

# 34<sup>th</sup> Masonic District of Masons in North Carolina A.F. & A.M.



## A Guide Book for New Members

December 2, 2006  
(Second Printing)

**This book is designed to assist our new members in better understanding a number of questions they may have after becoming a Master Mason. Much of the content is taken from the book "A New Mason Asks" that was provided by The Committee on Masonic Education and The CODE of The Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of North Carolina**

**Additional comments were provided by Dwight M. Sigmon, Past DDGL of the 34<sup>th</sup> Masonic District of Masons in N.C.**

**and is:**

**Presented To**

**Brother \_\_\_\_\_**

**Who was Initiated \_\_\_\_\_,**

**Passed \_\_\_\_\_,**

**Raised \_\_\_\_\_,**

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

**and who became a member of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_,  
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina on**

**\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_**

## A New Mason Asks?

**Tonight I became a Master Mason. There was a lot of information in the Catechisms and Lecturers, but I still have a many questions. Can you answer them?**

**Q. Now can I stay for the whole meeting?**

**A.** Yes, now you are welcome to stay for the whole meeting. I know you were beginning to wonder if we were ever going to ask you to stay, but let me explain why we didn't.

Our meetings aren't all the same. Meetings are "opened" in what we call "lodges" depending on the business, or "work" we need to transact. For instance a "lodge on the first degree", "a lodge on the second degree" and so forth.

When I say "opened" it refers to the ritual used to begin the session. Most of our meetings are opened on the Third Degree and only Master Masons may attend. Lodge business, discussion, reports and programs are all done in the Third Degree or "Master Mason's Lodge". But, if we have someone receiving a degree that night things change.

For instance, the night you were initiated the meeting was probably opened in the Master Mason's degree for a short business session. As soon as this was over, all "work", or activity, stopped and the Master Mason's Lodge was "closed" using another ritual.

Then another form of ritual was used to "open" a lodge on the First Degree or "Entered Apprentice Lodge". Shortly after this lodge was opened you knocked on the door and your initiation began.

When you received your Second Degree a "Fellowcraft's Lodge" was opened for the degree and the lodge was already opened in the "Master Mason's Degree" for you to receive your Third Degree. Almost all European lodges and a few North American lodges are opened on the First Degree. Though there is some discussion of changing the opening in North Carolina, for now only Master Masons may remain for the entire meeting. *If you received your First or Second degrees on a non-business or what we call an "Emergent Communication" meeting then the lodge would have been opened directly in that particular degree.*

**Q. I noticed the Master was wearing a hat. Is there any special significance to this?**

**A.** Much of the Masonic lore is based on symbolism taken from King Solomon and his temple. It is supposed that Solomon wore a crown to distinguish himself and to make him recognizable to his subjects. In the symbolic lodge the Master's hat symbolizes King Solomon's crown. The lodge is the Master's domain and we are his subjects.

**Q. I noticed that instead of walking directly from one place to another the man who led me through the degrees would go straight then sharply turn. He did this many times. Why?**

**A.** It is called "walking on the square" and is done by all participants in lodge business. The 90 degree turns reminds everyone watching to "act on the square" always being upright and honest.

**Q. I really thought there would be more laughing and tom-foolery in the lodge. Why isn't it like the other clubs I am familiar with?**

A. Masonry isn't a club. It is a fraternity! A club is usually intended primarily for the entertainment and enjoyment of the members. A club is a place to have fun. A fraternity's purpose is for the betterment of its members. Much of what is done in a Masonic lodge is considered serious. Although we do have fun, it is not the purpose of attending a lodge meeting. Our fun is found more in fellowship with our brothers.

**Q. The man who gave the lectures impressed me. He knows so much about Masonry, but some of what he said still isn't quite clear. Where can I get a copy of his lecture?**

A. You might be able to find it somewhere, but I wouldn't know where to tell you. Every word you heard was memorized. We call that man and others who have memorized the lectures a "Lecturer." Most of the Lecturers are "Certified Lecturers" which means they pass a regular examination of the accuracy of their presentations.

*Some of the lecture information can be found in the Bahnsen Manual that was presented to you the night you became a member.*

**Q. I was told never to walk between the Master and the altar unless it was during degree work. If this is true what is the symbolism to this?**

A. This is very symbolic and would be referred to as "breaking the light." The Master is never to lose sight of the Volume of Sacred Law, in most cases the Bible, which rests upon the altar. Therefore, no one is to walk between the Master and the open Bible.

**Q. If I am late for lodge can I still get in?**

A. Of course, simply have the Tyler announce you are here and after you enter the lodge approach the altar, give the due guard, inform the Master why you are late, and he will ask you to sit with the brothers.

**Q. Seems like a lot to go through. Why can't I just slip in unannounced?**

A. Much is done in Masonry as a matter of courtesy. This is one of those things. Another is giving the due guard before speaking. Again, a simple matter of courtesy.

**Q. I was told that whenever I speak it must be directed to the Master. What if it is none of the Master's concern?**

A. Quite simply, then it has no place in the Master's lodge. A reminder from a previous question and answer. We are a fraternity, not a social club. The lodge is not a place for casual chat between the brothers and disrespect for the Master.

**Q. I was told there was a Catechism for the Third Degree but it was up to me whether I learned it or not. Why should I go through the trouble?**

**A.** It really depends on what you want from Masonry. If you choose not to learn and return your Third Degree Catechism you will meet many good brothers that you might not have met if it weren't for the fraternity, you can enjoy countless hours of fellowship with people who hold similar values, and avail yourself of some wonderful learning opportunities.

But, if you decide to return your Third Degree Catechism you can experience all of the above plus open the door to learning experiences not open to those who have not returned their Third Degree Catechism, realize more depth in your Masonic life, understand much more from your Masonic work, and, if you choose to do so, have the opportunity to serve your brothers in the progressive line of your lodge.

If you will ask most men who have attained proficiency in their Third Degree Catechism you will certainly find that they feel the rewards far outweigh the effort.

**Q. What do you mean by “Progressive Line” of officers?**

**A.** All the officers except the Treasurer, Secretary, Tyler and Chaplain are considered to be in the Progressive Line. In most circumstances each of these officers advance one step, or “chair” up each year until they become Worshipful Master.

**Q. If I return the Third Degree Catechism do I have to become an officer?**

**A.** Certainly not. The decision to become proficient should first be based on a desire to learn more about Masonry, not a desire to become an officer. Many excellent Masons have become proficient, yet have no desire to hold lodge office.

**Q. I was told that the highest degree a Mason can reach is the Third Degree, then almost immediately someone is talking about the “Higher Degrees” in Masonry. What are the “Higher Degrees”?**

**A.** You are 100% correct that the highest level a Mason can reach is to become a Master Mason or Third Degree Mason. The purpose of the so called “higher degrees” available in the Scottish Rite and York Rites is to draw upon and expand our knowledge of the lessons learned in the Third Degree.

A good example is that everyone in a class graduating from medical school is called “doctor”. He has earned it. He can wear it with pride. Yet, some graduates will go on to learn more about their craft. They will become skilled at portions of medicine and patient care that other members of their graduating class will know little or nothing about and they will continue to be called “Doctor.”

The same can be said of Masons. Every man who goes through the degrees and is Raised is entitled to the name Master Mason. Yet, some of his brothers will desire to explore the mysteries of Masonry and humanity more deeply. And as they progress through the Rites and the bodies within those Rites they are entitled to “wear” the name of that degree or body. It is their reward for their effort. When we refer to someone as a York Rite Mason or 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree Scottish Rite Mason it does not alter the fact they are first, and last, Master Masons and called “Brother.”

**Q. What do I have to do to become a Lodge officer?**

**A.** First, before you are installed you must return your Third Degree Catechism.

Then, be sure you want to be an officer. Becoming an officer entails a large responsibility. You are committing to be at the lodge every meeting night for as much as the next seven years. People are depending on you and whether you are aware of it or not, they are watching to see how you handle your responsibilities.

**Q. What could I expect as a Lodge officer?**

**A.** This depends almost entirely on the Master of the Lodge, and may change from year to year. Some Masters can be quite demanding and expect 100% from each and every officer. Some are quite lax and do little more than open and close the lodge. The demands of most Masters lies somewhere between these two extremes. During this period, you will also need to decide what kind of Master you will be.

**Q. If I decide not to become a Lodge officer can I still be involved in my lodge?**

**A.** Certainly. Being a “sideliner” doesn’t mean just sitting in a seat. You don’t have to be proficient for lots of tasks in the lodge. There are parts of the degrees that need to be learned. There are numerous duties in the lodge that need to be performed. There are meals to be cooked. Projects that need to be handled. Programs that need to be given. There are brothers and widows who need help. In an active lodge there are untold numbers of duties. In other words, there is work that needs to be done.

**Q. You know, the average man would probably find it hard to live up to every detail of the Third Degree Obligation. Is it really expected?**

**A.** Definitely yes, but Masonry was never designed for the average man. Carl Fitje, Deputy Grand Master of Masons in New York once wrote:

“Not too many years ago when Masons marched in Communities for an occasion, regardless of what it was, schools and businesses closed to honor both the event and the men who marched. Some 12,000 Masonic Temples on the Main Streets of America served as meeting places for three (3) million men who were innovative and makers of America’s history. The men who comprised this lofty Band of Masonic Brothers took considerable pride in being members of what was recognized as the oldest, most respected fraternity in the world. Were we a proud bunch? Yes! In fact, it was a matter of pride even to know a Mason.”

No one finds the average man special, that’s why he’s called “average.” People once looked up to those old Masons with their codes of honesty and integrity. Their conscience was their judge. The lessons they found in the Third Degree and in the Bible was their guideline.

**Q. Being honest, I didn't realize my Third Degree Obligation was as involved as it is. When I took the obligation it was a blur of words I tried to remember long enough to repeat, but now I have committed to memory, it is rather extensive. For example, it appears I should know more about the Code than I do.**

**A.** Unfortunately, most Masons in North Carolina know little about the rules and regulations they have promised to uphold. And, should you become a lodge officer others will depend on your knowledge of these matters. It is your duty as a Mason to be aware of what you have agreed to, after all it is adherence to these rules that makes Masons "special."

**Q. I understand there is a set of Rules and Regulations for the Lodges to abide by. What is The Code?**

**A.** Each lodge has at least one copy of The Code of The Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of North Carolina. You can purchase your own copy if you wish to. Each year at the Annual Communication of The Grand Lodge, held in September, amendments are discussed and voted upon by the representatives of each lodge. A copy of The Code can also be found on The Grand Lodge website.

**Q. Are there any other rules and regulations that apply to my own Lodge?**

**A.** Yes. The Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of North Carolina recommends that each lodge adopt a set of by-laws conforming to the articles as set forth in Chapter 44 of The Code, Article 44-7. Within these articles, referred to as the Uniform By-Laws, each lodge will address specific items as pertaining to their own lodge. These include such items as the date and time of their meetings, initiation fees, annual dues and the "Seal" of their lodge. A copy of the By-Laws is available to all members and in some cases are presented to a new member after receiving their Third Degree.

**Q. If we cannot advertise or solicit members how does a man know about the Freemasons? How does he know we exist?**

**A.** It is true that we cannot solicit members, however, some rules and regulations have changed in North Carolina over the past few years. It is now acceptable to display Masonic emblems on clothing and vehicles that was once not allowed. There are also publications now available through The Grand Lodge of North Carolina and the Masonic Renewal Committee of North America that can be provided to the profane to explain what the fraternity is all about. One such publication entitled "Have You Ever Considered Becoming a Mason" is available in almost every lodge in North Carolina and is typically on display at charity fundraisers.

**Q. If a man specifically asks for details about Masonry what would you say? What do we stand for? How difficult is it to become a member? What do we do?**

**A.** The publication referenced above covers most of these questions. In addition we should always emphasize our most important mission, which is providing for our Widows and Orphans. Another change in recent years is the ability to conduct a limited number of "fundraisers" to support our three specific charities. Fundraisers, which require Grand Lodge approval, provide us the avenue to not only support the Masonic Home for Children, Masonic and Eastern Star Home and The Masonic Foundation but also provide us exposure to the outside world, which better explains what we stand for and the idea of Freemasonry.

## **Q. What if I want to visit another lodge? What is required to get into another lodge?**

**A.** Any Mason in good standing can visit another lodge that is recognized by The Grand Lodge of North Carolina. You should always carry your current Dues Card, which is required in case no one can properly vouch for you. If no one can vouch for you as a Master Mason you will be required take an examination prior to the start of the meeting. Also, if you are not sure if anyone will be attending the meeting that can properly vouch for you, it is highly recommended that you show up for the meeting early and meet with the Master and inform him of your situation so he can appoint a committee to examine you. The Code covers visitation and vouching requirements in Chapters 50 and 51 as follows.

### **From The CODE:**

## **CHAPTER 50**

### **Visitation**

#### **REG. 50-1 RIGHT OF VISITATION.**

A Master Mason in good standing has the right to visit another lodge, and he should not be deprived of that right without very good cause. The right is subject to the provisions of Chapter [51](#) concerning avouchment, the authority of the Master, and the right of a member to object. [[74-5.2](#); [74-5.3](#); [87-5](#); [90-4](#)].

#### **REG. 50-2 APPRENTICES AND FELLOW CRAFT.**

An Entered Apprentice or a Fellow Craft in good standing and not in default may be admitted to visit any lodge other than his own when open on the degree he has attained only by courtesy of the presiding officer and provided no member objects. [[71-10](#); [73-6](#); [74-2](#)].

1. An Entered Apprentice or a Fellow Craft has no right to such visitation.
2. An Entered Apprentice or a Fellow Craft cannot be examined for avouchment, nor can he visit any lodge other than his own unless the presiding officer of such lodge shall have personal knowledge of his status or a known Master Mason in the presence of such presiding officer shall have knowledge of his status and saw the candidate advanced to the degree he claims to have received, or that he has lawful Masonic knowledge that he has advanced to that degree. [[50-3](#); [71-10](#)].

#### **REG. 50-3 CLANDESTINE VISITORS PROHIBITED.**

A member of a lodge under the jurisdiction of a Grand Lodge not recognized by this Grand Lodge is not permitted to visit a lodge in this jurisdiction. No visitor shall be admitted to a lodge in this jurisdiction who is not a Master Mason and, at the time of visitation, a member in good standing in a regular lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge. A Mason who is not thus qualified cannot enjoy any of the rights and benefits of Masonry in this jurisdiction. [[59-7](#); [50-2](#); [51-3](#); [77-12](#); [79-4](#)].

*(This chapter amended, effective January 1, 2003)*

## CHAPTER 51

### Avouchment

#### REG. 51-1 MODES OF AVOUCHMENT.

No brother shall vouch for another unless, in addition to the knowledge that the visitor is a Mason, the brother is also satisfied that the visitor is at the time in good standing. [87-5].

1. There shall be three modes of avouchment of a brother as follows: [39-2.6.F.(3)].
  - A. By sitting together in a regular lodge of Master Masons recognized by the Grand Lodge.
  - B. By an examination authorized by the proper officer of a lodge.
  - C. By one Mason definitely stating to another whom he knows to be a Master Mason that he vouches for a third brother then and there present with them as a Master Mason in good standing. The Mason who is vouching for the visitor shall state the *manner* in which he acquired the knowledge on which he makes the avouchment. [51-2].
2. This information may be passed along indefinitely as long as the conditions herein stated are fully met.
  - A. Documentary or written evidence alone shall not be sufficient to justify avouchment.
  - B. Avouchment cannot be made in any case by mail, facsimile, telephone or telegraph.

#### REG. 51-2 LAWFUL MASONIC INFORMATION.

A brother can vouch for a visitor only when he knows that visitor to be a Mason, or on lawful Masonic information, or after strict examination by a committee that in the judgment of the Master is competent to make the examination. [51-1.1].

1. No brother can legally acquire the proper and necessary information to vouch for another brother by sitting with him in any other body than a regular lodge of Symbolic Masonry or unless the brother vouched for is actually present when vouched for.
2. A Mason cannot vouch for a brother who was present with him at a funeral service or ceremonial outside the lodge hall although all present were properly clothed unless they were both present at the opening or closing of the lodge, or he had otherwise obtained a proper knowledge for avouching.
3. *Lawful Masonic information* means information that can only be received from one known to be competent to impart it. It must be positive and beyond any question, and imparted for Masonic purposes not casually. Vouching is bearing witness, and in witness bearing one should tell that only which he personally knows to be true.

#### REG. 51-3 GOOD STANDING REQUIRED.

In addition to strict trial and due examination as to his knowledge of Masonry the Tyler is expressly directed to require every visitor to produce a dues certificate or other documentary evidence that his dues are paid or remitted to within one year of the date of such visit.

1. No visitor shall be admitted whose dues are not paid or remitted to within one year of such date. [50-3; 59-16.1; 77-7.2; 77-12; 79-4].
2. If a Master is fully satisfied by lawful information that the visitor is a Master Mason in good standing and qualified to visit, he may admit him even though he does not have at the time the documentary evidence in his possession. [79-4; 87-5].

3. The regularity of the lodge in which the visitor holds membership shall be established before he is examined or vouched for, and such regularity may be evidenced by a certificate under the seal or facsimile of the seal of a Grand Lodge recognized by this Grand Lodge, or it may be determined by such other means as may be available to the lodge.
4. The Grand Lodge shall supply each lodge annually with a roster of recognized Grand Lodges and their respective subordinate or constituent lodges, which roster the lodge shall make available for use of its officers and members. The expense of such roster shall be borne by the Grand Lodge. [[50-3](#)].
5. No one shall be permitted to sit in a lodge, even though a member thereof, unless some Master Mason present can properly vouch for him or unless he passes an examination. [[59-14.3](#)].

#### **REG. 51-4 PENALTY.**

Failure to observe rigidly the requirements of this Chapter shall be sufficient cause for the expulsion of an offending brother or the arrest and revocation of the charter of an offending lodge. [[74-1.3](#); [91-13](#)].

#### **Q. What are the procedures for voting in the lodge and how are new members elected?**

**A.** The rules that govern the proper procedures of voting are found mainly in Chapters 63 and 68 of The Code. It refers to other Chapters that should be reviewed. Some of the requirements can be voted on by a show of hands. Election of members requires a Secret Ballot, which is described in Chapter 68. If you have any questions concerning voting procedures you should ask your Master prior to the start of the meeting and he can answer any specific question you may have. Results of voting should never be discussed outside of the lodge.

#### **From The CODE:**

### **CHAPTER 63**

#### **Voting in a Lodge**

#### **REG. 63-1 METHODS OF VOTING.**

Voting in a subordinate lodge shall be *first*, by show of hands, *second*, by written paper ballot, *third*, by secret ballot of balls and cubes, and by no other method.

#### **REG. 63-2 WRITTEN BALLOT.**

When a vote by written paper ballot is ordered, the Master shall appoint not more than five tellers, and they shall be provided with ballot slips by the Secretary and shall immediately commence distributing them to the members present who are entitled to vote. The Master shall announce that each member voting shall prepare his ballot by writing clearly thereon the nature of his vote and shall order the tellers to collect the votes. When all have voted, he shall declare the ballot closed and order the tellers to count the ballots and announce the result. Other business may be transacted while the tellers are counting the ballots if the lodge consents. [[54-3](#); [54-3.1](#); [100-1.4](#); [100-1.7](#)].

### **REG. 63-3 SHOW OF HANDS.**

Unless the law requires a vote by ballot, it shall be taken by show of hands, *provided*, when not less than two members concur in a demand or when the Master may order, the vote shall be taken by paper ballot. Voting by *Yea* and *Nay* is not permitted. [[59-2.14](#)].

### **REG. 63-4 EVERY MEMBER PRESENT MUST VOTE.**

Every member present must vote, unless excused by the Master, because of personal interest in the question or because he was not present when the question was first voted on. Blank pieces of paper are neither ballots nor votes and cannot be counted as such, nor can they have any effect upon the result. No member shall be excused in *secret* balloting. Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts are not members of a lodge. Members present and excused from voting on any question shall not be counted as present on that vote or ballot. [[19-7](#); [19-8](#); [54-3.1](#); [59-2.28](#); [63-15](#); [68-3.16](#); [74-2](#); [45-23.17](#); [100-4](#)].

### **REG. 63-5 SECRET BALLOT.**

Secret ballot shall be taken as follows. [[87-17](#)].

1. Wherever the term *secret ballot* is used in THE CODE, it shall mean the use of white balls and black cubes but not black balls, and with a ballot box so arranged that the character of an individual ballot shall not become known. [[Chapter 68](#)].
2. A motion to reconsider a secret ballot is illegal and shall not be entertained.
3. A written ballot is not a secret ballot.
4. A secret ballot when once commenced must be completed without interval or postponement. [[68-3.9](#); [68-3.13](#); [68-3.17](#); [68-3.18](#); [68-3.19](#)].

### **REG. 63-6 ELECTION OF OFFICERS.**

All ballots cast at an election of officers on which there does not appear in a legible manner the name of some member of the lodge are blank ballots, these are not votes and shall not be considered in determining the result. [[19-8](#); [54-3.2](#)].

### **REG. 63-7 TOO MANY BALLOTS.**

If there are more ballots cast including blanks than there are members present, the vote is illegal and shall be declared void. [[19-8](#)].

### **REG. 63-8 LATE BALLOT.**

The fact that a ballot was cast by a member after the Master declared the ballot closed, without objection by anyone, shall not invalidate the election after the result has been announced. [[19-8](#)].

### **REG. 63-9 NO PROXIES.**

A member shall not vote by proxy.

**REG. 63-10 RETIREMENT DURING VOTE.**

If a member retires from the lodge room during a vote and returns before the same is closed, he may be permitted to vote, but this does not apply in a secret ballot.

**REG. 63-11 TYLER.**

The Tyler, if he is qualified to vote in the lodge, shall be subject to the same law as any other member, but his failure to vote will not affect the legality of the voting or the result thereof. He shall not be excused from voting in a secret ballot. [[59-2.28](#); [68-3.9](#)].

**REG. 63-12 CHANGE OF VOTE.**

In all voting, except by secret ballot, a member may change his vote but only before the result has been announced.

**REG. 63-13 MAJORITY VOTE.**

A majority vote shall govern in all cases except as provided in THE CODE. No lodge shall in any manner, through its by-laws or by resolution or otherwise, require more than a majority vote of its members present to transact any financial or other business matter and no lodge shall in any such manner or by any device require the vote of its total membership or of any designated majority of its total membership to transact any matters except as provided in THE CODE. [[44-7 \(Art.22B,H\)](#); [60-10](#); [63-4](#); [45-23.18](#); [45-23.19](#)].

**REG. 63-14 VISITORS.**

No visiting brother shall vote in a lodge on any matter.

**REG. 63-15 PARLIAMENTARY USAGE.**

In voting in a lodge Regulation [36-10](#) shall govern as far as its several provisions may apply. [[Chapter 68](#)].

**REG. 63-16 MASTER'S VOTE.**

The Master may cast the deciding vote in case of a tie, *provided*, he has not already voted. [[44-7 \(Art.22B\)](#); [59-2.25](#)].

**CHAPTER 68**

**The Secret Ballot**

**REG. 68-1 RESTRICTIONS ON BALLOT.**

No ballot shall be taken on  
a petition for the degrees,  
an application for advancement,  
an application for affiliation, or

an application for restoration

at any other than a stated communication.

1. No ballot shall be taken in less than twenty-eight days from the time the petition or application was received by the lodge.
2. No ballot shall be taken until the report of the Grand Secretary has been received by the lodge.
3. No ballot shall be taken until a Committee of Investigation shall have reported thereon unless otherwise provided by law.
4. A secret ballot on any subject taken in violation of the law of this Grand Lodge is illegal and void.
5. Another secret ballot on the same subject shall not be taken until it has been authorized by the Grand Master, and then only at a stated communication. [[43-3.7](#); [45-3.4](#); [45-3.4.B](#); [45-3.4.C](#); [45-3.4.D](#); [59-2.12](#); [65-1](#); [65-8](#); [65-9](#); [68-8](#); [68-11](#); [68-8.2](#); [73-3](#); [75-11.1](#); [78-2.2](#); [78-2.2.D](#); [78-2.2.E](#); [81-2](#); [101-6](#)].

#### **REG. 68-2 BALLOT POSTPONED.**

After the report of the Committee of Investigation on a petition or an application has been received, there shall be a secret ballot unless Regulation [66-2](#), [67-4](#), and [67-6](#) apply. The Master may in his discretion postpone the ballot thereon until the next stated communication unless otherwise provided by law, but there shall be no further postponement except by unanimous consent of the lodge. [[59-2.12](#); [63-4](#); [68-14](#); [73-3](#)].

#### **REG. 68-3 PROCEDURE.**

After the reports of the Grand Secretary and the Committee of Investigation have been received the ballot shall be taken as follows.

1. When a ballot has begun it shall not be suspended or postponed, nor shall it be interrupted by the admission or withdrawal of any brother, *except* the Tyler, to vote, and the brother who relieves the Tyler, but brethren shall be permitted to enter or retire between ballots on *different persons or propositions*.
2. A ballot has begun when the Master announces the name of the person to be balloted on or the proposition to be balloted on, and is not completed until the Master has announced or declared the result. [[63-5.4](#); [63-11](#); [68-3.18](#)].
3. Not more than one petition or application or proposition shall be voted on at the same time, and the simultaneous use of different or multiple ballot boxes on different petitions or applications or propositions is hereby prohibited. [[44-7 \(Art.21E\)](#); [45-21.5](#)].
4. The Master shall order the Senior Deacon to prepare the ballot.
5. The Senior Deacon, after preparing the ballot box, shall pass it in turn to the Junior Warden, to the Senior Warden and then to the Master, that they may see that it is properly prepared.
6. Immediately prior to balloting the Master shall state clearly to the lodge the following: [[68-3.1](#)]
  - A. The full name of the petitioner or applicant,
  - B. His age, occupation, and the address of his residence and his business,
  - C. Names of the brethren who recommend him if recommenders are required by law, and
  - D. The *character* of report made by the Committee of Investigation.
7. The Master shall then announce

A. the name of the person whose petition is about to be balloted upon, or the proposition to be balloted upon, and

B. state that white *balls* elect and black *cubes* reject, requesting each member who favors the reception of the candidate or the adoption of the proposition to deposit a white *ball* and each one who opposes the same to deposit a black *cube*, cautioning him to be careful and avoid mistakes. [[59-2.45](#)].

8. The Master shall then cast his ballot, and the Senior Deacon shall pass the box to the Senior Warden and then to the Junior Warden, each of whom, in turn, shall then cast his ballot.

9. The Master may order the Senior Deacon to pass the ballot box to a member within the lodge who is physically unable otherwise to cast his ballot, and this should be done before the ballot box is placed on the altar for voting. To pass the ballot box to a member in the anteroom is irregular, it not being in the room proper. A brother in the anteroom is absent from the lodge. If the Tyler is qualified to vote, he should be relieved by a brother and should enter the lodge to vote. [[63-11](#); [68-3.9](#); [63-5.4](#)].

10. The box shall then be placed upon the altar or upon a pedestal near the altar, and the Senior Deacon shall cast his ballot, after which the other officers and members present shall approach and cast their ballots.

11. When all have voted the Senior Deacon shall exhibit the ballot first to the Junior Warden, then to the Senior Warden, and finally to the Master.

12. If the Master finds that the ballot is clear, or that there is more than one black cube, he shall ask the Wardens how they find the ballot and not until then, shall he proclaim the result.

13. In case only one black cube appears, the Master shall not then declare the result but immediately at the same communication order a rebalot without discussion on the part of the members or any intervening act or business, the result of the rebalot shall be declared, and it shall be final except as provided in Regulation [68-8](#). [[63-5.4](#); [68-8.2](#)].

14. If the Wardens disagree in their report, the Master shall examine the ballot box carefully and order it returned to the Warden whose report was in error. When the reports of both Wardens and the Master agree and are correct, the Master shall declare the ballot. [[59-2.45](#)].

15. In any secret ballot *white balls* are affirmative votes and *black cubes* are *negative* votes. A unanimously favorable ballot of white balls shall be required to elect a petitioner or an applicant, or to adopt any proposition submitted to the secret ballot. [[42-9](#); [65-1](#); [75-11.2](#); [75-11.3](#); [75-11.4](#); [75-11.5](#)].

16. No member of the lodge shall be excused from voting in a secret ballot. [[63-4](#); [68-3.9](#); [68-3.1](#); [45-23.17](#)].

17. The Master shall decide and declare the result of a secret ballot at once, and he shall then destroy the ballot to preserve its secrecy. [[63-5.4](#)].

18. In the event an error, mistake, or irregularity in connection with a secret ballot comes to the attention of the Master *while the balloting is in progress and before* the ballot has been *announced or declared* by the Master as required in Subdivisions [68-3.13](#) and [68-3.14](#) of this regulation, the Master shall *immediately stop the balloting* when the matter comes to his attention. The ballot shall not be examined by anyone, but it shall be destroyed at once and another ballot shall be taken immediately complying fully with Regulations [63-5.4](#), [68-3.13](#), [68-3.14](#), and [68-3.1](#) *provided* no member has entered or retired from the lodge room, *except* the Tyler and the brother relieving him and that the brother relieving the Tyler has returned to the lodge room.

19. A secret ballot is begun when the Master announces the name of the person, or the proposition, to be balloted on. It is not completed until the Master has *announced or declared* the result. [[68-3.14](#)].

20. After the *Master declares the result of a secret ballot, no further balloting on that particular petition or application or specific proposition just balloted on shall take place, except* by order of the Grand Master as provided in Regulations [68-8](#) and [68-8.2](#).

#### **REG. 68-4 NOTICE TO PETITIONER OR APPLICANT.**

The Secretary of the lodge shall notify the petitioner or the applicant of the action by the lodge. [Official Forms 20 and 21].

#### **REG. 68-5 CONFIDENTIALITY.**

In every case of a secret ballot it shall be unmasonic for any brother to make known in any way the character of his vote or purposely seek out the character of another's vote, or if known to him, to reveal it to another, the penalty for which, upon conviction, shall be *expulsion*. The intention of this Regulation is to preserve to the lodge and the Craft the full benefits and results of a secret ballot. Each member voting is the sole judge of what his vote shall be, and he shall not be questioned therefor or on account thereof. [[86-2.6](#)].

1. It is a Masonic offense for a brother, during a secret ballot, to exhibit his ballot, in any way, that it can become known to another, or to seek in any manner, to ascertain the *total number* of ballots cast. If convicted, the penalty shall be *expulsion*. [[86-2.6](#); [Chapter 100](#)].
2. No officer or member shall disclose at any time the number of black cubes cast. [[86-2.6](#)].

#### **REG. 68-6 EXPLANATORY REMARKS.**

Explanatory remarks to a very limited extent and in proper terms *before* balloting on a petitioner for the degrees or applicant for membership are admissible, but would be unmasonic after the ballot has been taken. No *debate* shall be permitted in open lodge upon the merits or demerits of any candidate at, or before, or after the time of balloting. The secret vote of each member is the only legal expression of his opinion. [[67-4.4](#)].

#### **REG. 68-7 JURISDICTION.**

The ballot of a lodge upon a petitioner for the degrees or an applicant for affiliation over whom it has no jurisdiction, or who is not qualified, shall be void and of no effect.

1. If a lodge should discover, after a ballot is had on a petition for degrees and before the Entered Apprentice degree or the Fellow Craft degree or the Degree of Master Mason has been conferred, that does not have jurisdiction, it shall not proceed further until it has been authorized by the Grand Master to act. [[42-7.1](#); [42-9](#); [42-4](#)].
2. With the Grand Master's authorization the lodge may proceed as provided in Regulation [42-4](#). [[42-5](#); [75-1](#); [75-8](#)].

#### **REG. 68-8 GRAND MASTER'S AUTHORITY.**

The Grand Master shall not have the power to grant a dispensation authorizing another ballot on the *same* petition or application after it has been rejected by the lodge and *so declared* by the Master except when it is made to appear to the satisfaction of the Grand Master by *positive and unquestionable evidence* that the ballot was *clearly* and *grossly* illegal, or void, or that the lodge actually balloted on the wrong person, or could have done so through similarity of names, improper announcement by the Master or other cause whereby the actual and correct identification of the petitioner or applicant being balloted on was not made clear.

1. In such cases the Grand Master may authorize a rebalot at a stated communication.
2. The dispensation authorizing the rebalot shall contain a proviso that all members of the lodge shall be given not less than ten days' notice by first-class mail under sealed cover of the rebalot and the time and place therefor.

3. No such rebalot shall be had after two months from the date of rejection. [[59-3.6](#); [68-11](#)].

**REG. 68-9 ONE CLEAR BALLOT.**

One clear ballot shall entitle the petitioner to the three degrees except

when a candidate is in default,

when objection is made to his initiation,

when an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft of a defunct lodge transfers his membership to another lodge. In these cases the petitioner or applicant for the degree or degrees must again pass the ordeal of the ballot. [[65-1](#); [65-5](#); [68-3.15](#); [69-2](#); [71-1](#); [73-1](#); [73-3](#); [Chapter 73](#)].

**REG. 68-10 BALLOT BOX.**

Every lodge shall have a ballot box so constructed as to enable every member to cast his vote secretly and it shall be equipped with a sufficient number of white *balls* and black *cubes* to enable every brother to express his preference freely. A white *ball* shall constitute an affirmative vote, and a black *cube* shall constitute a negative vote.

**REG. 68-11 NO NOTICE OF PETITION.**

A lodge shall not give notice through the mail or otherwise that a ballot will be had on the petition or application of a person named in such notice except a notice shall be given for a rebalot as provided in Regulation [68-8](#). [[43-3.7](#); [68-1](#); [68-8.2](#)].

**REG. 68-12 PETITIONER WHO MOVES.**

A lodge has the right to ballot on the petition for the degrees of one who has moved from its jurisdiction after the reception of his petition. [[42-5](#); [42-13](#); [66-3](#)].

**REG. 68-13 LOST PETITION OR APPLICATION.**

If a petition or application becomes lost after it is received, the lodge may proceed upon a duplicate thereof.

**REG. 68-14 ORDER OF VOTING ON PETITION.**

Petitions or applications need not be balloted on in the order in which they are received. [[59-2.12](#); [68-2](#)].

**REG. 68-15 PROTEST MEMBER OF ANOTHER LODGE.**

A lodge having lawful jurisdiction shall be the sole judge of its petitioner's or applicant's qualifications, subject to the law of this Grand Lodge. Protests from a member of another lodge should receive the fullest consideration, but further than that they cannot prevail. [[13-4.4](#); [41-10.4](#); [66-2](#)].

**REG. 68-16 NO VOTE EXCEPT BY BALLOT.**

No vote shall be taken nor any means be used to ascertain, directly or indirectly, the sense of the lodge as to whether a petition for the degrees or an application for membership will probably be rejected, accepted, or otherwise disposed of.

**REG. 68-17 NO APPEAL FROM A BALLOT.**

No persons rejected for any purpose by a secret ballot shall have the right to appeal from, or in any manner whatever contest, the result thereof. [[Chapter 63](#)].

**REG. 68-18 PETITION VOID - TWELVE MONTHS.**

If a petition for the degrees has been read and received in open lodge and the petitioner is not elected or rejected within a period of twelve months the petition shall be null and void and if the petitioner desires to again petition a lodge, he can do so only by presenting a new petition in regular form which shall take the same procedure governing the original petition for the degrees. [[59-2.47](#); [65-6](#); [67-2](#)].

**Q. I understand a Masonic Burial Service is available upon request. Can anyone receive a Masonic funeral or do you have to be an Officer or Past Master?**

**A.** Any Mason in good standing at the time of his death can be given a Masonic service upon the request of his family. Many times there is great confusion at the time of the death of a brother on his desire to have a Masonic funeral service. It is highly encouraged to fill out a special form, typically available at your lodge, have it signed by a witness, which clearly indicates what you require when this time arrives. One copy of this document should be provided to your family and one copy to your lodge Secretary to be put on file. This is to clearly inform both parties of your desire to have or not have a Masonic service. Some people also provide a copy to their legal representative at the same time. At the actual time of death the family is typically too upset to understand or remember these special requests. It is the duty of the Master of the Lodge to contact the family at the appropriate time when the death of a member occurs. It would be extremely helpful to the Master if some preplanning has already taken place. The procedures and eligibility of who is entitled to receive a Masonic Burial are defined in The Code in Chapter 82 as follows.

**From The CODE:**

**CHAPTER 82**

**Burials**

**REG. 82-1 DUTY OF THE MASTER.**

It shall be the duty of the Master of each lodge on the death of a member or a sojourning brother qualified therefor to ascertain if Masonic rites would be agreeable, and to take measures accordingly. A lodge should bury a deceased member with Masonic rites if requested by him during his life or by his near relatives after his death. In all other cases Masonic rites may be granted or withheld by the Master of the Lodge. [[59-2.43](#)].

## **REG. 82-2 WHO MAY RECEIVE MASONIC RITES.**

Only a Master Mason who at the time of his death was a member in good standing in a regular lodge and under no charges, shall be buried with Masonic rites. [[59-2.43](#); [82-4](#); [87-5](#)].

1. A lodge may hold a Masonic burial service over the ashes of a brother who has been cremated if they are to be buried.
2. A lodge may hold a Masonic burial service over the remains of a brother who has committed suicide *provided* that the act of suicide did not arise out of, or as a result of, an act involving moral turpitude or heinous conduct on the part of the deceased brother. [[82-5](#)].
3. A lodge may hold a Masonic burial service over the remains of a brother who was insane. [[82-5](#)].
4. A brother who died insane and who was a member of a lodge that is defunct, and who was insane at the time the lodge became defunct may be given Masonic burial.
5. A lodge shall not bury with Masonic ceremonies a brother who died under charges, or who was nonaffiliated, excluded, suspended or expelled. [[74-5.2](#); [74-5.3](#); [74-6.5](#); [77-6](#); [77-6.1](#); [82-2.4](#)].
6. After the burial of the body it is too late to call upon Masons to perform any burial service.

## **REG. 82-3 SUBORDINATE OR GRAND LODGE.**

All Masonic burials must be by the Grand Lodge or by a subordinate lodge. The Grand Lodge may perform the ceremonies for any deceased grand officer or a past elective grand officer. A subordinate lodge opened as a Master Mason's lodge shall conduct all other burial rites and the ceremonies should be under the general direction of the Master. No dispensation is required. [[38-5](#); [43-3.15](#); [45-11](#); [82-4](#); [34-19.2](#)].

## **REG. 82-4 OPENING AND CLOSING LODGE.**

For the purpose of Masonic funerals only, a Lodge of Sorrow may be opened annually on the Degree of Master Mason, after the installation of officers, the usual lodge ceremonies conducted. At the time of request for Masonic funeral services, the Master shall notify lodge officers and members to assemble at a specified place and time. At the assembly point instruction and information will be given relative to the funeral service and place of interment. The minutes shall be read and approved at the next convened meeting of the lodge. The Lodge of Sorrow shall be closed annually on the Degree of Master Mason, before the next installation of officers. [[38-5](#); [38-3.4](#)].

1. 1. The Secretary shall add at the end of the minutes a certificate to the effect that the brethren did receive the body and did inter the same with a Masonic burial ceremony.
2. 2. The Secretary shall during the annual closing of the Lodge of Sorrow read the names of all deceased brethren with dates of birth, initiation, passed, raised, and death.

## **REG. 82-5 MEMBERS OF PROCESSION.**

When the lodge has formed in order about the body at the grave or crematorium, none shall be admitted within the line except the Fraternity, the clergy, the mourners, the pallbearers, and those whose duties require it. As a Masonic burial procession is the lodge, the Master may exclude any brother therefrom as provided in Regulation [59-2.7](#). [[82-5](#); [82-2.1](#); [82-2.2](#); [82-2.3](#)].

## **REG. 82-6 MASONIC RITES ONLY.**

No lodge shall attend or participate in burial rites unless the same are Masonic.

1. A lodge is prohibited from burying a deceased Mason with Masonic ceremonies, or from joining in a funeral procession at his burial as a lodge or in a body unless it is conferring Masonic Rites.
2. It may permit the Knights Templar or other organization of which the deceased was a member to act as an escort.
3. A lodge shall not act as an escort in any funeral, or on any other occasion. [[43-3.13](#); [43-3.15](#); [34-19.2](#)].
4. The Grand Master has no power by dispensation to authorize a lodge to join in the funeral procession of a deceased Mason unless the burial is conducted by a lodge. [[13-4.8](#)].
5. When the Knights Templar or any other body, Masonic or non-Masonic has control of the burial of a deceased Mason, a lodge shall have no right either as a lodge or in a body to join in the procession.

#### **REG. 82-7 ENTERED APPRENTICE - FELLOW CRAFT.**

An Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft shall not be permitted to take part in a burial procession or ceremonies.

#### **REG. 82-8 OTHER CEREMONIES.**

The Master must have a distinct understanding with the family and the officiating clergyman, prior to the time set for the services, that the lodge is to have the last service at the grave and the actual depositing of the remains in the grave.

1. If a religious or other service is held, it must precede the Masonic ceremonies. The lodge may form in procession and attend the religious services in Masonic clothing. While the religious or other services are being conducted, the lodge has no right or authority to intervene in any way because such services are not a part of, and cannot be made a part of, the Masonic ceremonies.
2. The lodge may accept the remains at the grave and perform the Masonic ceremonies, regardless of the fact that it did not participate in other services.
3. Where possible, the religious services, or services other than Masonic, should be concluded at the home, church, chapel, or wherever held.
  - A. If those services are to be continued at the grave, there must not be an actual deposit of the body in the grave at such services.
  - B. Not until the termination of those services shall the Masonic ceremonies begin, and they shall continue without interruption until the remains are *actually* deposited in the grave.
  - C. From the time the lodge takes charge of the body for the Masonic ceremonies, it must have entire control of the funeral ceremonies and conduct a continuous service without interruption until the Masonic ceremonies are completed and the body deposited in the grave, after which no further ceremonies shall be held except as provided in this subsection.
  - D. The officiating clergyman may give a benediction.
  - E. After the Masonic burial services of a deceased brother have been completed, a military salute of honor may be fired over his grave. [[82-8.3.C](#)].
4. At Masonic burials, the active pallbearers shall all be Master Masons. They may also serve as pallbearers for the religious services. It is not required that honorary pallbearers be Masons.
5. The foregoing requirements should be made clear to the family. If there is objection to them, the Master should respectfully decline to conduct the Masonic ceremonies.

#### **REG. 82-9 JURISDICTION - WHERE LODGE OPENED.**

If burial services are to be conducted in the territorial jurisdiction of another lodge, that lodge may be requested to conduct them as a courtesy. No lodge should enter the territorial jurisdiction of another lodge to conduct such services except by the consent of the Master of the lodge having jurisdiction. For the purpose of conducting a Masonic burial only, if the place of interment is located within the territorial jurisdiction of the lodge and it is more than ten miles from the lodge hall, the lodge may be opened in a suitable room near the place of interment. The room must be properly tiled. [[38-5](#); [44-2.1](#); [45-7](#); [38-3.4](#); [43-6](#); [82-4](#); [82-9](#); [13-3.8.G](#)].

#### **REG. 82-10 MASONIC CLOTHING.**

The only Masonic clothing permissible at a Masonic burial shall be white gloves, white aprons, and the officers' jewels. The remains of a deceased brother may be clothed with his Masonic apron at his request or that of his relatives even though the burial services are not conducted by a Masonic lodge. [[89-3](#); [89-4](#)].

#### **REG. 82-11 MASONIC BURIAL ON SUNDAY.**

A Masonic burial or memorial service may be held on Sunday. [[45-11](#)].

#### **REG. 82-12 MASONIC MEMORIAL SERVICES.**

Memorial services may be conducted for an eligible deceased brother at a funeral home, hall, church or other appropriate location upon request of the deceased or his survivors. The Masonic Memorial Service as formulated by the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Ceremonies as approved by the Grand Master shall be used.

**Q. I hear many terms in the lodge that I am not familiar with. Can you help me with some of the more common ones?**

**A.** The Code is another good source for the more common terms and expressions. While there are others that you will learn over time, these are some of the more common ones that are found in Chapter 87.

### **Definitions of Common Masonic Terms**

#### **From The CODE:**

#### **CHAPTER 87**

#### **Definitions**

#### **REG. 87-1 CLANDESTINE LODGE.**

A *clandestine lodge* is one which pretends to be Masonic but is without a warrant, dispensation, or charter from a grand lodge recognized by this Grand Lodge.

#### **REG. 87-2 CLANDESTINE MASON.**

A *clandestine Mason* is one who is or was affiliated with a clandestine lodge, and he cannot be healed. For procedure in handling a petition for the degrees from one who was a member of a clandestine lodge, see Regulation [66-6](#). [[66-6](#); [75-6.4](#); [75-1.5](#); [86-2.3.B](#)].

#### **REG. 87-3 IRREGULAR MASONS.**

A lodge with a proper charter, though not legally constituted for a particular communication, such as, if fewer than seven members are present, or if due notice of the communication has not been given as and when required, or in the event the membership of the lodge is less than twenty members, is not a clandestine lodge and Masons made therein are not clandestine Masons, but they are *irregular Masons*. In such case the irregularity or error shall be cured by "healing" the candidate in a regularly constituted lodge. This cannot be done without the approval of the Grand Master. [[11-4](#); [2-6.9](#); [40-8](#); [45-8](#); [66-6](#); [74-1](#); [87-6](#)].

#### **REG. 87-4 DOTAGE.**

No particular age is conclusive evidence of *dotage*. With one person it is earlier in life than with another. It is a question for the lodge, having in view the fact that we seek materials for constructive use, not as waste or encumbrance. [[66-5](#)].

#### **REG. 87-5 GOOD STANDING.**

The term *good standing* as used in THE CODE when applied to a Mason means that he is a member of a lodge and not under charges for unmasonic conduct, but his current dues may be unpaid. Good standing does not mean that a Mason is not liable to charges. [[50-1](#); [51-1](#); [51-3.2](#); [74-5.1](#); [74-5.2](#); [74-5.3](#); [76-6.1](#); [80-3](#); [90-4](#)].

#### **REG. 87-6 HEALING.**

*Healing* is reobligation of a brother, to cure or correct that which has been omitted or done in error in initiating, passing, or raising him. Before such brother can be healed, the respect in which he is sought to be healed shall first be reported to the Grand Master, and upon receiving his authority to do so, the Master in open lodge shall proceed to heal said brother so far as to correct any irregularities in his initiation, passing, or raising. The Grand Master shall in all cases determine when, how, and to what extent *healing* shall be done. [[87-3](#)].

#### **REG. 87-7 MONTH.**

The *month* mentioned in THE CODE means a lunar month and it is sometimes referred to as twenty-eight days. [[73-6](#); [75-16](#); [75-15](#)].

#### **REG. 87-8 AMPLE FORM.**

The Grand Lodge is declared to be opened and closed in *Ample Form* when the Grand Master presides, and this applies also to subordinate lodges.

#### **REG. 87-9 DUE FORM.**

The Grand Lodge is declared to be opened and closed in *Due Form*, when the Deputy Grand Master presides. Except when the Grand Master presides a subordinate lodge is always opened and closed in *Due Form* on the degree of Master Mason

#### **REG. 87-10 FORM.**

The Grand Lodge is declared to be opened and closed in *Form*, when it is opened and closed in the absence of both the Grand Master and his Deputy. Except when the Grand Master presides a subordinate lodge is always opened and closed in *Form* on the degrees of Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft.

#### **REG. 87-11 EXCLUSION OR SUSPENSION.**

The *exclusion* or *suspension* of a brother deprives him of all his Masonic privileges and prohibits all Masonic intercourse between him and his brethren during the time of his exclusion or suspension. [[77-22](#); [91-13.8](#)].

#### **REG. 87-12 EXPULSION.**

*Expulsion* from Masonry is the highest penalty that can be incurred and the severest punishment that can be inflicted for any violations of Masonic engagements. It excludes a Mason from all his Masonic rights and privileges forever, until he be restored by the Grand Lodge. [[95-3](#)].

#### **REG. 87-13 SUMMONS AND NOTICE.**

The terms *summons* and *notice* are used in the old regulations and by many of the grand lodges in this country synonymously. The Grand Lodge of North Carolina makes the following distinction.

1. A *notice* is the announcement by which the time, place, and hour, and frequently the business of the lodge, are communicated to the members. Every brother receiving this notice is requested to attend. The obligation which it imposes is a general one. There is no penalty incurred by a continuous violation of it.
2. A *summons* is a call of authority, a citation to appear and answer to the charges therein set forth. It may also be an imperative injunction to appear at the time and place named therein, or to attend on the Grand Master, a District Deputy Grand Master, or any committee or other body or person authorized by the Grand Lodge or Grand Master to issue it. The obligation to obey it is special and obligatory on the brother receiving it. The penalty for its non-observance is expulsion unless the party offending be able to urge a pressing and positive necessity as his excuse. [[59-12.13](#); [83-2.3](#); [83-2.4](#); [83-1](#); [83-1.2](#); [83-1.4](#); [86-2.8](#); [91-13.3](#); [93-4.1](#); [94-21](#); [Chapter 83](#)].

#### **REG. 87-14 LODGE.**

A *lodge* is a society of Masons meeting by authority of a charter or warrant from a regular grand lodge for the purpose of doing Masonic work and transacting appropriate business. The word *lodge* in this CODE shall, unless the context indicates otherwise, be construed to refer to the particular lodges holding charters by authority of this Grand Lodge or to regular lodges under the jurisdiction of grand lodges recognized by this Grand Lodge. The word sometimes in Masonic terminology means the place or hall in which a particular lodge meets. [[38-2](#); [86-2.51.E](#)].

#### **REG. 87-15 TITLES.**

The title pertaining to a Master or a Grand Master is a personal one which attaches to a brother by virtue of his having acquired the office and of which he is not divested when his term of office expires. In formal lists and introductions the title precedes the name of the brother holding or having held the office, as *Most Worshipful George Jones, Grand Master* or *Past Grand Master*, or *Worshipful George Jones, Master* or *Past Master* as the case may be. In addressing the officer while occupying his station or place, the personal name is omitted, thus *Most Worshipful Grand Master* or *Worshipful Master*. When the officer is referred to but not addressed, the title is omitted, thus *The Grand Master has ruled so and so* or *The Master has ruled so and so*. [[56-3](#)].

#### **REG. 87-16 COMMUNICATION.**

A *communication* is a meeting for the transaction of business or work.

#### **REG. 87-17 SECRET BALLOT.**

The *secret ballot* is the particular method of voting on petitions and certain applications as set forth in Regulation [63-5](#).

#### **REG. 87-18 PROVISIONAL OR CONDITIONAL DEMIT.**

A *provisional demit* or a *conditional demit* is defined to be a document under seal, issued by, or under the authority of, a Grand Lodge recognized by this Grand Lodge and which on its face provides that upon the happening of the event or events stated therein, the document automatically and immediately becomes an absolute demit, or withdrawal of membership, from the lodge issuing it, and that the brother named therein may use it for the purpose of transferring his membership from the lodge issuing it to another regular lodge or to join in the formation of a new lodge under a plan whereby the said holder shall have continuous and unbroken membership during such transfer, which transfer is completed by the instituting of the new lodge or by election in due form to membership in the lodge to which an application for affiliation with such demit attached, has been made. Such provisional or conditional demits may be in different forms and may be given other names by other grand jurisdictions. This Grand Lodge does not issue a provisional or conditional demit. [[75-16.2](#); [75-16.3](#); [76-1](#)].

#### **REG. 87-19 MAIL.**

Wherever in THE CODE the service of any document is authorized or required to be made by United States Registered *Mail*, such service can be made by United States Certified Mail. [[39-4.1](#)].

#### **REG. 87-20 UNMASONIC CONDUCT.**

*Unmasonic conduct* is any conduct, behavior, or action that is a violation of the moral law, or the civil law, or of Masonic obligations, or a violation of the laws, usages, and customs of Masonry, or in the light of surrounding circumstances, brings reproach on a Mason or Masonry. [[Chapter 86](#)].

## Suggestions For Pronouncing 100 Words Sometimes Mispronounced

*Retyped from pages A-19 through A-23 in the Revised and Amended CODE dated 1977 but originally printed as part of the 1948 CODE.*

**ACACIA** - ah-k-sha, not a-k-seye-ah or a-k-see-ah

**ACCESSORY** - ak-sess-ary, not a-sess-ory or ax-e-sory

**ADULT** - ah-dult, not a-dult

**AFFILIATE** - a-fill-iate, not a-fill-yate

**ALLEGIANCE** - uh-lee-junts, not alee-gents

**ALLEVIATE** - uh-lee-vi-ate, not a-leev-yate

**AMEN** - aa-men, not ah-men

**AMMONITISH** - Am-on-eye-tish, not Am-on-it-ish or Amon-it-ish

**ANCIENT** - ain-shent, not an-chunt

**ANNIHILATE** - ah-nigh-hil-ate, not a-nigh-yu-late or a-nill-i-ate

**ANNO LUCIS** - An-no-Lu-kis, not An-no-Lu-sis or An-no-Lu-sis

**ARCHANGEL** - Ark-ain-jil, not Artch-an-jel

**ARCHITECT** - ark-i-tekt, not artch-i-tekt

**ARCHIVES** - ar-kives, not ar-chives

**ARTIFICER** - ar-tiff-i-cer, not ar-tye-fi-cer

**ASPIRANT** - as-pie-rent, not as-pe-runt or as-pair-rent

**ASSIDUITY** - ass-i-diu-ity, not ass-i-doo-it-ty

**ATTACKED** - a-takt, not at-tak-ed

**AUDACIOUS** - awe-day-shus, not aw-day-see-us

**BARBAROUS** - bar-bar-us, not bar-bay-ri-us or bar-bar-us

**BEGONE** - be-gon, not be-gawn

**BLESSED** - bless-ed, not bu-less-ed

**BOAZ** - Bo-az', not Bo-aze or Boze

**CABLE-TOW** - K-bel-toe, not Cab-el-toe

**CALCULATED** - *kal-kyou-la-ted*, not *kal-koo-la-ted*

**CAPITULAR** - *ka-pit-u-lar*, not *kap-i-too-lar*

**CEMENT** - *se-ment*, not *see-ment*

**CHAPTER** - *chap-i-ter*, not *chap-ter*

**CLANDESTINE** - *clan-des-tin*, not *clan-des-tin* or *clan-des-tine*

**CLOTHED** - *cloth'd*, not *clo-thed*

**COLUMN** - *col-um*, not *col-yum*

**COMPOSITE** - *kom-pos-it* (preferred) or *kom-pos-it*

**CONFIDANT** - (a friend) *con-fi-dant*

**CONFIDENT** - (sure) *con-fi-dent*

**CONSPIRACY** - *kon-speer-a-cy*, not *kon-spy-ra-cy*

**CONTEMPLATING** - *kon-tem-play-ting* (preferred) or *kon-tem-pla-ting*

  

**DELINEATE** - *de-lin-e-ate*, not *dee-lin-e-ate*

**DELINEATED** - *de-lin-e-ated*, not *dee-lin-e-ated*

**DEMIT** - *de-mit*, not *dee-mit*

**DIMENSION** - *deh-men-shun*, not *die-men-shun*

**DIMIT** - *di-mit*, not *die-mit*

**DEW** - *diu*, not *doo*

**DIFFERENT** - *dif-er-ent*, not *diff-rent*

**DIVESTED** - *duh-vest-ed*, not *di-vest-ed*

**DUE GUARD** - *dew-gard*, not *doo-gard*

**DUTY** - *dew-ty*, not *doo-ty*

  

**EASTWARD** - *east-ward*, not *east-ard* or *east-ard*

**EMERITUS** - *e-mer-i-tus*, not *e-mer-ee-tus*

**ERR** - *er* (as in *her*), not *air*

**ESOTERIC** - *ess-o-tear-ic*, not *ee-sot-er-ik* or *ex-ot-erik*

**EUNUCH** - *you-nuk*, not *you-nutch*

**EXEMPLARY** - *eg-zem-pla-ri* or *eg-emp-lary*, not *egg-zem-plary*

**EXOTERIC** - *ex-o-ter-ic*, not *ex-ot-er-ik* or *egg-so-ter-ic*

**FERVENCY** - *fer-ven-sy*, not *fer-ven-sy*

**FIGURE** - *fig-ure*, not *fig-ger*

**FINANCE** - *fi-nans*, not *fine-ance*

**FOREHEAD** - *for-ed*, not *four-head*

**GOD** - *Godd*, not *Gawd*. Rhymes with *odd*, not *awed*.

**GORGEOUS** - *gor-jus*, not *gor-ge-ous*

**HECATOMB** - *hek-a-tome* preferred to *hek-a-toom*

**HELE** - *hale*, not *he-le* or *heel*

**HORIZON** - *hor-eye-zon*, not *hor-e-zone* or *hor-eye-zon*

**HUMBLE** - *hum-ble*, not *um-ble*

**IMPIOUS** - *im-pius*, not *im-pie-us*

**INSTITUTE** - *in-sti-tiut*, not *in-sti-toot*

**INTERESTING** - *in-tres-ting*, not *int-er-est-ing*

**INVEST** - *in-vest*, not *in-vest*

**IRREVOCABLE** - *ir-rev-o-ka-ble*, not *ir-re-voc-a-ble*

**JACHIN** - *Jay-kin*, not *Jah-kin* or *Jaw-kin*

**JERUSALEM** - *Jeh-roo-sa-lem*, not *gee-ru-sa-lem*

**KNEW** - *niu*, not *noo*

**LAMENTABLE** - *lam-en-ta-ble*, not *la-ment-able*

**LEGEND** - *lej-end*, not *lee-jend*

**LIBERTINE** - *lib-er-teen*, not *lib-er-tine* or *lib-er-tin*

**MAUSOLEM** - *maw-so-lee-um*, not *maw-so-le-um*

**MEMORY** - *mem-o-ry*, not *mem-ry*

**MOSAIC** - *mo-zay-ic*, not *moz-i-ac*

**MURDERER** - *mur-der-er*, not *murd-rer*

**NAKED** - *nay-ked*, not *neck-ed*

**NAPHTALI** - *Naf-ta-lie*, not *Nap-thal-eye* or *Nap-ta-lie*

**OBSEQUIES** - *ob-see-quiz*, not *ob-see-quiz*

**OFTEN** - *of-en*, not *of-ten* or *oft-en*

**OPERATIVE** - *oper-a-tive*, not *op-rative*

**OVERSEER** - *o-ver-see-er*, not *o-ver-seer*

**PALESTINE** - *Pal-es-tine*, not *Pal-es-teen* or *Pal-es-tin*

**PARIAN** - *Par-i-an*, not *Pay-ri-an*

**PECTORAL** - *pek-tor-al*, not *pek-tor-al*

**PEDAL** - *ped-al* preferred to *pee-dal*

**PHAROAH** - *Fay-ra-oh* or *Fay-roh*, not *Fair-a-oh* or *Fair-oh*

**PILASTER** - *puh-last-er*, not *pie-last-er*

**POMEGRANATE** - *pom-gran-it* or *pum-gran-ate*, not *pom-e-gran-ate* or *pom-gran-ate* or *pom-gran-ate*

**PRECEPT** - *pre-cept*, not *pre-cept*

**PYTHAGORAS** - *Pith-ag-or-as*, not *Pie-thog-or-as* or *Pithy-goras*

**RECOGNIZE** - *rek-og-nize*, not *reck-o-nize*

**REQUIEM** - *ree-que-em*, not *ree-queem*

**REVERENT** - *rev-er-ent*, not *rev-rent*

**SAMARITAN** - *Sa-mar-i-tan*, not *Say-mar-i-tan*

**SANCTORUM** - *sank-to-rom*, not *sank-tory-um*

**SCHISM** - *sizz-em*, not *skiz-em*

**SCYTHE** - *seye-th*, not *sithe*

**SENTINEL** - *sen-ti-nel*, not *synt-nal*

**SERAPH** - *Ser-af*, not *Ser-ap*

**SHEKINAH** - *She-kee-nah*, not *Shek-i-nah*

**SHIBBOLETH** - *Shib-bo-leth*, not *Shy-bo-leth*

**SINAI** - *Sigh-nay-eye*, not *Sign-eye* or *Sin-a-eye* or *Sign-eye*

**SOLSTICE** - *sol-stis*, not *sol-steece*

**SUCCOTH** - *Suck-oth*, not *Suc-coth*

**SPECULATIVE** - *speck-u-la-tive*, not *speck-u-la-tive*

**SUPERFICES** - *siu-per-fish-ees*, not *soo-per-fy-ci-es*

**SUPERINTENDENT** - *siu-per-in-ten-dent*, not *soop-er-in-ten-dent*

**TABERNACLE** - *tab-er-nak-le*, not *ta-ber-nack-le*

**TENETS** - *ten-ets*, not *teen-its*

**TESSELATED** - *tes-sel-ate-ed*, not *tes-sel-a-ted*

**TORTUOUS** - *tor-tu-us*, not *tort-you-us*

**TYRIAN** - *Tih-ri-an*, not *Tire-i-an*

**WESTWARD** - *west-ward*, not *west-ard*

**ZEREDATHA** - *Zer-e-dath-ah* preferred to *Ze-red-a-tha*

**Special Notes:**