section 7 Charitable Uses and Purposes
⁵³ Deleted November 2020	Article XIV – Retention of Article for future use
⁵⁴ Amended November 2020	Article XV, Section 6 Reorganization of Committee on Work
⁵⁵ Adopted November, 2005	Article XVI, Section 1, C, 3

56	Amended November 2020	Article XVI, Section 2, A Rewrite Procedure
57	Amended November 2020	Article XVI, Section 2, C.3 Supply GL Copy of By-Laws
58	Adopted November, 2004	Article XVI, Section 3, A Sentence 2 “Nominations for...”
59	Adopted May, 2008	Article XVI, Section 3, A Sentence 9 “Lodge voting...”
60	Adopted May, 1983. Amended May, 1998. Amended November, 2005, Amended November 2020	Article XVI, Section 3, C, 4
61	Amended May, 1983. Amended May, 1992. Amended November, 2005	Article XVI, Section 3, F
62	Amended May, 1999	Article XVI, Section 4, C mid sentence “bull roasts...”
63	Amended November 2020	Article XVI, Section 4, D Procedure revision
64	Amended November, 1999	Article XVI, Section 4, E Transaction of Business
65	Amended May, 2001	Article XVI, Section 5, A, 1
66	Amended November, 1984	Article XVI, Section 5, A, 3
67	Amended November, 2004	Article XVI, Section 5, B, 6
	Amended November 2020 Delete original No. 5. Renumerate No. 6 to No. 5	
68	Amended November, 1986	Article XVI, Section 5, D
69	Amended May, 2019	Article XVI, Section 5, D, 1
70	Amended November, 1993	Article XVI, Section 5, E, 3
71	Amended November, 1989. Amended May, 1990. Amended November, 2001	Article XVI, Section 7, B
72	Amended November, 2004	Article XVI, Section 7, B, 5
73	Amended November, 2005	Article XVI, Section 7, E Service Awards
74	Amended May, 1991	Article XVI, Section 7, F Transfer of Membership
75	Amended May, 1985	Article XVI, Section 7, G Demits
76	Amended May, 2001	Article XVI, Section 7, H
77	Amended November, 2015	Article XVI, Section 7, H, 4
78	Amended November, 2015	Article XVI, Section 7, H, 5
79	Amended May, 1985	Article XVI, Section 8, C
80	Adopted November, 2010	Article XVI, Section 8, G
81	Amended November, 1993	Article XVI, Section 10, E Lodge Notices
82	Adopted May, 2009	Article XVI, Section 10, E Sentence 3 “At the election...”
83	Adopted November, 2009	Article XVI, Section 10, F, 1 “provided, however,...”
84	Adopted May, 2009	Article XVI, Section 10, F, 3
85	Adopted November, 1986	Article XVI, Section 13 Merger of Lodges
86	Adopted May, 1984	Article XVI-A Memorial Lodge
87	Adopted November, 2006	Article XVI-A Section 2 Funds -Sentence 2
88	Adopted May, 2016	Article XVI-B Non-Conforming Lodges
89	Amended May, 1998	Article XVII Section 1 Sunday Activities
90	Amended May, 1998. Amended May, 1999	Article XVII Section 2 Lotteries and Games of Chance
91	Amended May, 1985	Article XVIII Recognition of Masonic Bodies
92	Renumbered May, 1985	Article XIX Amendments to Constitution
93	Amended November, 2004	Article XIX Section 1
94	Adopted November, 1993	Standing Resolutions No. 8 Statement of Secrecy
95	Adopted May, 1993	Standing Resolutions No. 8 Paragraph 3
96	Communications Dates Amended with Amendment 3, November 2017	Standing Resolutions No. 20
97	Amended November, 2005	Digest Ref.: Article XVI, Sec.1.C.3 Lodge Seal
98	Amended May, 1998 – removal of 2:00pm beginning time limit	Digest Ref.: Article XVII, Sec. 1
99	Amended November, 2005	Digest Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 3C (1) Prerequisites of Installation
100	Amended November, 2005	Digest Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 3C (2) Prerequisites of Installation
101	Amended November, 2005	Digest Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 3C (4) Prerequisites of Installation
102	Amended November, 2005	Digest Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 3C (4) Prerequisites of Installation
103	Amended November, 2005	Digest Ref.: Article XVI, Sec 3F Subsequent to Installation
104	Amended November, 2005	Digest Ref. Article XVI, Sec. 3C (4) Prerequisites of Installation
105	Amended November, 2005	Digest Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 3E Subsequent to Installation
106	Amended November, 2005	Digest SECRETARY Taking Minutes
107	Amended November, 2005	Digest Ref.: Article XVI, Sec. 3C (4) “Previous to Installation..”
108	Amended November, 2005	Ref.: Article XVI Sec. 3E “Within thirty days....”
94	Amended November, 2011	Declaration of Principles

