

# BLUE BOOK



## Michigan Masonic Law

Revisions:

Initial print dtd: November 18, 2008

# FOREWORD

On June 28, 1826, the founders of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Michigan decided upon the format and contents of the Book of Constitutions of the Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge was founded by eleven delegates, of whom Andrew G. Whitney was the Chairman and John L. Whiting the Secretary.

Adoption was actually consummated on the evening of June 28, when a printed copy was made by Secretary John L. Whiting, including all of the corrections and amendments, and containing nine Articles and sixty-six Sections. This Constitution, which also included the Laws, Rules and General Regulations, remained in effect until November of 1844, when, because of the reorganization of the Grand Lodge, a new set of Constitutions, Laws and Regulations was adopted under the direction of Grand Master John Mullet and Grand Secretary Elisha Smith Lee.

By a special act of incorporation of Michigan's Territorial Legislature, the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Michigan became one of the first and later, the oldest of Michigan corporations, and was approved as such on April 12, 1827. Following the adoption of the new Constitutions in 1844, these were regularly incorporated by Act No. 235 of the Public Acts of 1849, and as far as we can discover, it was not until 1871, that a new edition of the Constitutions, Laws and Regulations was deemed necessary and came into effect. The present revision will constitute the 17th Edition of the Blue Book, which has governed Freemasons in Michigan since the erection of the Grand Lodge in 1826.

Former editions were prepared by Right Worshipful Grand Secretaries Foster Pratt (1874), William P. Innes (1890), Jefferson S. Conover (1897), and Lou B. Winsor (1906, 1911, 1921, 1924, 1928).

The 11th Edition was ordered by Grand Lodge in 1938, and the work was performed under the direction of Grand Masters Wirt L. Savery (1938), Francis B. Lambie (1939), and Charles T. Sherman (1940). This revision was compiled under the supervision of Past Grand Master Louis H. Fead. It should also be noted that during this period, the Grand Master ordered this volume to be officially named the "Blue Book."

The 12th Edition was completed in 1953 by Past Grand Master Roscoe Bonisteel, Sr., at the instigation of Grand Masters Guy C. Powell (1951), French C. Shell (1952), and Horace B. Whyte (1953).

Recommendations for a 13th revision were made, and the work of a new compilation was referred to the Landmarks Committee by Grand Master Robert A. Hockstad (1966). In 1967, a Committee on Blue Book Revision was appointed by Grand Master Ivan E. Addis, and in 1968, Grand Master Milo E. Underhill continued the Committee and placed in its charge not only the revision of the Blue Book, but also, the Cumulative Supplement.

The combined committee was composed of Robert A. Hockstad, P.G.M.; Charles Solmo, S.G.W.; J. Fairbairn Smith, P.M.; Charles T. Sherman, P.G.M.; and Frederic Piggins, P.M.

At the 1968 Annual Communication, Past Grand Master Joseph L. Hunter entered a Resolution asking the Delegate Body to vest authority in Grand Master Underhill, with the approval of the Board of Directors, to immediately compile and print the 13th Edition of the Blue Book, and to determine in what form. loose leaf or otherwise, it should be composed.

In 1975, the 14th Edition was started by first revising the index system. The 1978 (14th) Edition of the Blue Book followed the general format and design of previous printings. However, the Bylaws of the Masonic Home Board and the Grand Lodge Orphans Relief and Educational Assistance Committee Bylaws were designated Keys 10 and 11 (now §10 and §14) respectively. We also find that Key 16, Blank Forms Approved by Grand Lodge, was transferred to the Handbook

for Lodge Secretaries, with the printing of the 14th Edition. The 14th Edition was compiled by the Standing Committee on Publications consisting of Newton S. Bacon, P.G.M.; Joseph L. Hunter, P.G.M.; William H. Harmon, P.G.M.; James P. Schultz, P.M.; and Charles P. Sheffield, P.M.

The 15th (1988) Edition of the Blue Book was started in 1985, by appointment of a sub-committee to the Standing Committee on Publications, known as the "Sub-Committee on Blue Book Revision." The original Committee, appointed by Grand Master Richard H. Sands (1985), was continued by Grand Masters Ernest Hoffman, Jr. (1986), Donald P. Heming (1987) and Kenneth Bolton (1988).

The Committee chose to keep the loose-leaf form of the Blue Book, and to retain the general format and design. Considerable time and effort have been spent by the Committee, however, in making the language in Key 8, "Penal Code of the Grand Lodge," understandable to the Michigan Masons. A recently devised indexing system has been utilized to assist the user in easy, competent use of the Blue Book.

The 15th Edition was compiled by the Special Committee on Blue Book Revision consisting of Royce E. Curlis, Past Grand Master, Grand Secretary Emeritus; Robert N. Osborne, P.G.M., Grand Secretary; Roger N. Jackson, P.M.; and Jerrold E. Potts, P.M.

The 16th Edition of the Blue Book was started in 1996, once again, by appointing a sub-Committee to the Committee on Publications. The original sub-Committee was appointed by Grand Master Dale C. Edwards (1995). Grand Masters Donald J. VanKirk (1996) and Robert W. Stevens (1997) made some changes to the Committee membership.

The Committee retained the general format and design of previous editions including the loose-leaf format, but substituted a standard three ring binder for the cumbersome seventeen ring binder. Computerized word processing software was employed, and now the Blue book is available on electronic media for the use of lodges and individuals.

The 16th Edition was compiled by the Special Committee on Blue Book Revision consisting of Charles P. Sheffield, Past Master, Chairman; Robert N. Osborne, Past Grand Master, Grand Secretary Emeritus; W. Don Baugher, Past Grand Master, Grand Secretary; John Dull, Past Master; and Robert M. McClellan, Junior Grand Warden.

The 17th Edition of the Blue Book was started in 2007 as a task of the Committee on Publications consisting of Robert N. Osborne, Past Grand Master, Grand Secretary Emeritus, and Lary R. Smith, Past Grand Master, as appointed by Grand Master Ira S. Slaven (2007). With Past Grand Master Osborne's illness and eventual death, Grand Master Slaven added Wayne E. Turton, Past Grand Master, to the committee. Grand Master Michael J. Jungel (2008) added Robert P. Conley, Past Grand Master, and Robert W. Stevens, Past Grand Master, Grand Secretary, to the committee.

The original committee retained the general format of the Blue Book, but decided to make a number of changes including consecutive page numbering, revised paragraph numbering and a new index. They also decided to rearrange some paragraphs. Two such examples of this are so that items common to District Deputy Instructors, Regional Grand Lecturers and members of the Board of General Purposes reside in one place and, since "Removal from the rolls for non-payment of dues" is administrative and not judicial, moving restoration from such "Removal" from Key 8 to §4.

Once again, we recommend that each Master, lodge Secretary and other frequent user of the Blue Book familiarize himself with each of the general sections, and thus, a thorough knowledge of Masonic jurisprudence in Michigan can easily be obtained by continual and careful examination of the Blue Book itself.

**Blue Book**

of the

**COMPILED LAWS OF 2008**

of the

**GRAND LODGE**

of

**FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS**

of the

**STATE OF MICHIGAN**

**2008**

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**Grand Lodge Seal**  
(adopted 1856)

*The 1844 Seal was so badly worn that a new design was adopted in 1856. A new die was made in 1939. Reproduction of the 1844 Seal will be found on page IX.*



**Grand Master's Seal**



## **Grand Lodge Seal**

1844

(See page 85 et seq. in 1940 Proceedings)



**DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES  
OF THE  
GRAND LODGE**



# **DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES OF THE GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN**

Freemasonry is a charitable, benevolent, educational and religious society, adhering to its own customs and 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, or worship, and of charity.

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

To that end, it teaches and stands for the worship of God; for truth and justice; for fraternity and philanthropy; for enlightenment and orderly civil, religious, and intellectual liberty. It charges each of its members to be true and loyal to the lawful government of the country to which he owes allegiance and to be obedient to the law of any state in which he may be.

It believes that the attainment of these objectives is best accomplished by laying a broad basis of principle upon which men of every race, country, sect and opinion may unite rather than by setting up a restricted platform upon which only those of certain races, creeds and opinions can assemble.

Believing these things, this Grand Lodge affirms its continued adherence to that ancient and approved rule of Freemasonry which forbids the discussion in Masonic meetings of creeds, politics, or other topics likely to excite personal animosities.

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

Adopted May 23, 1939.

**PRINCIPLES OF RECOGNITION  
OF  
THE GRAND LODGE**

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**ANCIENT LANDMARKS  
OF  
MASONRY**



# PRINCIPLES OF RECOGNITION OF THE GRAND LODGE

Fraternal recognition may be extended to another Grand Lodge upon recommendation of the Committee on Fraternal Relations, when it appears to the satisfaction of Grand Lodge:

1. That such Grand Lodge shall have been established lawfully by a duly recognized Grand Lodge or by three or more regularly constituted lodges.

2. That a belief in the G.A.O.T.U. and His revealed will shall be an essential qualification for membership.

3. That all Initiates shall take their obligation on or in full view of the open Volume of the Sacred Law, by which is meant the revelation from above which is binding on the conscience of the particular individual who is being initiated.

4. That the membership of the Grand Lodge and individual lodges shall be composed exclusively of men; and that each Grand Lodge shall have no intercourse of any kind with mixed lodges or lodges which admit women to membership.

5. That the Grand Lodge shall have sovereign jurisdiction over the lodges under its control, i.e., that it shall be a responsible, independent, self-governing organization, with sole and undisputed authority over the Craft or Symbolic Degrees (Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason) within its jurisdiction; and shall not in any way be subject to or divide such authority with any other Power claiming any control or supervision over those degrees.

6. That the three Great Lights of Freemasonry (namely the Volume of the Sacred Law, the Square, and the Compasses) shall always be exhibited when the Grand Lodge or its

subordinate lodges are at work, the chief of these being the Volume of the Sacred Law.

7. That the discussion of religion and politics within the lodge shall be strictly prohibited.

8. That the principles of the Ancient Landmarks, customs and usages of the Craft shall be strictly observed.

Adopted May 25, 1948

# ANCIENT LANDMARKS OF MASONRY

The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Michigan hereby recognizes the following as Ancient Landmarks of Masonry:

A belief in a Supreme Being.

A belief in the immortality of the soul.

A Volume of the Sacred Law is an indispensable part of the furniture of every lodge.

Approved May 27, 1970



## **ACT OF INCORPORATION OF THE GRAND LODGE**

(What follows is the original State Statute that created the Grand Lodge of Michigan, as modified most recently in 1931. It cannot be modified by the Grand Lodge of Michigan; only by the legislature of the State of Michigan.)



**ACT OF INCORPORATION  
OF THE  
GRAND LODGE  
OF  
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS  
OF THE  
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

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**Act of Incorporation**

Territory of Michigan  
Special Act April 12, 1827

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State of Michigan  
Act No. 235 Public Acts 1849  
as amended by  
Act No. 69 Public Acts 1869  
Act No. 342 Public Acts 1871  
Act No. 1 Public Acts 1905  
Act No. 157 Public Acts 1911  
Act No. 10 Public Acts 1931

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Compiled Laws 1948, Sec. 457.231 et sequi.  
Act No. 10 Public Acts 1931  
Mich. Ann. Stat. 21.1231 et sequi.

An Act to amend sections one, two, four and five, of Act Number two hundred and thirty-five of the Session Laws of 1849, relative to the incorporation of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Michigan, and to repeal Act Number sixty-nine of the Session Laws of 1869.

## **GRAND LODGE F. & A. M. OF MICHIGAN**

**§1.1:** The People of the State of Michigan enact, that sections one, two, four and five, of an act entitled "An Act to incorporate the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Michigan," approved April 2, 1849, be amended so as to read as follows:

**§1.2:** The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Michigan by that name and style is hereby incorporated, and declared a body politic and corporate in deed and law, with succession, and shall be in law capable of suing and being sued, pleading and being impleaded, answering and being answered, defending and being defended, in all courts and places whatsoever, in all manner of actions, suits, complaints, matters and causes whatsoever, and that they and their successors shall have a common seal, and may change and alter the same at their pleasure.

**§1.3:** The officers of said corporation shall be the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden, Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary, for the time being, and they shall constitute the Board of Directors of said corporation, for the transaction of all business authorized by this act.

**§1.4:** This act shall be subject to the provisions of chapter fifty-five (55) of the Revised Statutes of 1846, so far as the same may be applicable.

**§1.5:** Said corporation may, under the direction of the Grand Lodge when assembled, make all bylaws for its government, the government of all constituent lodges under its jurisdiction, the government of all institutions owned, established or maintained by it, and for the transaction of all business of the corporation. Said corporation may acquire, hold,

sell and convey any real or personal estate for its own use or for the use of any institution owned, established or maintained by it. It may own, establish and maintain a home or homes for members of the order of Free and Accepted Masons and their dependent relatives. It may take, hold and convey such other property, real or personal, as may be conveyed, devised or bequeathed to it in trust for any Masonic use, purpose, organization or institution. When authorized by the Board of Directors, all real and personal estate may be conveyed by deed or bill of sale in the name of the corporation, executed and acknowledged as the act and deed of the corporation by the Grand Master for the time being, or by such other person as the Board of Directors may appoint for that purpose, with the seal of the Grand Lodge attached, and such conveyance so executed shall be valid and binding for all intents and purposes whatsoever; Provided, however, that all property, real or personal, conveyed, devised or bequeathed to said corporation in trust for any Masonic use, purpose, organization or institution shall be held by said corporation and used by it in accordance with the terms of the instrument by which the same is conveyed, devised or bequeathed.

**§1.6:** Said corporation may hold real and personal estate of subordinate lodges, in trust for the use of such subordinate lodges, and do all acts and things in law relating thereto as trustees, and may convey the same as above, under the direction of such subordinate lodges, and the Rules, Regulations and Bylaws of the Grand Lodge in relation thereto.

**§1.7:**

- (a) The Corporate entity of the Grand Lodge may be restructured to create the Grand Lodge of the State of Michigan and the Michigan Masonic Home as separate and distinct corporations with the Michigan Masonic Home as a subsidiary corporation wholly owned and controlled by the Grand Lodge.
- (b) The Grand Lodge may create such other separate, distinct and wholly owned subsidiary corporations as are necessary to encompass charitable giving and fund-

raising currently being administered and operated by the Grand Lodge.

- (c) The Grand Lodge may form and create a separate, but wholly owned corporation management company, to provide management or administrative services to the Grand Lodge and the Home or other corporate fund-raising activities or other activities as needed.

Provided that the creation of each separate entity must be approved by the Grand Lodge at the Annual Communication. (1995)

**§1.8:** The legislature may at any time alter, amend or repeal this act.

**CORPORATE BYLAWS  
OF THE GRAND LODGE**



# **CORPORATE BYLAWS OF THE GRAND LODGE**

**§2.1:** The Constitution and Bylaws of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Michigan, present and future, are hereby established as the Constitution and Bylaws of this corporate body, in addition to which, for the better accomplishment and security of the objects and interests of the said Grand Lodge in its corporate capacity, this and the following bylaws are hereby enacted.

**§2.2:** This Grand Lodge hereby accepts all conveyances in trust of real or personal estate that have been heretofore executed by any constituent lodge or lodges to this Grand Lodge; and pledges itself to accept any trust that shall hereafter be so executed by any lodge under its jurisdiction, solemnly binding itself to faithfully keep, perform and execute any and all such trusts for the use and benefit of the respective beneficiaries, according to the terms and intent of the several conveyances so made.

**§2.3:** Whenever this Grand Lodge shall receive a conveyance of any property, real or personal, in trust for any constituent lodge, the Grand Master shall forthwith execute and deliver to the lodge for whose use and benefit such property shall be held, a declaration of trust pursuant to the form annexed to these bylaws, under the seal of the Grand Lodge and attested by the Grand Secretary.

**§2.4:** This Grand Lodge, by its Grand Master and under its Seal,<sup>1</sup> as provided by section four of its act of incorporation, shall convey any real or personal property held by it as trustee, at such time, to such person or persons, and for such consideration, as shall be requested by the constituent lodge for whose use and benefit such property shall be held, and shall pay over to such constituent lodge on demand all moneys

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<sup>1</sup> NOTE: For history of the Grand Lodge Seal, see Proceedings 1940, page 85.

received in consideration for the property so conveyed, or received upon any mortgage, bond, note, or other evidence of debt held for the use and benefit of such constituent lodge, less the actual costs of collection.

**§2.5:** This Grand Lodge hereby authorizes the actual or acting Worshipful Master of any constituent lodge, for whose benefit any property shall be held in trust by said Grand Lodge, to effect, in its name as Trustee and as its agent, a good and safe insurance upon such property, and in such amount (not exceeding three-fourths the cash value) as shall be requested by such constituent lodge; provided the premiums for such insurance shall be paid by the constituent lodge for whose benefit such insurance is effected. Whenever any loss shall be recovered by the Grand Lodge upon any insurance so effected, the amount so recovered shall be paid over forthwith to the constituent lodge entitled to the same, less the actual cost of collection.

**§2.6:** The forms in the Handbook for Lodge Secretaries are made a part of the bylaws, and shall be used, when practicable, in the transaction of all the business provided for in these bylaws to which the same are applicable.

**§2.7:** The Grand Secretary shall make a full record of all applications, conveyances, instruments and documents of every kind executed by or to the Grand Lodge in the transaction of the business provided for in these corporate bylaws, in a book or books to be kept by him for that purpose, and he shall keep an accurate index and counter-index thereto; and said books shall always be open to the inspection of the Officers of the Grand Lodge and the Masters and Wardens of constituent lodges.

**§2.8.1:** All constituent lodges under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, and all members of the same, are hereby expressly prohibited from forming incorporate Masonic bodies under the laws of Michigan. Provided, that nothing herein contained shall be construed as prohibiting Masons from forming Masonic Associations for the purpose of owning property to be used for Masonic purposes. Such incorporation

shall be under the terms and conditions of Act No. 1 Public Acts 1895, as provided in §9. (1971)

**§2.8.2:** "Provided that nothing herein contained shall be construed as prohibiting Masons from forming Masonic Associations for the purpose of owning property to be used for Masonic purposes." is hereby construed to mean that, "Masonic Associations" referred to are incorporated Masonic Associations as provided for by the statutes of the State of Michigan, and wherever the term "Masonic Temple Associations" is used, it shall be construed to mean, incorporation of Masonic Associations under the Statutes of the State of Michigan, and not any other form of Association or trusteeship.

**§2.8.3:** Provided further, that a Temple Association cannot rent a building under its control to the Michigan State Liquor Control Commission for the retail and wholesale distribution of the products normally handled by the Liquor Control Commission. (1959)

**§2.9.1:** Whenever the Grand Lodge receives a conveyance, devise or bequest of any property, real or personal, in trust form or for the benefit of the Masonic Home, or receives any property the use or disposition of which is not restricted, such property or the proceeds from the sale thereof shall become a part of the Masonic Home Endowment Fund. The principal of this Fund shall not be withdrawn or diverted to uses other than herein specified. (1955)

All moneys in the Masonic Home Endowment Fund and all moneys received from the sale of investments of said Fund shall be invested by the Grand Lodge Investment Committee in accordance with the following options:

- (a) In bonds or other evidences of indebtedness which are guaranteed both as to principal and interest by the United States of America. (1955)
- (b) In the general obligation bonds of any state or of any political subdivision thereof which, at the time of purchase, carry a rating of "Baa" or better as reported by Moody's Investors Service. (1955, 1981, 1989)

- (c) In savings deposits or certificates of deposit in regularly chartered banks, provided the deposit in any bank shall not exceed the amount insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, unless voted by the Grand Lodge Board of Directors. (1955, 1985)
- (d) In shares of chartered savings and loan associations, provided the total amount invested in any savings and loan association shall not exceed the amount insured by the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation. (1955)
- (e) In industrial, finance and utility bonds, notes and debentures which, at the time of purchase, carry a rating of "Baa" or better as reported by Moody's Investors Service. (1975, 1981, 1989)
- (f) In bonds, notes, mortgages or other evidences of indebtedness of Federal Agencies and government sponsored institutions. For example: Federal National Mortgage Association or Federal Farm Credit or Federal Home Loan Bank. (1955, 1981, 1989)
- (g) In collateralized repurchase agreements; commercial paper which, at the time of purchase, carry a rating of MIG-1 as reported by Moody's Investors Services; master notes as chosen by Depository Banks or short-term money market type funds to temporarily invest cash surpluses. (1975, 1981, 1989)
- (h) In preferred stocks which, at the time of purchase, carry a rating of "Baa" or better as reported by Moody's Investors Services. (1975, 1981, 1989)
- (i) In convertible bonds, notes and debentures and in convertible preferred stocks, each of which, at the time of purchase, carry a rating of "Baa" or better as reported by Moody's Investors Services. (1981-1989)
- (j) In common stocks that are listed on a national securities exchange or on the National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotation System (NASDAQ). (1981, 1989, 1995)

- (k) For the purposes of §2.9.1 any reference to "Moody's Investors Service" or "Standard and Poor's Corporation" shall be construed to mean either the named entities or their equivalent. (1981)

**§2.9.2:** Provided, that at no time shall the total market value of stock investments as are authorized in paragraphs (h), (i), and (j) above exceed seventy (70) percent of the Reserve and PGM<sup>2</sup> Funds. (1968, 1981, 1989, 1997, 2006)

The Grand Master, by and with the consent of a majority of the Grand Lodge Board of Directors, may employ investment counsel under such terms and conditions as may be deemed reasonable and necessary. At the first meeting of the Grand Lodge Board of Directors following the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, the Board shall determine whether the employment of investment counsel shall be necessary for the current Grand Lodge year. (1955)

Whenever the Grand Lodge receives any property, securities or investments which do not conform to the above investment standards, the Grand Lodge Investment Committee, by and with the consent of the Grand Lodge Board of Directors, may retain said property, securities or investments for such period of time as may be deemed to be in the best interests of the Grand Lodge. (1955)

All income from the Reserve and PGM Funds investments shall be credited to the appropriate Reserve and/or PGM Fund. (1955, 1997)

**§2.10:** All bonds and securities belonging to this Grand Lodge, or any agency thereof, shall be placed in the custody of such Grand Lodge Officer or financial agent of the Grand Lodge as shall be designated by resolution of the Board of Directors of the Grand Lodge. (1960)

**§2.11:** Unless expressly authorized by the Grand Lodge, in Annual Communication assembled, the Officers and Board of Directors of the Corporate Grand Lodge shall have no power or

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<sup>2</sup> NOTE: "PGM" is an amalgamation of funds for Pre-Paid Membership, general use by Grand Lodge and Masonic Village Estates.

authority to purchase, sell, convey, mortgage or pledge any real estate, borrow money, execute bonds, notes, or any evidence of indebtedness, nor incur or pay any expense whatever, except to incur and pay the necessary cost of reducing to the possession of Grand Lodge and converting into money by sale or conveyance, property given to Grand Lodge, and to fulfill the conditions of any trust accepted by Grand Lodge; nor shall they or any of them have authority to change any appropriation of money made by the Grand Lodge nor to appropriate and pay out any funds which the Grand Lodge shall have received from the constituent lodges, for any purpose whatever, except as specifically authorized by the Grand Lodge. The Officers and the Board of Directors of the Corporate Grand Lodge shall make full report of all its transactions and accounts to the Grand Lodge at each Annual Communication thereof, for its action thereon.

**§2.12:** The Grand Lodge may make contributions and gifts of money or property to the Masonic Home Endowment Fund, and such contributions and gifts shall thereby be impressed with the same permanency and conditions which attach to gifts to such Fund by others and may not be withdrawn or devoted to other uses.

**§2.13:** These bylaws may be amended at any Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge and then only.

**THE CONSTITUTION  
OF  
THE GRAND LODGE**



**THE CONSTITUTION  
OF  
THE GRAND LODGE  
OF  
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS  
OF THE  
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

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***§3.1: Style and Title of Grand Lodge***

**§3.1.1:** The name and style of this Grand Lodge shall be THE GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN.

***§3.2: Membership and Quorum***

**§3.2.1:** The Grand Lodge shall consist of its Grand Officers, of its Past Grand Masters who maintain membership and good standing in a constituent lodge, and of the Worshipful Masters of its chartered lodges or their legal representatives, any ten of whom, being present and having the proper authority, may open and close the Grand Lodge; but, at any general Communication of the Grand Lodge, the presence of the legal representatives of not less than fifty chartered lodges shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

**§3.2.2:** Past Masters of lodges in this Jurisdiction who are in good standing, and members of Standing Committees who are not the legal representatives of lodges, are members of this Grand Lodge, but without the right to vote.

### **§3.3: Rank, Title and Qualifications of Grand Officers**

**§3.3.1:** The Officers of this Grand Lodge, their rank and style, shall be as follows: (2000)

*The Most Worshipful Grand Master*  
*The Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master*  
*The Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden*  
*The Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden*  
*The Right Worshipful Grand Treasurer*  
*The Right Worshipful Grand Secretary*  
*The Right Worshipful Grand Lecturer*  
*The Right Worshipful Grand Chaplain*  
*The Worshipful Senior Grand Deacon*  
*The Worshipful Junior Grand Deacon*  
*The Worshipful Grand Marshal*  
*The Worshipful Grand Tiler*

**§3.3.2:** No Grand Officer shall perform any duty of the station or place to which he may be elected or appointed until he has been legally installed; and each Officer shall retain the powers and perform the duties of his office for one year, or until his successor has been legally elected or appointed and installed.

### **§3.4: Annual and Special Communications**

**§3.4.1:** The Grand Lodge shall hold at least one Regular or Annual Communication in each year, and at such time and place as may be fixed by its bylaws.

**§3.4.2:** Business affecting the general welfare of the Jurisdiction shall not be transacted at a Special Communication, unless one month's previous notice of the proposed business shall have been given to each lodge in the Jurisdiction.

### **§3.5: *Qualifications for Office***

**§3.5.1:** No one is eligible, in this Grand Lodge, to the office of Grand Master or his Deputy, who has not served, after a legal election and installation, as the Worshipful Master of one of its chartered lodges, with voting privilege at the Grand Lodge in session; and no one can hold any elective office in the Grand Lodge of a higher corresponding grade than that to which he may have attained in one of its chartered lodges; and no one shall be eligible to or hold any office in the Grand Lodge who is not a member in good standing of one of its chartered lodges. (See 1988 Proceedings, page 23-24).

A candidate for Grand Lecturer must be a Master or Past Master of a Michigan chartered lodge and be a member in good standing of a chartered lodge. (See 1976 Proceedings, top of page 32.)

### **§3.6: *Mode of Election and Voting***

**§3.6.1:** On or before the second day of each regular Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, after A.D. 1892, there shall be elected, by ballot, a Grand Master, a Deputy Grand Master, a Senior Grand Warden, a Junior Grand Warden, a Grand Treasurer, a Grand Secretary, a Grand Lecturer, a Grand Chaplain, a Senior Grand Deacon, a Junior Grand Deacon, a Grand Marshal, and a Grand Tiler. (1893)

Provided, however, that any or all of the foregoing officers, except the Grand Marshal, may upon the direction of the Grand Master be elected by acclamation, unless twenty (20) of the Representatives present shall object to such method of election. A private objection, if desired, shall be deemed sufficient.

**§3.6.2:** In all elections, and on all questions before the Grand Lodge on which the call of lodges has been ordered, the representative of each chartered lodge shall be entitled to three votes; each Past Grand Master and each Grand Officer to one vote. (2002)

**§3.6.3:** In all elections and on all questions before the Grand Lodge, the majority of votes shall govern, unless otherwise provided by law.

### ***§3.7: Vacancies.... How Filled***

**§3.7.1:** In case of the death, disability, or absence of the Grand Master, his duties shall devolve on the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden, the Junior Grand Warden, or on the Junior Past Grand Master, or on one of them present and able to serve, who is the highest in rank, according to order herein named.

**§3.7.2:** All vacancies in other offices of the Grand Lodge shall be filled by appointment of the Grand Master or his legal representative

### ***§3.8: Supremacy of Grand Lodge***

**§3.8.1:** This Grand Lodge, subject to this Constitution and the Ancient Landmarks, is the only source of authority in all matters pertaining to Ancient Craft Masonry within its Chartered Lodges in the State of Michigan. (1996)

**§3.8.2:** Any and all organizations, associations, or persons within the State of Michigan, professing to have any authority, power or privileges in Ancient Craft Masonry, not fraternally recognized by this Grand Lodge, are declared to be clandestine and illegal, and all Masonic intercourse with any of them is prohibited. (1996)

**§3.8.3:** The Constitution, Regulations and Laws of this Grand Lodge are paramount law of Masonic lodges chartered by this Grand Lodge; and in all cases to which its provisions are applicable, it must be observed, all opinions and rulings of other and eminent authorities to the contrary notwithstanding. (1878, 1996)

### ***§3.9: Powers of the Grand Lodge***

**§3.9.1:** This Grand Lodge may grant Dispensations and Charters for holding regular lodges of Free and Accepted

Masons with the right to confer therein the several degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason; and, when deemed expedient, may annul, revoke, or suspend any Dispensation or Charter.

**§3.9.2:** This Grand Lodge has jurisdiction over all subjects of legislation and administration; it has appellate jurisdiction from the decisions of Worshipful Masters, and from the decisions and acts of lodges; it has jurisdiction over its members; and its enactments and decisions upon all questions shall conform to the Ancient Landmarks of Freemasonry, and shall be the Supreme Masonic Law in this Jurisdiction.

**§3.9.3:** This Grand Lodge may fix the location and define the limits of every lodge under its jurisdiction, and settle all controversies that may arise between lodges, and has the final decision and determination of all matters of controversy or grievance which may be brought up by appeal or otherwise.

**§3.9.4:** This Grand Lodge may make and adopt general laws and regulations for the government of the several lodges under its jurisdiction, and at pleasure, may alter, amend, or repeal the same.

**§3.9.5:** This Grand Lodge may supervise the state and condition of its own finances, and adopt such measures in relation thereto as may be deemed necessary.

**§3.9.6:** This Grand Lodge may reprimand, suspend or expel any member from its own body for a violation of the Constitution, bylaws and Regulations of the Grand Lodge, or for any other un-Masonic conduct; and may suspend or expel any accused person after trial, upon appeal.

**§3.9.7:** This Grand Lodge shall, at each Annual Communication, consider and review reports and doings of its Grand Officers for the past year, as well as those of the several lodges under its jurisdiction.

### **§3.10: Powers of the Grand Master**

**§3.10.1:** The Grand Master has power:

1. To convene the Grand Lodge in Special Communication, in case of emergency; and
2. To preside at all Regular and Special Communications thereof.

During the recess, or when the Grand Lodge is not in session, he has power:

- 1st To issue Dispensations and to exercise the executive functions of the Grand Lodge;
  - (a) A Grand Master cannot delegate the power to issue a Dispensation. (1865)
  - (b) A Dispensation cannot be granted to permit another ballot on a rejected petition. (1884)
  - (c) The Grand Master has no authority to grant a Dispensation to a Military Lodge. Only Grand Lodge can change the usual jurisdictional rules and authorize a roving jurisdiction. (1918)
  - (d) It is not within the province of the Grand Master to set aside, by Dispensation, positive enactments.
  - (e) He cannot grant a Dispensation to initiate a candidate who is under nineteen years of age; or to receive and act upon the petition for initiation of one who has not resided within the Jurisdiction twelve months. (2000)
- 2nd To decide all questions of usage, order and Masonic Law;
- 3rd To convene any lodge within the Jurisdiction and in person or by deputy, to preside therein, inspect its proceedings, and require its conformity to Masonic rules;
- 4th To issue his Dispensation to any regular lodge to make a Mason or confer any degree without delay;
  - (a) A petition for a Special Dispensation to confer degrees should contain the name, age, residence and occupation of the candidate, and the reasons why a Dispensation is deemed necessary. (1865)
  - (b) When a candidate for initiation for whom a Special Dispensation has been granted, is rejected, another

petition and ballot cannot be had by virtue of that Dispensation. Both the petition and Dispensation are dead by reason of the rejection. (1865)

- (c) It is not necessary that a Special Dispensation to confer degrees, granted by the Grand Master, be under seal of Grand Lodge, or attested by the Grand Secretary. The official signature and private seal of the Grand Master are sufficient. (1865)
- 5th To suspend the Charter of any lodge when he may deem it expedient;
- 6th To command<sup>3</sup> every Grand Officer, and to call on any of them for information, advice and assistance on business relative to the Craft;
- 7th In person or by proxy, to constitute lodges, dedicate Masonic Halls and lay cornerstones of Masonic Halls, public buildings and structures;
- 8th To command a Warden, or any member of a lodge that he may visit, to act as Warden for the time being;
- 9th To cause the Ancient Landmarks and Charges to be observed and to do and perform the duties of Ancient Grand Masters, agreeably to the requirements of Masonry and this Grand Lodge;
  - (a) The privilege of opening and closing a lodge by proclamation is reserved to the Grand Master or a Brother having his written proxy. (1961, 2002)
  - (b) The Grand Master has no authority to permit the use of the word "affirm" in the obligation where the ritual

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<sup>3</sup> NOTE: Twice during his 2007-2008 term as Grand Master, acting for just causes, G.M. Ira S Slaven declared the office of an elected Grand Lodge Officer vacant and that the officer was relieved from all duties of his office. As had happened several times in years past, they had been ordered to resign. This year, one refused and was removed; the other was just removed.

At the 2008 Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, the delegates voted to sustain both removals and those removed were not elected to the 2008-2009 Grand Lodge Line. This reinforces the power of the Grand Master to “command every Grand Lodge Officer”, even to the point of removal.

provides the word "swear." However, due explanation to a candidate of the symbolism of the degrees should be made, to demonstrate that the obligation does not conflict with any religious scruples and that the purpose is to establish an oath which will be considered by the candidate binding upon him. (1941)

- (c) See the Michigan Masonic Monitor for the proper use of Grand Honors and Proclamation when used at Installation, Dedications and other public ceremonies. (1994)

**§3.10.2:** The Grand Master has no authority and is expressly forbidden from entering into any contract without the express authority of the Grand Lodge Board of Directors. (2002)

### ***§3.11: Powers and Duties of Other Grand Officers***

**§3.11.1:** The powers and duties of all other officers of the Grand Lodge shall be declared and defined by its bylaws.

### ***§3.12: District Deputies and their Duties***

**§3.12.1** This article relating to District Deputies and their Duties, was stricken out in 1881.

Details of action taken are to be found as follows:

Transactions 1880, page 106.

Transactions 1881, page 114.

### ***§3.13: Amendments ... How Made***

**§3.13.1:** This Constitution may be changed or amended in the following manner:

The proposed amendment shall be submitted in writing to the Grand Lodge at an Annual Communication and, unless it is seconded by a majority of the Grand Lodge, it shall receive no further consideration. If it is so seconded the proposed amendment shall be entered on the Minutes of Grand Lodge and as soon as possible a copy of it shall be sent, properly

certified by the Grand Secretary, to each lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, for approval or rejection by it. The action of each lodge shall, in return, be certified to the Grand Secretary by its Worshipful Master and Secretary, under the Seal of the Lodge. If, at the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, a majority of the lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction have certified their approval of the proposed amendment, the question of its final adoption by the Grand Lodge shall be taken and if a majority are in favor of the proposed amendment the Grand Master shall declare it part of this Constitution. The Grand Lodge shall then vote to determine and set the date on which it shall become operative. (2002)

**§3.13.2:** Amendments to the Regulations, Bylaws and Penal Code of this Grand Lodge shall be made in the following manner:

- (a) Each proposed amendment, together with a concise statement of the reasons for its adoption, shall be filed with the Grand Secretary at least one hundred and twenty (120) days before the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge to which it is submitted. The amendment will be referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, who will with the proposer(s) put the amendment in proper form and order, if needed. A notice and copy of the same shall be mailed by the Grand Secretary to all Past Grand Masters, Officers of the Grand Lodge, and to the Worshipful Master of each constituent lodge, at least thirty (60) days before the beginning of the Annual Communication. The provision for this notice is mandatory, and if not given, the proposed amendments lapse and have no effect, and in order to be considered, must be resubmitted at least one hundred and twenty (120) days prior to the next Annual Communication in the manner set forth in this section. (1996)
- (b) On the first day of each Annual Communication, the proposed amendment shall be referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, and if affirmatively reported by them and carried by a vote of two-thirds of the Grand Lodge it shall be declared adopted.

- (c) Proposed amendments must be submitted by the proposer to the Grand Secretary in the form the proposer desires them adopted. General Resolutions upon a subject, recommending action by Grand Lodge, but not setting up a proposed amendment in form, are not sufficient. (1939)

### **§3.14: *When to Take Effect***

**§3.14.1:** This Constitution shall take effect on the first day of July, Anno Domini, one thousand eight hundred and seventy three; provided, that so much thereof as relates to the election, appointment and installation of the officers of this Grand Lodge, together with §3.12 and §3.14, shall take effect from and after the time of its adoption; and provided, further: that the officers of this Grand Lodge may be elected, appointed and installed at any time previous to the close of this Annual Communication.

As adopted in 1873, with amendments to and including Annual Communication of 2008.

**REGULATIONS  
OF THE  
GRAND LODGE**



**REGULATIONS  
OF THE  
GRAND LODGE  
OF  
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS  
OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN**  
**For the Constitution and Governance  
of  
Chartered Lodges**

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***§4.1: Makeup of the Lodge***

**§4.1.1:** A lodge shall consist of a Worshipful Master, a Senior Warden, a Junior Warden, a Treasurer, a Secretary, a Senior Deacon, a Junior Deacon, a Tiler, and of as many members as may be convenient. (1963)

**§4.1.2:** The members of a regularly constituted lodge and the place in which they are authorized to meet are called the lodge. A lodge cannot be legally opened or proceed to work or transact business unless there be present the Worshipful Master or one of the Wardens and at least five other regular members, and the minutes must affirmatively show, by naming the six at least, that a quorum was present. Honorary members and visitors cannot be counted to make a quorum. (1963, 2004)

## **§4.2: Charter and Lights**

**§4.2.1:** The Great Lights of Masonry and the Charter of the lodge must be present in the lodge room when the lodge is open for work or business. (1963, 1988)

**§4.2.2:** The Lesser Lights should be kept burning during the entire time the lodge is open. (1963)

**§4.2.3:** Whenever the Charter of a lodge shall in any manner be destroyed, or shall become defaced and illegible as to be unfit for use, or shall be stolen or surreptitiously taken and detained without the fault of the lodge or the Worshipful Master, the Grand Master may grant a Special Dispensation to hold Communications of the lodge and may order a duplicate Charter to be issued without fee. (1967)

**§4.2.4:** A lodge cannot surrender its Charter without the consent of the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master as long as there are eight Master Masons, members thereof, who desire to work under its Charter according to the Regulations of this Grand Lodge and the usages of Masonry. (1963)

## **§4.3: Inherent and Corporate Rights of Lodges**

**§4.3.1:** The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Michigan hereby declares that each lodge, duly chartered and constituted by its authority, is an integral and constituent part of its Supreme Masonic Power, and has certain Inherent and Corporate Rights. (1964)

**§4.3.2:** A lodge, by its acceptance of a Charter, and its Officers and members by their several Masonic obligations, are bound, in all things, to obey this Grand Lodge, and to be governed by its Constitution, Regulations, Laws and Edicts; Provided, always, that the Ancient Landmarks be preserved. (1964)

**§4.3.3:** A lodge, by virtue of its Inherent Rights, as recognized by the Grand Lodge, has power:

- (a) To retain its Charter until lawfully surrendered, suspended or revoked.

- (b) To meet, and to do all the work of Ancient Craft Masonry, and transact its lawful Masonic business.
- (c) To admit members, and to reject any application for membership.
- (d) To elect and install its officers.
- (e) To exercise, subject to appeal, penal jurisdiction over its members and unfinished work.
- (f) To adopt bylaws fixing the annual dues of its members, designating the time of its Communications, and for the regulation of its internal affairs; provided that any bylaws conflicting with the Grand Lodge Constitution, Regulations or Bylaws is null and void. (1964)

**§4.3.4:** Lodge bylaws, and any amendment or amendments thereto, must be submitted in duplicate, bearing the signatures of the Worshipful Master and Secretary and the Seal of the lodge, to the Grand Secretary for the Grand Master's approval before becoming effective. Upon approval, one copy will be returned to the submitting lodge, the second copy retained in the files of the Grand Secretary. (1977)

**§4.3.5:** The Grand Lodge is not liable for the debts of a constituent lodge, and a lodge has an inherent right to supervise its own finances, and the Grand Lodge has no right to interfere with a constituent lodge upon that subject except as hereinafter provided. (1964)

**§4.3.6:** The money of a lodge may be appropriated for the relief of any poor, distressed Brother, his widow or orphans; but a lodge has no right to donate its funds for any other than strictly Masonic purposes; provided, however, that a lodge by vote of its membership at a Regular Communication may interpret the words "Masonic purposes" to include benevolent, charitable and humanitarian actions in the community in which it is located. Provided further, a lodge may contribute such sums from lodge funds as the lodge may approve by a two-thirds affirmative vote at a Regular Communication, for the assistance of DeMolay, Rainbow Girls, or Jobs Daughters. (1977)

**§4.3.7:** The Corporate Rights of a lodge are conferred by its Charter, and by virtue thereof it is entitled:

- (a) To representation in all Communications of the Grand Lodge. (1964)
- (b) To protection in the lawful exercise of its Inherent Rights, and to the enjoyment of all privileges and immunities and the exercise of all powers conferred by the Grand Lodge upon any constituent lodge. (1964)

**§4.3.8:** All constituent lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction shall be and remain un-incorporated, and the members of each lodge are hereby prohibited from incorporating the same. (1964)

**§4.3.9:** A lodge shall not participate either directly or indirectly in the erection or purchase of lodge quarters or in making major renovations or additions to existing lodge quarters until the building plans shall have been approved in writing by the Grand Master and the financing plans shall have been submitted in duplicate to, and approved in writing by, the Grand Lodge Committee on Investments. All such plans shall be submitted to the Grand Secretary's Office. One copy of the approval shall be filed in the Grand Secretary's Office, and one copy shall be mailed or delivered to the lodge requesting the approval. (1964, 2004)

**§4.3.10:** Members of a lodge desiring to incorporate for the purpose of providing a Masonic Temple are required to follow the provisions of the Statutes of the State of Michigan relating to the incorporation of Masonic Temple Associations. (1964)

Such incorporation shall be under the terms and conditions of Act No. 1 Public Acts 1895, as provided in §9, provided no Temple Association shall be formed by members of any constituent lodge or lodges until the bylaws of said Temple Association shall have been approved by the Grand Master and a majority of the members of the Board of Directors. (1971)

**§4.3.11:** A lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction shall not be named after a living person. (1964)

**§4.3.12:** A lodge has no power, either directly or indirectly, to create an honorary Past Master. (1964)

## **§4.4: Duties of a Lodge**

**§4.4.1:** It shall be the duty of a lodge:

- (a) To observe and preserve the ancient usages of Masonry.
- (b) To render the Grand Master or his Deputy all due respect and obedience.
- (c) To respectfully hear all official communications from the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master, or any officer acting by their authority.
- (d) To be properly represented at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge. Failure to fulfill this duty, unless excused by the Grand Master not later than the opening of the final day's session of the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, shall render a lodge subject to such discipline by the Grand Master as he may deem expedient. (1979)
- (e) To provide its officers with their proper jewels and clothing, and itself with a suitable Seal.
- (f) To provide, for its Communications, a safe and suitable lodge room.
- (g) To furnish the several books required by these Regulations for its Treasurer and Secretary.
- (h) To make to Grand Lodge, through its Secretary, its annual and all required reports of its work and condition.
- (i) To punctually pay its annual dues to Grand Lodge.

**§4.4.2:** A lodge may drape the Altar for a period of thirty days in respect to the memory of a deceased Brother. Upon the order of the Grand Master, a lodge shall drape the Charter and the Altar for a period of sixty days in respect to the memory of a deceased Grand Lodge Officer, Past Grand Master; or a Grand Lodge Officer or a Past Grand Lodge Officer with emeritus status. The drape, to be of suitable black material, may cover all, or a portion of the Altar, but it shall not be placed on or over the Great Lights. (1969, 2002)

## **§4.5: Restrictions on a Lodge**

### **§4.5.1: Lodge Rooms**

**§4.5.1.1:** A lodge shall meet in either a lodge room dedicated to Masonic uses, or with the permission of the Grand Master, in an undedicated room in a facility not owned or operated by a Masonic Temple Association, provided that the undedicated room can be properly tiled and has a privately adjoining preparation and tiler's room. (1885, 1900, 2000)

**§4.5.1.2:** A lodge may move from one lodge room to another in the same Masonic Temple when all the lodge rooms have been dedicated collectively, without securing Special Dispensation therefore. Similarly, a lodge given permission to meet in an undedicated room may move to another suitable room within the same facility without securing Special Dispensation therefore. (1891, 2000)

**§4.5.1.3:** The Worshipful Master has no authority to rent the lodge room to anyone for any purpose. That is the prerogative of the governing Masonic Temple Association or owner of the building, subject, however, to the restrictions now or hereafter imposed by Masonic Law. (1943, 2000)

**§4.5.1.4:** Under no circumstances shall smoking be allowed in a room dedicated to Masonic use or in a lodge room while it is in use by a lodge. (1924, 2000)

### **§4.5.2: Alcoholic Beverages**

**§4.5.2.1:** The temperate use and dispensing of alcoholic beverages during exclusively social functions, fellowship and banquet periods is permitted, always within the confines of the social rooms, banquet rooms and dining halls, or at picnics and lodge outings, and always under the control of responsible affiliated persons. This applies to all Masonic affiliated bodies within the Jurisdiction of Michigan.

**§4.5.2.2:** At no time shall alcoholic beverages be introduced into a room dedicated to Masonic use or into a lodge room while it is in use by a lodge, or into any of those rooms used directly in connection therewith; such as the preparation room, tiler's

room or corridors adjacent thereto. However, nothing herein is to be construed as limiting the exclusion of areas to those above named. (2000)

**§4.5.2.3:** At no time shall Officers of a lodge partake of nor allow its members to be served alcoholic beverages before or during a Regular or Special Communication (as defined in §4.15), with one exception: a Table Lodge may serve wine by Special Dispensation of the Grand Master.

**§4.5.2.4:** At no time shall any member be admitted to a lodge meeting while under the influence of alcoholic beverages. The Worshipful Master, subject to the Grand Master, shall be responsible for the decision.

**§4.5.2.5:** At no time shall there be any area allotted to, nor construction be made of, a permanent alcoholic beverage servicing facility within any Masonic Temple under this Jurisdiction, unless such area is for business purposes of a non-Masonic entity. (2005)

**§4.5.2.6:** Reference to alcoholic beverages, such as, but not limited to, "cocktails," "bar," "B.Y.O.B.," etc. is not permitted in any lodge notice, or as an enclosure in the mailing of a lodge notice. The use of phrases "social hour" or "social period" is permitted.

**§4.5.2.7:** All applicable laws and regulations, both of the State of Michigan and of local authorities, shall be observed and complied with at all times.

**§4.5.2.8:** No lodge or recognized appendant body shall apply for nor hold any license required by the foregoing laws or regulations.

**§4.5.2.9:** 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 body, Trustees or Temple Association to determine. (1921, 1935, 1982)

### **§4.5.3: Games of Chance**

**§4.5.3.1:** All Masonic lodges and all Masonic affiliated bodies within the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Michigan are permitted to sponsor, undertake and participate in State licensed raffles, charity games or other games of chance authorized by the statutes and regulations of the State of Michigan for charitable and/or fund-raising purposes. (G.M. edict 2002) (2004)

The following rules apply:

1. Any and all applicable statutes, laws, regulations, orders, directives of the Federal, State and local governments shall be fully and strictly observed, adhered to and complied with at all times.
2. No activities authorized hereunder shall be held or introduced into any room dedicated to Masonic use or into a lodge room while it is in use by a lodge, or into any of the rooms used in connection therewith, including, but not limited to, the preparation room, tiler's room or corridors adjacent and adjoining thereto. (2000)
3. No raffles or games of chance shall be held, nor shall any tickets be sold, in any Masonic Temple or any building housing a lodge unless and until the governing Masonic Temple Association or owner of the building involved shall specifically authorize the same in writing; provided: if such permission is not so granted, the function may be held off said premises in a location permitted by law and approved by the owner.
4. No function permitted under this law shall be advertised publicly in any manner whatsoever whether in Masonic publications or otherwise and no Masonic or Masonic-related emblems shall be affixed to or included in any materials or tickets used in conjunction with said function, unless approved in advance by the Grand Master. Notwithstanding the above provisions of this rule, the lodge name or names may be affixed to any materials or tickets used in connection with said function to the extent required by State Law. (1989, 2005)

5. Each function permitted hereunder shall be in full compliance with the bylaws and Charter of the sponsoring body and shall not contravene any rule or regulation adopted by said body.
6. Each and every Masonic body participating in any activity authorized hereunder shall, at least thirty days prior to the proposed date of said activity, provide in writing to the Right Worshipful Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge, full and complete information concerning that event, including, but not limited to, the proposed use of the funds obtained, the State of Michigan license number, a copy of the proposed ticket or tickets to be used, a copy of any proposed advertising and charges for participation and a complete list of proposed prizes. (2005)
7. Within thirty days after the date of the function, the sponsoring body shall submit in writing to the Right Worshipful Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge a full and complete financial report of said function including, but not limited to, an account of all receipts, a detail of the expenses and prizes paid and an account of the distribution of the proceeds.
8. This law is permissive only and shall not be construed to mandate the participation in and/or conduct of the activities set forth herein. The local Masonic body, Trustees or Temple Association shall each have the right to determine individually whether said body or association will or will not conduct or participate in the same in accordance with the terms of this law. (1985)
9. Lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction may participate in and sponsor Bingo games under the following provisions: (2004)
  - (a) No permanent fixture for the playing of Bingo is to be installed in any Masonic Hall or building.
  - (b) Masonic Temple Associations may not participate in or sponsor Bingo Games, but may rent their hall to an organization, properly licensed by the State of Michigan, to sponsor Bingo games.

- (c) All materials and equipment must be stored out of sight when not in actual use.
- (d) Any and all applicable statutes, laws, regulations, orders, and directives of the Federal, State and local governments shall be fully and strictly observed, adhered to and complied with at all times.
- (e) The dispensing of alcoholic beverages or consumption of the same on the premises is forbidden in conjunction with this type of activity.
- (f) Lodges wishing to participate in or sponsor a Bingo game need not obtain the permission of the Masonic Temple Association unless said Association is composed of multiple lodges.

## **§4.6: Lodge Property**

**§4.6.1:** A lodge has no legal corporate existence, and therefore cannot own or be seized of real estate, however, a lodge may enjoy the use and benefit of real estate in any one of three ways: (1971)

- (a) The Trustees of the lodge may hold the property, in trust, for the use and benefit of the lodge, or
- (b) The property can be held by the Grand Lodge, in trust, for the use and benefit of the lodge in accordance with the Grand Lodge Bylaws on the subject. This vests title in the Grand Lodge for the above purposes, and no other, except that of conveyance on request of the lodge, and divests the grantor of all estate in the realty, or
- (c) A Masonic Association can be organized under Michigan Law, Act No. 1 of Public Acts of 1895, as provided in §9, and that association or corporation can purchase the property and arrange with different Masonic bodies to occupy it.

**§4.6.2:** All lodge property is Masonic property, and once Masonic property it is always Masonic property. It has been solemnly dedicated to Masonry; individual ownership in it has

ceased. The lodge's right to management and control over it is absolute so long as the lodge continues to exist. (1977)

**§4.6.3:** When a Masonic Temple Association, or lodge, owning, renting, or leasing a building, or portion thereof, dedicated to Masonry, finds that the building, or portion thereof, is no longer being used for Masonic purposes, the following shall be accomplished:

- (a) The Masonic Temple Association, or lodge shall immediately notify the Grand Master of the circumstances. (1977)
- (b) The Grand Master, if he deems the circumstances warrant, shall issue a proclamation that the building, or portion thereof, is no longer dedicated to Masonry. Such proclamation will be subject to ratification at the next Annual Communication of Grand Lodge. (1977)
- (c) When the proclamation is issued the Grand Master shall order the Masonic Temple Association, or lodge, to remove all removable items of Masonic identification from the building, or portion thereof, no longer dedicated to Masonry. (1977)

**§4.6.4:** Donors of equipment and furnishings to a lodge may not retain any supervisory interest in such furnishings and equipment since a lodge must be free to alter or dispose of such of its assets as it deems necessary or advisable.

## **§4.7: *Insurance and Furniture***

**§4.7.1:** All lodges in this Jurisdiction shall, at all times, keep their property properly insured, provide their lodge room with suitable furniture and keep them secure and in good order, and, failing in this duty, in case of loss, the Grand Master should not grant a Special Dispensation to solicit aid from sister lodges.

## **§4.8: *Clothing***

**§4.8.1:** The proper clothing of a Mason while in attendance at a lodge meeting in any degree shall be civilian dress

appropriate to the dignity of the occasion; except that when military regulations require the wearing of a uniform, such uniforms will be considered proper dress.

**§4.8.2:** The Worshipful Master shall wear a hat, which will be in harmony with the dress adopted for the officers of the lodge.

**§4.8.3:** A lodge, may, at its option, provide white gloves for its officers and members, and a label badge or ribbon for its visitors.

**§4.8.4:** The members' aprons shall be plain white lambskin or linen, approximately fourteen to sixteen inches wide and twelve to fourteen inches deep, square at the bottom, with a flap or fall to be triangular in shape and with white strings. No ornament or other color shall be allowed except to Officers and Past Masters of lodges, who may have the emblem of their office suitably located on their aprons and with such other ornamentation as may appear reasonable. The emblems of office shall be deep or royal blue. Officers' aprons with black borders and emblems are permissible for Funerals or Memorial Services. (1978)

**§4.8.5:** The jewels for officers of lodges shall be the same as are now in use and similar in pattern to be found in the Office of the Grand Secretary. (See pictures and specifications of jewels elsewhere in this book).

**§4.8.6:** Robes and other regalia are permissible in the conferring of any degree, except in the first section thereof.

**§4.8.7:** No officer or member shall wear any Masonic clothing or jewels other than prescribed above while presiding in or attending any lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, except Past Masters who may wear their jewels designating them as such; except that:

- (a) The national dress of Scotland may be worn by members conferring any of the Symbolic Degrees of Masonry as long as the Michigan Ritual and Ceremonies adopted by the Grand Lodge are strictly adhered to. (1958)

- (b) Knights Templar, in full dress without sword or chapeau, may confer the Symbolic Degrees in a Michigan lodge, but they must wear white aprons. (1959, 2004)

A Knights Templar while attending a lodge open for any public ceremony such as an installation or Lodge of Sorrow, or while offering an honor guard or flag escort, may wear his full dress uniform with chapeau and sword and without the white apron. (G.M. edict 2004) (printed 2005)

- (c) During the month of February of each year in observance of George Washington's birthday and under Special Dispensation of the Grand Master, colonial costumes may be worn by members conferring the first section of the Master Mason Degree, but they must wear white aprons. (1977)
- (d) The Grand Lodge Board of Directors is hereby authorized to approve deviations to Masonic clothing and jewels as otherwise allowed in §4.8. These deviations may include, but not be limited to: member aprons that honor their years of service to the Craft or their emeritus status, lodge member and officer aprons for lodges over 100 years old and jewels for past officers other than Worshipful Master or for other Masonic awards. (2000)

**§4.8.8:** It is not proper for members of the Grotto or Shrine to wear their fezzes when visiting a constituent lodge. (1977)

## **§4.9: Foreign Language**

**§4.9.1:** A lodge, authorized to conduct its business and confer the degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry in a foreign language, shall make no change or modification in the work or lectures; shall keep all records, and make all reports and returns to the Grand Lodge in the English language; and the Worshipful Master and Wardens of such lodge shall be familiar with and well-skilled in the work and lectures in the English language.

## **§4.10: *Flags***

**§4.10.1:** The lodge shall display the Flag of the United States of America in the lodge room during all Regular and Special Communications. The Flag shall be suspended on a staff placed at the South side of the Altar. (1963)

**§4.10.2:** All members shall stand at attention with the right hand over the heart during the time the Flag is carried to the Altar and also when it is returned to the East. (1963)

**§4.10.3:** The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America may be used during the opening of any Masonic lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction. (1963)

**§4.10.4:** The Canadian Flag may be displayed at the Altar of a Michigan Masonic lodge upon the occasion of an official visitation by a lodge of a Canadian Grand Jurisdiction recognized by the Grand Lodge of Michigan provided that both the Canadian and Michigan lodges shall have a Special Dispensation from their respective Grand Masters authorizing the visitation. (1963)

**§4.10.5:** The Flag of the United States of America shall be presented at the Altar first and displayed as Masonic Law directs, followed by the Canadian Flag, which shall be returned to the East during the closing of the lodge prior to the return of the Flag of the United States of America. (1963)

## **§4.11: *Solicitation of Aid***

**§4.11.1:** A lodge, an officer or a member thereof, shall not give any certificate or recommendation to enable a Mason to apply to any lodge for relief. (1965)

**§4.11.2:** A lodge shall not make nor circulate any appeal for financial aid for any purpose unless the Grand Master shall have first authorized such appeal in writing, nor shall a lodge act on any such appeal made to it unless the Grand Master has approved the appeal in writing. However, such an appeal issued within the community and for a community charity does not require prior approval and permission of the Grand Master is not required. (1965, G.M. edict 2002)

## **§4.12: *Suspension of Charter***

**§4.12.1:** The Charter of a lodge may be suspended or revoked by either the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge for:

- (a) A persistent or inexcusable neglect by the lodge or its Officers of any of the duties imposed by the Constitution, Regulations, Bylaws, Edicts and Decisions. (1965)
- (b) A deliberate violation of its obligations to Masonry, or to the authority of the Grand Lodge. (1965)

## **§4.13: *Place of Meeting***

**§4.13.1:** This Grand Lodge will not change the location of a chartered lodge without the consent of said lodge.

**§4.13.2:** A lodge desiring to change its place of meeting may accomplish it in the following manner: (2005)

- (a) Notice of such proposed change shall be given to the lodge's members at a Regular Communication, that such notice be written or printed and mailed to or delivered to each member one month prior to the Regular Communication at which the vote is due to be taken, and a favorable majority vote of its members present at such Regular Communication, and,
- (b) Two months notice is given to each lodge within the affected District(s) and receipt of approval obtained. (For purposes of §4.13.2, "District" shall mean BGP District from whose location removal is sought, as well as that into which the lodge seeks to move.) and,
- (c) The consent of the Grand Master shall have been first obtained.

**§4.13.3:** All actions by the Grand Master hereunder shall be reported to the Grand Lodge in Annual Communication for approval. In case a contiguous lodge or the Grand Master shall fail to grant approval for a lodge to move its place of meeting, the lodge desiring to move may petition the Grand Lodge by resolution for reconsideration. (1890, 1979)

**§4.13.4:** Whenever the Grand Master shall consent that a lodge move its place of meeting, he shall determine whether or not the lodge shall be assigned to another district and if it appears that such reassignment should be made, he is hereby authorized to transfer such lodge to another district for Board of General Purposes and District Deputy Instructor purposes.

### **§4.14: *Jurisdiction of a Lodge***

**§4.14.1:** A lodge has both personal and territorial jurisdiction over Masons and Masonic material. (1961, 2005)

- (a) Masonic material shall include both "Unfinished material" and "Rejected material".
- (b) "Unfinished material" and "unfinished work" shall mean a man or Brother who has been elected to receive the Entered Apprentice Degree, but who has not been raised a Master Mason.
- (c) "Rejected material" shall mean a man or Brother whose petition has been rejected or who has failed to pass a ballot on "continued worthiness".

**§4.14.2:** A lodge by its personal jurisdiction has:

- (a) Penal jurisdiction over its members (except its Master and the Grand Master) and over its unfinished material everywhere. This penal jurisdiction is exclusive over its members and unfinished material residing in the territorial jurisdiction of the lodge; it is concurrent with the penal jurisdiction of a lodge in whose territorial jurisdiction such Masons or material may reside. (1961, 1965)
- (b) The right to complete its unfinished work and accept its rejected material wherever residing. This jurisdiction shall originate when a petition for initiation or advancement is received, unless the petition be withdrawn with the consent of the lodge. It shall continue and be exclusive for five years after the date of the latest rejection or the latest degree conferred by the lodge. Thereafter, any lodge having lawful territorial jurisdiction over the material may

receive and act upon a petition for initiation or advancement. (1961)

- (c) Exclusive original jurisdiction in all cases of violation of its bylaws or internal regulations. (1961)

**§4.14.3:** Personal jurisdiction over the unfinished work or rejected material of a lodge whose Charter has been surrendered or revoked, shall be under the supervision and direction of the Grand Master; and, for five years after the date of the latest degree conferred or the latest rejection, any other lodge can have jurisdiction over the work or material only after certification by the Grand Secretary as to the Masonic standing of the material and the approval of the Grand Master. (1961)

**§4.14.4:** A lodge, by its territorial jurisdiction, has concurrent penal jurisdiction over all Masons who reside within its territorial limits, whether or not they are affiliated with the lodge. This penal jurisdiction is concurrent with that of the lodge having personal jurisdiction over such Masons. (1961, 1965, 2005)

**§4.14.5:** The territorial jurisdiction of a lodge, except as may be otherwise approved by the Grand Lodge, includes all territory in this Grand Jurisdiction. (1961, 1965, 2005)

**§4.14.6:** A resident of another State shall, with consent of the Grand Jurisdiction of his residence, be considered to be part of the territorial jurisdiction of this Grand Jurisdiction. (1961, 1965, 2005)

**§4.14.7:** A lodge may waive jurisdiction over its unfinished work or rejected material. A written request for waiver shall be presented at a Regular Communication and may be approved immediately by secret ballot of at least two-thirds of the members present. (1971)

**§4.14.8:** The Grand Lodge of Michigan limits and recognizes personal jurisdiction for five years after the date of the latest degree conferred or the latest rejection; certain other Grand Jurisdictions claim perpetual jurisdiction. A Michigan lodge shall, in lieu of a waiver of jurisdiction, conform to the five year limitation as being applicable to the unfinished work or

rejected material of a lodge in any other Grand Jurisdiction. (1961, 1971)

**§4.14.9:** A lodge whose personal jurisdiction has been violated shall be entitled to all fees received by the trespassing lodge as a result of the violation. The demand for payment of the fees received for the degrees by the trespassing lodge must be made by action of the lodge whose jurisdiction has been invaded. The offending lodge is further liable to punishment by the Grand Lodge if the trespass is proven to have been knowingly and willfully made. (1961, 1971)

**§4.14.10:** Although the material may be wrongfully acquired by invading either personal or territorial jurisdiction of another lodge, yet the membership of such material is, when completed, with the trespassing lodge - the lodge conferring the Master Mason Degree. (1961, 1971)

## **§4.15: Lodge Communications**

### **§4.15.1: General Information**

**§4.15.1.1:** A Communication of a lodge shall be either a Regular or a Special. (1963)

**§4.15.1.2:** A lodge may open on any degree selected by the Worshipful Master, provided that the work and lectures pertaining to a degree shall be done while the lodge is opened on that degree. (1963, 2005)

**§4.15.1.3:** A lodge must be closed on one degree before work can be done on another degree. (1963, 2004)

Once a lodge changes degrees, it has accomplished the requirements of both §4.15.1.2 and §4.15.1.3. It does not need to change back to the degree upon which it initially opened prior to finally closing. (G.M. edict 2004)

**§4.15.1.4:** A lodge must be open before proceeding to the work of a Lodge of Sorrow or a public installation. (1963, 1994, 2005)

**§4.15.1.5:** Business or ritualistic work shall not be done while a lodge is at refreshment. (1881)

**§4.15.1.6:** A lodge should be tiled while at refreshment. (1963)

**§4.15.1.7:** All general or special business shall be transacted in a lodge open on any of the Degrees of Masonry, at the discretion of the Worshipful Master, and at a Regular Communication, except as provided for hereinafter in §4.15. (1963, 2005)

### **§4.15.2: *Regular Communication***

**§4.15.2.1:** The bylaws of the lodge shall provide for the specific day of the week and the specific week of the calendar month on which the Regular Communication shall be held and the hour of opening the Communication.

**§4.15.2.2:** A lodge shall not open a Regular Communication at a time earlier than the hour specified in the bylaws, nor can a Regular Communication be recessed until a future date. When unforeseen circumstances occur, such as natural disasters, fire, power failures, explosions, civil authorities cordon off the area or preclude travel, the Grand Master may grant a Special Dispensation to change the meeting to a future date. Provided, however, a lodge called upon to perform a Memorial Service for a Deceased Member may open its Regular Communication at a later hour on the same day of the Regular Communication without Special Dispensation from the Grand Master. (1994)

**§4.15.2.3:** The bylaws may also provide a specific alternate day for holding a Regular Communication in case the regular day shall be a legal or religious holiday.

**§4.15.2.4:** A lodge shall not hold more than one Regular Communication in any calendar month except as herein provided, and a lodge shall hold not less than ten Regular Communications in any calendar year.

### **§4.15.3: *Special Communication***

**§4.15.3.1:** A Special Communication of the lodge may be called by the Worshipful Master for any time except the time of the Regular Communication, or as otherwise prohibited by these Regulations, by giving due and timely notice thereof to the

members in open lodge, or in such other manner as he may deem reasonable. (1963)

**§4.15.3.2:** Due notice is the notice of the time, place and object of the Special Communication; timely notice requires that a reasonable time shall elapse between the giving of the notice and the time of the Communication to enable the members to attend. (1963)

**§4.15.3.3:** A Special Communication shall be called only for degrees, for installation of officers, for lectures and instruction, for completion of unfinished trials or for funeral or a memorial service and for no other purpose except when authorized by a Special Dispensation from the Grand Master. (1963)

**§4.15.3.4:** When a Special Communication is authorized for charitable purposes by Special Dispensation of the Grand Master at which Communication business usually done at a Regular Communication is to be transacted, the Worshipful Master shall give all members due and timely notice of the time, place and object of the Communication. (1963)

**§4.15.3.5:** A Special Communication shall not be held on Sunday before 1:00 P.M., and then only for charitable purposes, a memorial service, for conducting or attending the funeral service for a deceased Brother, an installation practice, a lodge sponsored children's party or a religious service, provided, however, that where a Michigan lodge is granted a Special Dispensation to confer Degrees in a foreign jurisdiction, the word Sunday as used herein shall be construed to refer to the day recognized as a prevailing Sabbath Day in the Grand Lodge Jurisdiction or the lodge where the work is to be conferred. (1963, 1978, 1984)

**§4.15.3.6:** The only work or business permitted at a Special Communication is that for which it shall have been called. (1963)

**§4.15.3.7:** Each lodge shall hold a service in memory of deceased Brethren during the month of either November or December in each year. (1965)

#### **§4.15.4: A Lodge of Sorrow**

**§4.15.4.1:** A Worshipful Master shall open a Lodge of Sorrow for the purpose of conducting or attending Masonic funerals and/or memorial services. The Lodge of Sorrow shall be opened at the time of the Worshipful Master's installation. This shall be accomplished in the following manner: The Worshipful Master shall say, "I now declare a Lodge of Sorrow open in accordance with the Regulations of Grand Lodge for the purpose of conducting and attending Masonic funerals and/or memorial services. Brother Secretary, make the record." The Lodge of Sorrow shall be considered as remaining open until the expiration of the term of office of the Worshipful Master who opened it. (1965, 1994)

Lodges should not open a Special Communication for the purpose of conducting a particular funeral or memorial service.

The Secretary shall include information in the Annual report to the Grand Secretary as to the date of opening a Lodge of Sorrow and the number of services conducted thereunder.

**§4.15.4.2:** The closing of a Lodge of Sorrow will be automatic in accordance with the Regulations of the Grand Lodge. (1965)

**§4.15.4.3:** Each funeral or memorial service held under the Lodge of Sorrow shall be recorded in the minutes as a Special Communication. The minutes shall show the date, time and place of the service, the name of the deceased Brother and the names of the Officers and Brethren in attendance.

#### **§4.16: Lodge Officers**

##### **§4.16.1: Election of Lodge Officers**

**§4.16.1.1:** Except as hereinafter provided, a lodge, at the Regular Communication in November or December each year, shall elect by secret ballot and by a majority of votes, a Worshipful Master, a Senior Warden, a Junior Warden, a Treasurer and a Secretary. (1977)

**§4.16.1.2:** At the same time, all other officers required or permitted by Grand Lodge Regulations shall be elected in the

same manner, or appointed by the Worshipful Master-elect, as the bylaws of the lodge may provide. (1977)

**§4.16.1.3:** At an election of officers after the Master has declared the result, a motion to reconsider is not in order. The only remedy is an appeal from the decision of the Master to the Grand Master or Grand Lodge.

**§4.16.1.4:** If for good cause, a lodge shall fail to elect any of its officers on the date required above, the Grand Master may grant a Special Dispensation authorizing another date for the election. Notice thereof by first-class mail shall be given to all members at least two weeks before the election is to take place. (1977)

**§4.16.1.5:** Any officer elected or appointed to an office must complete the normal term of that office before he can be considered a past officer of that office. (1997)

**§4.16.1.6:** A Brother shall not be eligible to the office of Worshipful Master unless he has been elected, installed and served as a Warden of a chartered lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction. (1965)

**§4.16.1.7:** A Brother who has been elected and installed as a Worshipful Master in this Grand Jurisdiction and has either resigned or been removed from office in the same year for which he was elected Worshipful Master shall not be elevated to the rank and dignity of a Past Master. (1997)

**§4.16.1.8:** A Brother who has been elected and installed as a Worshipful Master in this Grand Jurisdiction, has not resigned or been removed from office and has either died or changed his domicile to outside this Grand Jurisdiction, may be elevated to the rank and dignity of a Past Master. (1997)

**§4.16.1.9:** All members of a lodge in good standing, except Honorary Members, shall be entitled to vote at any election. The election shall be by secret ballot with or without nomination as a majority of those present and entitled to vote shall determine prior to proceeding with the election. (1983, 2000)

**§4.16.1.10:** A Brother, qualified to vote at an election of officers, shall be eligible to any office in the lodge, except that of Worshipful Master. To be eligible to serve as Worshipful Master, he must have been elected, installed and served as set forth in §4.16.1.6. Further, a Brother serving as Worshipful Master in one lodge may not serve as Worshipful Master or Warden in another lodge. The Tiler or Musician need not be a member of the lodge, but must be a member in good standing in some regular lodge. (1965, 1990, 1992, 1996, 2006)

**§4.16.1.11:** A Brother shall not hold more than one office in a lodge at the same time; but a lodge Trustee, meeting all other qualifications, shall be eligible to any office required or permitted by Grand Lodge Regulations. A lodge shall not impose any restrictions determining the eligibility of a Brother to office other than those contained in these Regulations. (1977, 1992, 1996)

**§4.16.1.12:** A majority may, at any time during the meeting, purge the lodge room of all Brothers present not entitled to vote at such election. (1965, 2000)

**§4.16.1.13:** Method of election:

- (a) If there is only one candidate or if nominations have been called and there is only one nominee, the Worshipful Master shall declare the nominations closed and that the entire vote of the lodge has been cast for that Brother.
- (b) If there is more than one candidate or if nominations have been called and there is more than one nominee, the Worshipful Master shall call for a written secret ballot to be cast with the Brother receiving the majority of votes cast being elected. (1965, 1983, 2000)

## **§4.16.2: *Vacancy in Office***

**§4.16.2.1:** In case a vacancy occurs in the office of Worshipful Master, a Brother who has been elected and installed as a Warden of that lodge shall not be elected Worshipful Master of the lodge for the same year for which he was elected Warden. The ranking Warden shall preside as the acting Worshipful

Master for the remainder of the year, provided the vacancy has not been filled by a special election under Special Dispensation from the Grand Master, as provided below. (1965)

**§4.16.2.2:** In case a vacancy shall occur from any cause or at any time in the office of Worshipful Master, the Grand Master, upon satisfactory proof of the necessity therefore, may declare the office vacant and grant a Special Dispensation for an election to fill the vacancy. (1965)

**§4.16.2.3:** The Special Dispensation authorizing another date for the election or to fill the vacancy shall be granted only upon a written application by the lodge, setting forth the reasons therefore, to be approved by two-thirds of the members present at a Regular Communication, and to be so certified by the lodge Secretary. Each member of the lodge shall be given not less than two weeks notice of the date and time of such election. (1965)

**§4.16.2.4:** A lodge may provide in its bylaws that a vacancy in any office other than that of Worshipful Master may be filled by appointment by the Worshipful Master. However, in the absence of such a bylaw, the vacancy must be filled by either election or appointment as the bylaws provide for filling the office originally. Provided, further, the members shall be notified of any vacancy requiring an election and shall be given not less than two weeks notice of the date and time of such election in the manner used to notify members of Special Communications. (1965)

**§4.16.2.5:** An officer elected or appointed to fill a vacancy shall be installed as provided for in these regulations. A Special Dispensation shall not be required for such an installation.

**§4.16.2.6:** In case any officer of a lodge shall reside outside of the jurisdiction of the lodge and be unable to perform the duties of his office by reason thereof, the lodge may declare the office vacant and proceed to the election or appointment of his successor; provided that the office of Worshipful Master shall not be deemed vacant until the provisions herein before outlined in §4.16.2.2 and §4.16.2.3 have been satisfied.

### **§4.16.3: Installation of Officers**

**§4.16.3.1:** The Annual Installation of Officers shall be held in December or January, unless the Grand Master has issued a Special Dispensation to hold the installation at an earlier or a later date. An installation may be open to invited non-members of the Craft. It is the responsibility of the retiring Worshipful Master to install his successor or to make proper arrangements therefore. (1977, 2003)

**§4.16.3.2:** All officers shall be installed by a Worshipful Master, a Past Master, the Grand Master or the Deputy Grand Master in an opened lodge. The Worshipful Master may authorize a Worshipful Master or a Past Master of any Michigan lodge or of another recognized Grand Jurisdiction to conduct the Installation of Officers, but the ceremony must be in strict accordance with the Michigan Masonic Monitor. (1965, 2005)

**§4.16.3.3:** An officer shall not perform any duty of the office to which he has been elected or appointed, nor shall he exercise any of the prerogatives of that office, until he has been installed, nor in any event until after the Regular Communication of the lodge in December. An Officer shall not be installed by proxy. An officer who is absent from the regular installation must be installed at a later date. (1965, 1978)

**§4.16.3.4:** Each installed officer shall hold his office until his successor shall have been duly installed. A Brother re-elected or re-appointed to office is his own successor and must be re-installed. (1965)

**§4.16.3.5:** At the installation an objection may be made, but the determination of the validity rests with the Master. He may sustain the objection and order a new ballot, or overrule it and install the officers. If installed, the officer or officers holds the office until the decision of the appeal, if there be one. (1881, 1978)

## **§4.16.4: Power and Duties of the Worshipful Master**

**§4.16.4.1:** The Worshipful Master shall have the power:

- (a) To congregate his lodge whenever he shall deem it proper.
- (b) To issue, or cause to be issued, all notices and summonses<sup>4</sup> which may be required. (Therefore any member of a lodge who independently sends out a card to notify the membership of a motion to be voted on at the next Regular Communication is in violation of the Law and guilty of usurping the Powers of the Master.)
- (c) To discharge all the executive functions of his lodge.
- (d) To perform all such other acts, by ancient usage proper to his office, as shall not be in contravention of any provisions of the Constitution, Regulations or other laws of this Grand Lodge.

**§4.16.4.2:** The Worshipful Master is the custodian of the work, and lawful head of the lodge, and must be obeyed by its members.<sup>5</sup> (1888)

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<sup>4</sup> A SUMMONS is a call of authority; a citation to appear and answer to the charges therein set forth. Or it is an imperative injunction to appear at a meeting of the lodge with which the Brother receiving it is affiliated, or to attend on the Grand Master, or any committee or other body authorized by the Grand Lodge to issue it. The obligation to obey it is special and obligatory on every Brother receiving it. Failure to obey lawful summons is a Masonic offense. (Approved definition 1897)

The lodge seal is not necessary to a copy of summons. The copy is supposed to be made by the officer who serves the process; one who, not having custody of the seal, could not attach it. (1867)

In case the residence of a Brother is not known the summons should be mailed to his last known place of residence and, whether returned or not, the service is good. (1886)

The Secretary cannot issue a summons except by direction of the Master. (1889)

A Mason who has been suspended is still bound to obey the lawful summons of his lodge. (1882)

<sup>5</sup> G.M. Ira S Slaven informed a “Worshipful Master that he does have the power to remove any officer for not performing the duties of their office.” At the 2008 Annual Communication the delegates approved this action.

**§4.16.4.3:** The Worshipful Master of every lodge is charged with supervision of the degree work in his lodge. He should not permit any degree work to be conferred in his lodge by members of his own lodge, or by members of any lodge, without satisfying himself as to the qualifications and Masonic standings of the Brethren involved. (1957, 1977)

**§4.16.4.4:** The Worshipful Master may refuse to sign an order voted by the lodge for the purpose of having the card of the lodge published in a weekly paper. He does not surrender any prerogative by first refusing to entertain the motion and afterwards consenting to take an expression of the number present upon the question. (1880)

**§4.16.4.5:** A Worshipful Master has the undoubted right to close debate and take a vote, notwithstanding certain parties are waiting for admission. (1898)

**§4.16.4.6:** It shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master:

- (a) To preside at all Communications of his lodge.
- (b) To confer all degrees in strict accordance with the Ritual ordained by the Grand Lodge; provided that, by Special Dispensation of the Grand Master, he may invite lodges of other recognized Grand Jurisdictions (through the Grand Secretary's Office) to visit and confer Degrees in his lodge according to the ritual of the Grand Jurisdiction of the visiting lodges. (Only on candidates of the visiting lodges.) (1977)
- (c) To give in full the lectures appertaining to each degree, at the time it is conferred, in accordance with the ritual. Optionally, a lodge may present the lectures, except for the secret work, on standard VHS videotape, or standard audio-cassette tape, which presentation has been reviewed and authorized by the Grand Lecturer, and made available to the lodges through the Grand Lodge Office. (1993)
- (d) To superintend the official acts of all the Officers of his lodge, and see that their respective duties are properly performed.

- (e) To carefully guard against any infractions, by members of his lodge, of its own bylaws, of the Constitution, Regulations and other Laws of this Grand Lodge, and of the general regulations of Masonry.
- (f) To appoint the following Committees:
  1. A Committee on the Masonic Home, consisting of the Junior Deacon and two other interested members of the lodge shall be appointed annually. It shall be the duty of said Committee to inform itself diligently as to all matters pertaining to said Home; to serve as a connecting link between the Home, the Home Board, and the lodge in matters relative to the welfare of the Home and its residents; and to assist in such other lodge and Home activities as the Grand Master may request. (1955)
  2. A Delinquent Dues Committee, consisting of three or more members, to whom shall be referred all cases of delinquent dues for investigation and written report to the lodge. (1966, 1994)

**§4.16.4.7:** The presiding officer of a lodge, whether Worshipful Master or Warden, shall not invite any visiting Brother to preside over his lodge or to confer degrees unless he is a present or Past Master of this or some other recognized Grand Jurisdiction. The Worshipful Master or Warden, present and presiding over his lodge, may invite the assistance of any competent Brother in conferring the degrees or in giving the lectures. In the absence of the Worshipful Master, the Warden, exercising the duties of the Worshipful Master, may call on a Past Master to assist in the work. The work, however, is that of the Warden acting as Worshipful Master and shall so appear on the records. (1896)

**§4.16.4.8:** The Worshipful Master may allow a Past Master to open, conduct and close a Regular or Special Communication of the lodge if the Worshipful Master remains present during the meeting. (1960, 1961)

**§4.16.4.9:** In all cases of a tie vote, except votes by ballot, the Worshipful Master, in addition to his proper vote, may have the casting vote.

**§4.16.4.10:** It is permissible for a person to present an award or gift in the name of an individual or Masonic affiliated body in a tiled lodge or public installation. In making such presentation, no reference may be made soliciting membership in any Masonic affiliated body. (1976)

**§4.16.4.11:** There shall be no appeal to the lodge from the decisions of the Worshipful Master and an appeal from a bylaw which provides for an appeal from the Worshipful Master to the lodge is invalid. Appeals from the Worshipful Master's decisions and complaints of his acts and conduct may be made to the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge.

**§4.16.4.12:** A motion to appeal from the Worshipful Master to the lodge is un-Masonic and out of order and should not be entertained. The decision of the Worshipful Master is only to be met by an appeal to the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge. (1860)

**§4.16.4.13:** A Worshipful Master is responsible for the abuse of his powers only to the Grand Lodge or, in the interim, to the Grand Master. (1860)

**§4.16.4.14:** A Worshipful Master cannot be disciplined for an error in judgment, but he may be disciplined if he over-rides the will of the lodge expressed by ballot. (1881)

**§4.16.4.15:** The Worshipful Master of a lodge shall be subject to removal from office, suspension or expulsion for any un-Masonic conduct, or for the neglect or violation of any duty imposed by the Constitution, Regulations or laws of the Grand Lodge.

**§4.16.4.16:** The lecture is part of the degree, and should always be given as such. If for good reason there is not time to confer the whole degree, the work should be postponed until it can be done. (1887)

**§4.16.4.17:** A lodge is not at liberty to use monitorial work not in the Michigan Masonic Monitor. (Latest Edition) (1899)

**§4.16.4.18:** When it shall come to the knowledge of the Grand Master that any constituent lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction is suffering from confusion, discord or any mismanagement, by reason of ineffectual or improper conduct on the part of the Worshipful Master or other Officers, the Grand Master shall have the power and it shall be his duty, if, in his judgment, the best interests of the lodge require it, to appoint some member of the lodge, other than elected Officers thereof, to take charge of the lodge and conduct the Communications and business thereof until the Annual Communication.

#### ***§4.16.5: Duties of the Wardens***

**§4.16.5.1:** It shall be the duty of the Wardens to assist the Worshipful Master in the performance of his duties and to discharge all others which ancient usage has assigned to their respective stations.

**§4.16.5.2:** In the absence of the Worshipful Master, the Senior Warden succeeds, for the time being, to all of the powers and duties of the Worshipful Master and he may confer degrees or do anything that the Worshipful Master could do if present. (1885)

**§4.16.5.3:** In the absence of the Worshipful Master and Senior Warden, the Junior Warden succeeds to the duties of the Worshipful Master. (1877)

- (a) The Junior Warden must preside.
- (b) The Junior Warden appoints the Senior and Junior Warden pro tem.
- (c) The records must show the Junior Warden in the East. He may call to his aid a Past Master or any other Brother to assist him, but he must with such assistance, open and close the lodge and conduct its affairs.

**§4.16.5.4:** In the absence of the Worshipful Master and both Wardens, the lodge cannot be opened, unless by Special Dispensation of the Grand Master.

**§4.16.5.5:** When the Worshipful Master has called a Special Communication and afterwards gives notice to the Senior Warden, Secretary, Tiler and others that no meeting would be held at that date, the Junior Warden may open the lodge and, with the assistance of a Past Master, confer the degrees without the order and consent of the Worshipful Master, he being within the jurisdiction of the lodge, unless the Junior Warden has received notice of the abandonment of the meeting. (1891)

**§4.16.5.6:** The Worshipful Master cannot depute or authorize anyone to open the lodge in his absence and to conduct his labors to the exclusion of a regular Warden present.

**§4.16.5.7:** A Warden cannot call a Special Communication of the lodge while his official superior is within the territorial jurisdiction thereof and able to authorize a call.

**§4.16.5.8:** When the Worshipful Master and Senior Warden have removed from the jurisdiction and are absent from the lodge, the Junior Warden can call a Special Communication and perform and discharge all the duties of the Worshipful Master. He may call upon members to assist him in the work and lectures. (1896)

**§4.16.5.9:** For a Fellowcraft Brother to be regularly made a Master Mason, the Worshipful Master or one of his Wardens must be present. (1979)

#### **§4.16.6: *Duties of the Treasurer***

**§4.16.6.1:** It shall be the duty of the Treasurer:

- (a) To receive and safely keep all money and property of every kind which shall be placed in his hands by the Secretary, or by the order of the lodge, and to give proper receipts therefore;

- (b) To disburse or transfer the same, or any part thereof, upon the order of the Worshipful Master, duly attested by the Secretary;
- (c) To keep a book, or books, which shall contain a correct statement of his receipts and disbursements on account of the lodge;
- (d) To make to the lodge, as its bylaws may require, annual or quarterly reports of its receipts, disbursements and financial condition; and
- (e) To perform such other duties, appertaining to his office, as the bylaws may require or the lodge, at any time may direct.

**§4.16.6.2:** A Treasurer cannot apply money in his hands to the payment of a debt to him, and a Treasurer's private account against the lodge must take the same course as any other account. (1860, 1876)

**§4.16.6.3:** The Secretary and Treasurer shall not attest or sign a warrant for payment of a bill incurred by the Worshipful Master until authorized by vote of the lodge. (1935)

#### ***§4.16.7: Duties of the Secretary***

**§4.16.7.1:** It shall be the duty of the Secretary, under the direction of the Worshipful Master:

- (a) To record all proceedings of the lodge proper to be written, including payment of dues and other current receipts, disbursements and financial reports. To submit these proceedings to the lodge at its Regular Communication for their approval or correction. Once approved or corrected to submit them to the Worshipful Master for his signature.
- (b) To prepare and transmit a copy of such record, or any part thereof, to the Grand Lodge when required.
- (c) To collect and receipt annual dues to the lodge, issuing annually to each member thereof, including all Life Members, such receipt certificate as may be authorized by the Grand Lodge and which shall bear the Seal of

the constituent lodge. The receipt certificate for a Life Member shall be clearly marked "LIFE MEMBER". (1978)

- (d) To collect and receipt for all moneys due the lodge and to pay the same promptly to the Treasurer taking his receipt therefore.
- (e) To make to the lodge, annually or otherwise, as its bylaws may direct, a report of its work, of the condition of its accounts with its officers and members, and of all other matters relating to its finances or business which may be under his charge.
- (f) To keep the Seal of the lodge and to affix the same, with his attestation, to all papers issued under its authority or in obedience to the requirements of the Constitution, Regulations and Laws of the Grand Lodge.
- (g) To transmit to the Grand Secretary, within three days after each election in the lodge, a certificate thereof, in the manner and form prescribed by the Grand Lodge.
- (h) To transmit to the Grand Secretary, the annual returns of the work and condition of the lodge, required by Grand Lodge Bylaws.
- (i) To report promptly to all contiguous lodges and to all lodges having concurrent jurisdictions, the name of each person rejected, expelled, suspended, removed from the rolls of membership for NPD or restored by the lodge, in the manner and form prescribed by the Grand Lodge. (1994)
- (j) To report promptly notification of suspensions, expulsions, removed from the rolls of membership for NPD or restorations by his lodge of any member, to any other lodge in which the Brother has a Dual or Plural Membership. Such notice shall be in addition to all other notices or reports.

Provided: That when the other lodge is in another Grand Jurisdiction, the notification shall be through

the Office of the Grand Secretary as provided in §4.37.1. (1964, 1994)

**§4.16.7.2:** Within five days after the rejection of a petitioner to receive the Entered Apprentice Degree in Masonry, the Secretary shall notify the Grand Secretary of the rejection. The Notification of Rejection shall be on the form provided for that purpose and shall be mailed by first class mail. (1965)

**§4.16.7.3:** The Secretary shall advise the Grand Secretary within five days following approval of a bylaw revising the fees for the degrees. (1965)

**§4.16.7.4:** The Secretary shall keep the following Books of the lodge in such forms as may be provided:

- (a) A roll of membership for the signatures of the members in the order of their admission.
- (b) A ledger, in which he shall record, on pages alphabetically indexed, the names of all members of the lodge; the dates of their initiation, passing, raising or affiliation; the name, number and location of the lodges of which those affiliated were last members; the ages and occupations of all members when received; the dates of withdrawal, expulsion, suspension, removal from the rolls of membership, restoration or death; and their individual accounts with the lodge. One of the objects of the Ledger is to record the Masonic history of each member. When Special Dispensation has been granted to confer a degree, the fact should be recorded by use of words, "Special Dispensation". (1890, 1994)
- (c) A Black Book, in which he shall record, upon pages alphabetically arranged, the names of all candidates rejected by his own lodge and, in like manner, the names of those rejected, expelled or suspended by other lodges, so far as he shall receive proper notice.
- (d) A Register, in which each visitor shall record his name and the name, number and location of his lodge.
- (e) A properly indexed Record Book in which shall be preserved all memorials of deceased Grand Officers

and Past Grand Officers, as well as those members of his own lodge to whose memory memorials may be adopted by his lodge.

**§4.16.7.5:** The Secretary shall preserve the Bylaws of the lodge and the Book of Constitutions, Regulations and Laws of the Grand Lodge which may, from time to time, be published together with all printed proceedings thereof as promulgated by its order.

**§4.16.7.6:** The presiding officer at the time the minutes are read, whether the Worshipful Master or the Warden acting as Worshipful Master, should sign all the minutes that are read and approved of the meetings preceding the one over which he is then presiding, which is his attestation to them. (1888)

**§4.16.7.7:** The certificate of the Worshipful Master or Secretary, in the absence of entry upon the approved records of the lodge, is not sufficient evidence of the transactions of a lodge. A lodge is bound by the records which it has duly approved, and no further. (1875)

**§4.16.7.8:** Under Grand Lodge Bylaws, the names, positions and alphabetical list of all members of constituent lodges should appear in their annual returns. (1880, 1899)

**§4.16.7.9:** A Secretary has no right to write under the Seal of the lodge, unless directed to do so by the Worshipful Master or the lodge. (1889)

**§4.16.7.10:** It is un-Masonic for any lodge or a member of a lodge, to publish or cause to be published, either in a lodge bulletin, postal card, paper, newspaper or other regular publication open to the public and not under cover and for general circulation, the names of those who are petitioners for initiation, those scheduled to receive a degree in Masonry, or those who have received their Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft Degree, or those expelled or suspended from the lodge; unless it is sent to its members enclosed in a sealed envelope by postage prepaid First Class Mail or such other class of mail as may comply with current Postal Regulations, with the return address of the lodge clearly indicated on the outside of the envelope. (1880, 1908, 1990, 1997)

Electronic mail does not qualify as a sealed envelope and it cannot be used for communications in the above paragraph nor anywhere else that Masonic Law requires a document to be sent in an envelope by First Class Mail. (G.M. edict 2004)

### **§4.16.8: Duties of other Officers**

§4.16.8.1: The Chaplain, Deacons, Stewards, Tiler and other Officers provided or permitted by §4.1.1 of these Regulations, shall perform such duties in accord with the usages of the Craft and appertaining to their respective offices as may be required by ancient custom, by the bylaws of the lodge, or as ordered by the Worshipful Master.

### **§4.17: Candidates**

#### **§4.17.1: General Regulations**

§4.17.1.1: The Grand Master has no power to grant a Special Dispensation to confer the degrees without compliance with the following regulations.

§4.17.1.2: A petitioner may petition any lodge within this Grand Jurisdiction in accordance with his desire. (1967, 1991, 2005)

#### **§4.17.2: Qualifications of Candidates**

§4.17.2.1: A lodge shall not initiate, pass or raise a candidate who lacks any qualifications required of him by ancient usage or the Master Mason's obligation. (1963)

§4.17.2.2: A lodge shall not confer any degree upon a candidate who will not profess a belief in God or the existence of a Supreme Being, which are fundamental principles of Masonry. (1963)

§4.17.2.3: A lodge has the exclusive right to determine whether a candidate has the necessary qualifications to be made a Mason in accordance with the customs and Landmarks of Ancient Freemasonry. (1963)

**§4.17.2.4:** A lodge shall not accept a Petition for the Degrees in Masonry from a candidate who is less than nineteen years of age at the time the petition is presented. (1961, 2000)

**§4.17.2.5:** A lodge shall not accept a Petition for the Degrees in Masonry from a candidate who has not been domiciled within the territorial jurisdiction of this Grand Jurisdiction for at least the twelve months immediately preceding the date of application, unless he is a member of the Armed Forces, in which case he shall have been domiciled within this Grand Jurisdiction for at least six months. (1991, 2005)

**§4.17.2.6:** A lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction shall not ballot on the election of a petitioner to receive the Entered Apprentice Degree in Masonry until the Grand Secretary shall advise in writing that the lodge may proceed with the petition.

**§4.17.2.7:** A candidate who declines to submit to the usual preparation and ceremonial observances, shall not be initiated. (1888)

### ***§4.17.3: Procedures related to Candidates***

**§4.17.3.1:** A candidate for initiation or advancement who has been rejected by a lodge may renew his application to the same lodge at any succeeding Regular Communication thereof. If the candidate has become a non-resident of the jurisdiction of the lodge which rejected him, his subsequent application to such lodge must be made within the period of five years after the latest rejection.

**§4.17.3.2:** A petition for membership may be received, after rejection, at any subsequent Regular Communication. But a new petition must be presented and referred. The lodge cannot revive an old petition whether for membership or initiation, or again act upon it. (1888)

**§4.17.3.3:** A candidate for advancement who has been rejected must file a written petition for advancement. It must be presented at a Regular Communication. If the petition for advancement is made within one year from the date of rejection and no demand for reference to an investigating committee is made, it may be acted upon at the same meeting. Otherwise

the petition must be referred to a committee for investigation and report at the next Regular Communication.

**§4.17.3.4:** If any person through his own fault or neglect fails to receive the first (Entered Apprentice) degree within one year from his election, the ballot shall be recorded on the minutes as void and all fees paid shall be forfeited to the lodge. He shall, however, continue to be material of the lodge for a period of five years from the date his petition was received. If he shall thereafter re-petition the lodge he shall not be required to pay any fee, but in all other respects his petition shall be treated as an original one.

**§4.17.3.5:** After the lapse of one year from the time of receiving a previous degree, a Brother must apply for advancement by written petition at a Regular Communication. The petition shall in all respects be treated as an original one, except that, in case of a serviceman who, through no fault of his own, has permitted more than one year lapse in his advancement, no petition is necessary. (1899)

**§4.17.3.6:** A lodge has the power to release, upon his request, one who has been elected to receive the Entered Apprentice Degree, and to refund the fees.

**§4.17.3.7:** No lodge, knowingly, shall initiate an applicant who has been rejected by another lodge in this or any other Grand Jurisdiction unless jurisdiction shall have been acquired and until the rejecting lodge shall have approved the waiver by secret ballot of at least two-thirds of the members present at a Regular Communication. The provisions of this section shall not apply after the expiration of five years following the applicant's last rejection. (2005)

**§4.17.3.8:** A lodge has no right to re-initiate one who has been initiated in another lodge. (1865)

**§4.17.3.9:** No lodge shall complete the work of another lodge without its recommendation and consent given by two thirds vote at a Regular Communication to be so certified by its proper officers under the Seal of the lodge, unless five years shall have elapsed since the conferring of the preceding degree and jurisdiction shall have been acquired.

**§4.17.3.10:** Where a lodge waives jurisdiction of an Entered Apprentice in favor of a lodge asking for the jurisdiction of such unfinished material, it loses full and complete jurisdiction of such material and the lodge receiving such material then becomes the exclusive owner of the unfinished material and can never be divested of it except by its own act legally expressed. (1891)

**§4.17.3.11:** A request to confer degrees for another lodge must be under Seal and, if from a lodge in another Jurisdiction, it must have attached the certificate of the Grand Secretary of that Jurisdiction attesting the regularity of the lodge. (1890)

## **§4.18: *Petitions***

**§4.18.1:** Petitions to a lodge shall be to the following effect:

- (a) Every petition for initiation, degrees or membership shall be made in accordance with forms prescribed by Grand Lodge.
- (b) No lodge shall receive a petition for initiation unless the applicant states in such petition whether he has ever applied for initiation to any other lodge and, if such application has been made, the date or dates, the name or names and location of the lodge or lodges to which such application was made and, if rejected, the date of his rejection.
- (c) In case the applicant is or ever has been a member of any clandestine lodge or association, the petition must be accompanied by a renunciation of such clandestine lodge or association in form prescribed by Grand Lodge.
- (d) If any statement in the petition is found to be false it shall be cause for charges and discipline.
- (e) The petition shall be signed by the petitioner with his name in full and be recommended by at least two members in good standing in the lodge to which the petition is presented. (1961)
- (f) The petition shall be presented at a Regular Communication of the lodge. It may not be received at

a Special Communication and it shall be accompanied by the fee required by its bylaws.

- (g) The petition shall be referred, at the same Communication, to a committee of three to be appointed by the Master, except that a petition for advancement need not be referred unless reference is requested by a member of the lodge or unless a year has elapsed since the previous degree, rejection or objection.
- (h) The petition shall then lie over for consideration until the next Regular Communication and until reported upon by the Committee, except that in those cases in which a Committee has not been appointed no Committee report shall be required.
- (i) If a petitioner for the degrees of Masonry moves to another Jurisdiction immediately after his petition has been received by the lodge and referred to a Committee by the Worshipful Master, then the petitioner is the property of the lodge which received the petition. (1958)

**§4.18.2:** As our ritual and work require a candidate to acknowledge and declare that he seeks admission of his own free will and accord, it is un-Masonic conduct and an offense against the teachings and ritual of our institution to urge or solicit a person not a Mason to become such. (1896)

However, it is lawful to furnish to non-Masons information about Freemasonry including the procedures to be followed to become a Mason, to offer assistance in the event the non-Mason should desire to become a member of the fraternity and to remind the non-Mason of the offer of assistance once. (1997)

**§4.18.3:** The petition becomes, when received and referred, the property of the lodge. A motion for leave to withdraw a petition is proper at any time before the committee reports thereon, but the motion must be sustained by the unanimous vote of those present. (1893)

**§4.18.4:** If the petition is in the hands of the investigation committee and its withdrawal is desired, a motion to instruct the committee to return the petition without report should first

be made, which motion prevails if a majority of those present vote in favor thereof. This motion should be followed by a motion for leave to withdraw the petition, which requires unanimous consent. (1874)

**§4.18.5:** A Worshipful Master of a lodge may refuse to receive a petition which has been repeatedly rejected in a case where rejections have been recent and the re-petitions create dissension in the lodge. (1895)

**§4.18.6:** A petition for initiation cannot be received by the lodge until the expiration of twelve months residence preceding the petition. The petition is received and becomes property of the lodge at the first Regular Communication at which it comes to the hands of the Secretary. The expiration of the limit is when the petition is received, and not from the date of the application. (1896)

### ***§4.19: Investigating Committee***

**§4.19.1:** The investigating committee shall consist of members in good standing of the lodge to which the petition is presented. (1971)

**§4.19.2:** The committee (if Petition in its charge be for initiation or degrees) shall make strict inquiry and personal examination into the mental, moral and physical qualifications of the petitioner; but in case the petition be for membership, the committee will investigate the moral and Masonic standing of the candidate.

**§4.19.3:** The investigating committee shall, among other things, ascertain whether the candidate believes in the existence of a Supreme Being and report accordingly. (1881)

**§4.19.4:** The investigating committee must report upon an application referred to it, unless the lodge by majority vote directs otherwise. (1978)

**§4.19.5:** The report of the committee shall be in accordance with the form prescribed by this Grand Lodge, and shall be signed by not less than a majority thereof. It shall be made at a Regular Communication of the lodge, but not until the next

Regular Communication following the presentation and reference of the petition. The lodge, by a majority vote of those present, may allow the committee further time. (1960)

**§4.19.6:** The granting of further time to a committee upon a petition implies that the time is extended until the next Regular Communication and where a member of a committee requests further time and it is granted and the member so requesting further time leaves the lodge room, it is error to take up and act upon the petition at that meeting.

**§4.19.7:** The report of the committee, when made, shall be read to the lodge and placed on file.

## **§4.20: The Ballot**

### **§4.20.1: Who may Ballot**

**§4.20.1.1:** The right to ballot belongs only to members in good standing of the lodge. An Honorary Member shall not be permitted to vote. (1964)

**§4.20.1.2:** A Brother when raised or admitted to membership, upon signing the roll of membership, is immediately entitled to vote on all matters arising before the lodge. (1964)

**§4.20.1.3:** The Tiler, if a member of the lodge, may be admitted to the lodge to vote upon all ballots subject to the restrictions stated in §8.5.1.1. (1964)

**§4.20.1.4:** A Master Mason in arrears for dues or under charges for un-Masonic conduct, may vote on all matters not involved in the charges against him. (1964)

### **§4.20.2: Balloting Process**

**§4.20.2.1:** Every member of the lodge present at the time of the ballot shall vote, unless excused by unanimous vote of the lodge. (1964)

**§4.20.2.2:** The ballot shall not commence until there are sufficient white balls and black cubes in the ballot box to provide each member present with one of each. The white balls

and black cubes shall be substantially the same material. (1964)

**§4.20.2.3:** The manner of passing the ballot box shall be at the discretion of the Worshipful Master: it may be presented in turn to each member present by the Senior Deacon or it may be placed upon the Altar. (1964)

**§4.20.2.4:** A secret ballot shall be had for initiation, advancement, membership, charges or for restoration after suspension or expulsion, and shall be cast only in an opened lodge. (1964, 2005)

**§4.20.2.5:** A secret ballot shall be cast on the continued worthiness of a candidate prior to his advancement to any degree. Such balloting must be in a lodge open on the degree to which the candidate would be advanced or a higher degree.<sup>6</sup> In the case of a candidate involved in an All Masonic Degree Day, there shall be no balloting on his continued worthiness. (1965, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2005, G.M. decision 2006)

**§4.20.2.6:** A secret ballot shall be cast on every petition for affiliation by transfer or demit, unless a previous objection shall have been presented to the Worshipful Master. Such objection prior to the ballot is valid, but has no effect after the ballot has been cast. (1965)

**§4.20.2.7:** A lodge shall not ballot upon a petition unless it has laid over until the next Regular Communication following its presentation and until it shall have been referred to and reported upon by a committee.

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<sup>6</sup> NOTE: Decision #2 by G.M. Richard P. Ruhland - See G.L. Proc. 2006

"Balloting must be in a lodge open on the degree to which the candidate would be advanced or a higher degree." This means that after you hear the proficiency you **MUST change** degrees to the degree to which the candidate is moving as follows: excuse the candidate from the lodge, change to the higher degree, vote and then change back down and let the candidate re-enter the lodge. If you have an EA proficiency, you change to the FC° or MM°. If you have a FC proficiency, you change to the MM° and vote. After the vote, you change back down to the degree from which you came. (G.M. Decision 2006)

**§4.20.2.8:** A lodge shall not ballot upon a petition at a Special Communication.

**§4.20.2.9:** The ballot for initiation or membership may be taken on each applicant or candidate separately or collectively. A petition for charges or for restoration shall be taken on each applicant or candidate separately. (1964, 2007)

**§4.20.2.10:** At the discretion of the Worshipful Master, a collective ballot for initiation, membership or advancement to the next degree may be taken upon all candidates for the same category. In case a collective ballot be found not clear, the Worshipful Master shall declare the ballot void and immediately proceed to a separate ballot upon each candidate. (1964, 2007)

**§4.20.2.11:** A secret ballot which has been ordered or is in progress, shall not be interrupted, suspended, postponed or reconsidered, nor can a member be permitted to change his ballot after it has been deposited in the ballot box. (1964)

### **§4.20.3: Rejections**

**§4.20.3.1:** The ballot is final and the petitioner is rejected if two or more black cubes have been cast. If only one black cube appears, the Worshipful Master (before declaring the result) may order a second and final ballot to be taken immediately to rectify a possible mistake. The petitioner is rejected unless the second ballot is unanimously in his favor. The Worshipful Master shall declare the result of a final ballot immediately. (1964)

**§4.20.3.2:** A Mason shall not inquire as to who has cast a white ball or a black cube, nor shall he reveal the color of his ballot to any person, nor question or be questioned thereon. A Mason who casts a black cube without just cause, for un-Masonic motives or reveals the color of his ballot, violates his obligation and he may be tried for it. If found guilty, he shall be punished for such un-Masonic conduct. (1964)

**§4.20.3.3:** The Worshipful Master shall have §4.20.3.2 read aloud in open lodge whenever a rejection occurs. (1964)

**§4.20.3.4:** The Secretary shall officially notify any rejected petitioner of the rejection and, upon order of the lodge or the Worshipful Master, shall return any unearned fee or fees. (1964)

**§4.20.3.5:** The notice to a rejected petitioner for the degrees shall specify the date of rejection and shall further inform him that he may renew his petition to the same lodge at any succeeding Regular Communication thereof within five years, but that he cannot be accepted by any other lodge without the consent of the rejecting lodge until five years shall have elapsed from the date of the last rejection. (1964)

**§4.20.3.6:** A rejected petitioner is not allowed to know the reason for an objection or who made it, nor is he entitled to an investigation or trial; he is entitled only to notice that he has been rejected. (1964)

#### **§4.20.4: *Objections***

**§4.20.4.1:** The right of a Master Mason to object to a person becoming a member of a lodge belongs only to members in good standing of the lodge to which the petition is presented. (1964)

**§4.20.4.2:** An objection made prior to the ballot for election to receive the Entered Apprentice Degree is not valid. (1964)

**§4.20.4.3:** A member has the right to object to a Brother's advancement. (1964)

**§4.20.4.4:** An objection to initiation or advancement after election to receive a degree is valid at any time prior to the candidate entering the preparation room. (1964)

**§4.20.4.5:** A Brother shall not be requested or required to state his reason or motive which prompted an objection or be questioned thereon. (1964)

**§4.20.4.6:** An objection, properly made to the Worshipful Master, shall have the same force and effect as a black cube cast in the ballot box. (1964)

**§4.20.4.7:** The Worshipful Master shall not disclose the name of a Brother who presents an objection. (1964)

**§4.20.4.8:** An objection is valid even when made in an improper place or in an improper manner. The Worshipful Master shall accept the objection, but shall cause charges for un-Masonic conduct to be preferred against the objector for the manner in which the objection was presented. (1964)

**§4.20.4.9:** A Worshipful Master who is convinced that an elected candidate is unworthy shall refuse to confer the degree, declare the applicant rejected and order the fee returned. The refusal shall have the same effect as any other objection. (1964)

#### **§4.20.5: *Ballot on Advancement***

**§4.20.5.1:** A lodge shall advance a candidate only after an examination in open lodge as to his proficiency and a ballot on his continued worthiness, except in the case of a candidate receiving one or more of his degrees in an All Masonic Degree Day. The examination shall be held while the lodge is open on the degree in which the Brother is being examined. The examination and ballot may be held at any Communication called for work except as hereinafter provided in §4.20.5.3. (1960, 1998, 1999, 2001)

**§4.20.5.2:** A Brother who has received the mandatory Educational Lectures and Masonic History of the Michigan Membership Program and who knows the signs, grips and words of the degree he is being examined upon, shall be declared proficient and eligible for advancement. (1905, 1952, 1964, 1992)

**§4.20.5.3:** A written petition for advancement is required in case of a previous rejection for, or objection to, advancement to the degree, or when a year has elapsed since the conferring of the previous degree. The petition for advancement shall be presented at a Regular Communication, but need not be referred to an investigating committee unless reference is requested by a member of the lodge or unless a year has elapsed since the previous degree, rejection or objection; except that a Serviceman who has failed to advance for a year or more through no fault of his own need not submit a written petition to the lodge. (1960, 1967)

## **§4.21: Fees**

### **§4.21.1: Payment of Fees**

**§4.21.1.1:** Fees are the sums paid by the candidate to the lodge for the conferral of the Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason Degree. (1975)

**§4.21.1.2:** The fee necessary to accompany the petition of an applicant becomes the property of the lodge at the time the petition is officially received by the Secretary and it is the duty of the Secretary to pay the fee over to the Treasurer the same as other funds of the lodge. (1975)

**§4.21.1.3:** All fees and/or dues collected in connection with the conferring of requested courtesy degrees, shall be collected by the requesting (Home) lodge. (1944)

**§4.21.1.4:** A lodge shall not confer the Fellowcraft or Master Mason Degree upon a candidate until the proper fee has been received by the Secretary. (1975)

**§4.21.1.5:** A lodge cannot by vote or bylaw amendment, remit, refund nor present the applicant, candidate or any Brother with any part of the fees. (1975)

**§4.21.1.6:** When an applicant's petition is rejected, or when an applicant has been elected to receive the Entered Apprentice Degree and the lodge declines to initiate, or when an objection is made to the applicant's reception, the Worshipful Master shall order the Secretary to draw a warrant for the entire amount of the fee accompanying the petition and to return the fee to the applicant without delay. (1975)

### **§4.21.2: Amount of Fees**

**§4.21.2.1:** The amount of the fee for each degree shall be designated by the bylaws of the lodge. (1975)

**§4.21.2.2:** The combined total amount of the fees for the Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason Degree shall be not less than twenty-one Dollars. (1873, 1975)

**§4.21.2.3:** Any lodge conferring degrees without the usual delay, by Special Dispensation from the Grand Master, shall charge each of its candidates Ten Dollars (\$10.00) in addition to the regular fee. The additional Ten Dollars (\$10.00) so collected shall be remitted to the Grand Secretary and credited to the Masonic Home Endowment Fund. (1967, 1975)

**§4.21.2.4:** A lodge cannot, without the express authority of the Grand Lodge, waive the additional fee required of candidates receiving their degrees without the usual delay. Nor can the Grand Master grant a Special Dispensation authorizing a lodge to waive such fees. (1975)

**§4.21.2.5:** When the work is done upon the material of another lodge, the fees to be paid therefore are those prescribed by the requesting lodge. (1975)

**§4.21.2.6:** No lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction shall charge a fee for affiliation or transfer of membership. (1975)

### **§4.21.3: *Right to Fees***

**§4.21.3.1:** If a lodge should receive the total fees for the three degrees at the same time it receives the petition for initiation, the lodge may retain only such portion of said fees as it shall have earned by virtue of degree conferral or forfeiture. Upon the expiration of the lodge's exclusive personal jurisdiction or waiver thereof by the lodge, if either the Fellowcraft or Master Mason Degree has not been conferred then such unearned portion of the fees shall be returned to the candidate, if possible. Any excess fees required remain the property of the Grand Lodge and are not returnable, except in the case of a rejection of an original application. (1975)

**§4.21.3.2:** When degrees are conferred by request, the fees, as a matter of legal right, belong to the requesting lodge, but the lodge doing the work should participate in the fees and the wisest course is to have an understanding before the work is done. (1975)

**§4.21.3.3:** A lodge, working the rejected material of another lodge, must pay to the lodge owning the material all fees received for the work done. (1975)

**§4.21.3.3:** A lodge whose jurisdiction has been invaded may, in its discretion, waive the payment of the fees. (1889, 1975)

**§4.21.3.4:** If a lodge working and acting in good faith confers any degrees upon rejected material without knowledge of such rejection, the only demand that can be made upon such lodge is for the fees it received. (1881, 1975)

## **§4.22: Dues**

### **§4.22.1: Liability for Dues**

**§4.22.1.1:** The bylaws of each lodge shall fix the sum to be paid annually by each member thereof as dues to the lodge. (1975)

**§4.22.1.2:** The total dues shall consist of the dues to the lodge plus the Grand Lodge assessments per §5.6. (1994)

**§4.22.1.3:** All members of an individual lodge who are liable for dues, except those who have purchased a Prepaid Membership, shall pay the same amount of dues for the following year without exception or preferential consideration. (1975, 1985)

**§4.22.1.4:** All dues are due and payable on or before January 1st of each calendar year. After January 1st, the member is delinquent if the dues are unpaid. (1994)

**§4.22.1.5:** Delinquent dues lists, the collection of dues and information or procedures pertaining thereto shall be kept within the lodge. (See §4.22.3 for procedures regarding Non Payment of Dues.) (1975, 1996)

**§4.22.1.6:** An Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft is not liable for the payment of dues. A Master Mason is liable for the payment of dues from the date upon which he receives his Master Mason Degree. (1884, 1975)

**§4.22.1.7:** The Secretary of a lodge is not liable for the payment of dues. (1980)

**§4.22.1.8:** A Worshipful Master cannot levy an assessment on the lodge, nor can a lodge levy an assessment upon its members, except dues as provided for in the bylaws of the lodge. (1887, 1975)

## **§4.22.2: Remission of Dues**

**§4.22.2.1:** A lodge, by vote at a Regular Communication, may remit the dues owed by a Brother if the Brother is unable to pay them without distressing himself or family. (1975)

**§4.22.2.2:** When a lodge by vote remits a Brother's dues, the action is for the current year only, is final and cannot be reconsidered for the current year. (1988, 1975) (G.M. edict 2004)

**§4.22.2.3:** No lodge has the authority to remit the dues of any Brother, even though drafted and inducted into the military service of the Country, except upon individual cases and then only if the lodge finds that the Brother is unable to pay his dues. A blanket resolution remitting dues generally to persons inducted into military service is directly contrary to Masonic Law. (1941, 1975)

**§4.22.2.4:** A lodge may remit the dues of a Brother removed from the rolls for non payment of dues, then restore the Brother and grant him a Demit if he is otherwise qualified. (1887, 1975, 1996)

## **§4.22.3: Non-Payment of Dues (NPD)<sup>7</sup>**

**§4.22.3.1:** A member who is delinquent in his dues to the lodge shall be dropped from the rolls of membership during

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<sup>7</sup> NOTE: Decision #1 by G.M. Richard P. Ruhland - See G.L. Proc. 2006

My Brothers, I certainly understand it is the responsibility of our members to keep the lodge informed of his whereabouts as well as his situation. However, we cannot simply throw our members away without a diligent effort on our part to find them. We, too, have a responsibility to them. Therefore, if you, the leadership of the lodge, and/or your Delinquent Dues Committee have not completed the items outlined in §4.22.3.1, you have NOT fulfilled the requirements and intent of the law.

If you do not follow these steps, you may NOT remove a Brother from the rolls for non-payment of dues. You must carry any of these Brothers and any you previously removed from your rolls for an additional year.

Also, if the Brother comes in and pays his dues prior to September 30th, he is not to be removed from the rolls. (G.M. Decision 2006)

September provided the following has occurred: (1994, 2001, 2005)

- (a) Prior to the June Regular Communication the delinquent Brother shall have been sent the regular notice of dues and at least one notice of his delinquency.
- (b) At the June Regular Communication the Lodge Secretary shall move that "The following are currently delinquent in their dues and shall be acted upon for Non-Payment of Dues at the September Regular Communication." He shall then read the list of delinquent Brothers.
- (c) After the June Regular Communication, but not later than 45 days prior to the September Regular Communication, a final notice shall be delivered by First Class Mail addressed to each delinquent member at his last known address with the notation under the return address on the envelope "Address Service Requested". This notice shall inform the delinquent member of the proposed action and that, in the event of his being removed from the rolls of membership for NPD, he can be reinstated only in the manner provided by the Blue Book of Michigan Masonic Law. (see §4.22.4) (2006, 2008)
- (d) The Delinquent Dues Committee shall have received the list of delinquent members no later than the June Regular Communication and shall make every effort to contact each delinquent member about payment of his dues.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> NOTE: Decision #1 by G.M. Richard P. Ruhland - See G.L. Proc. 2006

Every effort must be taken to find and/or notify your Brothers. Every effort means:

- a. Calling him
- b. Writing him
- c. Personal contact (actually knocking on his door)
- d. Checking the names on his petition and have the two signers contact him
- e. Verify with the Grand Lodge Office his address of record

- (e) The Delinquent Dues Committee shall submit a written report to the lodge with the Committee's recommendation relative to each Brother's delinquency. The report shall be read in open lodge at the September Regular Communication.
- (f) At the September Regular Communication each delinquent Brother shall be considered individually. After hearing from the Secretary on the status of the letter sent and hearing the Delinquent Dues Committee's report, a vote shall be taken to remove him from the rolls of membership. If a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the lodge exists the delinquent member shall be removed from the rolls of membership effective September 30th. A collective vote may be taken for all those who are on the list for non-payment of dues. In the event the vote is not supported by a two-thirds affirmative vote, then the Worshipful Master shall disregard the collective vote and proceed to conduct the vote individually. (2007, Pub Com 2008)

If a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote to remove him from the roll of membership is not reached, then the lodge shall carry that Brother on the lodge's roll of membership for the current year and the lodge shall be responsible for all Grand Lodge per capita and assessments apportioned in that Brother's name. (2002)

**§4.22.3.2:** The lodge Secretary shall record in the minutes of the meeting and notify the Grand Secretary of the members so removed from the rolls of membership. (2001)

**§4.22.3.3:** It is not necessary that charges be preferred to strike, drop or remove a member from the rolls of membership for Non-Payment of Dues. The action is administrative and not Judicial. (1994)

**§4.22.3.4:** When a lodge by vote removes a Brother from the rolls, the action is final for the current dues year only and cannot be reconsidered. At any time he may Petition for Restoration and, if he is restored and NPD in another year, he

again may be voted upon to be removed from the rolls for non-payment of dues. (2001, 2004, 2005)

#### **§4.22.4: Restoration after Removal for NPD**

**§4.22.4.1:** A Brother improperly removed from the rolls of membership for Non-Payment of Dues may be restored without petition from him. It may be done on motion, which should be made in writing at a Regular Communication and lie over one month, at which time it may be passed by a two-thirds ballot. (1882, 1975, 1994)

**§4.22.4.2:** A lodge has jurisdiction over all of its members removed from the rolls for NPD, wherever residing, and the petition for restoration must be made to that lodge (if existing). (1899, 1996)

**§4.22.4.3:** A lodge has an undoubted right to refuse to reinstate a member legally removed from the rolls of membership for Non-Payment of Dues. It cannot be compelled to reinstate the member upon payment of dues. (1881, 1892, 1975, 1994)

**§4.22.4.4:** It is the right of the lodge to require of a member removed from the rolls of membership for Non-Payment of Dues, as a condition of restoration, the payment of a sum equal to the amount of dues owed at the time of his removal from the rolls of membership; or it may waive payment of any or all dues, in its discretion. (1973, 1994)

**§4.22.4.5:** A Brother removed from the rolls of membership for Non-Payment of Dues and desiring restoration must petition therefore, pay his dues, and the petition must lie over for one month. A ballot must be had, and his petition must receive a two-thirds favorable vote. The lodge is not compelled to ballot on the petition without investigation. (1894, 1975, 1994)

**§4.22.4.6:** Upon refusal of a lodge to restore a Brother removed from the rolls of membership for Non-Payment of Dues, it must return any moneys paid in toward restoration. (1897, 1994)

**§4.22.4.7:** All lodge records are permanent, and must not be expunged, altered or erased in any manner, except to rectify a clearly established error. Consequently, an individual's record

of suspension cannot be expunged after payment of all dues and restoration. (1949, 1975)

### **§4.23: *Conferring Degrees*<sup>9</sup>**

**§4.23.1:** The Degrees of Masonry shall be conferred in no other place than in a lodge room as defined in §4.5. Under Special Dispensation of the Grand Master, if the occasion is in the best interest of Masonry, conforms to all the ancient established usages and customs of the fraternity and, in his judgment, the location can be properly tiled, the Masonic Degrees may be conferred in the outdoors or in a suitable location to host the All Masonic Degree Day. (1977, 2000, 2001)

**§4.23.2:** Except by special Dispensation from the Grand Master, a lodge shall not confer more than one degree upon a candidate on the same day, unless the degrees are being conferred in accordance with an All Masonic Degree Day. (2001, 2004)

**§4.23.3:** The first section of the Entered Apprentice Degree or the second section of the Master Mason Degree, shall not be conferred upon more than one candidate at the same time, unless the degrees are being conferred in accordance with an All Masonic Degree Day. (1963, 2001)

**§4.23.4:** The Worshipful Master of the lodge may permit the use of a canvas or other safe means of conveyance as approved by the Grand Lecturer, in the work of the second section of the

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<sup>9</sup> NOTE: Decision by G.M. Paul N. Cross - See G.L. Proc. 2002

Some confusion arose over whether a lodge could legally confer any of the degrees at a Regular Communication. In conducting a thorough search of Michigan Masonic Law, I could find no prohibition on the type of business that can be conducted at a Regular Communication. Masonic Law does specify that Special Communications may be called only for certain specified items such as a degree, but there is no corresponding ban on the conferral of degrees at a Regular Communication.

It is therefore my decision that it is permissible to confer the degrees of Freemasonry at a Regular Communication, as long as Degree Conferral is the last item of business, the lodge is closed by midnight and that the requirements of §4.15 are adhered to. (G.M. Decision 2002)

Master Mason Degree if he is satisfied that it will only be used as a means of conveyance and will contribute to the safety and protection of the Brothers conferring the degree as well as the Brother upon whom it is being conferred. (1963, 1995)

**§4.23.5:** A Worshipful Master is not required to confer the degree upon a candidate within any particular period of time. (1963)

**§4.23.6:** A Grand Master has no power to make a Mason "at sight." (1963)

**§4.23.7:** A Master Mason Degree Second Section "Optional Short Form" is hereby adopted and shall be printed in the Authorized Ritual. Each Brother shall, during the course of the meeting in which he is raised, see or experience the Master Mason Degree in its entirety.<sup>10</sup> (1949, 2000, G.M. decision 2006)

**§4.23.8:** The Grand Lodge may host an All Masonic Degree Day for the purpose of conferring the degrees of Masonry in one day on candidates who have properly petitioned a lodge within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Michigan. The petitioned lodge must follow all proper procedures as to investigating, balloting and reporting of the candidate. The petitioned lodge shall retain all fees pertaining to the degrees in Masonry; however, the Grand Lodge may impose an additional fee to cover expenses associated with hosting the All Masonic Degree Day.

Following the All Masonic Degree Day, the lodge shall have the newly raised Brother(s) sign the roll of membership within

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<sup>10</sup> NOTE: Decision #3 by G.M. Richard P. Ruhland - See G.L. Proc. 2006

The Master Mason Degree must be witnessed or experienced in its entirety at the very same meeting in which the degree is performed. You cannot hold over, relocate, put off or otherwise delay this part of the degree.

If the lodge cannot, for one reason or another, perform this degree in its entirety, you cannot conduct the degree at all. Contact the Grand Lodge Office for assistance. There are capable degree teams located around the State that are willing and able to assist you. These include the Scottish Rite Degree Teams and the Past Masters units from the Shrines. (G.M. Decision 2006)

a 90 day period. The lodge will present the Michigan Membership Program of historical lectures and see that the newly raised Brother(s) demonstrate their proficiency. When the newly raised Brother(s) have signed the roll of membership and received the Michigan Membership Program historical lectures, he/they will then be presented with a dues card. (2001)

#### ***§4.24: Requested Work and Courtesy Degrees***

**§4.24.1:** In case a lodge within this Jurisdiction shall request another lodge to confer the degrees upon its material, the candidate is to be instructed and examined in the preceding degree lesson by the requested lodge prior to each advancement. Proficiency in the lesson is left to the judgment of the Worshipful Master of the requested lodge so that the candidate may advance as soon as he qualifies and at the convenience of the requested lodge. (2005)

**§4.24.2:** In case any lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction shall be requested by a lodge in another Grand Jurisdiction to confer the degrees upon a candidate who is the material of the requesting lodge, the requested Michigan lodge shall proceed as specified above, unless otherwise instructed by the requesting lodge. (1973)

**§4.24.3:** A request to complete the work must be under the Seal of the lodge making the request. If coming from another Grand Jurisdiction, it must have attached a certificate from the Grand Secretary of that Grand Jurisdiction, under Seal, setting forth that the lodge making the request is a regularly chartered lodge. (1890)

**§4.24.4:** A regularly constituted lodge cannot finish the unfinished work of a lodge under Dispensation because the lodge U.D. cannot comply with the regulation requiring a request of that kind to be under the seal of the lodge. (1896)

**§4.24.5:** One who has received the degrees of Entered Apprentice and/or Fellowcraft in a lodge in another Grand Jurisdiction, which lodge has become defunct, desiring to apply to a Michigan lodge and have the work completed, shall obtain

from the Grand Secretary of such Grand Jurisdiction, a certificate stating that he was an Entered Apprentice or a Fellowcraft of such defunct lodge and his petition for advancement shall be accompanied by such certificate. (1898)

## **§4.25: Membership in a Lodge**

### **§4.25.1: Entered Apprentice**

**§4.25.1.1:** A man by initiation becomes a Mason and is subject to the laws of Masonry, but he does not thereby become a member of a lodge.

### **§4.25.2: Master Mason**

**§4.25.2.1:** When a Brother is raised a Master Mason, he thereby becomes a member of the lodge electing him to the degree. Provided, that when a lodge confers the Master Mason Degree upon a candidate at the request of another lodge, his membership shall be in the lodge requesting the work.

**§4.25.2.2:** Signing the roll of membership is necessary to perfect membership except for an Honorary Membership. (1977)

**§4.25.2.3:** A member of a lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction shall promptly advise the Secretary of his lodge of any change in his mailing address. (1964)

**§4.25.2.4:** A Brother who has been raised or admitted to membership and has signed the roll of membership may be a member of any committee. (1977)

**§4.25.2.5:** When a Charter is issued to certain members of a lodge which has previously surrendered its Charter, the members of the old lodge not included in the new Charter are not members of the new lodge, but are entitled to certificates from the Grand Secretary showing their membership in the old lodge, which certificates should accompany their petitions to the new, or any other lodge for affiliation. (1881)

### **§4.25.3: *Withdrawal and Restoration***

**§4.25.3.1:** Any member of the lodge against whom charges are not pending and whose indebtedness to the lodge is paid, may withdraw from membership by presenting a written application thereof at a Regular Communication stating his reasons for withdrawal. The lodge shall at the next Regular Communication, unless the request has been withdrawn, grant the request of the Brother by ordering his name stricken from the rolls. His membership shall thereby be terminated and he shall not thereafter be a member of the fraternity, unless restored. A Brother thus dropped from the rolls of a lodge shall be entitled to a certificate setting forth the fact and the reason for his being dropped. The certificate shall be issued by the Secretary of the lodge, under its Seal. Such person may, at his request, be restored to membership in the same lodge which granted him the withdrawal certificate, at any Regular Communication, by a two-thirds vote on a secret ballot.

### **§4.25.4: *Transfer of Membership***

**§4.25.4.1:** A member of a lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction may present his petition for membership to another lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction and such lodge may receive the petition if, at the time the petition for membership is presented, proof is furnished that his dues are paid in the lodge in which he holds membership for at least the current and succeeding quarters. (1966, 2002)

**§4.25.4.2:** Such petition shall lie over until the next Regular Communication at which time a ballot shall be taken in the usual manner. (1960, 2005)

- (a) If, upon ballot, such petition is rejected it lapses and may not be voted on again at any subsequent Regular Communication. The petitioning Brother's membership remains in his former lodge. He may, however, file a new petition which shall, in all respects, be treated as such. (1977)
- (b) If, upon unanimous vote in its favor, such petition shall be accepted, the Brother shall present to the lodge of which he is a member a written request that a Transfer

Certificate be granted him for the purpose of consummating a change in membership, accompanied by a Certificate of Election to Membership in the lodge to which he has petitioned for membership. (See Handbook for Lodge Secretaries.) (2001)

**§4.25.4.3:** Such request shall be presented to the transferring lodge at the next Regular Communication and, if the Brother is not an elected Officer or indebted to the lodge or under charges, the Worshipful Master and Secretary shall immediately issue a Transfer Certificate; except that such Transfer Certificate shall not be issued during the month of December. The Certificate shall not be delivered to the Brother, but shall be transmitted by the Secretary to the lodge from which the Certificate of Election to Membership was received. (1973)

**§4.25.4.4:** Upon receipt of the Transfer Certificate, the Secretary of the receiving lodge shall request the transferring Brother to appear at a meeting of the lodge to sign the roll of membership. The Brother shall sign the roll of membership within three months of the date of issuance of the Transfer Certificate. The transfer of membership shall be deemed completed as of the date the Brother signs the roll of membership. Failure to sign the roll of membership within the three months means that the request to transfer is void and the Brother is still a member of the original lodge. Dues in the receiving lodge shall begin with the quarter following the quarter in which the roll of membership is signed. Dues paid in advance to the transferring lodge beyond the quarter in which the roll of membership is signed shall be refunded to the Brother upon his surrender of the dues receipt. All sums per capita collected from a Brother as specified in §5.6.4, §5.6.6 and any Special Assessment ordered by Grand Lodge pursuant to §5.6.4 for the year in which he transfers his membership to another Michigan lodge shall be remitted to the Secretary of the receiving lodge once the roll of membership has been signed. (1977, 2006)

**§4.25.4.5:** No member of a lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction shall be permitted to transfer from a lodge of which he is a member except in the manner prescribed in §4.25.4.1 through §4.25.4.4, but a Plural Member may discontinue his

membership in any lodge in which he holds membership and retain his membership(s) in the remaining lodge(s) as per §4.25.5.1. (1976, 1985)

**§4.25.4.6:** Any number of Brothers desiring to form a new lodge may apply in writing to the lodge or lodges of which they are members for Certificates of Permission in order that they may form such new lodge and the lodge or lodges to which they belong may grant such certificates. When such certificates are granted, they shall be sent by the Secretaries of the lodges granting them to the Grand Secretary and shall be by him attached to the petition for the Dispensation to form the new lodge. Such certificates shall not become operative, nor the membership of the Brother or Brethren in the lodge or lodges issuing the same be terminated, until such Brother or Brethren shall have become members of such new lodge. If the Brother desires to retain his original membership he shall so notify the Secretary of his lodge in writing when applying for the certificate and, in such case, he shall retain his membership in his original lodge and become a Plural Member of the new lodge. (1969, 1977)

#### **§4.25.5: *Plural Membership***

**§4.25.5.1:** A Master Mason in good standing in a lodge either within or without this Grand Jurisdiction may retain and continue his membership in such lodge and also become a member of one or more chartered lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction if, at the time the petition for Plural Membership is presented, the Brother shall have been domiciled within the territorial jurisdiction of this Grand Jurisdiction for at least the preceding six months. He shall be entitled to all the rights and be subject to all the obligations of a member of each lodge to which he belongs, except that he shall not hold office except as otherwise allowed in §4.16.1.10. (1966, 1985, 1992, 1996, 2006)

**§4.25.5.2:** The petition for Plural Membership in a constituted lodge shall lie over until the next Regular Communication at which time a ballot shall be taken in the usual way. Election to Plural Membership shall be only by unanimous vote. Notice of such election shall be given to all other lodges of which the Brother is a member. (1977, 1985, 2005)

**§4.25.5.3:** Plural Membership shall commence upon signing the roll of membership of the accepting lodge. (1965, 1985)

- (a) The Brother shall not be permitted to complete the Plural Membership by signing the roll until a month shall have elapsed after the notice of election is mailed to all of the other lodges. (1965, 1985)
- (b) The Brother shall not sign the roll if, within a month, one of the other lodges to which he belongs notifies the accepting lodge that:
  - 1. The Brother is indebted to the lodge, and/or
  - 2. The Brother is under charges, and/or
  - 3. Another Brother has expressed his intention to bring charges within one month. (1965, 1985)
- (c) Failure to sign the roll of membership within three months after his election or, if another lodge shall have given notice of debts or charges against him, within three months after he shall have paid such debts, been cleared of such charges, if preferred, or the time for preferring them shall have expired and no new notice given that charges have been preferred, shall render the election void. (1965, 1985)

**§4.25.5.4:** Every lodge in which a Brother shall be a member shall have concurrent penal jurisdiction over him. In case of any conflict or controversy caused by Plural Membership, the Grand Master shall have the power to make such other order as, in his judgment, shall seem proper. (1965, 1985)

**§4.25.5.5:** The Grand Secretary shall prepare and, upon request, furnish all lodges within this Grand Jurisdiction application forms for Plural Membership. These forms shall require the petitioning member to correctly state all of the other lodges of which he is a member. The Secretary of the accepting lodge, in addition to the notice above provided, shall at once notify the other lodges of which the Brother is a member and the Office of the Grand Secretary of the completion of Plural Membership by signing the roll of membership or of its nullification by neglect to sign within the required time. Notice of removal from the rolls for non-payment

of dues, suspension or expulsion from any lodge of which he is a member shall promptly be sent by the Secretary of such lodge to the Office of the Grand Secretary and to the other lodges of which the Brother shall be a member, shall be entered in their minutes and shall have like effect in their lodges as in the lodge issuing the Notice. (1965, 1976, 1985,1996)

NOTE: When a Brother who is a Plural Member of two or more lodges is suspended from any one of those lodges and consequently, by Masonic Law, been automatically suspended from all other lodges, he must, in order to reinstate, first reinstate in the lodge of original suspension. It is not necessary that he reinstate in the other lodges that had to automatically suspend him. However, if he wishes to reinstate in the other lodges he must petition for restoration in each of the other lodges. (1991)

**§4.25.5.6:** Membership in lodges which do not confer degrees and Honorary Memberships shall not be considered in the foregoing and any person, in addition to Plural Membership in any lodge, may hold membership in as many lodges not conferring degrees as he desires, or as many Honorary Memberships as may be conferred upon him. (1985)

**§4.25.5.7:** No Brother whose "Original Membership" is without the Jurisdiction of Michigan shall be permitted Plural Membership in this Jurisdiction, unless the Jurisdiction in which his "Original Membership" is located shall permit Dual or Plural Memberships. (1985)

**§4.25.5.8:** A Master Mason who has been granted a Life Membership by a Michigan lodge shall be exempt from the payment of annual dues to any Michigan lodge in which he has a Plural Membership. (1961, 1985)

**§4.25.5.9:** A member in good standing of a lodge under this Grand Jurisdiction may take out a Plural Membership in another lodge in another Grand Jurisdiction, provided such lodge be a constituted lodge or recognized body of a Grand Jurisdiction having fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Michigan. (1954, 1985)

**§4.25.5.10:** Any Plural Member against whom charges are not pending and whose indebtedness to all lodges of which he may be a member is paid, may petition for discontinuance of Plural Membership in any of those lodges by presenting a written petition at a Regular Communication, stating his reasons therefore. At the next Regular Communication, unless the petition has been withdrawn, the lodge shall grant his petition and terminate his membership. His membership in the remaining lodges shall retain all the rights and privileges of his original membership. A copy of "Certificate of Discontinuance of Plural Membership" shall be sent immediately to the Brother requesting it, to the lodges in which the Brother retains his membership and to the Office of the Grand Secretary. (see Handbook for Lodge Secretaries) (2001)

A Brother holding Plural Membership in another Grand Jurisdiction, desiring to discontinue his membership in any lodge of which he is a member, may do so in the above manner, provided that the procedure is compatible with the laws of that Grand Jurisdiction. (1976, 1985)

#### **§4.25.6: *Honorary Membership***

**§4.25.6.1:** An affiliated Master Mason in good standing may be elected to Honorary Membership in a lodge other than his own, by unanimous vote taken in the usual way, after his name has been proposed at a Regular Communication and has laid over not less than to the first subsequent Regular Communication, provided that the vote shall be taken not later than the second Regular Communication after the Honorary Membership was proposed.

**§4.25.6.2:** When an affiliated Master Mason is proposed for Honorary Membership, the Master of the lodge shall at the same Regular Communication shall cause an inquiry to be made by the Secretary to verify the standing of the proposed Honorary Member in his home lodge. After verification is received, at the next Regular Communication a secret ballot shall be taken and upon receipt of a unanimous ballot, an Honorary Membership given. (2002).

**§4.25.6.3:** An Honorary Member of a lodge acquires no privileges in the lodge except the right to sit therein, and shall be exempt from the payment of assessments and dues. The honorary relation ceases if he fails to maintain membership in a chartered lodge. An Honorary Member may be allowed to participate in debate. His presence would not assist in making a quorum, nor can he vote upon any question coming before the lodge; neither can he hold any office, either elective or appointive, save that of Tiler or Musician, nor would he have claim upon the charities of the lodge by virtue of his election to Honorary Membership. (1879, 1992)

**§4.25.6.4:** A lodge cannot make Honorary Members of its own members. (1897)

**§4.25.6.5:** No Brother can be made an Honorary Member of any lodge while he is a demitted Mason. To entitle him to Honorary Membership in a lodge he must be an affiliated member in some other chartered lodge and when he fails to maintain such active Membership his Honorary Membership ceases. (1897)

**§4.25.6.6:** An Honorary Membership may be terminated by the lodge granting it at any time. (1898)

### **§4.25.7: *Life Membership***

**§4.25.7.1:** A lodge may grant a Life Membership to any of its members in good standing and not indebted to the lodge who, for not less than a total of forty years, shall have been a Master Mason in good standing of some lodge or lodges within this Grand Jurisdiction or another Grand Jurisdiction with which the Grand Lodge of Michigan is in fraternal relations. (1959, 1962, 1965)

**§4.25.7.2:** No proposal to grant a Life Membership shall be submitted to a lodge at a date earlier than four months prior to the date on which the proposed recipient shall have actually completed forty years of membership in good standing and, provided further, that such proposed recipient shall have been a dues paying member of a Michigan lodge or lodges for at least five years. (1959, 1962, 1965)

**§4.25.7.3:** The proposal to grant a Life Membership shall be presented at a Regular Communication and shall lie over without action until the next Regular Communication at which time it shall be acted upon. A majority of those present and voting shall be sufficient to decide the matter. Thereafter such Life Member shall not be liable for annual dues. (1959, 1962, 1965)

**§4.25.7.4:** A lodge may present a Life Membership Certificate and/or a Life Membership Lapel Button to any of its members elected to Life Membership in accordance with the foregoing regulations, provided, however, that the presentation shall not be made prior to the date on which the recipient shall have actually completed the required forty years of membership in good standing. (1959, 1962, 1965)

**§4.25.7.5:** A Brother granted a Life Membership in a lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction may transfer to another lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction in the regular manner and still retain all rights and privileges that pertain to the granting of said Life Membership. (1957)

**§4.25.7.6:** If any Life Member shall disappear and his whereabouts remain unknown for a period of seven years and no knowledge of such member can be procured, the lodge may, by vote, remove his name from the membership roll. (1942)

**§4.25.7.7:** One holding Plural Membership in a lodge cannot be elected a Life Member of that lodge. This is the sole privilege of the lodge of Original Membership. (1947, 1985)

#### **§4.25.8: *Prepaid Membership***

**§4.25.8.1:** Any Master Mason whose current dues are paid and is in good standing in any lodge chartered by this Grand Lodge may purchase a Prepaid Membership, hereinafter called "MEMBERSHIP". (1981, 1982, 1985, 1997)

**§4.25.8.2:** A Master Mason who desires to purchase a MEMBERSHIP, shall submit an application, on a form furnished by the Grand Secretary, along with the required payment to the Secretary of his lodge. The Secretary shall issue a receipt therefore. (1985)

**§4.25.8.3:** The cost of a MEMBERSHIP, for a non Life Member, shall be the current amount of the annual dues of the member's lodge, hereinafter called "Initial Lodge Dues," plus the Grand Lodge Per Capita plus the Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation Assessment plus any other Grand Lodge charges that are of an ongoing nature, but not a one time charge at the time of the MEMBERSHIP application, plus any other charges peculiar to the member's lodge multiplied by the factor in the following schedule corresponding to the age of the member as of the date of the member's application. (1985, 1997, 2006)

<u>Age of Member</u>	<u>Factor</u>	<u>Age of Member</u>	<u>Factor</u>
Up to 29	20.0	30-39	19.0
40-44	18.5	45-49	18.0
50	17.5	51	17.0
52	16.7	53	16.4
54	16.0	55	15.6
56	15.3	57	14.9
58	14.6	59	14.3
60	14.0	61	13.7
62	13.4	63	13.1
64	12.8	65	12.5
66	12.2	67	11.9
68	11.6	69	11.3
		70 and up	7.0

**§4.25.8.4:** After first deducting the current lodge dues, Grand Lodge Per Capita and Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation Assessment and any other charges as found in §4.25.8.3 for a period of one year, the lodge Secretary shall then immediately transmit the application and remainder of the payment to the Grand Secretary. The retained funds are to be used to pay for the respective items for the year beginning with the effective date of the MEMBERSHIP. (1985, 1997, 2006)

**§4.25.8.5:** A Life Member may purchase a MEMBERSHIP using the factor of seven (7) regardless of his age as of the date of the member's application. (1985, 1997, 2006)

The entire amount of the Life Member's moneys for the MEMBERSHIP application, which is the factor seven (7) multiplied by the current applicant's lodge's dues, shall be

forwarded to the Grand Secretary. There will be NO one year deduction for the lodge. (1997, 2004)

**§4.25.8.6:** Upon receipt of the application and payment by the Grand Secretary, he shall issue a certificate of MEMBERSHIP to the member.

**§4.25.8.7:** The effective date of the MEMBERSHIP shall be January 1st following the date that payment is received by the Grand Secretary. Thereafter a Prepaid Member shall not be liable for dues. (1981, 1982)

**§4.25.8.8:** On or before January 1st of each year after the effective date of the MEMBERSHIP, the Secretary of the member's lodge shall issue the regular official dues receipt to the member with his status as to MEMBERSHIP indicated thereon. (1981, 1982)

**§4.25.8.9:** All moneys received by the Grand Secretary for the sale of MEMBERSHIPS shall be placed in a special fund of the Grand Lodge to be known as the PREPAID MEMBERSHIP FUND, hereinafter called "FUND." Separate accounting of the FUND shall be maintained and regular reporting shall be separately reflected under the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Michigan Summary of Financial Operations. (2002)

**§4.25.8.10:** The FUND shall be under the control of the Grand Lodge Board of Directors and shall be invested by the Grand Lodge Investment Committee pursuant to Grand Lodge regulations governing the investment of funds.

**§4.25.8.11:** All Initial Lodge Dues contributed to the FUND by a participating lodge prior to December 31st and being in the hands of the Grand Secretary as of that date of each year shall be credited to that lodge as of January 1st of the year immediately following for the purpose of determining the participating lodge's share of the total FUND. (1985, 1997)

**§4.25.8.12:** On December 31st of each year the total shares of all participating lodges shall be determined based upon the total of all Initial Lodge Dues paid into the FUND by the respective lodges since its inception. (1985)

**§4.25.8.13:** As of December 31st of each year, the total income from invested funds less expenses shall be determined. Deductions shall then be made for the current Grand Lodge Per Capita to be credited to the Grand Lodge General Fund and the current Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation Assessment to be credited to the Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation, both based upon the number of Prepaid Members of record as of the preceding January 1st. After the foregoing deductions, the remainder of the income from invested funds shall be distributed to the participating lodges by February 15th, based upon their respective shares as determined in §4.25.8.12, with the following exceptions: (2004, 2006)

- (a) At no time shall the foregoing deductions for any Prepaid Member exceed the amount being distributed to the participating lodge for that Prepaid Member.
- (b) The foregoing deductions for deceased members shall not exceed Twenty-five Percent (25%) of their share of the income. (1985, 1993)
- (c) A minimum distribution from the FUND each year will consist of all dividends and interest from the earnings of the FUND. The Grand Lodge Board of Directors shall decide the total distribution to the lodges in its January meeting. (2002)

**§4.25.8.14:** Deductions for Per Capita and the Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation Assessment shall be made during periods of non-affiliation, suspension or expulsion and for deceased members having a MEMBERSHIP. Also, distribution to a participating lodge shall be made during periods of non-affiliation, suspension or expulsion and for deceased members having a MEMBERSHIP. (1985, 1986, 2006)

**§4.25.8.15:** No refund shall be made from the FUND to any person for any reason.

**§4.25.8.16:** Any person or any lodge may gratuitously pay into the FUND for, or on behalf of, any person or purchase a MEMBERSHIP to honor a Brother who is a member of a constituent lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction and who, for not

less than a total of forty years, shall have been a Master Mason in good standing of some lodge or lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction or any other Grand Jurisdiction with which the Grand Lodge of Michigan has fraternal relations. Any person or lodge may purchase a MEMBERSHIP in a participating lodge as a memorial to any of its deceased members and for the purposes of the MEMBERSHIP all provisions of §4.25.8 shall be followed with the exception that the age of such deceased member shall be his age at death. (1985, 2006)

**§4.25.8.17:** If a member having a MEMBERSHIP from a lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction transfers his membership to another lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, his MEMBERSHIP shall be deemed to be transferred to the receiving lodge as of the date he signs the roll of membership. The Initial Lodge Dues credited to the FUND from the transferring lodge on behalf of the transferring member shall then be transferred to the credit of the receiving lodge in determining the distribution of shares in the FUND. The Secretary of the transferring lodge shall remit to the Secretary of the receiving lodge the unearned portion of the revenue received from the FUND for the current year. (1981, 1985, Pub Com 2006)

**§4.25.8.18:** If a lodge ceases to exist through consolidation with another lodge, all of the Initial Lodge Dues of any deceased members that have been paid into the FUND by the consolidating lodge shall be credited to the new consolidated lodge. If a lodge should cease to exist for any other reason than consolidation, all of the Initial Lodge Dues of any deceased members that have been paid into the FUND by the defunct lodge shall be credited to the Michigan Masonic Home and distribution made to the Home as if it were a participating lodge. (1986)

**§4.25.8.19:** The purpose of the FUND can only be changed by the same procedure required for amending THE CONSTITUTION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN as found in §3.13 thereof. (1985, 1986)

## **§4.26: *Membership Awards***

**§4.26.1:** A lodge may, at its discretion, present a Twenty-five Year Membership Award to any Master Mason who, for not less than a total of twenty-five years, shall have been a member in good standing of some lodge or lodges within this Grand Jurisdiction or in other Grand Jurisdictions with which the Grand Lodge of Michigan is in fraternal relations. (1973)

**§4.26.2:** A Fifty, Sixty or Seventy Year Membership Award of the style and design approved by the Grand Lodge of Michigan shall be presented by the Grand Lodge to a Master Mason who is a member of a constituent lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction and who, for not less than a total of fifty, sixty or seventy years, shall have been a Master Mason in good standing of some lodge or lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction or in other Grand Jurisdictions with which the Grand Lodge of Michigan is in fraternal relations. The Grand Master or his official representative shall make the presentation under circumstances and conditions deemed most desirable for each individual award. (1973)

## **§4.27: *Master Mason Proficiency***

**§4.27.1:** A Master Mason may request an examination as to his proficiency of that Degree. After the examination in open lodge and his proficiency therein having been approved by a two thirds majority vote of the members present, he may be presented with a Proficiency Card provided by the Grand Lodge and signed by the Worshipful Master and Secretary of the constituent lodge and bearing the lodge Seal. (1956)

**§4.27.2:** A Brother's proficiency examination must be conducted in his own lodge except that, in the case of requested work the examination would be conducted by the requested lodge. (1963)

**§4.27.3:** All candidates will be examined as prescribed in the Michigan Membership Program, as printed by the Grand Lodge, and there will be NO memorization of the obligations in the Entered Apprentice and/or Fellowcraft Degrees for a candidate to qualify for his proficiency and continued

worthiness. In case of a Brother taking his Master Mason proficiency, the same rule applies, but if the Master Mason is taking his examination for the Master Mason Proficiency Card, he will then have to give the Master Mason Obligation from memory.

## **§4.28: Demits**

### **§4.28.1: Definitions**

**§4.28.1.1:** "Demit" is a letter of demission and a recommendation to another lodge. It is not a permanent certification of good standing in the fraternity, but only evidence that the Brother named therein was in good standing in the issuing lodge at the time of its issue and was discharged from membership in the issuing lodge at his own request. (1960, 1978)

**§4.28.1.2:** "Affiliated Mason" is a Master Mason who belongs to a chartered lodge in this or another Grand Jurisdiction recognized by our Grand Lodge. He is not carrying a Demit. (1978)

**§4.28.1.3:** "Unaffiliated (or Non affiliated) Mason" is a Master Mason who does not currently belong to a chartered lodge in this or another Grand Jurisdiction recognized by this Grand Lodge, but carries a valid Demit from his lodge. (1978)

### **§4.28.2: How Demits are Obtained**

**§4.28.2.1:** A Demit, permitting affiliation with a lodge in another Grand Jurisdiction, may be obtained by a Master Mason who is:

- (a) a member, but not an elected officer, of a chartered lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction,
- (b) not indebted to the lodge,
- (c) not under charges,
- (d) no longer domiciled in the State of Michigan.

**§4.28.2.2:** A Petition for Demit bearing the signature of the Brother shall be presented at a Regular Communication of the

lodge. If the Brother has complied with the foregoing requirements, the Worshipful Master and the Secretary shall immediately issue the Demit and, after certification of same by the Grand Secretary, deliver it to the demitting Brother. (1978, 2001)

**§4.28.2.3:** Membership in the issuing lodge shall terminate as of the date of issuance of the Demit. Dues paid to the issuing lodge beyond the quarter-year in which the Demit is issued shall be refunded upon surrender of the dues receipt. (1960)

**§4.28.2.4:** Action granting a Demit cannot be reconsidered nor rescinded, nor can a Demit be canceled so as to restore a demitted Brother to membership. (1960, 2002)

**§4.28.2.5:** The issuing lodge may issue a duplicate Demit upon receipt of satisfactory evidence that the original Demit has been lost or destroyed. (1960, 1978)

**§4.28.2.6:** Regardless of his present residence, a Brother holding a Demit from a Michigan lodge may, within twelve months from the date on which the Demit was issued, petition for re-affiliation in the issuing lodge. The Demit, together with current dues, must accompany the Petition for Affiliation. The petition must take the same course as any other Petition for Affiliation. (See Handbook for Lodge Secretaries) (1960, 2001)

### ***§4.28.3: Affiliation by an Affiliated Mason from Another Grand Jurisdiction***

**§4.28.3.1:** An Affiliated Mason from a Grand Jurisdiction recognized by the Grand Lodge of Michigan may present an Application for Transfer of Membership to a lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction and the receiving lodge may receive such application if, at the time it is presented, the Brother shall have been domiciled within this Grand Jurisdiction for at least the preceding six months and proof is furnished that his dues are paid for at least the current and the succeeding quarters in a chartered lodge which is recognized by the Grand Lodge of Michigan. The proof shall be certified by the Secretary of the lodge and the Grand Secretary of the Grand Jurisdiction in which the Brother holds membership. Such proof may take the

form of a current dues card. (See Handbook for Lodge Secretaries) (1978, 2001)

**§4.28.3.2:** The application shall be presented at a Regular Communication of the receiving lodge, be referred to an investigating committee and lie over until the next Regular Communication following presentation and reference. After report of the committee, a ballot shall be taken in the usual manner. Election to membership shall be by unanimous vote. (1978)

**§4.28.3.3:** The elected Brother shall cause to be presented to the lodge of his Original Membership, through the Secretary of the receiving lodge and the Grand Secretary of Michigan, a written request for a Demit. The Demit shall be sent to the Secretary of the receiving lodge through the Offices of the Grand Secretaries of the respective Grand Jurisdictions. (See Handbook for Lodge Secretaries) (2001)

***§4.28.4: Affiliation by an Unaffiliated Mason from Another Grand Jurisdiction***

**§4.28.4.1:** An Unaffiliated Mason may present a Petition for Affiliation to a lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction and the receiving lodge may receive such petition if, at the time it is presented, the Brother shall have been domiciled within this Grand Jurisdiction for at least the preceding six months and the petition is accompanied by a Demit properly certified by the Grand Secretary and under the Seal of the Grand Jurisdiction in which the issuing lodge is located indicating that the issuing lodge is legally constituted and exists under the authority of the Grand Lodge of that Grand Jurisdiction. (See Handbook for Lodge Secretaries) (1960, 1978, 2001)

**§4.28.4.2:** A lodge should be reasonably certain of the identity of an applicant holding a Demit. If the lodge is uncertain of the identity of the applicant, the applicant must prove himself a Master Mason.

**§4.28.4.3:** The Petition for Affiliation shall be presented at a Regular Communication of the receiving lodge, be referred to an investigating committee and lie over until the next Regular Communication following presentation and reference. After

report of the committee, a ballot shall be taken in the usual manner. Election to membership shall be by unanimous vote. (1977, 1978)

#### ***§4.28.5: Perfecting Membership in Receiving Lodge***

**§4.28.5.1:** Membership shall be deemed completed as of the date of signing the roll of membership of the receiving lodge by the elected Brother. In the case of an Affiliated Mason, the date of signature shall be subsequent to the receipt of the Demit by the Secretary of the receiving lodge. (1978)

**§4.28.5.2:** Dues in the receiving lodge shall begin with the quarter-year in which the Brother signs the roll of membership. (1978)

**§4.28.5.3:** Failure to sign the roll of membership within three months following receipt of the Demit, in the case of an Affiliated Mason, or within three months following the date of election to membership in the case of an Unaffiliated Mason, shall render the entire transaction null and void and the Brother will assume the status of an Unaffiliated Mason. (1960, 1978)

**§4.28.5.4:** A Brother's Demit, or other documentary evidence of his standing in Masonry, is his property until he again becomes a member of a lodge. Upon his signing the roll of membership, the Demit becomes the property of the receiving lodge and must be canceled and carefully preserved among its files. (1960, 1978)

**§4.28.5.5:** If a Brother's application is rejected, or if he fails to sign the roll of membership within the time specified after election, his valid Demit shall be returned to him. (1960, 1978)

#### ***§4.28.6: Rejected or Unpetitioned Unaffiliated Mason***

**§4.28.6.1:** Every Unaffiliated Mason domiciled within this Grand Jurisdiction shall, within one year after he becomes domiciled, petition a constituent lodge for membership therein. If such Unaffiliated Mason fails or neglects to do so, he shall be subject to all the disabilities of a suspended Mason. If any Brother petitions for membership as herein required and shall

be rejected by the lodge to which the petition is presented, such Brother shall remain in good standing, provided he shall at least once in each year petition a lodge for membership therein. There is no time limitation on the validity of a Demit as long as the foregoing requirements are met. (1960, 1978)

**§4.28.6.2:** An Unaffiliated Mason, whose Petition for Affiliation has been rejected by a Michigan lodge, may present his petition to that same lodge, or any constituent lodge where he complies with the residence requirements, at any succeeding Regular Communication. (1960, 1978)

**§4.28.6.3:** When a member of a lodge shall become a resident of another Grand Jurisdiction, a Demit may be granted to him, without compliance with the provisions of §4.25.4.5, upon his written petition therefore, accompanied by all dues owing the lodge. (1977)

### ***§4.29: Unaffiliated Masons***

**§4.29.1:** No voluntarily Unaffiliated Mason, residing within the territorial jurisdiction of a lodge, shall have the privilege of visiting the same more than three times; and no voluntarily Unaffiliated Mason shall be permitted to visit more than once any lodge beyond the territorial jurisdiction of which he may be a resident.

**§4.29.2:** A Brother who has recently petitioned for affiliation and has been rejected, is not a voluntary Unaffiliated Mason. To maintain his right to visit a lodge, he must petition some lodge for membership at least once during each year. (1905)

### ***§4.30: Joint Occupancy of Halls***

**§4.30.1:** The following organizations are authorized as Affiliated Masonic Organizations and, as such, may be permitted to meet in a Masonic lodge room: (2000, 2002, 2008 Publications Committee)

- (a) Order of the Amaranth
- (b) Order of DeMolay
- (c) Order of the Eastern Star

- (d) Order of Job's Daughters
- (e) Order of the Rainbow for Girls
- (f) White Shrine of Jerusalem.

**§4.30.2:** If the lodge room of a Masonic lodge is destroyed by fire, the Grand Master may, at his discretion, grant to such lodge permission to occupy a hall or room, occupied by another society for a period not exceeding six months.

**§4.30.3:** The use of rooms that have been dedicated to Masonic use by organizations other than constituent lodges must be according to the same rules and regulations as pertain to the constituent lodge. (1977, 2000, 2002)

## ***§4.31: Masonic Emblems and Societies***

### ***§4.31.1: Masonic Emblems***

**§4.31.1.1:** The use of Masonic Emblems by Masons as business signs or cards, unless such business be exclusively or largely in Masonic goods, and the use of the words "Masons" or "Masonic" or "Free and Accepted Masons" or "For Masons Only" or words and phrases of similar import or the letters "F. & A. M." or the use of the name of a lodge in connection with any private business, insurance, health, benefit or like enterprise, whether corporate, mutual or dividend, with or without charitable features, without the consent of this Grand Lodge in Annual Communication having first been obtained, is strictly prohibited; and any Mason who shall transact or solicit business for or be a member of such enterprise, club, organization or association, in violation of the provisions hereof, shall be guilty of un-Masonic conduct. (1994)

The foregoing shall not apply to contracts or agreements made by the Grand Master and the Board of Directors of this Grand Lodge when such contracts or agreements are, in the opinion of the makers thereof, for the benefit of this Grand Lodge or the Masonic Fraternity. (1977)

**§4.31.1.2:** The use of the Compasses and Square and letter "G" emblems, as used by the Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Michigan, by any other than a Masonic organization,

acting under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge and recognized by the Grand Lodge or Grand Lodge itself, is un-Masonic conduct and any Master Mason using them in other than Masonic organizations will be guilty of un-Masonic conduct and will be subject to all the penalties for that offense. If the offender is a Mason, he can be proceeded against under this article. If the offense is committed by a person who is not a Mason, he or she can be proceeded against under the State Law. (Protection of Names and Emblems - Michigan Annotated Statutes: 18.641-18.647, 18.661-18.665, 18.671-18.675 and 18.691-18.692.) (1927, 1928)

**§4.31.1.3:** The Regulations of the Grand Lodge strictly forbid the use of the word "Masons", "Masonic", "Freemasonry" or Masonic Emblems in connection with any private enterprise or business purpose. (1931, 1954, 1994)

**§4.31.1.4:** Publication of a Masonic business directory, for profit, is forbidden. (1900)

**§4.31.1.5:** A Michigan Mason would not be committing a Masonic offense if he were the Michigan representative for a National Masonic Insurance Company as long as he followed the Code of Ethics of Insurance Agencies and did not solicit business by requesting or using lists of members of Michigan Masonic lodges. (1963)

#### ***§4.31.2: Masonic and Non-Masonic Societies***

**§4.31.2.1:** No Mason within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge shall promote or organize any order or society, nor become a member of any order or society hereafter promoted, organized or established in this Grand Jurisdiction, whose qualifications for membership shall be Masonic affiliation, unless such order or society shall have received the formal approval of the Grand Lodge.

**§4.31.2.2:** The following bodies are entitled to recognition as organizations into which Masons may be received under the provisions of the Laws and Regulations of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Michigan:

- (a) The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Michigan, and Bodies under its jurisdiction. (1958)
- (b) The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons of the State of Michigan, and Bodies under its jurisdiction. (1958, 1997)
- (c) The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Michigan, and Bodies under its jurisdiction. (1958)
- (d) The Supreme Council of The Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of the Northern or Southern Jurisdiction, and Bodies under their jurisdictions. (1958)
- (e) Master Masons who are members of the York Rite Sovereign College of North America, and/or of Councils of Allied Masonic Degrees, and/or of Councils of Knight Masons, and/or of the Knights of the York Cross of Honour. (1972, 1975, 1986)
- (f) Master Masons who are members of either the Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine and/or Mystic Order of the Veiled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm, each of which were chartered in the State of Michigan prior to May 26, 1926. (1958)
- (g) Master Masons who are members of High Twelve. (1970)
- (h) Master Masons who are members of the Tall Cedars of Lebanon. (1990)
- (i) Master Masons who are members of the National Association of Masonic Scouters. (2008)

### **§4.31.3: Degree Teams**

**§4.31.3.1:** Only degree teams, established and organized by the Worshipful Masters of our chartered lodges from the membership of their own lodge, shall confer Masonic degrees within or, on proper invitation and Dispensation, without this Grand Jurisdiction. (1947)

**§4.31.3.2:** Any Square or other Masonic group or club, or any group of lodges desiring to form a degree team for the purpose

of conferring degrees in a Masonic lodge, shall first obtain permission from the Grand Master. (1957, 1972, 1977)

(See also §4.23.1 and §4.16.4.3)

## **§4.32: Visitors**

### **§4.32.1: Right to Visit**

**§4.32.1.1:** A Master Mason in good standing possesses the right of visiting any Masonic lodge wherever he may go, provided the lodge to which he applies will receive him. (1973)

When visiting and attending lodges or other appendant bodies in another Grand Jurisdiction that recognizes Prince Hall Masons, it has been ruled that it is permissible to abide by the recognition that is in effect in that Grand Jurisdiction while visiting and attending or sitting in lodge with a Prince Hall Mason. (1997)

**§4.32.1.2:** In this Grand Jurisdiction it is incumbent upon a visitor to furnish adequate proof of his good standing in a lodge recognized by this Grand Jurisdiction. (1973)

**§4.32.1.3:** The Worshipful Master of a lodge shall not admit any visitor in opposition to a vote of his lodge or to the objection of a member thereof. (1973)

**§4.32.1.4:** A Master Mason, while actually present in his own lodge, possesses the unqualified right to object to the presence of any visiting Brother, except when such visitor is chosen counsel for a Brother as provided in the Penal Code or has been summoned for the purpose of education. (1973, 1996)

**§4.32.1.5:** The mode of expressing an objection, whether it be in open lodge or to the Worshipful Master privately, shall be at the discretion of the objecting Brother only. The objecting Brother is accountable only to his own judgment and conscience and is under no obligation to give any reason for his objection or to prefer charges against the visitor. In any case, the name of the objector should not be revealed to the visitor. (1973)

**§4.32.1.6:** Providing they are in good standing, even though they have been refused advancement in their own lodge, Entered Apprentices may visit lodges of Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts may visit lodges of Entered Apprentices or Fellowcrafts other than the one in which they received the respective degrees, subject to the usual examination required of all visitors. (1973)

**§4.32.1.7:** By permission of the Worshipful Master, visiting Brethren may take part in the ritualistic work, but they cannot be allowed to vote. (1973)

**§4.32.1.8:** The Tiler should announce to the lodge the name of every visitor, before his admission, so that each member present will have the opportunity to object. (1973)

### **§4.32.2: *Qualifications of Visitors***

**§4.32.2.1:** No visitor shall be admitted to a lodge until his Masonic qualifications have been duly ascertained by due trial and strict examination in the first three degrees of Masonry, or by lawful Masonic information. The trial and examination may be made by the Worshipful Master, by a competent Brother or by a committee designated by the Worshipful Master, the result of which, together with the name, lodge and residence of the visitor, shall be reported in open lodge, before the visitor is admitted.

**§4.32.2.2:** A Demit is not sufficient evidence upon which to admit a visiting Brother. He must be examined or vouched for. (1985)

### **§4.32.3: *Legal Information***

**§4.32.3.1:** "Lawful Masonic Information," under §4.32.2.1, relating to visitors is such as is received through a Brother whose Masonic standing is already established and who has met the visitor in a regularly chartered lodge. (1895)

**§4.32.3.2:** The examination of a visitor should not be conducted in open lodge and a committee has the right to demand of a visitor, evidence of his present good standing, such as a receipt. (1900)

**§4.32.3.3:** The test oath should be administered as a part of the examination. (1900)

**§4.32.3.4:** A visiting Brother has the right to see the Charter of the lodge he is about to visit.

## **§4.33: Funerals, Memorials, Processions and Public Appearances**

### **§4.33.1: Funerals**

**§4.33.1.1:** A Michigan lodge may conduct the Masonic funeral or memorial service for one of its deceased Brethren or for a deceased Brother of any Michigan lodge or any constituent lodge of a Grand Jurisdiction recognized by the Grand Lodge of Michigan upon the request, or with the permission, of the lodge of which the deceased was a Mason in good standing at the time of his death. (1955, 1994)

**§4.33.1.2:** The term Mason, for the purpose of funerals and/or memorial services, shall mean an Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft eligible for advancement or a Master Mason not under the penalty of suspension or expulsion from a lodge. (1994)

**§4.33.1.3:** It shall be the right and privilege of every Mason belonging to the Michigan Masonic Jurisdiction to have, at his death and with the consent of his next of kin, his personal lambskin (or substitute if necessary) placed upon his casket. The apron shall be laid flat, when possible, or folded in accordance with the provisions of the highest degree attained. Apron strings should be hidden as nearly as possible. The apron may be over the foot of the casket in lieu of flowers or may be draped from the side rail or pinned into the head panel of an open casket. If the deceased is also a Veteran and entitled to the flag of the United States of America, the family may choose:

- (a) To have the flag folded in a triangle and placed near the left shoulder in an open casket with the Masonic apron displayed on the foot or with casket flowers on the side rail.

- (b) To have the flag draped over the foot of an open casket and the apron displayed on the side rail or pinned inside the head panel.
- (c) To have the flag draped over a closed casket and the apron displayed on a pedestal or other suitable furniture.
- (d) On a closed casket, to have the flag folded in a triangle shape which would permit both the flag and the apron to be displayed on top of the casket.

When the apron is to be buried with the casketed remains, the apron is to be placed on top of the closed casket and lowered into the grave. The vault will cover everything. (1992)

**§4.33.1.4:** When a member is still on the rolls of membership and is not, at the time of his death, removed from the rolls of membership for NPD, he is entitled to Masonic burial. (1894, 1994)

**§4.33.1.5:** A lodge cannot give a Masonic burial to a suspended Mason, notwithstanding the fact that he had paid up all dues in arrears, if he was not reinstated by affirmative action of the lodge prior to his death. In such case, all moneys received for said dues in arrears shall be returned to the Brother's family or to his estate if possible. (Refer to §4.22.4.6) (1899, 1978)

**§4.33.1.6:** A lodge may give Masonic burial to a Brother who has committed suicide. (1875)

**§4.33.1.7:** In the event a Michigan lodge has occasion to enter the jurisdiction of another Michigan lodge to conduct a funeral or the committal service, it shall not be considered an invasion of jurisdiction. (1955, 1978)

**§4.33.1.8:** When a deceased Brother is entitled to a Masonic burial by his lodge, the Worshipful Master, or his lawful Masonic representative, must always be the judge as to whether it is advisable to convene his lodge for the purpose of attending a Masonic burial in a body. (1889, 1978)

**§4.33.1.9:** The regular Masonic funeral service can be used when interring the ashes of the deceased Brother by changing the word "body" to "ashes" wherever it occurs. (1963)

**§4.33.1.10:** It is not proper for the Masonic fraternity to commingle in its exercises, funeral or other, with any other society. A Masonic lodge should have entire charge of funeral services or decline to take any part. However, the lodge may take charge at any time before the body is lowered into the grave. (1880, 1940, 1978)

**§4.33.1.11:** When a lodge once takes charge of a funeral ceremony, the lodge, and the lodge only, must conduct the service and no person not a Brother of the fraternity should be permitted to participate. (1900)

**§4.33.1.12:** None but Masons shall be permitted to join a Masonic funeral procession, except that if the Commandery or other Masonic bodies, veterans' military organizations, civic societies or police attend, they shall march or ride ahead of the lodge as its escort. (1955, 1994)

**§4.33.1.13:** Pallbearers cannot be mixed. They must be all Masons and clothed as such, or none of them can appear as Masons. In such case, the lodge may take charge and conduct the Masonic service immediately after the casket is deposited at the grave. (1949, 1978, 1994)

**§4.33.1.14:** Masons, in white aprons, gloves and regalia, may attend a funeral of a departed Brother as mourners when the services are in charge of some other recognized Masonic Body. (1958, 1994)

**§4.33.1.15:** A lodge may attend a funeral as mourners, no matter by whom the funeral ceremony is conducted; provided, however, that it shall not unite with any other organization in conducting the ceremony. (1876, 1955)

**§4.33.1.16:** These Regulations shall not be construed as prohibiting the firing of a salute and the sounding of taps, after the conclusion of the Masonic committal service, at or near the grave of a Mason who had served in the Armed Forces and was

entitled to such recognition by virtue of that service. (1955, 1994)

### **§4.33.2: Public Appearances**

**§4.33.2.1:** No lodge shall form a public procession for the Funeral of a Mason without the permission of its Worshipful Master or his lawful Masonic representative. (1978, 1994)

**§4.33.2.2:** A lodge may go out as a lodge on a strictly Masonic occasion. However, if a lodge wishes to commingle in public exercises with other societies it must present satisfactory information to the Grand Master, who may issue a Special Dispensation permitting the lodge to participate in a community celebration or observance and to wear their Masonic clothing on such occasion. Participation in a parade in conjunction with any national holiday will not require a Special Dispensation. (1877, 1897, 1975, 1978, 1996, 2000)

**§4.33.2.3:** In order for public relations to take a better foothold in our communities, any Noble or Prophet of the Ancient Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine and the Mystic Order Veiled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm, who is marching in a parade and who is not in a costume, may wear the apron and fez as a badge of a Shrine or Grotto Mason. It is expected that the Noble or Prophet would be appropriately dressed in slacks or suit, not in blue jeans, Levi's, or costume dress of the unit or group.

The apron and fez are not to be worn at a Masonic funeral service, nor while visiting a lodge or attending a lodge installation. Those situations call for the badge of a Mason as the distinguishing mark of a Mason, not the Brother as a Noble or Prophet. The intent is to identify the appendant bodies and to let the apron serve as the official badge and public relations tool for Masons in our communities. (1996)

**§4.33.2.4:** It is improper for Masons to attend a house of worship wearing aprons, gloves, or regalia, except when attending a Masonic funeral or memorial service, and having obtained the approval of the clergy or ruling body of that house of worship. (1897, 1958, 1978, 1998)

## **§4.34: Board of Relief**

**§4.34.1:** Under direction of the Grand Master, where two or more lodges in the Grand Jurisdiction have concurrent territorial jurisdiction, there may be established in each such jurisdiction, a Board of Relief to provide for the aid and assistance of sojourning Masons and their burial.

**§4.34.2:** Such Boards of Relief shall consist of representatives to be appointed by the Worshipful Masters or elected, as the lodge shall determine, one from each of the lodges in such jurisdiction, to serve until successors have been appointed or elected.

**§4.34.3:** These representatives shall form their own organization, elect a President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer and executive committee and conduct the business of the Board, subject to the approval of the Grand Master.

**§4.34.4:** All lodges in such territorial jurisdiction shall, on order of the Grand Master, contribute their proportionate share of the expenses of maintaining such Boards of Relief, in the amount determined by the Board of Relief.

## **§4.35: Master Key and Rituals**

**§4.35.1:** The Grand Secretary shall be responsible for the Master Key. (1959, 1987, 2001)

**§4.35.2:** Each lodge shall be furnished five authorized rituals as adopted by this Grand Lodge. Additional copies may be purchased. (1860, 2001)

**§4.35.3:** It is a Masonic offense for any member to make use of any unauthorized ritual. (1917, 2001)

**§4.35.4:** The only ritual authorized by the Grand Lodge is the one furnished by the Grand Secretary. (1899, 2001)

**§4.35.5:** Any time a lodge has a candidate of a different religious belief, the lodge has the option to insert the words “Volume of the Sacred Law” in place of “Holy Bible” in the ritual. (GM edict 2007)

### **§4.36: Sojourner**

**§4.36.1:** By the term Sojourner is intended a Brother who is duly affiliated under some other jurisdiction, but is temporarily within our town. (1860)

### **§4.37: Correspondence and Communications**

**§4.37.1:** All communications between a constituent lodge, Committee, Officer or agency of any other Grand Jurisdiction shall be made only through the Offices of the respective Grand Secretaries. Subsequent communications relative to a specific subject may be made directly through the affected agencies only if authorized by the Grand Secretaries involved. Provided, however, that the above regulations shall not apply to either the Grand Master or the Committee on Fraternal Relations. (1959)

**BYLAWS  
OF THE  
GRAND LODGE**



**BYLAWS  
OF THE  
GRAND LODGE  
OF  
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS  
OF THE  
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

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***§5.1: Communications of Grand Lodge***

***§5.1.1: Opening of Grand Lodge***

**§5.1.1.1:** The Annual Communication of Grand Lodge shall commence on a day in May or June and at a location in Michigan determined by the Grand Lodge Board of Directors. (1904, 2000, 2008)

**§5.1.1.2:** Grand Lodge is declared to be opened or closed in Ample Form when the Grand Master presides, in Due Form when the Deputy Grand Master presides and in Form when it is opened or closed in the absence of both the Grand Master and his Deputy. (Approved Definition)

***§5.1.2: Order of Business***

**§5.1.2.1:** After the opening of Grand Lodge, the order of business shall be as follows:

1. Approval of the Records, which is the Proceedings of the Preceding year. (2001)
2. Report of the Grand Master.
3. Reports of other Grand Officers.
4. Reports of Standing Committees in their order.
5. Miscellaneous business.

6. Installation of Officers and appointment of Standing Committees.

**§5.1.2.2:** This order of business may, at any time, be suspended or changed by a two-thirds vote.

**§5.1.2.3:** At Special Communications, the order of business shall be such as the Grand Master may direct.

### **§5.1.3: *Clothing and Jewels***

**§5.1.3.1:** The officers and members of Grand Lodge, when convened, shall wear the ordinary clothing of the Master Mason and the officers shall also wear the jewels appropriate to their several offices, which shall be made of gilt or yellow metal. The jewels shall be suspended from a collar made of gilt or yellow metal. Upon the upper bar of the jewel shall be inscribed the words "Grand Lodge Michigan."

### **§5.1.4: *Proxies***

**§5.1.4.1:** Whenever the Master of a lodge cannot attend the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, the Senior or Junior Warden shall, according to rank, be his proxy and the legal representative of the lodge. In anticipation of the possible failure or inability of any of these officers to attend, the lodge shall, at any Regular Communication prior to the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, elect of its members any Master Mason in good standing, as the representative of the lodge, and he shall receive a certificate of his election, signed by the Worshipful Master and under the Seal of the lodge electing him. (1958)

## **§5.2: *Duties of Grand Lodge Officers***

### **§5.2.1: *Grand Master***

**§5.2.1.1:** The duties and powers of the Grand Master are outlined in §3.10.

### **§5.2.2: *Deputy Grand Master***

**§5.2.2.1:** The Deputy Grand Master shall assist the Grand Master as he may direct and, in case of the death or absence of

the Grand Master, shall preside at all Communications of the Grand Lodge, and shall exercise all the prerogatives and perform all the duties of Grand Master until a successor be chosen.

### **§5.2.3: Grand Wardens**

**§5.2.3.1:** The Grand Wardens shall assist the Grand Master in the Grand Lodge as he may direct, ordinarily performing the duties pertaining to their respective offices and, in case of the death or absence of the Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master, shall, according to rank, preside at the Communications of Grand Lodge and exercise all the powers and perform all the duties of Grand Master until a successor be chosen.

### **§5.2.4: Grand Treasurer**

**§5.2.4.1:** The Grand Treasurer shall have charge of all the funds and vouchers of the Grand Lodge. He shall give bonds for the faithful discharge of his trust in such sum and with such sureties as shall be approved by the Grand Master and Finance Committee.

**§5.2.4.2:** The Grand Treasurer shall, in the name of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Michigan, collect, by legal proceedings or otherwise, any debt due to the Grand Lodge whenever, in his opinion, the interests of the Grand Lodge shall require such action.

**§5.2.4.3:** The Grand Treasurer shall be ex-officio the treasurer of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home.

**§5.2.4.4:** The Grand Treasurer shall receive all moneys from the Grand Secretary and shall pay the orders of the Grand Master, authorized by the Grand Lodge, out of the general or other proper fund of the Grand Lodge and the orders of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home out of the respective funds for the maintenance of the Masonic Home and for Outside Relief.

**§5.2.4.5:** At each Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Treasurer shall make a full and complete report of

all moneys belonging to the General Fund of the Grand Lodge, to the fund for the maintenance of the Masonic Home and for Outside Relief, and to all other funds and of all moneys received and disbursed by him during the preceding fiscal year.

**§5.2.4.6:** In case a Grand Treasurer shall fail, for the space of thirty days, to file his bond as herein provided or to perform any of the duties herein enjoined upon him, the Grand Master may declare the Office vacant and appoint a Grand Treasurer to fill such vacancy, who shall be subject to all the provisions of law relating to the Grand Treasurer.

**§5.2.4.7:** The Grand Treasurer shall deposit all funds in such depositories as shall be designated by the Grand Lodge Board of Directors, said depositories to be named annually at the first scheduled meeting of the said Board after the Grand Lodge Annual Communication. The deposits shall be made in such a manner as will render the accounts payable to the Grand Treasurer and his successors in Office. (1954)

### **§5.2.5: *Grand Secretary***

**§5.2.5.1:** The Grand Secretary shall mail to all Grand Lodge Officers, Past Grand Masters, members of Standing and Special Committees, members of the Board of General Purposes, District Deputy Instructors and to the Worshipful Master and Secretary of each constituent lodge, notice of the date of and place for each Annual and Special Communication of this Grand Lodge. Notices of Annual Communications shall be sent at least sixty days prior to the commencement thereof. Notices of Special Communications shall be sent such length of time prior thereto as the Grand Master shall direct. In all notices of Annual Communications, he shall include the names and residences of all candidates nominated by lodges for Grand Lodge offices which shall have been received by him, together with the names of the lodges to which such candidates respectively belong and no others. (1969)

**§5.2.5.2:** The Grand Secretary shall procure badges for members of and visitors to Grand Lodge. The visitors' and members' badges are to be appropriately inscribed and

distributed upon their registering at the Grand Secretary's Headquarters.

**§5.2.5.3:** The Grand Secretary shall procure a PAST GRAND MASTER'S JEWEL and APRON, of similar design, adopted by the Grand Lodge. This Jewel shall remain the property of the Grand Lodge of Michigan and shall be returned to the Grand Lodge upon the death of the recipient. (1980)

**§5.2.5.4:** The Grand Secretary shall attend all Annual and Special Communications of the Grand Lodge and duly record its proceedings. He shall receive and accurately account for, and promptly pay or deliver over to the Grand Treasurer, all the funds and property of the Grand Lodge received by him, from whatever source, taking his receipt for the same. Provided, that he shall not pay over any money to the Grand Treasurer until notified by the Grand Master that the Grand Treasurer-elect has given an approved bond required by §5.2.4.

**§5.2.5.5:** Pending delivery of funds to the Grand Treasurer, the Grand Secretary shall keep them on deposit in a bank, approved by the Grand Master and Finance Committee, in the official name of the Grand Lodge and in such a manner as will render the account payable to order of the Grand Secretary and his successors in office.

**§5.2.5.6:** The Grand Secretary shall make a record of the returns made by constituent lodges; receive and preserve all petitions, applications, appeals and other documents; sign, certify to and duly seal all instruments of writing emanating from the Grand Lodge; conduct the correspondence of the Grand Lodge under the direction of the Grand Master; and report annually to the several Grand Lodges in correspondence with this Grand Lodge the names of the Grand Officers elected.

**§5.2.5.7:** The Grand Secretary shall, at each Annual Communication, make a report to the Grand Lodge of moneys received and paid over to the Grand Treasurer; of failure or want of punctuality on the part of constituent lodges in paying dues and making proper returns; and of such other matters as, in his judgment, may require the action of the Grand Lodge.

**§5.2.5.8:** The Grand Secretary shall be responsible for issuing an official receipt for dues, as authorized by the Grand Lodge, to be distributed to each Master Mason in good standing entitled to receive the same. (1982)

**§5.2.5.9:** The Grand Secretary shall, in due time, furnish each lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction with blank returns and with such instructions in regard to them as the regulations and laws of the Grand Lodge may require.

**§5.2.5.10:** The Grand Secretary shall give bonds for the faithful discharge of his trusts and for the prompt delivery to his successor in office of all the books, papers and other property of the Grand Lodge, in such sums and with such sureties as shall be approved by the Grand Master and the Finance Committee.

**§5.2.5.11:** The Grand Secretary shall cause the proceedings of the Grand Lodge to be published annually within ninety days of the close of each Annual Communication and shall publish therewith the names of all Master Masons of this Jurisdiction who have died during the preceding year, a half-tone picture of each Grand Lodge Officer for the ensuing year, grouped on one page and, when ordered by the Grand Lodge, its Constitution, Regulations and Bylaws.

**§5.2.5.12:** Within ninety days after each Annual Communication, the Grand Secretary shall mail to the Secretaries of the lodges all changes in the law adopted at such Communication, in convenient form for insertion in the Blue Book.

**§5.2.5.13:** The Grand Secretary shall compute the mileage and per diem of the officers and members of Grand Lodge.

**§5.2.5.14:** The Grand Secretary shall, within one week of receiving notice of the death of any Past Grand Master or Grand Lodge Officer of this Grand Lodge, mail to every constituent lodge, to every Grand Lodge Officer, every living Past Grand Master and all Grand Lodge Committeemen, including the District Deputy Instructors and the members of the Board of General Purposes, notice of such death and the order of the Grand Master to drape the Charter and the Altar

for a period of sixty days in memory of the deceased Brother. (1963)

**§5.2.5.15:** The Grand Secretary shall procure a sufficient number of copies of the Annual Notices and Advance Reports to be given to the visitors at the Grand Lodge Annual Communication. Said copies are to be available at the visitors' registration desk. The number of copies needed, shall be determined by the number of visitors in attendance at the previous Grand Lodge Annual Communication. (1968)

**§5.2.5.16:** The Grand Secretary shall be authorized to employ such office help at such salaries as may be approved and determined by the Board of Directors of this Grand Lodge, at an expense not greater than the amount designated for that purpose in the budget for the year. (1969, Jan. 1972)

**§5.2.5.17:** The Grand Secretary may, at his discretion, appoint competent Brothers to assist him during Annual and Special Communications of the Grand Lodge and the Brothers so appointed shall receive the mileage and per diem provided in §5.5.1.1. (1969, Jan. 1972)

**§5.2.5.18:** The Grand Secretary shall establish and maintain a Central Record of Rejections in which shall be recorded the name and other pertinent data relative to each applicant whose Petition for the Degrees in Masonry has been rejected by a constituent lodge. The Grand Secretary, upon written request, shall advise as to the status of any applicant whose Petition for the Degrees in Masonry is presented to a constituent lodge. (See Handbook for Lodge Secretaries) (1966, 2001)

### **§5.2.6: *Grand Lecturer***

**§5.2.6.1:** The Grand Lecturer shall thoroughly acquaint himself with the work and lectures of the three degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry according to the standard of Grand Lodge; shall visit the several lodges in this Jurisdiction as extensively as possible and shall examine the work and proceedings of the lodges. For this purpose, he is authorized to summon the officers of the different lodges with the records, to convene at such time and place as he may select for the purpose of receiving instruction in the work, lectures and

ceremonies of Masonry. He shall report to the Grand Master, in writing, any deviation in the work or lectures from the system of Grand Lodge. He shall have charge of teaching the work during his term of office, subject always to the Grand Master. He shall perform such other duties in instructing the Craft in the principles of Masonry as the Grand Master shall order. (See also District Deputy Instructors, §5.11.2.)

### **Schools of Instruction**

**§5.2.6.2:** The Grand Master shall at any time, when, in his judgment it is necessary, direct the Grand Lecturer to summon any lodge for instruction or for examination of its books and records. (1901)

**§5.2.6.3:** The Grand Lecturer, in conjunction with the Regional Grand Lecturer of each Masonic Region, shall have general supervision of the District Deputy Instructors assigned to each Masonic Region and shall instruct them in the standard Michigan Masonic work. Also, the Grand Lecturer, in conjunction with the Regional Grand Lecturer of each Masonic Region, shall generally supervise the work of the Officers and degree teams of all the lodges within each Masonic Region. (1974, 1989)

**§5.2.6.4:** The Grand Lecturer shall have general supervision of any Region of any Regional Grand Lecturer who neglects or refuses to become proficient in the standard Michigan Masonic work and who neglects the duties assigned to him by the Grand Lecturer. He shall report any inaccuracies to the Grand Master in writing. (1989)

**§5.2.6.5:** The Grand Lecturer shall have general supervision of the Regional Grand Lecturers and shall instruct them in the standard Michigan Masonic work at meetings called by him for the Regional Grand Lecturers. For this purpose, he is empowered to summon each of the Regional Grand Lecturers to meetings at such time and place as he deems appropriate in conformity to regulations adopted by Grand Lodge. (1989)

**§5.2.6.6:** An annual meeting of all Regional Grand Lecturers and all District Deputy Instructors shall be held on the day prior to the opening of the Annual Communication of Grand

Lodge at the place for holding the same. The Grand Secretary shall notify each Regional Grand Lecturer and District Deputy Instructor of the time and place designated by the Grand Lecturer for holding such annual meeting. Those to be appointed Regional Grand Lecturer and newly elected District Deputy Instructors shall be entitled to attend such annual meeting, as well as the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, and they shall receive the prevailing mileage and per diem for such attendance as outlined in §5.5.1.1. (1989)

### **§5.2.7: Grand Chaplain**

**§5.2.7.1:** The Grand Chaplain shall attend the Communications of Grand Lodge and conduct such religious services as are established by the usages of Ancient Craft Masonry or by this Grand Lodge.

### **§5.2.8: Grand Deacons**

**§5.2.8.1:** The Senior and Junior Grand Deacons shall perform the duties which, by ancient usage, pertain to their respective offices.

### **§5.2.9: Grand Marshal**

**§5.2.9.1:** The Grand Marshal shall proclaim the Grand Lodge Officers at their installation, conduct processions of Grand Lodge, and communicate and execute all commands of the Grand Master not otherwise provided for.

### **§5.2.10: Grand Tiler**

**§5.2.10.1:** The Grand Tiler shall guard the door of Grand Lodge on the outside and perform the duties incident to his office.

## **§5.3: Standing Committees**

### **§5.3.1: Appointment and Meeting of Committees**

**§5.3.1.1:** At each Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, immediately after the installation of officers, the Grand Master shall appoint the following Standing Committees. The members of these committees shall hold their offices for one

year or until their successors are appointed, unless otherwise specified in these bylaws. The committee members shall be entitled to the same mileage and per diem as other Officers of the Grand Lodge.

**§5.3.1.2:** All of the Standing Committees, together with the Grand Master, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary and Grand Lecturer, shall convene at the place of holding the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, at least twenty-four hours prior to its opening. The committee members shall be entitled to the same mileage and per diem as are allowed to members of Grand Lodge. Any of these committees may be convened at such time and place as the Grand Master may deem necessary and, when so convened, shall be entitled to the mileage and per diem allowed members of Grand Lodge.

### **§5.3.2: *Jurisprudence***

**§5.3.2.1:** The Committee on Jurisprudence shall consist of three members whose duty it shall be to examine and report upon all questions of Masonic Law and legislation submitted to it for investigation.

### **§5.3.3: *Appeals***

**§5.3.3.1:** The Committee on Appeals shall consist of three members whose duty it shall be to examine and report upon all appeals, memorials and petitions in relation to any matter of complaint or grievance within this Jurisdiction, which shall come before Grand Lodge.

**§5.3.3.2:** At least one week before the time appointed for a hearing of the Committee on Appeals, the Chairman shall give written notice to such of the parties interested as may have caused their residence or address to be communicated to him, of the time when and the place where the Committee will hear such appeals.

### **§5.3.4: *Finance***

**§5.3.4.1:** The Committee on Finance shall comprise of three or more, but not to exceed seven members. It which shall examine and audit the accounts of the Grand Treasurer, Grand

Secretary, Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home and all other officers, Boards and Committees of Grand Lodge having the disbursement of any Grand Lodge funds and shall satisfy itself that all money and securities belonging to Grand Lodge, or to which Grand Lodge is entitled, are actually in the hands of the authorized custodian thereof. It shall examine all accounts and financial matters referred to it and shall, at each Annual Communication, make full report of the financial condition of Grand Lodge. (1985)

**§5.3.4.2:** With consent of the Grand Master, the Committee on Finance may employ certified public accountants to make any audit herein, provided the expense thereof to be payable, on order of the Grand Master, out of the fund audited or the General Fund, unless the expense be specifically provided for by Grand Lodge in adopting a budget or otherwise.

### **§5.3.5: Lodges**

**§5.3.5.1:** The Committee on Lodges shall consist of not less than three members. Its duty shall be to examine the records of work and the returns of lodges under Dispensation; to make reports to Grand Lodge whether or not, in its opinion, charters should be granted to such lodges; and also to examine and report upon any returns of proceedings of chartered lodges which may be referred to it. (1995)

### **§5.3.6: Fraternal Relations**

**§5.3.6.1:** The Committee on Fraternal Relations shall consist of three members, whose duty it shall be, under the direction of the Grand Master, to examine all petitions, applications and requests of other Grand Lodges for fraternal recognition and intercourse and report thereon in writing to Grand Lodge with such recommendations as are deemed advisable.

**§5.3.6.2:** The Committee on Fraternal Relations shall examine the correspondence and reports from other Grand Lodges in fraternal relations with this Grand Lodge as the Committee may deem advisable. It shall review, from time to time and report thereon in writing to Grand Lodge, the existing fraternal relations between this Grand Lodge and other Grand Lodges to the end that the Craft may be strengthened throughout the

world and the Ancient Landmarks of Freemasonry be preserved.

### **§5.3.7: Credentials**

**§5.3.7.1:** In addition to the foregoing Standing Committees, the Grand Secretary shall be ex-officio a Committee on Credentials and it shall be his duty to examine the credentials of all persons claiming the right of membership in Grand Lodge and report their names, Masonic standing, rank and connection to Grand Lodge at the beginning of each Communication.

### **§5.3.8: Orphans, Relief and Educational Assistance**

**§5.3.8.1:** The Committee on Orphans' Relief and Educational Assistance shall expend, on behalf of orphans, such funds as may be from time to time appropriated for such expenditure by Grand Lodge, or otherwise donated for such purpose. All the expenditures by said Committee shall be under the direction and control of the Grand Master.

**§5.3.8.2:** The Committee on Orphans' Relief and Educational Assistance shall consist of five members, each member shall hold office for five years except that, when first appointed, the appointment shall be so made and arranged that the term of one member shall expire each year. (See also Orphans Committee, §14.) (1984)

### **§5.3.9: Masonic Service and Education**

**§5.3.9.1:** The Committee on Masonic Service and Education shall be composed of ten members appointed by the Grand Master, in such a manner that each member will be in charge of one or more Masonic Districts, as defined in §5.11.1.2. Each member shall hold office for five years, with appointments so staggered that the term of two members shall expire each year. The Right Worshipful Grand Lecturer shall be ex-officio member of this Committee.

**§5.3.9.2:** The duties of the Committee on Masonic Service and Education shall be to formulate and place in operation a program of Masonic Education which will have, as the final objective, the proper enlightenment of the members of the

lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction on any matters pertaining to Freemasonry. This enlightenment shall include annual local officer training workshops consisting of instruction pertaining to the powers, duties and responsibilities of their office as well as instruction pertaining to the proper management of a lodge, which is not contrary to our Landmarks, laws and customs.

**§5.3.9.3:** This committee shall report at each Grand Lodge session its activities for the past year, its proposed program for the ensuing year, and the appropriation necessary to continue its work, the same to be approved by Grand Lodge in session. (1981, 1999)

### **§5.3.10: Publications**

**§5.3.10.1:** The Committee on Publications shall have the duty to prepare for publications those revisions to the "Blue Book" of Michigan Masonic Law which are approved by the Grand Lodge at an Annual Communication. The Committee is further empowered to present to the Grand Lodge such proposed amendments to Michigan Masonic Law which are desirable in the interests of grammatical correction, clarity and consistency; and may be delegated such other duties with respect to official publications as are authorized and assigned to the Committee by the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master. (1970)

**§5.3.10.2:** The Committee on Publications shall consist of three members, each member to hold office for three years except that, when first appointed, the appointment shall be so made and arranged that the term of one member shall expire each year. (1970)

**§5.3.10.3:** The Publications Committee is hereby given authority, subject to approval of the Grand Master and the Board of Directors to:

- (a) Prepare the Blue Book for re-issue at ten-year intervals, beginning with the 1978 re-issue.
- (b) To fix punctuation and to change the language of any part of Grand Lodge Regulations, Bylaws, Penal Code, Bylaws of Lodges under Dispensation in the interests

of grammatical correction, clarity and consistency, but without changing the meaning or effect thereof.

- (c) To re-arrange the Masonic statute law by converting bylaws into Regulations and vice versa, readjust Articles, Sections and sentences and, by employing appropriate headings, by using explanatory notes. (1977)
- (d) To eliminate, combine or restate decisions of the Grand Masters and set them up in such form as seems most usable. (1977)
- (e) To incorporate into the Handbook for Lodge Secretaries such forms as may be approved by the Grand Secretary. (1977)
- (f) And, generally to do all other acts necessary to prepare a convenient and accessible Book of the Law. (1977)

### **§5.3.11: Strategic Planning**

**§5.3.11.1:** The Committee on Strategic Planning, having at least ten (10) members, shall have the duty to monitor the implementation of the Grand Lodge Strategic Plan and its subsequent revisions. It shall introduce legislation, as required, for the implementation of the Plan and shall present proposals to the Grand Master and the Board of Directors for implementing provisions of the Strategic Plan not requiring legislation. It shall make recommendations for revisions to the Plan that may become necessary or appropriate to the Grand Master, Board of Directors and the Delegates to the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge.

**§5.3.11.2:** Each member of the committee shall hold office for five (5) years, with appointments so staggered that the term of two (2) members shall expire each year. Provided, however, no person may serve more than seven (7) consecutive years. (1999)

### **§5.3.12: Landmarks**

**§5.3.12.1:** The Committee on Landmarks, consisting of all the living Past Grand Masters of this Grand Lodge, shall have the duty to advise the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge, upon

his or its request, concerning the Landmarks of the Craft and the welfare and good government thereof. The Grand Master shall appoint the Chairman of the committee. (1960)

### ***§5.3.13: Investments***

**§5.3.13.1:** The Committee on Investments, consisting of the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden, the Grand Treasurer and the Chairman of the Grand Lodge Finance Committee, shall have the duty to invest the funds of the Grand Lodge, including all trust funds thereof, in such manner as shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Grand Lodge Law. The committee's duties shall also include those specified elsewhere in these Regulations and Bylaws. The Grand Master shall be Chairman of the Committee. (1960)

### ***§5.4: Special Committees***

**§5.4.1:** Such special committees as may be deemed necessary may be appointed to act at the pleasure of Grand Lodge.

### ***§5.5: Compensation of Officers, Committees and Members***

#### ***§5.5.1: Grand Lodge Communications***

**§5.5.1.1:** The Grand Officers and members of Grand Lodge entitled to vote, shall receive thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) a day for each day's attendance at Annual and Special Communications. Except for the Grand Master, they shall also receive thirty-five cents (\$.35) per mile for each mile necessarily traveled, the route and distance to be determined by the Grand Secretary, in going to and returning from all Annual and Special Communications; the Grand Master shall receive the standard mileage rate allowable by the Internal Revenue Service for business. (1980, 1998, 2008)

**§5.5.1.2:** PROVIDED, that no representative shall receive either mileage or per diem when his Lodge is in arrears in payment of Per Capita dues, without the sanction of the Finance Committee or Grand Lodge. (1972)

**§5.5.1.3:** Provided further, that the properly accredited representatives of lodges in the Upper Peninsula, in actual attendance upon Grand Lodge Communications, shall be entitled to per diem allowance for two extra days.

**§5.5.1.4:** When a Past Grand Master or any member of a Standing Committee is Master of his lodge, the Senior Warden or Junior Warden may represent the lodge and draw mileage and per diem. (1884)

## **§5.5.2: Salaries**

**§5.5.2.1:** The Grand Master shall receive ten thousand (\$10,000.00) dollars per annum to cover expenses not otherwise provided for and a supply of suitable stationary necessary for the transaction of business of his office. (1969, 2008)

**§5.5.2.2:** The annual salary of the Grand Treasurer shall be established by the Board of Directors, provided that such salary shall be provided for in the annual budget as proposed in Annual Communication and provided further that any change in the amount of said salary shall be reported to the Representatives at said Annual Communication prior to voting on the budget. (1980)

**§5.5.2.3:** The Board of Directors shall establish the annual salary of the Grand Secretary with the same provisions and restrictions as are provided for that of the Grand Treasurer. (1980)

**§5.5.2.4:** The Grand Lecturer shall receive an annual salary as established by the Board of Directors, subject to the same provisions and restrictions as those provided for the Grand Treasurer. Further, the Grand Lecturer shall receive an additional allowance for expenses, which amount shall be within the amount established for that purpose in the annual budget of the Grand Lodge as proposed. He shall submit a monthly account of expenditures necessitated by his official duties; provided, however, that the rate of mileage shall not be in excess of that established in §5.5.1.1. (1980)

**§5.5.2.5:** The Grand Chaplain shall receive an annual salary as established by the Board of Directors subject to the same

provisions and restrictions as those of the Grand Treasurer. (1980)

**§5.5.2.6:** The Grand Tiler shall receive an annual salary as established by the Board of Directors, subject to the same provisions and restrictions as those of the Grand Treasurer. (1980)

**§5.5.2.7:** All annual salaries herein provided for shall be due and payable proportionately on the last day of each calendar month. (1960)

**§5.5.2.8:** In the event there shall be a vacancy created in the Office of the Grand Treasurer, the Grand Secretary or Grand Lecturer, the salary of the successor to such office for the unexpired term thereof, shall be fixed by the Board of Directors of Grand Lodge and shall continue until the next Annual Communication of Grand Lodge; provided, that the salary shall not be greater than the balance of the budget approved by Grand Lodge. (1960)

### **§5.5.3: Allowances**

**§5.5.3.1:** Each Officer of the Grand Lodge shall receive the per diem and mileage named in §5.5.1.1 for each mile necessarily traveled by him in the performance of his official duties within the State of Michigan.

**§5.5.3.2:** In addition thereto, the Grand Master shall receive the per diem named in §5.5.1.1 for each day's attendance upon the laying of cornerstones, dedications of Temples and constitution of new lodges and the mileage named in §5.5.1.1 for each mile necessarily traveled by him in the performance of his official duties.

**§5.5.3.3:** When the Grand Master shall issue his proxy to any Brother to perform any official work or duties incumbent on the Grand Master, such Brother shall be entitled to receive the mileage and per diem established for Grand Lodge Communications.

**§5.5.3.4:** When requested to lay the cornerstones of public buildings, to dedicate Masonic Temples or to institute new

lodges, the Grand Master may, in his discretion, call out such of the Grand Lodge Officers as he may desire to assist him and those who attend in response to such call shall receive, upon order of the Grand Master, the legal mileage and per diem.

**§5.5.3.5:** Upon the death of a Grand Officer or a Past Grand Master, if the funeral services are to be Masonic, the Grand Master shall cause all Grand Officers and Past Grand Masters to be notified and each of those who attend the services shall be entitled to the legal mileage and per diem for one day established for Grand Lodge Communications. No Grand Officer, for whom a stated sum is provided by law for salary or expenses, shall receive a per diem for such attendance.

**§5.5.3.6:** When any Grand Officer or Past Grand Master, living in the Lower Peninsula, shall attend any of such ceremonies or services or Communication of Grand Lodge in the Upper Peninsula, upon lawful authorization or, residing in the Upper Peninsula, shall so attend any such ceremony or services or Communication of Grand Lodge in the Lower Peninsula, he shall, if entitled to per diem, receive such allowance for two extra days.

**§5.5.3.7:** No mileage or per diem shall be paid to any person for attendance at any of the ceremonies or services named in the §5.5.3.1 through §5.5.3.6 above which are held in the place where he resides. No mileage or per diem shall be paid to any person except as provided by these bylaws or by special vote of Grand Lodge.

**§5.5.3.8:** Standing and Special Committees, when convened pursuant to these Bylaws or upon order of the Grand Master, shall be entitled to the legal mileage and per diem.

## **§5.6: *Grand Lodge Revenues***

**§5.6.1:** The revenues of Grand Lodge shall be derived as may be otherwise provided in these bylaws, and from the following sources, viz.:

- (a) For every Warrant or Charter to form a new lodge - \$100.

- (b) For every Dispensation to form a new lodge, to be deducted from fee for Charter in case the lodge shall subsequently be chartered by this Grand Lodge - \$50.00.
- (c) For every Grand Lodge certification - \$1.00, except on official lodge Dues Cards, Demits, Life Membership Certificate and Honorary Membership Certificates. Provided, that where a lodge shall request of the Grand Secretary, Grand Lodge certifications as to the regularity of a constituent lodge on any other document, in quantities of not less than ten at a time, the certification fee therefore shall be \$10.00.

**§5.6.2:** Under this bylaw, Grand Lodge has the power to levy special assessments against constituent lodges for specific purposes. When such an assessment is ordered, it is the duty of the lodges to pay it and if they do not, the Grand Master can proceed against them for refusal to obey the orders of the Grand Lodge. (1928)

**§5.6.3:** Whenever Grand Lodge adopts any measure providing for a general or special assessment of the members of constituent lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction, said measure shall provide an effective date not less than three (3) months after the close of Grand Lodge Annual Communication. It shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary to give separate notice to the Secretaries of the constituent lodges of the effective date of such assessment and the manner in which the same shall be collected and paid to Grand Lodge.

**§5.6.4:** Each chartered lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction shall pay annually to Grand Lodge, before the twentieth day of March, one dollar (\$1.00) for each person initiated by it during the preceding year and, for General Fund purposes, twelve dollars and fifty cents (\$12.50) for each Master Mason who is a member of the lodge at the close of the Masonic year and such additional sums for special purposes as Grand Lodge at any Annual Communication shall order. Honorary members, members whose dues have been remitted for charitable considerations, life members (except those awarded life membership during the Masonic year just closed), Prepaid

Members and Secretaries are exempted from paying these dues. Any sum Per Capita which the lodge is ordered to pay to Grand Lodge for special purposes shall be added to the dues of the lodge and be collected by the lodge as dues. The payment shall be shown on the Annual Dues Receipts as "Per Capita Assessment." A Grand Lodge Special Assessment collected from a Brother by a lodge for a year in which the Brother demits, withdraws, dies, is suspended or expelled, shall be remitted to the Grand Secretary with the Annual Return for the year for which the assessment was levied. (1958, 1967, 1982, 1984, 1985, 1993, 1996, 2001, 2002)

**§5.6.5:** Each chartered lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction shall collect from each dues paying Master Mason the sum of one dollar (\$1.00) in addition to the regularly scheduled fees fixed by the bylaws of such lodge pursuant to Grand Lodge law. This sum shall be accounted for and remitted to Grand Lodge as other funds are paid to Grand Lodge pursuant to §5.6.4. Said funds, so collected, shall be used as a contribution to the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association. (1981, 1998, 2004)

**§5.6.6:** Each dues paying Master Mason of this Grand Jurisdiction shall pay annually to the Grand Lodge for the benefit of the Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation the sum of six dollars (\$6.00).

- (a) The said sum shall be paid annually, in advance, on or before January 1st in each year. The Secretary of each lodge shall bill each dues paying member thereof and shall issue a receipt upon payment. The payment shall be shown on the Annual Dues Receipt as "MICHIGAN MASONIC CHARITABLE FOUNDATION." (1970, 2001, 2006)
- (b) The Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation assessment shall be remitted to the Grand Secretary at the same time and in the same manner as the Per Capita Dues, and in accordance with the Regulations governing Transfer of Membership when applicable. (1971, 1983, 2006) (G.M. edict 2004)

- (c) All moneys received in accordance herewith shall be credited to the Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation and used only for the benefit of the Foundation, and expended only in accordance with the directions of the Grand Lodge in Annual or Special Communication assembled. (1958, 2006) (G.M. edict 2004)

## **§5.7: Budgets**

### **§5.7.1: Fiscal Year**

**§5.7.1.1:** The fiscal year of the Grand Lodge shall commence on April first and end on the thirty-first day of March following. (1976).

**§5.7.1.2:** Immediately after the termination of each fiscal year, the Grand Treasurer, the Grand Secretary and the Masonic Board of Trustees shall prepare their financial reports to the Grand Lodge for the fiscal year just closed and deliver the same to the Grand Master, who shall at once refer them to the Finance Committee for examination and recommendation to Grand Lodge.

### **§5.7.2: Presentation of Budgets**

**§5.7.2.1:** The Committee on Finance shall prepare and submit to Grand Lodge, at each Annual Communication, an itemized and detailed budget of expenditures for General Fund purposes for the then fiscal year and a like budget of expenditures for the Masonic Home, the Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation and all other purposes ordered by Grand Lodge. The budgets shall state separately: (2006)

- (a) all items and amounts expressly provided by Grand Lodge law (with citation of the law); and
- (b) all items provided by Grand Lodge law but without express provision as to amount (with citation); and
- (c) all items for which there is no express provision of Grand Lodge law as to purpose or amount.

**§5.7.2.2:** The Grand Secretary shall cause such budgets to be printed and a copy thereof shall be mailed to all Past Grand Masters, Officers of the Grand Lodge and the Worshipful Master and Secretary of each constituent lodge at least sixty (60) days before the beginning of the Annual Communication. (1999)

**§5.7.2.3:** The Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home shall submit to the Committee on Finance, at least thirty days prior to such Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, a statement of its needs for the ensuing year in such form and detail as the Committee on Finance may deem necessary to enable it to prepare and submit such budget.

### ***§5.7.3: Approval and Adoption of Budgets***

**§5.7.3.1:** The approval and adoption by Grand Lodge of a budget of expenditures shall authorize the expenditure of such amounts for such items and purposes by the proper authorized disbursing Officer or Board.

**§5.7.3.2:** All moneys of Grand Lodge, as received, except the Masonic Home Endowment Fund, shall be divided and allocated by the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer to the General Fund, the Masonic Home Maintenance Fund, the Outside Relief Fund and such other funds as may be contained in such approved budget or budgets, in the proportion which the budget total of such fund bears to the total budget appropriations of Grand Lodge, except as otherwise provided by Grand Lodge. All receipts, not expressly appropriated by an approved budget for specific purposes, shall be allocated and credited to a surplus fund to be disposed of by Grand Lodge at a succeeding Communication.

### ***§5.7.4: Budget Limitations***

**§5.7.4.1:** No Officer or Board shall have the right or authority to transfer any moneys from its proper fund as approved in the budget, nor to expand any funds of Grand Lodge for any purpose or in any sum otherwise than is contained in and authorized by approval of a budget or other express formal action by Grand Lodge.

**§5.7.4.2:** Provided, however, that by an affirmative vote of not less than a majority of its members, the Grand Lodge Board of Directors may authorize transfer of excess funds between various accounts appropriated in the annual budget for the operation and maintenance of the Michigan Masonic Home; from the Grand Lodge General Fund budget to the Masonic Home budget and between the funds appropriated in the General Fund of the Grand Lodge; provided, however, that no appropriation for Grand Master's Expense or Visitation to other Grand Jurisdictions shall be increased.

**§5.7.4.3:** Provided further, that the Grand Lodge Board of Directors shall submit a written report of each such transfer, together with the reasons therefore, for approval at the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge.

### ***§5.7.5: Employee Retirement Benefits***

**§5.7.5.1:** The Grand Master, by and with the consent of a majority of the Board of Directors, is hereby authorized to contract for a retirement plan to include all eligible full-time employees of the Masonic Home and Hospital and all eligible full-time employees of the Grand Lodge with such commercial underwriter or underwriters as the Grand Master and Board of Directors shall determine. The premium cost shall be included as an item of expense in the annual budget. (1963, 1965)

**§5.7.5.2:** All retirement benefits shall be in addition to old age benefits under the Federal Old Age and Survivors Insurance Administration. (Social Security) (1963)

### ***§5.7.6: Contingent Fund***

**§5.7.6.1:** The Contingent Fund, as set up in the budget, shall, unless otherwise expressly provided, be deemed to include all unanticipated expenses for which express provision is not made, including necessary excess over other budget items, when so found and approved by the Grand Master.

### ***§5.7.7: Grand Lodge Reserve Fund***

**§5.7.7.1:** A fund is hereby established to be known as the Reserve Fund, which shall be subject to the regulations

provided in this section. It shall consist of moneys transferred into it by the Grand Lodge, together with the income from moneys in the fund except as hereinafter provided. (1955)

**§5.7.7.2:** The Reserve Fund is declared to be a Trust Fund for the operation of the Grand Lodge. In the event that the income to the General Fund is insufficient to provide payment of the budgeted operating expenses of the Grand Lodge which have been approved at the Annual Communication, transfers from the Reserve Fund may be made by a majority vote of the Grand Lodge Board of Directors not to exceed the interest and dividends generated by the Reserve Fund during that fiscal year.

**§5.7.7.3:** Appropriations from the Reserve Fund, except under the circumstances cited above, shall be made only by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the Grand Lodge present at an Annual or Special Communication thereof. (1955, 1991)

### ***§5.7.8: Charity and Emergency Relief***

**§5.7.8.1:** The Grand Lodge, during any Annual or Special Communication, may appropriate such amount of its funds as it deems proper for any charitable purpose or object, or for any relief, but no application for charity or relief made to Grand Lodge, when annually or specially convened, shall be acted upon until it has been referred to and reported on by the Finance Committee. The warrants drawn on the Grand Treasurer for such amounts shall be signed by the Grand Secretary and countersigned by the Grand Master.

**§5.7.8.2:** In the event of a grave emergency of human distress, and in the absence of available funds appropriated for charitable purposes, the Grand Master and the Finance Committee, or a majority of them, may spend or contribute, out of the General Fund, for such emergency relief, a sum not exceeding one thousand dollars. (\$1,000.00)

### ***§5.7.9: Disposal of Certain Funds***

**§5.7.9.1:** All moneys received for the maintenance of the Masonic Home, except those belonging to the Masonic Home

Endowment Fund, shall be added to the Masonic Home Maintenance Fund and become a part thereof.

**§5.7.9.2:** All moneys received by the Grand Secretary for use of Grand Lodge Seal, for certificates, blanks and other papers authorized by the Grand Lodge or issued by its direction, shall be accounted for to the Grand Lodge and paid to the Grand Treasurer for the General Fund.

**§5.7.10: *Investment of Funds***

**§5.7.10.1:** All moneys belonging to the Grand Lodge (except the Masonic Home Endowment Fund, Masonic Home Maintenance Fund and Reserve Fund), which are not needed for current expenses, charitable purposes or relief, shall be invested by the Grand Lodge Investment Committee in accordance with the following options: (1991, 2004)

- (a) In bonds or other evidence of indebtedness which are guaranteed both as to principal and interest by the United States of America. (1955)
- (b) In the general obligation bonds of any state or of any political subdivision thereof, which, at the time of purchase, carry a rating of "Baa" or better as reported by Moody's Investors Services or their equivalent. (1955, 1981, 1989)
- (c) In savings deposits or certificates of deposit in regularly chartered banks, provided the deposit in any bank shall not exceed the amount insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, unless voted by the Grand Lodge Board of Directors. (1955, 1985)
- (d) In shares of chartered savings and loan associations, provided the total amount invested in any savings and loan association shall not exceed the amount insured by the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation. (1975, 1981)
- (e) In bonds, notes, mortgages or other evidences of indebtedness of Federal Agencies and government sponsored institutions. For example: Federal National

Mortgage Association, Federal Farm Credit or Federal Home Loan Bank. (1975, 1981, 1989)

- (f) In collateralized repurchase agreements, commercial paper which, at the time of purchase, carries a rating of MIG-1 as reported by Moody's Investors Services or the equivalent thereof; master notes as chosen by Depository Banks or short term money market funds to temporarily invest cash surpluses. (1981, 1989)
- (g) In industrial, finance and utility bonds, notes and debentures which, at the time of purchase, carry a rating of "Baa" or better, as reported by Moody's Investors Services. (1995)
- (h) In preferred stocks which, at the time of purchase, carry a rating of "Baa" or better as reported by Moody's Investors Services. (1995)
- (i) In convertible bonds, notes and debentures, and in convertible preferred stocks, each of which, at the time of purchase, carry a rating of "Baa" or better as reported by Moody's Investors Services. (1995)
- (j) In common stocks that are listed on a national securities exchange or on the National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotation System (NASDAQ) (1995)

**§5.7.10.2:** All moneys in the Masonic Home Endowment Fund, Masonic Home Maintenance Fund and Reserve Fund, and all moneys received from the sale of investments of said funds shall be invested by the Grand Lodge Investment Committee in accordance with the following options: (2004, 2006)

- (a) In bonds or other evidences of indebtedness which are guaranteed both as to principal and interest by the United States of America. (1991)
- (b) In the general obligation bonds of any state or of any political subdivision thereof which, at the time of purchase, carry a rating of "Baa" or better as reported by Moody's Investors Services. (1991)

- (c) In savings deposits or certificates of deposit in regularly chartered banks, provided the deposit in any bank shall not exceed the amount insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, unless voted by the Grand Lodge Board of Directors. (1991)
- (d) In shares of chartered savings and loan associations, provided the total amount invested in any savings and loan association shall not exceed the amount insured by the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation. (1991)
- (e) In industrial, finance and utility bonds, notes and debentures which, at the time of purchase, carry a rating of "Baa" or better as reported by Moody's Investors Services. (1991)
- (f) In bonds, notes, mortgages or other evidences of indebtedness of Federal agencies and government sponsored institutions. For example: Federal National Mortgage Association, Federal Farm Credit or Federal Home Loan Bank (1991)
- (g) In collateralized repurchase agreements, commercial paper which, at the time of purchase, carries a rating of MIG-1 as reported by Moody's Investors Services; master notes as chosen by Depository Banks; or short term money market type funds to temporarily invest cash surpluses. (1991)
- (h) In preferred stocks which, at the time of purchase, carry a rating of "Baa" or better as reported by Moody's Investors Services. (1991)
- (i) In convertible bonds, notes and debentures, and in convertible preferred stocks, each of which, at the time of purchase, carry a rating of "Baa" or better as reported by Moody's Investors Services. (1991)
- (j) In common stocks that are listed on a national securities exchange or on the National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotation System (NASDAQ). (1991, 1995)

- (k) For the purposes of §5.7.10.2, any reference to Moody's Investors Services or Standard and Poor's Corporation shall be construed to mean either the named entities or their equivalent. (1991)

**§5.7.10.3:** The Grand Master, by and with the consent of a majority of the Grand Lodge Board of Directors, may employ investment counsel, upon such terms and conditions as may be deemed reasonable and necessary. At the first meeting of the Grand Lodge Board of Directors following the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, the Board shall determine whether the employment of investment council shall be necessary for the current Grand Lodge year. (1955, 1991)

**§5.7.10.4:** Whenever the Grand Lodge receives any securities or investments which do not conform to the above investment standards, the Grand Lodge Investment Committee, by and with the consent of the Grand Lodge Board of Directors, may retain said property, securities or investments for such period of time as may be deemed to be in the best interests of the Grand Lodge. (1965, 1991)

## **§5.8: Reports**

### **§5.8.1: Grand Officers' Reports**

**§5.8.1.1:** The Grand Master shall, on or before the tenth day of the month following the end of the Grand Lodge Fiscal year, file with the Grand Secretary a report of all statistical matters pertaining to his administration, so far as completed to that time. (1976)

**§5.8.1.2:** The Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, Grand Lecturer and Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home shall, within the same time, file with the Grand Secretary the annual reports required of them by law.

**§5.8.1.3:** All Special Committees appointed at any prior Communication of Grand Lodge or by the Grand Master during the vacation of Grand Lodge shall, within the same time, file with the Grand Secretary their final reports and recommendations.

**§5.8.1.4:** The Grand Secretary shall cause all such reports to be printed and a copy thereof given to each Representative of Grand Lodge as he registers at the next Annual Communication thereafter.

### **§5.8.2: Reports of Lodges**

**§5.8.2.1:** Each lodge shall report to the Grand Secretary the names of all Officers elected within three days after the annual election, the report to be signed by the Secretary under the Seal of the lodge.

**§5.8.2.2:** The books, accounts and reports of the lodges shall cover and include the calendar year, from the first day of January to and including the thirty-first day of December. It shall be the duty of the Secretary of each lodge to make an annual report to the Grand Secretary before March 1 in each year, which report shall contain a list of those initiated, passed, raised, admitted, restored and demitted and of deaths, suspensions, expulsions, rejections and withdrawals, with the respective dates opposite each name; the names of the Master, Wardens and other Officers of the lodge for the ensuing year; when required by the Grand Secretary, an alphabetical list of all members in good standing on the thirty-first day of December, with the dates of their membership; and a financial statement for the preceding lodge fiscal year showing a summary of dues remitted, receipts, disbursements, assets, and liabilities; the returns to be signed by the Master and Secretary, and the lodge Seal attached. (1990)

**§5.8.2.3:** The names and positions of all members of constituent lodges should appear in the annual returns. (1880)

Lodges should furnish alphabetical lists of members in their returns. (1899)

**§5.8.2.4:** The Secretary and Treasurer of each constituent lodge shall give bonds, with sufficient sureties, to Grand Lodge for the faithful performance of their respective duties and trusts in accordance with the act of incorporation and corporate bylaws of Grand Lodge, and for the accounting for and paying over to the person or persons entitled thereto of all moneys which shall come into their hands as such Secretary or

Treasurer, such bonds to be given in accordance with such plan as shall be adopted by Grand Lodge.

## **§5.9: Lodges**

### **§5.9.1: Consolidation of Lodges**

**§5.9.1.1:** When any two or more lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction desire to consolidate, such consolidation shall be accomplished by adoption of a proper resolution by each lodge. (1974)

**§5.9.1.2:** When any two or more lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction, having concurrent or adjoining jurisdiction, desire to consolidate, such consolidation shall be accomplished by adoption of a proper resolution by each of the lodges. No consolidations are allowed during the months of November or December. (1974, 2002)

**§5.9.1.3:** By mutual consent of each of the lodges, one of the consolidating lodges shall retain its number and Charter to be continued as that of the consolidated lodge. Further, said lodge shall retain its original name or, if mutually agreed, a new name indicative of the originating lodges may be used in lieu thereof. (1974)

Because the space in the lodge directory and on dues cards has restricted print capacity, new lodges or lodge consolidations shall result in selecting a name for the lodge not to exceed twenty-eight characters, including blank spaces, for publication in the lodge directory. (1996)

**§5.9.1.4:** A resolution, in substance as follows, shall be presented at a Regular Communication of the lodge whose number is to be retained. (1974)

"Resolved, That \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_ does agree to concur in, and hereby requests \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_ (List all lodges if more than one is involved) to consolidate with this lodge under the name and style of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_."

**§5.9.1.5:** A resolution shall be presented at a Regular Communication of each of the other consolidating lodges, in substance as follows: (1974)

"Resolved, That upon the concurrence of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_ F. & A. M., (List all lodges if more than one is involved) this lodge does surrender its Charter for the purpose of consolidating with \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_ under the name and style of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_."

**§5.9.1.6:** When such a resolution has been presented, it shall be entered in full upon the records and lie upon the table, without further action, until the next Regular Communication of the respective lodge. Within ten days after the presentation of such resolution, the Secretary of each lodge shall mail, postpaid, to the last known post office address of each of the members of his lodge, a notice, in substance as follows: (1974)

"The following resolution was, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ A.L. \_\_\_\_\_ presented to this Lodge, and will be brought up for action at the next Regular Communication of this lodge, to be held on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ A.L. \_\_\_\_\_"

(INSERT RESOLUTION)

(Lodge Seal)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

**§5.9.1.7:** At the next Regular Communication of each of said lodges, after that at which such resolution shall have been presented, each lodge shall proceed to ballot upon such resolution. If three quarters (3/4) or more of the votes are cast in its favor, the same shall be declared adopted. If more than one quarter (1/4) of the votes are cast against the adoption of such resolution, the same shall be declared lost. The ballot shall be had in the prescribed manner as for membership, and each member present shall vote. No reconsideration of the ballot shall be had. (1974)

**§5.9.1.8:** The Secretaries of such lodges so desiring to consolidate shall enter upon the record the number of votes

cast for and against the said resolution; and each shall, immediately thereafter, notify the other lodges with which it is proposed to consolidate, in writing and under Seal, of the action of his respective lodge. (1974)

**§5.9.1.9:** When all lodges proposing such consolidation shall have adopted their respective resolutions as aforesaid, the Secretary of each lodge shall, within five days after such adoption, forward to the Grand Master a notice in writing of the action of his respective lodge, with a copy of the records of his lodge relating to such consolidation, including a copy of the resolution and a copy of the notice to the members of his respective lodge, accompanied by a certification showing that the same was mailed to each member of his lodge, and the date when so mailed. (1974)

**§5.9.1.10:** Upon receipt of such notices and papers, if it shall appear to the Grand Master that the action of each of said lodges was taken in conformity to the provisions hereof, he shall, within ten days, notify the Grand Secretary of his approval thereof, and he shall by and through the Grand Secretary, authorize the said lodges in writing to so consolidate, under the name, number and Charter indicated in the resolutions adopted by the lodges. The then present Officers of the lodge whose Charter and number is to be continued shall continue as Officers of the consolidated lodge. The consolidation shall become effective as of the date of the Grand Master's approval. (1974)

**§5.9.1.11:** If any change is to be made in the name of the consolidated lodge, the Grand Secretary shall prepare a certificate thereof, signed by the Grand Master and attested by the Grand Secretary, which shall be forwarded to the consolidated lodge and by said lodge attached to its original Charter. (1974)

**§5.9.1.12:** All of the property and effects of each of the consolidating lodges shall merge and shall be and become the property of the newly consolidated lodge, consistent with Grand Lodge Regulations. (1974)

**§5.9.1.13:** Each of the consolidating lodges, except the one whose Charter is continued, shall forthwith send to the Grand Secretary its Seal and Charter, together with a full and complete list of all its members at the date of such consolidation, at the same time sending a copy of its list of members to the Secretary of the newly consolidated lodge. The Secretary of the consolidated lodge shall properly enter upon the records of such lodge the names of all the members of the other lodges so consolidating with his lodge. (1974)

**§5.9.1.14:** The consolidated lodge shall have jurisdiction of all Masonic material, and of all matters over which any of the consolidating lodges had jurisdiction at the time of such consolidation. It shall be liable to this Grand Lodge, as well as to any other body or party, for all dues and other obligations of each of the consolidating lodges. (1974)

**§5.9.1.15:** The territorial jurisdiction of the newly consolidated lodge shall be as provided by Grand Lodge Regulations for other lodges. Except as provided by such Regulations, it shall not, by consolidation alone, acquire additional territory. (1974)

**§5.9.1.16:** At any time within three months after the date of such consolidation, any member of any of said consolidated lodges who shall certify that he was absent from the jurisdiction and did not receive any such notice, and was not aware of the proposed consolidation, and who shall not desire to become a member of such consolidated lodge, may procure a certificate from the Secretary showing him to be in good standing and that he has paid all dues to his lodge up to the time of such consolidation, and forward same to the Grand Secretary, who shall issue a certificate of his Masonic standing to such member, of same date as the consolidation. Such member, thereupon, shall have the status of a demitted Mason. (1974)

**§5.9.1.17:** After any such consolidation, the Grand Master shall file with the Grand Secretary all papers in his possession relating thereto, and report his action to Grand Lodge at its next Communication. (1974)

**§5.9.1.18:** Any lodge failing to consolidate as aforesaid may again, after three months, have action thereon, by pursuing the same course as herein before laid down. (1974)

## ***§5.9.2: Lodges Under Dispensation***

**§5.9.2.1:** A new lodge may be proposed and constituted Under Dispensation by the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge upon the petition of not less than fifteen Master Masons. The petitioners shall present satisfactory documentary evidence with the petition that they are each in regular standing in lodges affiliated with, or recognized by, this Grand Jurisdiction, and reside within the territorial jurisdiction of the proposed lodge. (1960)

**§5.9.2.2:** The petition shall be in the form prescribed by this Grand Lodge and shall set forth the name of the place, village, town or city and county in which the lodge is to be established, the proposed name of the lodge and its exact meeting place, the names of the Brothers who have been nominated and are recommended to serve as Worshipful Master and Senior and Junior Wardens, that the petitioners have arranged to secure a suitable room with convenient anterooms for the practice of Masonic rites and that the material in their proposed jurisdiction is sufficient to sustain an active and reputable lodge. (1960)

**§5.9.2.3:** The Grand Master shall order the Grand Lecturer and the Committee on Lodges to verify the information in the petition. The Grand Master shall authorize the Grand Lecturer to procure satisfactory evidence that the Brothers named for Worshipful Master and Wardens are qualified to open and close a lodge and to confer the three degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry. The Grand Master shall order the Grand Secretary to immediately notify all lodges whose territory would be affected by that of the proposed lodge. The Grand Master shall arrange a meeting between the Committee on Lodges, the petitioners for the proposed lodge and authorized representatives of the affected lodges for the purpose of discussing merits for, and possible objections to, the formation of the new lodge. Notices for this meeting shall be mailed at least forty-five days prior to the date thereof. The Grand Master, or his designated proxy,

shall preside at the meeting which shall be held at the site of the proposed lodge or at such other place as may be designated by the Grand Master. (1964)

**§5.9.2.4:** The Committee on Lodges shall consider the discussion at the above meeting when making subsequent report and recommendations to the Grand Lodge. (1960)

**§5.9.2.5:** Upon receipt of proof of proper compliance with the above requirements, the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge may constitute a Lodge Under Dispensation. A Lodge Under Dispensation is under the personal direction and jurisdiction of the Grand Master during the life of the Dispensation. The Dispensation shall terminate at the close of the Grand Lodge Annual Communication following the date of issuance, unless renewed through the incoming Grand Master or continued by a two-thirds vote of the representatives of the Grand Lodge in Annual Communication assembled. (1964)

**§5.9.2.6:** When a Brother obtains a Certificate of Permission to join with others in forming a new lodge and a lodge under Dispensation is constituted by authority of the Dispensation granted, the Brother becomes a member of the lodge under Dispensation and his membership in the former lodge is terminated upon due notice being transmitted to the former lodge by the Grand Secretary. If the Brother desires to retain his original membership he shall so notify the Secretary of his original lodge in writing when applying for the certificate and, in such case, he shall retain his membership in his original lodge and become a Plural Member of the new lodge. This provision shall not apply to membership in Memorial Lodges under Dispensation or any Honorary Membership. (1964, 2005)

**§5.9.2.7:** There shall be paid for every Dispensation for a new lodge the sum of fifty dollars; for every Charter the sum of one hundred dollars, from which shall be deducted the sum previously paid for Dispensation. (see §5.6.4 and §5.6.1 (b))

**§5.9.2.8:** The Grand Lodge shall not issue a Charter to a Lodge Under Dispensation until at least four months after the date of the Dispensation and until the lodge shall have conferred the

Degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason in the manner and form prescribed by this Grand Lodge. (1964)

**§5.9.2.9:** Lodges Under Dispensation shall not elect any officers, transact any business or perform any work except that clearly expressed in the warrant of Dispensation creating them and shall always act in strict accordance with the rules and regulations of Grand Lodge.

**§5.9.2.10:** At least ten days before the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, all Lodges Under Dispensation shall forward to the Grand Secretary their lodge records, which shall contain a full and exact report of everything done by authority of their warrant of Dispensation, together with the Dispensation under which they have worked.

**§5.9.2.11:** Lodges Under Dispensation shall be governed by such bylaws as are enacted by this Grand Lodge.

(See Lodges U.D. §7)

### ***§5.9.3: Memorial Lodges Under Dispensation***

**§5.9.3.1:** Where two or more lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction have concurrent jurisdiction, there may be formed, in each of such jurisdictions, a Memorial Lodge to conduct Masonic funerals of deceased sojourners only. Upon proper application, approved by two-thirds of the Worshipful Masters of the jurisdiction, made to the Grand Master, he may issue a Dispensation to a constitutional number of Master Masons of such jurisdiction to form a Memorial Lodge. Such Memorial Lodges shall remain Under Dispensation until revocation by the Grand Master.

**§5.9.3.2:** Memorial Lodges under Dispensation shall have the same officers as have other lodges; provided, that the Worshipful Master and Wardens thereof shall have attained the same rank in a chartered lodge. They shall pay no fees or dues to Grand Lodge and shall not collect fees or dues. Their expenses shall be met by voluntary contributions of the lodges in their jurisdiction or by their local Board of Relief.

**§5.9.3.3:** Membership in such Memorial Lodges shall be by Plural Membership only. Any member of a Memorial Lodge may terminate his membership, at will, upon written notice to the Secretary thereof.

**§5.9.3.4:** Regular Communications of Memorial Lodges shall be held quarterly with an annual meeting for the election and installation of officers.

#### **§5.9.4: *Newly Chartered Lodges***

**§5.9.4.1:** Before a newly chartered lodge is constituted, it may open only to hold the first election of officers and for no other purpose. All other work and business must await the constitution of the lodge, the installation of its officers and, unless the Grand Master by Dispensation has authorized the lodge to meet in undedicated quarters, the dedication of its quarters to Masonry. (1964)

**§5.9.4.2:** A newly-chartered lodge shall hold its first election of officers at a Regular Communication not more than two months subsequent to the date of the Charter, except as provided in §7.3.7.

**§5.9.4.3:** At the first election of officers subsequent to the date of the Charter, any member of the lodge, who has served as Worshipful Master or Warden of the lodge while under the Dispensation or of a Chartered lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, shall be eligible for election to the Office of Worshipful Master. (1964)

**§5.9.4.4:** All newly chartered and legally constituted lodges whose officers have been duly elected and installed, shall thereafter hold their annual election of officers and make their reports to the Grand Secretary at the same time and in the same manner as other chartered lodges. (1964)

#### **§5.9.5: *Defunct Lodges***

**§5.9.5.1:** If any lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction shall cease to exist, except for the purpose of consolidation, the last Worshipful Master or Wardens thereof shall, within thirty days thereafter, transmit to the Grand Secretary the lodge Seal and

all its books, papers, officers' jewels, funds or evidence thereof, and all other lodge property except the lodge furnishings, together with the Charter. (1964)

**§5.9.5.2:** The Worshipful Master or the Wardens shall see that the furnishings are sold, stored or disposed of. If sold, the proceeds shall be accounted for, as are other funds received by the Grand Lodge. (1964)

**§5.9.5.3:** The Grand Lodge has jurisdiction of all unfinished or rejected material, and all members of whatever Masonic standing of a lodge whose existence has terminated for reason other than consolidation. Unfinished or rejected material of such a defunct lodge may apply to the Grand Secretary for a certificate of Masonic standing. Suspended or expelled members, desiring restoration, must apply to the Grand Lodge. (1964)

**§5.9.5.4:** Members in good standing of such a lodge are entitled, upon payment to the Grand Secretary of any accrued dues, to a certificate which, for all purposes, is equivalent to a Demit or Transfer Certificate. (1964)

### ***§5.9.6: Masonic Lodge of Research and Information***

**§5.9.6.1:** A Lodge of Research and Information may be proposed and constituted Under Dispensation by the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge upon the petition of not less than fifteen Master Masons. The petitioners shall present satisfactory documentary evidence with the petition that they are each in regular standing in lodges affiliated with, or recognized by, this Grand Jurisdiction. (1983)

**§5.9.6.2:** The petition shall be in the form prescribed by this Grand Lodge and shall set forth the names of the Brothers who have been nominated and recommended to serve as Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens. Lodges of Research and Information shall be designated and numbered separately and consecutively commencing with Research and Information Lodge No. 1. The territorial jurisdiction of such a Lodge of Research and Information shall be co-extensive with the territorial jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge. A Lodge of Research and Information need not designate a specific place of

meeting. It shall, however, meet in a dedicated Masonic Temple within the territorial jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge. (1983)

**§5.9.6.3:** The Grand Master or the Grand Lodge may constitute a Lodge of Research and Information Under Dispensation. Such lodge shall not confer any of the Degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry, but shall be formed exclusively for the purpose of researching and publishing Masonic information and educational material. Such Dispensation shall be issued without fees and without compliance with the usual provisions as designated in §5.9.2. (1983)

**§5.9.6.4:** The Grand Lodge may issue a Charter to a Lodge of Research and Information without fees upon its approval at an Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge. Also, without compliance with the usual requirements as designated in §5.9.2. (1983)

**§5.9.6.5:** The membership of a Lodge of Research and Information shall be exclusively by Plural Membership. Master Masons in regular standing in lodges affiliated with or recognized by this Grand Jurisdiction may affiliate with a Lodge of Research and Information by petitioning for Plural Membership. Petitioners for Plural Membership need not comply with the usual residence requirements. (1983)

**§5.9.6.6:** No member of a Lodge of Research and Information shall continue to be a member of such lodge unless he is a member in regular standing in a lodge affiliated with, or recognized by this Grand Jurisdiction. (1983)

**§5.9.6.7:** A Lodge of Research and Information shall, at all times, maintain at least ten members who are members of other Michigan Masonic lodges and are domiciled within the territorial jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge. (1983)

**§5.9.6.8:** A Lodge of Research and Information shall be exempt from the usual requirements of monthly Regular Communications, as designated in the Regulations of the Grand Lodge §4.15. It shall, however, meet at least once in each quarter. The time for election and installation of officers shall comply with the Regulations of Grand Lodge §4.16. (1983)

**§5.9.6.9:** All Lodges of Research and Information shall be exempt from the payment of all per capita, general assessments and any special assessments levied by the Grand Lodge and as prescribed in §5.6. (1983)

**§5.9.6.10:** Lodges of Research and Information shall not be entitled to representation at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge as specified in §4.3.7 (a) and §4.4.1 (d). (1985)

**§5.9.6.11:** Notwithstanding the provisions of §4.16.1.11 or §4.25.5.2, members of a Lodge of Research and Information, operating under a Charter granted by the Grand Lodge of Michigan, may hold office in one Lodge of Research and Information and one degree conferring lodge chartered by the Grand Lodge of Michigan at the same time. (1985)

**§5.9.6.12:** Notwithstanding the provisions of §4.25.5.9, all members of a Lodge of Research and Information are subject to dues as specified in its bylaws, unless remitted by a vote of the lodge. (1985)

**§5.9.6.13:** The Worshipful Master, Officers and Past Masters of Lodges of Research and Information shall not be entitled to the same rights and privileges as the Worshipful Master, Officers and Past Masters of a degree conferring lodge. (1990)

## **§5.10: *Masonic Home Board of Trustees (2000)***

**§5.10.1:** There shall be a Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home, consisting of twelve members, to be appointed for initially staggered terms of from one to three years. The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and the Grand Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of the Board in addition to the twelve appointed members. The Grand Master may preside at any meeting of the Board. (1994, 2000)

Failure, on the part of any appointed member, to attend three consecutive regular meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be cause for immediate removal of the said member of the Board. (1971)

**§5.10.2:** The appointed members of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home shall be selected by the Grand Lodge Board

of Directors from nominees fitting a general profile for people talents and expertise desired for Board appointment. Each appointment shall be for a period of three years. Initially, the appointments shall be staggered in terms of one, two and three years to provide a maximum of twelve members at any one time. No appointed member of the Board of Trustees can serve more than two full consecutive terms except by unanimous consent of the Grand Lodge Board of Directors. (1994, 2000)

**§5.10.3:** All vacancies on the Board, whether by expiration of term of office, death, resignation or any other cause, shall be filled in accordance with §5.10.2 for the full unexpired term. (1994)

**§5.10.4:** Such Board of Trustees shall have the control, management and supervision of the Masonic Home and may make and adopt rules and regulations for its own organization and government; and for the government, control and admission of residents into the Home, subject, however, to the orders and directions of, and rules for the management of the Home, which may be adopted by the Grand Lodge. (1994)

**§5.10.5:** At each Annual Communication, the Board shall make a full and complete report of its actions and activities during the preceding year, including an itemized statement of all moneys received and disbursed by it. (1994)

**§5.10.6:** Each member of the Board shall be entitled to the mileage and per diem established for Grand Lodge Communications, the same to be paid as part of the expense of maintaining the Home. (1973, 1994)

## **§5.11: DDIs, RGLs and BGP Members**

### **§5.11.1: Regulations Common to All**

**§5.11.1.1:** This section, §5.11.1, deals with items common to all District Deputy Instructors (DDIs), Regional Grand Lecturers (RGLs) and Board of General Purposes (BGP) Members. Refer to the rest of §5.11 for additional regulations.

**§5.11.1.2:** This Grand Jurisdiction shall be divided into such number of DDI Districts and BPG Districts as shall be deemed

expedient.<sup>11</sup> A District Deputy Instructor shall be selected for each DDI District; a BGP member shall be selected for each BGP District. (1999, 2001)

**§5.11.1.3:** The Grand Master shall cause this Grand Jurisdiction to be divided into such number of Masonic Regions as shall be deemed expedient. He shall assign each DDI District to a Masonic Region as shall appear proper and equitable. There shall be one Regional Grand Lecturer assigned to each Region. (1999, 2006)

**§5.11.1.4:** The Grand Master shall assign each chartered lodge to a DDI District and to a BGP District as shall appear proper and equitable. He shall notify the Masters and Secretaries of all lodges and each DDI, RGL, BGP member and the Grand Lecturer as to the lodges which comprise each District.

**§5.11.1.5:** The Grand Lodge, in Annual Communication assembled, may subsequently make such division of existing Districts and Regions as may appear advisable. Representatives from new Districts and Regions so established shall be elected or appointed in the manner hereinafter provided. (2003)

**§5.11.1.6:** Each newly chartered lodge shall be assigned to a DDI District and a BGP District by order of the Grand Master.

**§5.11.1.7:** A lodge may petition Grand Lodge for reassignment to a different DDI District or BGP District.

**§5.11.1.8:** The Grand Master shall appoint the Regional Grand Lecturer of each Masonic Region from nominees recommended by the Grand Lecturer. Each appointment shall be for a period of two years. Initially, the appointments shall be staggered so

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<sup>11</sup> NOTE: DDI and BGP Districts may, or may not, be concurrent and contain the same lodges. During the early 2000s they were different with the DDI Districts containing more lodges and being numbered from the southeast corner of the State while the BGP Districts were numbered from the western end of the Upper Peninsula. Neighboring lodges may have been in the same DDI District, but a different BGP District. This led to not only confusion, but made it hard to abide by the law that the BGP and DDI elections be held concurrently and on the same rotation schedule as each other.

that the term of half of the Regional Grand Lecturers shall expire at the end of the first year and the term of the remaining Regional Grand Lecturers shall expire at the end of the second year.

**§5.11.1.9:** Only a Master or Past Master in good standing in this Grand Jurisdiction shall be eligible for election as a DDI or BGP member. They shall retain such membership only as long as they qualify under the provisions hereof. (1970, 1997, 2003, 2007)

**§5.11.1.10:** An election shall be held triennially in each DDI District and each BGP District in conjunction with and on the same rotation schedule as the other. It shall be held at a lodge within the DDI or BGP District as chosen by the Grand Master. If any District should fail to regularly elect a member as herein provided on or before the fifteenth day of April in the year such election is required to be held, or fail to certify such to the Grand Secretary on or before the first day of May following such election, then the Grand Master shall have the power to appoint a DDI or BGP member for the full term of three (3) years or, in the case of a DDI, until a DDI is elected by a special election called for by the Grand Master. No Brother, whether appointed or elected, may serve as representative from more than one DDI or BGP District.

**§5.11.1.11:** For the purposes of implementing the Grand Master's redistricting order of 2007 and to ensure continuity of representation, the following methodology will be employed to create staggered initial terms for representatives: the representative for the new District 1 will be elected for a one year term; the representative for the new District 2 will be elected for a two year term; the representative for the new District 3 will be elected for a three year term; the representative for the new District 4 will be elected for a one year term; and so on throughout the total number of Districts addressed in the order. Thereafter, term lengths shall be three (3) years. (1977, 2003, 2007)<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> An easy way to determine if an election is required within a given District in the Spring of a given year is to subtract the number of the District from the year

**§5.11.1.12:** Whenever an election is necessary, the Worshipful Master of the lodge chosen to hold the election by the Grand Master shall cause a meeting to be held and have notice of the meeting to be mailed to the Worshipful Master and Secretary of the other lodges in his DDI and BGP Districts as well as the present office holders. The notice shall advise of the place, date and time of the election and shall be sent at least thirty (30) days prior to said meeting. The meeting shall be held solely for the purpose of elections and no other business shall take place at that time. The meeting should be held at a time that does not conflict with any regularly scheduled meetings in the District and in no case shall it be scheduled on a day that is the Regular Communication of any lodge in the District. The meeting shall be held in a tiled lodge and held with the lodge open on the Master Mason degree. The Worshipful Master of the lodge hosting the meeting shall preside at the meeting and be responsible for the opening, closing and conduct of the meeting. The Worshipful Master of each lodge in the District shall be responsible for conveying a written notice of the place, date and time of the election to each Warden and to all Past Masters of chartered lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction who are regular members in good standing of that lodge. Such notices must be mailed at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the election. (1965, 2003, 2004, 2007)

**§5.11.1.13:** The Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens and all Past Masters of chartered lodges within these DDI and BGP Districts, shall be eligible to one vote each,

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being considered. Divide that answer by 3. If the result is a whole number, an election is required; if the fractional part of the result is  $\frac{1}{3}$  or .333, an election is required in 2 years; if the fractional part of the result is  $\frac{2}{3}$  or .666, an election is required next year. Refer to the examples below:

Consider an election in the

Year	2009	2009	2010	2011
District	<u>- 15</u>	<u>- 26</u>	<u>- 41</u>	<u>- 55</u>
Answer	1994	1983	1969	1956
÷	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
Result	664.67	661	656.33	652
Election is required	next year	now	in 2 years	now

provided they are in good standing in their respective lodges. If any member of the District requests a secret ballot, then the vote will be held by ballot box or by paper ballot, at the discretion of the presiding Master; otherwise a show of hands is sufficient. The Master shall cause the totals of the ballot to be recorded in the record of the meeting. The presiding Master, at his discretion, may purge the lodge of Brothers not eligible to vote. The Brother receiving the majority of the ballots cast shall be determined to be the winner of said election and the Master shall so declare. The presiding Master shall cause certification of said election to be recorded with the Grand Secretary on such forms as provided. (1965, 2003)

**§5.11.1.14:** A vacancy in the office of an elected DDI or BGP member shall occur by:

- (a) Resignation in writing filed with the Grand Secretary.
- (b) Death.
- (c) Loss of the qualifications required by §5.11.1.9. (2003)
- (d) Election to a constitutional Grand Lodge Office. (2003)

**§5.11.1.15:** A vacancy in the office of an elected DDI or BGP member shall be filled by special election called by the Grand Master in the District wherein such vacancy exists and shall be held on the notice and in the manner prescribed by §5.11.1.12 and §5.11.1.13 above. (1970, 1974, 2003)

**§5.11.1.16:** The Grand Lodge of Michigan shall provide to each DDI, RGL and BGP member a certificate attesting to his election or appointment and appropriate regalia designating his office. (1998)

**§5.11.1.17:** This regalia shall be worn by the DDI, RGL or BGP member on all official visitations to the lodges within this Grand Jurisdiction. At the expiration of his term of office or upon his resignation, the regalia shall be presented to his successor or returned to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of Michigan within ten (10) days. Failure to comply with this provision shall be cause for Masonic discipline from the Grand Master. Upon the death of a DDI, RGL or BGP member, the Grand Secretary shall request that the regalia be

returned to the Grand Lodge. The regalia shall always remain the property of the Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of Michigan. (1998)

**§5.11.1.18:** Each DDI, RGL and BGP member shall be paid the prevailing mileage rate for necessary travel in conjunction with his official visitations as well as the prevailing mileage and per diem for attendance at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, the annual meeting of the DDIs, RGLs or BGP members the day prior thereto and any area meetings.

**§5.11.1.19:** In addition to the allowance outlined above, the incoming DDI, RGL and BGP members shall be entitled to receive mileage and per diem for attendance at their meeting, if held, the day prior to the Grand Lodge Annual Communication following which their term of office begins. Both the retiring and incoming DDI, RGL and BGP members shall be entitled to per diem for attendance at the Grand Lodge Annual Communication.

### ***§5.11.2: District Deputy Instructor System***

**§5.11.2.1:** A District Deputy Instructor System is hereby established with such duties and powers as shall be hereinafter enumerated. (1951)

**§5.11.2.2:** It shall be the duty of each District Deputy Instructor to thoroughly commit to memory the standard Michigan Masonic work as imparted by the Grand Lecturer. When the District Deputy Instructor makes his official visitation to each lodge in his district, he shall require the exemplification of the secret work by the regular Officers of the lodge and correct all inaccuracies, and for this purpose, he may be authorized by the Grand Master or Grand Lecturer to summons the Officers of the lodges in his District to meetings at such time and place for such work as may be deemed necessary. (1989)

**§5.11.2.3:** Besides being paid the mileage and per diem as covered in §5.11.1.18 and §5.11.1.19, each District Deputy Instructor, in connection with his official visitations to the lodges in his District, shall, on order of the Grand Master, be paid his actual expenses out of the General Fund of the Grand Lodge, but in no case, except with the approval of the Grand

Master, shall he be paid more than one hundred twenty-five (\$125.00) in any one year for these additional expenses. (1974)

### **§5.11.3: Regional Grand Lecturer System**

**§5.11.3.1:** A Regional Grand Lecturer System is hereby established with such duties and powers as shall be hereinafter enumerated. The District Deputy Instructor System as defined in §5.11.2 shall be maintained. (1989)

**§5.11.3.2:** Prior to his appointment, each Regional Grand Lecturer shall have served one complete term as Worshipful Master in a constituent lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction and must be domiciled in the Masonic Region to which he is appointed. He shall give satisfactory evidence to the Grand Lecturer of his knowledge and proficiency in the standard Michigan Masonic work.

**§5.11.3.3:** A vacancy in the office of Regional Grand Lecturer shall occur by:

- (a) Resignation in writing filed with the Grand Master.
- (b) Death.
- (c) Loss of the qualifications required by §5.11.3.2.
- (d) Election or appointment to any Board or Committee of the Grand Lodge.
- (e) Election to any constitutional Grand Lodge office.

**§5.11.3.4:** It shall be the duty of each Regional Grand Lecturer to assist the Grand Lecturer to impart the standard Michigan Masonic work. He shall hold at least one school of instruction in each District Deputy Instructor District in his Masonic Region annually. For such purpose, he is authorized to summon the Officers of each Masonic lodge in the District Deputy Instructor District to attend such annual school of instruction. When the Regional Grand Lecturer makes his official visitation to each District Deputy Instructor District, he shall require the exemplification of the standard Michigan Masonic work and correct all inaccuracies. He shall report to the Grand Lecturer on the condition of the work in his Region and report any inaccuracies in writing. He shall perform such

other duties in the instruction of lodge Officers in the principles of Freemasonry as required by the Grand Lecturer with the Grand Master's concurrence and in accordance with Masonic regulations as adopted by the Grand Lodge.

**§5.11.3.5:** The Regional Grand Lecturer shall have general supervision of the District Deputy Instructors assigned to his Masonic Region and shall instruct them in the standard Michigan Masonic work at regional meetings called by him for the District Deputy Instructors. For this purpose, he is empowered to summon each of the District Deputy Instructors assigned to the Masonic Region to meetings at such time and place as he deems appropriate in conformity to regulations adopted by Grand Lodge.

**§5.11.3.6:** The Regional Grand Lecturer shall have general supervision of the District Deputy Instructor District of any District Deputy Instructor who neglects or refuses to become proficient in the standard Michigan Masonic work and who neglects the duties assigned to him by the Regional Grand Lecturer with the concurrence of the Grand Lecturer.

**§5.11.3.7:** Each Regional Grand Lecturer, in conjunction with his official visitations and conducting schools of instruction in his Masonic Region, shall be paid his actual expenses out of the General Fund of the Grand Lodge. He shall be paid the prevailing mileage rate for necessary travel in conjunction with his official visitations and conducting schools of instruction. He shall submit monthly expense reports to the Grand Lecturer. Such expenses shall be paid from the General Fund upon approval of the Grand Lecturer and the Grand Master.

#### **§5.11.4: Board of General Purposes**

**§5.11.4.1:** A Board of General Purposes is hereby established, with such duties and powers as shall be hereinafter enumerated.

**§5.11.4.2:** The Board shall consist of the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Wardens, the Grand Treasurer, the Grand Secretary, the Grand Lecturer, the Grand Chaplain, the Grand Deacons, the Grand Marshal, the Grand Tiler, the President of the Masonic Home Board, and

one representative for each of the Districts into which this Grand Jurisdiction shall be divided. (1974)

**§5.11.4.3:** Besides the requirements in §5.11.1.9, a candidate for a BGP position shall be a member in good standing of a chartered lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction for not less than a total of two (2) years immediately preceding the election.

**§5.11.4.4:** All members of the Board shall be elected to three year terms with a limit of three successive three year terms, after which there shall be at least a one year break from the Board before said Brother is eligible to run for election. However, a Brother appointed by the Grand Master shall be considered to have fulfilled such a break, and will be eligible for reelection to three more successive terms after his appointment has expired. A term is considered to have commenced at the closing of the Grand Lodge Annual Communication and shall terminate at the closing of the Grand Lodge Annual Communication at the end of the third year. In the event of a vacancy prior to the regularly scheduled election, a special election shall be held to fill the office until the next regularly scheduled election. (2003, 2007)

**§5.11.4.5:** Regular meetings of the Board shall be held four times per year at such time and place within this Grand Jurisdiction as may be determined by the Board President. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the Grand Master or the President of the Board at any time and place within this Jurisdiction, provided that calls for the special meeting shall be filed with the Grand Secretary at least twenty (20) days prior to the date of the meeting. The Grand Secretary shall mail notice of all meetings to all members of the Board at least fifteen (15) days prior thereto. (1974, 1991, 2003)

**§5.11.4.6:** A minimum of one-third of the District representatives shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. All questions shall be decided by a majority vote of the members present. Any member voting in the minority on any question may, within ten (10) days thereafter, file with the Secretary a written statement of his reasons for such vote, which will become a part of the official records of the Board. (2003)

**§5.11.4.7:** At the regular meeting of the Board held immediately preceding the Grand Lodge Annual Communication, the Board shall elect from its members a President and Vice President for the term of one (1) year; or until a successor is elected and installed. The officers so elected shall assume office at the close of the Grand Lodge Annual Communication in the year of their election. (2003)

**§5.11.4.8:** The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board. In his absence, the Vice President will preside. In the absence of both the President and Vice President, a senior member present shall preside. The records of the meeting shall indicate the absences and the name of the member presiding. (1972, 1999, 2003)

**§5.11.4.9:** The President shall appoint a Recording Secretary to accurately keep a written summary record of all Board meetings and shall furnish him with such equipment as is necessary for his duties. The Recording Secretary shall record all transactions of Board meetings in an acceptable format and submit them to the Grand Secretary's Office for printing and distribution. If the Recording Secretary is not a member of the Board he shall be entitled to mileage and per diem the same as any representative. (2003)

**§5.11.4.10:** The Grand Master shall be entitled to a seat at the right of the presiding officer at all times the Board is in session, shall be permitted to speak as often as he desires and may enter and retire from any such meeting at his pleasure.

**§5.11.4.11:** The Board shall have the following powers:

- (a) To recommend or report to the Grand Lodge whatever it may deem conducive to the welfare and good government of the Craft.
- (b) To initiate and recommend to the Grand Lodge such legislation as it shall deem advisable for the welfare and good government of the Craft.
- (c) To review and make recommendations to the Grand Lodge on all proposed legislation.

- (d) To summon any Committee of the Grand Lodge to attend such meetings as it desires for report or advice.
- (e) To review and make recommendations to the Grand Lodge upon the financial affairs of the Grand Lodge or any of its agencies. For this purpose, the Board shall have the power to inspect all books, records and papers relating to the accounts of the Grand Lodge or any one of its agencies and to require the attendance of any Brethren having possession of any books, papers, documents or accounts belonging to the Grand Lodge.
- (f) To consider and report upon any matter specifically referred to it by the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge.
- (g) To require the assistance of such Grand Lodge Committees as it desires.
- (h) To remove from the Board of General Purposes any member for cause, including failure to perform the duties and responsibilities of the office. (2003)

**§5.11.4.12:** The Board of General Purposes will develop, with the review of the Grand Master, policies and rules of conduct as it may deem necessary to conduct its business and for the governance of its members. (1986, 2003)

**§5.11.4.13:** Board members shall have the right to visit any lodge in their District at will and, on such visitations, shall have the right to be heard on any matter pending before the Board. It shall be the duty and responsibility of each Board member, elected by or appointed to a District, to:

- (a) visit each and every lodge in his District and to hold District meetings in each Grand Lodge year. The Board shall define, in its procedures manual, the number of lodge visits and District meetings to be held.
- (b) submit the required visitation and meeting reports to the Vice President of the Board of General Purposes within thirty (30) days of such visits. The Vice President will forward a copy of said reports to the Grand Master.

- (c) attend such training sessions as required by the Board and to attend a school of instruction each year, preferably the one held in his District.
- (d) attend the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge.
- (e) present the programs of the Grand Master and Grand Lodge.
- (f) provide information to lodge leaders, assist in implementing plans and strategies for the growth and betterment of the lodges, offer suggestions on solving problems in the lodges and assist lodges in ways to develop and retain membership. (1986, 2003)

**§5.11.4.14:** Besides the requirements in §5.11.1.14, a vacancy in the office of an elected Board member shall occur by:

- (a) Absence from three (3) consecutive Board meetings, whether regular or special, not completing official visits to each lodge in his District between June 1st and May 31st, not holding District meetings, including a Legislative meeting in his District between June 1st and May 31st, as defined by the Board in its policies and rules. (1970, 1999, 2003)
- (b) Loss of the qualifications required by both §5.11.1.9 and §5.11.4.3 (2003)

**§5.11.4.15:** Board members attending regular or special meetings of the Board, and Grand Lodge Committee members and Brethren attending Board meetings at its request, shall be entitled to receive the mileage and per diem established for Grand Lodge Communications, provided that no such member or Brother shall receive multiple mileage or per diem. Board members shall receive mileage and per diem, if an over night stay is required, for their official visits and District meetings held each year, as approved by the Board President. (2003)

## **§5.12: Honorary Rank**

**§5.12.1:** In recognition of eminence, ability or service rendered, the Grand Lodge of Michigan is hereby empowered to

confer on a member of a Sister Jurisdiction such honorary rank as it may deem appropriate.

**§5.12.2:** Such honorary rank shall be limited to the highest actual rank held by the recipient in his own Grand Jurisdiction, and shall be conferred by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting at an Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Michigan. (1987)



**RULES OF ORDER  
FOR  
COMMUNICATIONS  
OF THE  
GRAND LODGE**



# RULES OF ORDER FOR COMMUNICATIONS OF THE GRAND LODGE

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**§6.1: Rule 1** The roll of officers and members shall be taken at the opening of each day's session and no member, who shall fail to be present, shall be entitled to per diem allowance, unless his absence shall be excused by the Grand Master. (1873)

**§6.2: Rule 2** None but members of the Grand Lodge and past or present officers of other Grand Lodges, shall be present at the opening of the same, except by permission of the Grand Master. (1873)

**§6.3: Rule 3** All members and visitors shall keep the seats assigned them, except those officers whose duties may call them about the Grand Lodge. (1873)

**§6.4: Rule 4** While the Grand Master is addressing the Grand Lodge or putting a question or a Brother is speaking, no member shall entertain any private discourse, nor pass between the speaker and the chair. (1873)

**§6.5: Rule 5** No Brother shall leave Grand Lodge during the session without the permission of the Grand Master. (1873)

**§6.6: Rule 6** All resolutions shall be submitted in writing and distributed to the delegates before there shall be any debate or action taken upon them. (1873, 1995)

**§6.7: Rule 7** No resolution shall be considered which has not been presented in writing to the Grand Secretary on the first day of the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge. All resolutions submitted in writing to the Grand Secretary shall

be read by him on such first day, when the appropriate order of business therefore shall be reached, and copies distributed to the delegates. (1941, 1995)

**§6.8: Rule 8** All motions shall be submitted in writing before debate, but only if the Grand Master or any Brother desires it. (1873)

**§6.9: Rule 9** All communications, petitions, appeals, resolutions, propositions and motions shall be worded in decent and respectful language and shall not be frivolous or dilatory in nature, or they shall not be entertained in Grand Lodge. (1873)

**§6.10: Rule 10** After a motion or resolution is stated by the Grand Master, it is deemed to be in possession of Grand Lodge, but may be withdrawn by the mover or proposer at any time before decision or amendment. (1873)

**§6.11: Rule 11** All motions and reports may be committed at the pleasure of the Grand Lodge. (1873)

**§6.12: Rule 12** When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received, except to amend, commit, lay upon the table or adjourn. (1873)

**§6.13: Rule 13** A motion to amend, until decided, shall preclude all other amendments of the main question. (1873)

**§6.14: Rule 14** No new motion which totally changes the subject matter on which the original motion or resolution was intended to operate, shall be admitted under cover of amendment, as a substitute for the motion or resolution under debate. (1873)

**§6.15: Rule 15** No Brother shall speak more than twice on the same question, unless in explanation, without permission of the Grand Master. (1873)

**§6.16: Rule 16** Every Member who speaks shall rise and remain standing, addressing himself to the Grand Master; nor shall any Brother presume to interrupt him, except on a point of order. (1873)

**§6.17: Rule 17** There shall be no debate upon any question after it is put by the Grand Master. (1873)

**§6.18: Rule 18** Each member shall vote on all questions, except when he is personally interested, unless specifically excused by the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master. (1873)

**§6.19: Rule 19** All matters in Grand Lodge are to be decided by vote, each member having one vote only, unless the question be taken by ballot or by calling of lodges. In that event, if he be entitled to three votes, he shall be given them. The Grand Master shall be entitled to one vote on all questions, and may also, in addition, cast the deciding vote whenever there shall be any equal division. (1873)

**§6.20: Rule 20** The Grand Master shall order a call of lodges when such a vote is demanded by the Representatives of fifty lodges. (1873, 2002)

**§6.21: Rule 21** Any member may call for a division of the question when the language of the same will permit it. (1873)

**§6.22: Rule 22** No member, except one of the prevailing position which decided the question, shall be allowed to move for reconsideration. (1873)



**BYLAWS  
FOR  
LODGES UNDER  
DISPENSATION**



**BYLAWS  
FOR THE  
ORGANIZATION, REGULATION  
AND GOVERNMENT  
OF  
LODGES UNDER  
DISPENSATION**

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***§7.1: Procedure for First Meeting***

**§7.1.1:** When the Dispensation for a Lodge Under Dispensation has been received by the Brother named therein as its Worshipful Master, he shall notify all the Brethren named in the Dispensation as members of the new lodge, of the time and place of a meeting to organize it, at which meeting any Brother, properly vouched for as a Master Mason in good standing, may be present by invitation or permission of the Worshipful Master.

**§7.1.2:** At such meeting, each Brother, other than those named by the Dispensation as members of the new lodge, must satisfy the Worshipful Master thereof that he is a Master Mason, by being properly vouched for, or by an examination under the test oath; and any Brother, unable to furnish such evidence of his Masonic character, must retire and wait further investigation.

**§7.1.3:** The Worshipful Master, having satisfied himself of the proper Masonic standing of all present, will then read the Dispensation, or cause it to be read, to the Brethren; and, by virtue of the powers therein conferred upon him, will temporarily appoint from among those named in the Dispensation, and who are properly vouched for, a Treasurer, a

Secretary, a Senior Deacon, a Junior Deacon, and a Tiler, pro tempore.

**§7.1.4:** The Worshipful Master, taking his station and the gavel, will then request the Brethren to be clothed, order the officers to take their stations and places and open the lodge in due Masonic form, on the Master Mason Degree of Masonry.

**§7.1.5:** The first duty of the Master, after opening the lodge, will be to order the Secretary pro tempore to copy the Dispensation (unless it has been previously done) on the first pages of its Record Book, which record the Worshipful Master shall certify to be correct. No lodge shall proceed to do any work or transact any business by virtue of such Dispensation until the same be so recorded.

**§7.1.6:** The Worshipful Master will then appoint permanently the required officers, and cause a proper record thereof to be made.

**§7.1.7:** The duties of the officers of a Lodge Under Dispensation are such as are required of the officers of a chartered lodge by Masonic usage and Grand Lodge Regulations, so far as the same do not conflict with these bylaws.

**§7.1.8:** The charter members of a lodge are those named in the Dispensation creating it. (1964)

## ***§7.2: Limitations on Lodges Under Dispensation***

**§7.2.1:** A Lodge Under Dispensation cannot elect or install officers. In the event a vacancy occurs for any reason in the Office of Worshipful Master or of either Warden, the Grand Master shall name the successor. (1964)

**§7.2.2:** A Lodge Under Dispensation cannot make bylaws. A majority of its members, by a vote, may fix the day and hour of its Regular Communication, the amount of dues to be paid by each member and the fees for the degrees.

**§7.2.3:** A Lodge Under Dispensation shall not confer the three degrees for less than the minimum fees required in chartered lodges under Grand Lodge Regulations.

**§7.2.4:** A Lodge Under Dispensation can not demit, transfer or discipline a member, but if discipline becomes necessary, the charges must be preferred in, and tried by, such lodge as the Grand Master shall direct.

**§7.2.5:** A Lodge Under Dispensation cannot release jurisdiction. (1946)

### ***§7.3: Operations of Lodges Under Dispensation***

**§7.3.1:** A Lodge Under Dispensation shall agree upon a code of bylaws in sufficient time to permit duplicate copies being mailed to the Grand Master at least thirty days prior to the date of the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge at which the request for a Charter will be considered. (1964) (See §5.9.2.10)

**§7.3.2:** A Lodge Under Dispensation is authorized, by its Dispensation, to admit members and make Entered Apprentices, Fellowcrafts and Master Masons.

**§7.3.3:** The personal and territorial jurisdiction of a Lodge Under Dispensation shall be, in all respects except for discipline, like that of a chartered lodge.

**§7.3.4:** A Lodge Under Dispensation has personal jurisdiction over material rejected by it while working Under Dispensation. (1886)

**§7.3.5:** In receiving, referring and balloting on petitions for degrees or for membership, and in the examination and advancement of candidates for degrees, a Lodge Under Dispensation shall observe the regulations enacted by the Grand Lodge for the government of chartered lodges. (1964)

**§7.3.6:** A Lodge Under Dispensation is not required to pay dues to Grand Lodge. Its Worshipful Master, or legal representative, will be admitted to a seat in Grand Lodge Communications and will be paid the same per diem and mileage as are members, but he will not be admitted to membership nor allowed to vote in Grand Lodge.

**§7.3.7:** The Worshipful Master of a Lodge Under Dispensation which has received a Charter granted by the

Grand Lodge, shall immediately notify all members of the date and time for the election of officers. The election shall be held at a Regular Communication of the lodge not more than two months subsequent to the date of the Charter. Provided that, if for good cause, the election cannot be held within the time herein specified, the Grand Master may, by Dispensation, authorize the election of officers at some other time, notice of which shall be given to all members of the lodge by its Worshipful Master. (1964)

**§7.3.8:** At such Communication, after opening the lodge, it shall be the first duty of the Worshipful Master to read the Charter, or cause it to be read to the lodge, and to record it, or cause it to be recorded, in the Record Book, on the page next following the last record of proceedings as a Lodge Under Dispensation. The only other business that can be done at this Communication is the election of officers and, until the lodge has been properly constituted and its officers properly installed by the Grand Master, his Deputy or Proxy, no other business or work can be legally done by the lodge.

**§7.3.9:** In the event the existence of a Lodge Under Dispensation is terminated by any action other than the granting of a Charter by the Grand Lodge, its members and unfinished material are entitled to certificates from the Grand Secretary showing their Masonic status. Such certificates may be employed in seeking membership in other lodges. (1964)

**PENAL CODE  
OF THE  
GRAND LODGE**



**PENAL CODE  
OF THE  
GRAND LODGE  
OF  
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS  
OF THE  
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

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***§8.1: Offenses***

***§8.1.1: Types of Offenses***

**§8.1.1.1:** In general, there are two types of offenses for which the offender may be subject to such lawful punishment as the tribunal having the jurisdiction in the case shall adjudge. They are:

- (a) Violations by a Mason of his Masonic obligations or of the established laws, usages and customs of Masonry, and/or
- (b) Violation of the law of the land, punishable by imprisonment for more than ninety (90) days in any prison, reformatory or other place designated for incarceration. (1878, 1964)

**§8.1.1.2:** Masonic offenses may consist of either or both of the above types, however, conviction and punishment or acquittal by a civil court of law shall not prevent Masonic prosecution for the same offense.

***§8.1.2: Examples of Offenses***

**§8.1.2.1:** The following, while not exclusive and for illustration only, have been held to be Masonic offenses:

- (a) adultery (1875), attempted seduction (1873), unlawful carnal intercourse (1867) or relations with a Mason's wife resulting in destruction of her home life. (1900)
- (b) alienating a Mason's wife by false statement of her husband's conduct (1900) or slandering a Mason's wife. (1894)
- (c) atheism. (1900)
- (d) contriving to cheat, wrong or defraud a Brother Mason (1899), embezzlement (1873), obtaining money under false pretenses (1897) or dishonesty or fraud. (1883)
- (e) desertion and leaving family destitute (1898), wife beating. (1872)
- (f) habitual drunkenness and rowdiness. (1873)
- (g) perjury. (1897)

**§8.1.2.2:** The following, while not exclusive and for illustration only, have been held to be offenses against Masonry:

- (a) Disclosing to a profane the proceedings or secret business of a lodge, such as rejection of a candidate. (1888)
- (b) Exposing and ridiculing the financial proceedings of a lodge. (1868)
- (c) Insulting, contemptuous, scandalous, libelous or profane language of and to a Brother or the use of insulting and contemptuous language in public and before the profane, in regard to the official conduct of the officers of a lodge. (1897)
- (d) Misappropriation of funds of a lodge. (1889)
- (e) Refusal of the Treasurer to pay an order of the lodge when he has funds in his hands. (1879)
- (f) Revealing the color of one's ballot or asking another Brother to do so. (1893, 1900, 1975)
- (g) Threatening to stop the work of a lodge. (1891)

- (h) The persistent and willful neglect of a Secretary to perform the duties of his office constitutes a Masonic offense, including his neglect to pay over lodge funds to the Treasurer. (1891, 1899)
- (i) Persistent use of profane language in a room dedicated to Masonic use or in a lodge room while it is in use by a lodge. (1892, 2000)
- (j) Threatening to "expose Masonry." (1900)
- (k) Failure to obey a lawful summons. (1897)

**§8.1.2.3:** A Worshipful Master who knowingly and willfully confers a degree after objection has been made by a member and before it is withdrawn or who conspires to elect and confer a degree upon rejected material without following established procedure, is guilty of un-Masonic conduct. (See Grand Lodge Trials in §8.9) 1879, 1896)

**§8.1.2.4:** Although he was not present at the balloting for initiation, a Brother who was present at the receipt of a candidate's petition and its reference and who was also present when the Entered Apprentice Degree was conferred and did not object, but who later prefers charges to prevent the candidate's advancement, is himself liable to charges for not objecting to the initiation of the candidate if he had knowledge at that time of the offenses with which he later charges the candidate. (1860)

**§8.1.2.5:** A Brother who becomes dissatisfied with some action of his lodge and declares that he will prevent any more initiations and that no more members shall be admitted until he thinks proper, is liable to charges for un-Masonic conduct if he carries his threat into execution. (1889)

**§8.1.2.6:** A Brother who will not endorse and continue to endorse the moral theories of Masonry and its sublime, humane lessons and who declares that he will not be bound by its solemn obligations, ought to be expelled from all the rights and benefits of Masonry. (1889)

**§8.1.2.7:** Political advertisements in lodge bulletins and Masonic papers are forbidden. (1927)

**§8.1.2.8:** It is un-Masonic conduct, subjecting a Brother to discipline, to solicit the support of Masons for a candidate for any political office by means of any communication addressed to Masons and signed by the sender, or anyone authorized by him, in his capacity as an officer or member of a Masonic lodge or as a Mason. (1941)

**§8.1.2.9:** All Master Masons under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Michigan who hold membership in Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine are forbidden to attend tiled Shrine meetings when there is in attendance a suspended or expelled Mason. (1988)

**§8.1.2.10:** No Master Mason under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Michigan shall participate in a "Shrine Trial" as promulgated by Article 23, Section 323.8 of the Shrine Bylaws. (1988)

**§8.1.2.11:** Recent changes in Michigan Law make it easier to obtain a general permit for a concealed pistol and there is some confusion regarding firearms in the lodge, when carried pursuant to civil law. The general custom and usages of Masonry prohibit the carrying of any weapon, offensive or defensive, into the lodge. Therefore, it is a Masonic offense to carry a firearm into a lodge for any reason. (G.M. edict 2001) (2003)

### ***§8.1.3: Suggested Preliminary Procedure***

**§8.1.3.1:** Where a Brother is arrested and charged with having committed a crime, it is advisable for the lodge to await the determination of the court before proceeding against the Brother. (1900)

**§8.1.3.2:** When a Brother is convicted of an offense in the civil courts, the Master should order charges of un-Masonic conduct to be preferred against him. (1975)

**§8.1.3.3:** When a Brother is charged with an offense punishable by an incarceration of one or more years and is convicted of it in any Court of Record, the Grand Master shall be notified thereof by the Brother's lodge, whereupon the

Grand Master shall, if he deems it necessary, sentence the Brother to suspension or expulsion from Masonry. (2001)

**§8.1.3.4:** The decision of the Grand Master supersedes all other provisions of the Masonic Penal Code except the right of appeal to the Grand Lodge. The Brother shall not be permitted to apply for re-affiliation with his lodge until all of the requirements of his sentence shall be complied with and he shall be permitted to reapply only to the lodge from which he was suspended or expelled. (1984)

**§8.1.3.5:** In case an Entered Apprentice or a Fellowcraft proves unworthy, the Master should issue an order prohibiting his advancement and order charges to be preferred against him. (1860)

**§8.1.3.6:** For words spoken under provocation and in the heat of passion, after sufficient time for reflection has elapsed, the Master may and should use his influence to secure an expression of regret and an ample apology from the offending Brother and, if they are sincerely tendered with a word of kindly admonition, the matter should be hidden under the mantle of charity and forgiveness. (1880)

**§8.1.3.7:** If a member is intemperate, profane or immoral, it is the Master's duty to admonish him privately, counsel with him and remind him of the error of his ways, attempt to reform him and exhaust all other means, but if he then persists in his error, order the Junior Warden to prefer charges against him. (1881)

**§8.1.3.8:** A Masonic offense does not outlaw, but if an offense was committed years ago and the fact of the commission of such offense has been notorious and the conduct of the Brother committing it has been free from censure, the charges for the old offense should not be considered. (1890)

**§8.1.3.9:** The lodge room is not the proper place for the discussion of transgression of individual Brethren until charges are preferred and the evidence is before the lodge.

## **§8.1.4: Judicial Cognizance**

**§8.1.4.1:** Masonry will not take judicial cognizance of an offense merely ecclesiastical or political in its nature, nor of a breach of contract or claim at law between Masons or between a Mason and a non-Mason, unless it involves a crime or fraud. An error in judgment is not a Masonic offense.

**§8.1.4.2:** An attorney-at-law who is a Mason is not chargeable with un-Masonic conduct because he begins civil legal proceedings against a Brother without forewarning the Brother of the same, nor is it a Masonic offense for an attorney to give advice to a Brother Mason when he knows such Brother to be guilty of a crime.

## **§8.2: Jurisdiction**

### **§8.2.1: Who has Jurisdiction**

**§8.2.1.1:** Charges for offenses against Grand Lodge shall be preferred and tried by Grand Lodge. All other charges shall be preferred and tried in a lodge having jurisdiction.

**§8.2.1.2:** The penal jurisdiction of a lodge is that power which it constitutionally possesses to take judicial cognizance of Masonic offenses, and to prosecute and punish Masons therefore. A lodge has penal territorial jurisdiction over all Masons, affiliated and non-affiliated, residing or sojourning within its territory. It also has penal personal jurisdiction over all of its members and over its Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts, wheresoever dispersed. However, the Grand Master and the Master shall be exempt from the penal jurisdiction of any constituent lodge during their terms of office, but for any Masonic offense committed by either while in office, he shall be subject to the penal jurisdiction of the lodge when his term expires.

- (a) Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts are subject to discipline, but charges cannot be preferred against a candidate who has been elected but not initiated. (1881, 1918, 1975)

- (b) It is not necessary to elect a demitted Mason to membership in order to obtain penal jurisdiction over him. Any lodge obtaining service upon him in its jurisdiction may put him up on trial for any violation of Masonic Law. (1899)
- (c) A lodge has no jurisdiction over cases growing out of business difficulties or originating in other Masonic Bodies. (1886, 1975)

### **§8.2.2: Exclusive Jurisdiction**

**§8.2.2.1:** A lodge has exclusive original jurisdiction in all cases of violation of its own bylaws or internal regulations.

**§8.2.2.2:** No lodge shall receive charges and hold a Masonic trial until it shall have been regularly chartered and its officers duly elected and installed, and when any offense shall be committed within the territory of a Lodge Under Dispensation, the matter shall be referred by the Master to the Grand Master, who shall have the power to designate the lodge in which the offender shall be tried.

**§8.2.2.3:** In case charges for the same offense are preferred in more than one lodge, the lodge in which charges are first filed shall have exclusive jurisdiction to try the accused, unless it shall waive jurisdiction or fail to proceed to judgment within a reasonable time, so found by the Grand Master. Provided, however, that if one of the lodges preferring charges has penal personal jurisdiction over the accused, then such lodge shall have exclusive jurisdiction over the matter in question notwithstanding the time of filing. (1975)

### **§8.3: Charges**

#### **§8.3.1: Who May Prefer Charges**

**§8.3.1.1:** Charges may be preferred only by a Master Mason in good standing and a member of a lodge of this or another Grand Jurisdiction in correspondence with this Grand Lodge. The Master, whenever he shall deem proper, may direct the Junior Warden to prefer charges.

**§8.3.1.2:** Charges against a member of a lodge, or against a lodge, cannot be received from a non-affiliate, (i.e., one not a member of any regular lodge anywhere) except, in case of charges against a member of a lodge, by leave granted by a majority vote of such lodge and, in case of charges against a lodge, by leave of Grand Lodge.

**§8.3.1.3:** It is the duty of the Junior Warden to prefer charges when so ordered by the Master, and the Master has no power to order a Brother not the Junior Warden to prefer charges. (1890, 1892)

**§8.3.1.4:** A motion that the Junior Warden prefer charges is improper. (1888)

**§8.3.1.5:** The order of the Master to the Junior Warden to prefer charges shall be recorded, hence it must be made in open lodge. However, there is no objection to the Master's suggesting the preparation of charges in advance of the order to prefer them, nor to the presentation of the charges at the same meeting at which they were ordered. (1890)

**§8.3.1.6:** A Brother under charges may prefer charges against another Brother. (1887)

### **§8.3.2: *Charges, How Made***

**§8.3.2.1:** None of the Masonic penalties may be inflicted upon a Brother without charges, specifications, notice and trial in due Masonic form.

**§8.3.2.2:** A motion that charges preferred by a Brother be received is highly improper. The Worshipful Master has no right to refuse to receive charges presented, if they properly allege a Masonic offense, over which the lodge has jurisdiction. (1881)

**§8.3.2.3:** It is not only the right but it is the duty of the Master to dismiss charges when, in his judgment, the charges are frivolous or as such cannot be sustained, and if the Master is in doubt as to the sufficiency or competency of the charges, he has the right to take the opinion of his lodge by vote, but such

opinion is merely advisory and does not bind the Master. (1868, 1883)

**§8.3.2.4:** Charges shall be made in writing so far as proper to be written, signed by the accuser, and filed with the Secretary of the lodge. A Masonic offense must be charged with certainty and the time, place and particulars, distinctly specified. A general charge of un-Masonic conduct without specifications, frivolous charges or such as do not clearly show a Masonic offense if proven, shall not be received. (1860, 1872, 1875)

**§8.3.2.5:** An objection to the form or substance of a charge should be made at the time of the trial. It is too late to make it upon appeal. (1884, 1975)

**§8.3.2.6:** Charges for violation of any enactment of the Grand Lodge shall specify with particularity the provision violated, as well as the facts of the violation. (See Grand Lodge Trials).

### ***§8.3.3: Unwritten Charges***

**§8.3.3.1:** If charges are made which are not proper to be written, they shall be communicated to the accused by the Master in the presence of two or more Brethren. (1890)

**§8.3.3.2:** Where a Brother is alleged to be guilty of revealing the Esoteric Work, a general charge to that effect is sufficient, as it would be improper to set forth in writing the specific language used. The specifications may be orally communicated in the proper place, if desired, and before an answer is required. (1890)

### ***§8.3.4: Charges Against Suspended Masons***

**§8.3.4.1:** Charges may be preferred against a suspended Mason and the lodge may, without reinstating the accused, proceed to try and punish him for any Masonic offense other than that for which he was suspended.

### ***§8.3.5: Filing of Charges***

**§8.3.5.1:** Action on charges must be commenced at a Regular Communication. By vote at such Regular, further proceedings may be continued from time to time and had at Special

Communications convened for that purpose, subject to due notice of same being given. (1900, 1975)

**§8.3.5.2:** A quorum, as defined in §4.1.2, must be present during the progress of a Masonic trial, otherwise the proceedings are void. If upon the return night of a summons a quorum is not present, the Master should announce to those present that, in the absence of a quorum, the matter of the charges will be postponed until the next Regular and the Secretary should notify the accused. If this action is not taken, to avoid question, a new summons should be issued. (1881, 1900, 1975)

**§8.3.5.3:** A Regular Communication cannot be adjourned or continued to another night so as to make it proper to receive charges on the night to which such meeting is continued, but if the accused appears and goes to trial under such circumstances without objection, the irregularity is waived and he cannot avail himself of the objection upon appeal. (1867, 1900, 1975)

**§8.3.5.4:** Charges against an Entered Apprentice or a Fellowcraft shall be preferred in a Master Mason's lodge. The testimony shall be taken in the regular manner. The accused shall be notified of the time and place of the taking of testimony and be permitted to be present with counsel and cross-examine as usual. The testimony shall be read in lodge open on the Master Mason Degree at which the accused, however, cannot be present. His counsel may be present and argue the matter.

**§8.3.5.5:** If a trial is commenced at a Regular Communication, it is not an error to finish the trial and pass judgment and sentence at a Special Communication. (1895)

### ***§8.3.6: Reading and Amending of Charges***

**§8.3.6.1:** If the charges be filed at a Regular Communication, they shall thereupon be read by the Secretary in open lodge. If they be filed at any other time, they shall be so read at the next Regular Communication after such filing. Any action upon charges presented shall be entered upon the records of the lodge. (1889)

**§8.3.6.2:** The charges shall not be amended after such reading except by permission of the Master in open lodge.

### **§8.3.7: *Service of Charges and Summons***

**§8.3.7.1:** If the Master shall deem the charges legal and sufficient, a true copy thereof shall be served upon the accused as hereinafter set forth, together with a summons which shall be made returnable at such Regular Communication as the Master shall direct. However, in no case shall such return be less than forty-five (45) days from the date of service if made personally or less than forty-five (45) days from the date of mailing if made by substituted service.

- (a) The lodge Seal is not necessary to a copy of the summons. (1867)
- (b) The Secretary cannot issue a summons except by direction of the Master. (1889)
- (c) A lodge cannot charge a Brother a fee for serving a summons upon him. (1943)

**§8.3.7.2:** The Worshipful Master shall direct the Secretary or some other Brother to make service of a copy of the charges and summons upon the accused in either or both of the following ways:

- (a) Personal service, by handing or delivering the documents to the accused in person, or
- (b) Substituted service, by placing the documents in an envelope addressed to the accused at his last address shown on the records of the Secretary of the lodge. The envelope shall have a return address on it and also an order to the postmaster to return the same if not delivered within ten (10) days. The envelope shall be mailed by Certified Mail, with sufficient postage, and a Return Receipt Requested and such manner of service shall be taken and deemed to be sufficient, whether or not such receipt or such papers be returned by the postmaster. (1964, 1965, 1975)

**§8.3.7.3:** On or before the return date, the Brother charged with service of the summons and copy of the charges shall

make a certificate of the time, place and manner of making service. (See Handbook for Lodge Secretaries) (1964, 1975, 2001)

**§8.3.7.4:** The manner of service shall, in all cases, be reported to the Worshipful Master and the lodge and, if either is not satisfied therewith, he or the lodge may order further attempt to give the accused actual notice of the summons and charges and may extend the return day for such purpose. (1964, 1975)

### **§8.3.8: Answer to Charges**

**§8.3.8.1:** The answer of the accused shall be in writing, unless he elects to answer generally guilty or not guilty, in which case he may answer orally and such answer shall be recorded by the Secretary. The attorney or counsel for an accused person cannot plead guilty for him. If the accused answers in writing, his answers shall be filed with the Secretary and attached to the charges.

**§8.3.8.2:** If the accused shall fail to appear in lodge on the return day of the summons or shall refuse to answer or shall stand mute, an answer of not guilty must be recorded and the trial shall proceed in all things as though he had so answered. (1889)

### **§8.3.9: Status of Accused**

**§8.3.9.1:** When charges are preferred against an officer of the lodge, the Grand Master, upon notice from the lodge, may in his discretion suspend the accused from office during the settlement of the trial.

**§8.3.9.2:** The Masonic standing of an accused is not affected until after sentence. He is presumed to be innocent until proved to be guilty and he may, at all times before sentence, vote upon all matters not involved in the charges and specifications pending against him, provided that he shall be prohibited from visiting any but his own lodge until after the determination of the case and he shall be so informed. (1975)

**§8.3.9.3:** When a Brother dies while charges are pending against him, the lodge records should recite that the proceedings are dismissed because of death. (1893)

## **§8.4: Trials**

### **§8.4.1: Speedy Trials**

**§8.4.1.1:** The accused shall be entitled to a speedy and impartial trial and, for unreasonable neglect of prosecution, the Master may, in his discretion, dismiss the charges.

### **§8.4.2: Tribunal**

**§8.4.2.1:** For purposes of a Masonic trial, the tribunal shall consist of Master Masons in good standing, who are members of the lodge in which the trial is held.

**§8.4.2.2:** The Master, or his lawful representative in his absence, shall preside at the trial. He shall decide all points of order and all questions relating to the legality, sufficiency or regularity of any charges, or of any service, paper or proceedings in the case. He shall allow or forbid amendments and continuances and control debate. No appeal from his decision shall be taken to the lodge, but he shall be responsible to the Grand Lodge for any abuse of his powers, or error in the exercise thereof, and appeal to the Grand Lodge shall be admissible therefore.

- (a) The Worshipful Master should preside at all trials in his lodge even though he may be cognizant of the facts and a witness in the case. (1891)
- (b) The Senior or Junior Warden, lawfully presiding over the lodge in the absence of the Master, shall have all the duties and powers in Masonic Trials herein vested in the Master.
- (c) Upon request of the lodge, by a majority vote, the Grand Master, if he deems that justice so requires, may designate the Senior Warden or Junior Warden or a Past Master of the lodge to preside at the trial.

### **§8.4.3: Counsel**

**§8.4.3.1:** Both the accuser and the accused may choose counsel for their assistance. None but an affiliated Master Mason in good standing shall appear as counsel.

**§8.4.3.2:** If the lodge neglects or refuses to employ counsel in the case where the lodge is accused, it is competent for the Worshipful Master to employ counsel at the lodge expense. (1896)

**§8.4.3.3:** If no counsel be chosen, the Master may appoint counsel in such case as he shall deem proper. If the accused does not appear or is prevented from appearing and no counsel appointed for him, the Master shall appoint counsel for the defense, whose duty it shall be to see that the trial is fairly conducted and the accused is not unjustly imperiled. (1896)

### **§8.4.4: Determining Method of Trial**

**§8.4.4.1:** Upon receipt of charges against a Brother for un-Masonic conduct, other than Non-Payment of Dues, the lodge, after hearing objections, if any, from the accused, may, by a majority vote at a Regular Communication, by resolution adopt one of the following methods of trial:

- (a) order testimony to be taken in open lodge, or
- (b) direct three Commissioners, who shall be appointed in the manner set forth below, to either:
  1. determine the guilt or innocence of the accused and report their findings to the lodge, such findings to be accepted as final by the lodge, and, if guilty, the lodge to determine only the penalty to be imposed, or
  2. fairly summarize the testimony of each witness and report it to the lodge in statement form, with or without opinion, as to guilt or innocence, or
  3. prepare and submit their report, with or without finding or opinion upon the merits, and with such review of the facts to be made as the lodge shall determine and provide.

**§8.4.4.2:** If the lodge shall make no resolution as set forth in §8.4.4.1 above, upon receipt of the answer, or failure of the accused to appear on the return date, either in person or by counsel, the Master shall appoint three Commissioners, members of the lodge in good standing, before whom, or majority of them, all proofs in the case shall be taken and reported to the lodge as set forth in §8.4.4.1 (b) (2) above, but without opinion.

**§8.4.4.3:** The lodge may, by a majority vote, authorize the Master to appoint as Commissioners, Master Masons in good standing who are not members of the lodge.

**§8.4.4.4:** The accused may object to any or all of the Commissioners. The Master shall decide upon the sufficiency of such objection and shall make such further appointments as shall be necessary. (1975)

### ***§8.4.5: Hearing Before Commissioners***

**§8.4.5.1:** A Mason under suspension, an Entered Apprentice, or a Fellowcraft, may appear in the lodge only by counsel, but he may appear personally at all meetings of the Commissioners in his case.

**§8.4.5.2:** The Master has the right, by virtue of his office, to be present and preside at all meetings of the Commissioners. When present, he shall decide all questions of order and procedure. In his absence a majority of the Commissioners shall decide.

**§8.4.5.3:** The Commissioners shall give the accuser and accused, or their counsel, at least five days' notice of the time and place of their meeting for the taking of proofs. If the accused shall not have appeared, nor answered, he need not be notified.

**§8.4.5.4:** If there be material testimony which cannot be produced before the Commissioners, the same may be taken at such other reasonable time and place, and before such other competent person or persons, as the Master shall order, five days' notice of which shall be seven, as next provided.

**§8.4.5.5:** Both parties shall have the right of cross examination and objection.

**§8.4.5.6:** All of the testimony proper to be written shall be reduced to writing, with any objections thereto.

### **§8.4.6: Report of Commissioners**

**§8.4.6.1:** The Commissioners shall keep full minutes of all their proceedings (including all motions, objections and rulings) and report them, with all the testimony, to be read to the lodge at the next Regular Communication. (1975)

**§8.4.6.2:** The Secretary of the lodge (or some Brother deputed in his stead by the Master) shall act as Secretary to the Commissioners. He shall fully and carefully record all proceedings pertaining to the trial. He shall attach together all papers filed in the case, together with a report of the Commissioners, in their order, with the date of filing endorsed upon each, and carefully preserve the same in the archives of the lodge, but the same shall not be entered on the record.

**§8.4.6.3:** If claim is made by the accused or any Brother that the Commissioners erred in the proceedings before them, the lodge shall decide the claim and, if it is well founded, may remand the case to the Commissioners for such further processing as the lodge shall direct or may take such other action as, in its judgment, may be necessary to a fair and proper trial.

### **§8.4.7: Argument**

**§8.4.7.1:** Following the report of the Commissioners or, if by trial in open lodge, the accuser and accused have the right, either in person or by counsel, to argue the case before the lodge.

**§8.4.7.2:** The Master has the power to limit the parties in their argument to such time as he may deem proper, but he shall announce such limitation before the opening of such argument.

### **§8.4.8: Order of Proof**

**§8.4.8.1:** The testimony of the prosecution shall first be taken after which the accused may introduce proofs in his defense. If any new questions be raised by the testimony for the defense, the prosecution may rebut the same, but cannot enter into any new matters unless the accused be allowed to reply to the same by counter proofs.

**§8.4.8.2:** In taking testimony to be used in a Masonic Trial, the Commission should proceed with a careful regard to all equitable rights, both of the accuser and accused. It is the duty of the Worshipful Master to advise them and, if he wants advice, he may apply to the Grand Master. (1877)

**§8.4.8.3:** An ex-parte affidavit, taken without legal notice to the other party, cannot be introduced as evidence in a Masonic Trial, nor can testimony be taken without notice to the accused. (1878)

**§8.4.8.4:** Testimony taken before charges were preferred and without the knowledge of the accused, shall not be received in a trial. (1869.1975)

**§8.4.8.5:** It is not competent, in a Masonic Trial, to receive evidence to impeach the general reputation of a Brother in good standing. Every Brother must be deemed and considered in good standing until convicted of a Masonic offense. (1874)

### **§8.4.9: Witness and Testimony**

**§8.4.9.1:** The attendance of witnesses who are Masons may be enforced by summons to be issued by the Master (or his lawful representative) upon application of either party. Willful disobedience of such summons is a Masonic offense and shall subject the offender to discipline.

**§8.4.9.2:** Any discreet person is a competent witness. The accused shall be competent to testify, but no witness shall be compelled to incriminate himself.

**§8.4.9.3:** The testimony of a Mason in good standing shall be taken upon his Masonic honor and obligation. The testimony of a profane, non-affiliate or of one under sentence of suspension

or expulsion, shall be taken under oath to be administered by any officer competent under the law to administer oaths. (1975)

**§8.4.9.4:** The accuser need not be put under oath. Masonry regards no obligation to speak the truth more binding than its own. (1860)

**§8.4.9.5:** The best evidence which circumstances admit shall be produced. All testimony that is relevant to the issue should be admitted; that which is irrelevant should be excluded; but, in this regard, an equitable discretion may be exercised.

**§8.4.9.6:** If the offense charged be a crime by the civil law and the accused shall have been convicted of such crime in any court of record, the record of such conviction, or a certified copy thereof, may be read as prima facie evidence only of guilt of the accused; provided, that no such record shall be held sufficient without some corroborative evidence; and provided further, that such conviction and judgment thereon shall stand in force and not be reversed at the time of the trial in the lodge; and provided further, that if, at the time of such trial, any proceeding in behalf of the accused, by writ of error appeal or otherwise, be pending for the reversal of such judgment, the lodge trial may proceed or be postponed until the determination of such proceeding as the lodge, by a majority vote at a Regular Communication, shall determine.

**§8.4.9.7:** The official books and records of Grand Lodge and of a lodge, and official certificates of Grand Lodge and lodge officers as to matters within the scope of their duties, are prima facie evidence of relevant facts, but their accuracy may be impeached by other competent testimony.

### ***§8.4.10: Deliberation by Lodge***

**§8.4.10.1:** Upon the conclusion of the argument, the accuser (except he be the Junior Warden prosecuting officially) and the accused with their counsel and every other person not authorized to vote upon the final disposition of the case, shall retire from the lodge and the doors shall be closed for deliberation.

**§8.4.10.2:** If a lodge desires to admit Master Masons who are members of other lodges to attend a trial, it may do so. It is a matter entirely within the discretion of the lodge. Such members must, of course, retire before the vote is taken. (1897)

**§8.4.10.3:** It is proper, upon conclusion of the argument and before the ballot is passed, for any Brother to express his views of the case, and of the law and facts involved.

## **§8.5: Determination of Guilt or Innocence**

### **§8.5.1: Judgment**

**§8.5.1.1:** Final judgment upon the guilt or innocence of the accused can be passed only in a Master Mason's lodge. None shall be present but those legally qualified to vote upon the case. An Honorary Member of the lodge cannot vote nor be present. **NO BROTHER SHALL BE PRESENT OR VOTE UNLESS HE HAS BEEN IN THE LODGE ROOM DURING ALL THE PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS AND THE ARGUMENTS**, except upon the consent of the Master *and* the accused.

**§8.5.1.2:** Where the accused has plead guilty, no ballot upon the question of guilt is necessary.

**§8.5.1.3:** Before the ballot is taken, the Master shall see that ballots of each color, greater in number than the number of members present, are provided and placed in the ballot box.

**§8.5.1.4:** **EVERY BROTHER PRESENT SHALL VOTE**, unless excused by unanimous consent of the lodge.

- (a) A member may vote although raised or admitted since the charges were preferred. (1868)
- (b) The fact that a member of the lodge conducting the trial was a witness does not disqualify him from participating in the determination of the case. (1879, 1975)
- (c) A lodge must not allow itself to be prejudiced by matters not in evidence.

**§8.5.1.5:** The vote shall be by ballot upon the question "Is the accused guilty or not guilty" and shall first be taken upon each specification separately, if there be more than one, and then upon the general charge. Black shall be cast for guilty and white for not guilty. (1875. 1878)

**§8.5.1.6:** Two-thirds of all the votes cast shall be required to convict.

**§8.5.1.7:** The Master and Wardens shall inspect the ballot at the Master's station and the result shall be declared forthwith by the Master.

**§8.5.1.8:** There shall be no reconsideration of any ballot taken in the course of a Masonic Trial.

**§8.5.1.9:** The result of the ballot upon each specification shall be recorded by the Secretary in regular order with the number severally cast for guilty and not guilty. The lodge may convict or acquit of a part or all the specifications, as it may deem just.

## ***§8.5.2: Acquittal***

**§8.5.2.1:** If after balloting upon each specification and charge the accused is acquitted, the judgment of the lodge shall be so recorded and declared forthwith.

**§8.5.2.2:** Upon a judgment of acquittal, the proceedings are terminated and the case is closed. There can be no reconsideration of the ballot. The only remedy is by appeal to the Grand Lodge.

## ***§8.5.3: Procedure on Conviction***

**§8.5.3.1:** After conviction, vote shall immediately be taken upon the penalty in the following order, beginning with the highest and descending until the requisite vote is given to declare the sentence, viz.:

- (a) Expulsion.
- (b) Indefinite suspension.
- (c) Definite suspension.

**§8.5.3.2:** The vote shall be by ballot, and shall be regulated by similar rules as in §8.5.1. A two-thirds vote shall be required for sentence of expulsion or suspension.

#### **§8.5.4: Penalties**

**§8.5.4.1:** When charges are preferred and a trial and conviction had, the lodge must inflict one of the penalties known to Masonic law. (1898, 1975)

**§8.5.4.2:** Only one of the Masonic penalties shall be inflicted in any case and no other punishment shall be inflicted than is herein provided.

**§8.5.4.3:** If a specific penalty be provided by law for any offense, no other penalty than the one provided shall be inflicted or voted upon in such case. A Mason shall not be expelled for Non-Payment of Dues. (1994)

**§8.5.4.4:** After conviction upon trial and the refusal of the lodge to inflict the penalty of expulsion, the Master should at once direct a ballot upon the next highest penalty; and in case this is not done, there should be a retrial. (1890)

**§8.5.4.5:** In fixing the term of definite suspension when more than one term is proposed, the vote should be taken on the longest term first. (1872)

**§8.5.4.6:** If the lodge should decline to inflict any of the first three penalties by law, to wit: expulsion, indefinite suspension, or definite suspension, it shall be the duty of the Master to impose the only remaining penalty, viz.: reprimand, without ballot. A reprimand cannot be communicated by letter. It is a public reproof administered by the Master in open lodge. The accused should be notified of the sentence and that he is not in good standing until he appears before the lodge and submits to the infliction of the penalty. (1881)

**§8.5.4.7:** The result of the ballot upon each penalty shall be entered at large upon the record, with the number of votes for and against in each instance, and in the order in which the proceedings occur. (1889)

**§8.5.4.8:** Where a Brother properly charged with a Masonic offense pleads guilty, the penalty must be determined by ballot. (1890)

**§8.5.4.9:** Expulsion is the highest penalty that can be incurred and the severest penalty that can be inflicted. It excludes a Mason from all his Masonic rights and privileges forever, unless he is restored by the lodge or Grand Lodge. (Approved Definition)

**§8.5.4.10:** Suspension excludes a Brother from all Masonic privileges and prohibits all Masonic intercourse with him during the time of his suspension. (1888)

**§8.5.4.11:** When a Brother has been tried, convicted and suspended for un-Masonic conduct, a motion to change the penalty is out of order. (1876)

**§8.5.4.12:** While the Penal Code requires that sentence must be passed at once upon conviction, if a delay is granted at the request of the accused, the irregularity will not avoid the sentence at the expiration of the delay, if the conditions still warrant the same and in the absence of an appeal. (1975)

**§8.5.4.13:** If any Brother is aggrieved because a greater penalty is not imposed, he has the right of appeal to Grand Lodge. (1890)

**§8.5.4.14:** At the conclusion of the ballot upon the penalty, the accuser and counsel shall be re-admitted to the lodge and the Master shall announce the result.

**§8.5.4.15:** The parties shall at once be notified of the action of the lodge. All cases of expulsion and suspension shall be reported by the Secretary to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge and to contiguous lodges. If the person expelled or suspended was a member of a lodge other than the one in which he was tried, the Secretary shall immediately notify that lodge of the sentence and the cause of the same.

## **§8.6: Appeals**

**§8.6.1:** Any Brother deeming himself aggrieved by the decision of the lodge, of the Master thereof or of the Commissioners, may appeal to the Grand Lodge. All appeals shall be in writing and shall set forth clearly the ground upon which the appellant seeks redress.

The decision of a lodge in the exercise of its penal jurisdiction, however irregular, cannot be avoided except by appeal. (1882)

**§8.6.2:** The appeal may be taken whether the accused be convicted or acquitted and by either party. It applies as well in questions of law as in questions of fact and may be taken from any erroneous action, ruling or decision of the lodge, the Master or the Commissioners.

**§8.6.3:** The appeal shall be taken by filing notice and statement of grounds of appeal with the Secretary within forty days after the appellant shall have notice of the decision from which the appeal is taken or within forty days after notice of the final judgment of the lodge.

- (a) The notice of an "intention" to appeal, which is required to be given to the Secretary of the lodge, is not the appeal and need not state the grounds of the appeal. The appeal itself must be in writing and should set forth clearly the ground on which the appellant seeks redress. (1881, 1888)
- (b) When a Brother, desiring to appeal to the Grand Lodge from the action of his lodge, fails to give notice of appeal to the lodge until after the forty day time limit, the Master should direct the Secretary to record the fact and date of the receipt of the notice of appeal and write to the Grand Secretary, enclosing the notice of appeal and giving the date of the receipt of the same, and setting forth that the lodge declines to recognize the appeal because the notice was not given within the time required by law. The would-be-appellant should be notified accordingly. (1890, 1975)

- (c) The Grand Lodge, upon a proper showing made, may grant leave to appeal after the lapse of the forty days specified by the Code. (1888)
- (d) It is not within the power of the Grand Master to allow an appeal after the time therefore has expired. The Grand Lodge only has the power. (1890)

**§8.6.4:** Upon receipt of the appeal, the Secretary shall immediately make and transmit to the Grand Secretary full and accurate copies, duly certified, of all the proceedings in the case, as they are recorded upon the books of the lodge, and of the charges and specifications, answer or answers, notices, summonses, proofs, reports and all papers of every kind in the archives of the lodge pertaining to the subject matter. He shall enter upon the record the receipt of the appeal and the date of his return to the Grand Secretary.

- (a) In case of an appeal, the Grand Lodge should have an opportunity to hear all testimony taken and offered. Hence, the return must contain not only all testimony taken, but all that was offered. (1887)
- (b) If the accused did not appear, the return made to the Grand Lodge must contain evidence of the service of summons. (1888)
- (c) All papers constituting the return must be fastened together so that there can be no doubt that it contains the entire case. The return should be certified to and be under seal. (1885)
- (d) An expelled member has no right to a copy of the proceedings of the trial which resulted in his expulsion. (1900)

**§8.6.5:** It shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary to transmit to the Chairman of the Committee on Appeals, at least thirty days before the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, all appeals that are in his hands for disposition by the Grand Lodge. All appeals received by the Grand Secretary less than thirty days prior to the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge shall be, by him,

transmitted to the Chairman of the Committee on Appeals forthwith.

**§8.6.6:** The appeal shall be prosecuted at the first Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, after the time limit for taking the same shall have expired. Any appeal not prosecuted as aforesaid, shall, on motion, be dismissed by the Grand Lodge, unless good cause for the delay appear. After such dismissal, the Masonic standing of the accused shall be the same as though no appeal had been taken.

**§8.6.7:** If, after appeal is taken, either party desires to introduce new evidence, he shall apply to the Grand Master stating the nature of the same. The Grand Master may thereupon, in his discretion, order such new evidence to be taken before the standing Committee on Appeals. Ten days notice of the time and place of taking such new evidence shall be given by said Committee to both parties and their counsel, and at such time and place either party may introduce any new and competent evidence. (2002)

**§8.6.8:** No case shall be reversed upon appeal for mere matter of form, or inconsequential error of proceeding, provided substantial justice shall have been done and no wrong wrought by the informality or irregularity shall appear.

**§8.6.9:** After due investigation of the case, the Grand Lodge may, by a majority vote:

- (a) Affirm the decision appealed from.
- (b) Reverse the decision.
- (c) Modify or change the decision.
- (d) Award a new trial.
  - 1. When the evidence fully sustains the charge made, but the lodge fails to convict, the Grand Lodge will, upon appeal, declare the guilt and inflict a penalty commensurate with the offense. (1880)
  - 2. On appeal to the Grand Lodge, the whole case is reopened. The Grand Lodge acts as an appellate court and as such has full power to reverse, affirm

or modify the decision of the constituent lodge, or inflict such other or different penalty as the Grand Lodge may deem just and proper. (1901)

3. Upon appeal from a judgment of expulsion, Grand Lodge may restore to the rights and benefits of Masonry without affiliation. (1890)

**§8.6.10:** If the decision from which the appeal is taken be affirmed, the Masonic standing of the accused shall remain as fixed by the decision of the lodge.

**§8.6.11:** If a new trial be awarded, the standing of the accused shall, in the meantime, be that of a Mason under charges and as though no trial had been had.

**§8.6.12:** From the taking of an appeal until its determination by the Grand Lodge, the standing of the accused (if he were suspended or expelled) shall be that of a Mason under charges, except that he shall also be prohibited, during said time, from sitting in any lodge, or appendant body, as defined in §4.31.2, where he represents himself as a Master Mason in good standing. (1975, 1990)

## **§8.7: *New Trial***

**§8.7.1:** In case of conviction and upon application of either party or voluntarily, the lodge, by unanimous secret ballot, but not otherwise, may grant a new trial at any time, whether or not appeal has been taken, and upon such conditions as the lodge shall impose. After conviction by the lodge has been affirmed by Grand Lodge on appeal, however, the lodge may grant such new trial only upon showing of just causes therefore to the Grand Master or Grand Lodge and upon receipt of their approval.

**§8.7.2:** A convicted Brother under sentence of a lodge may apply to the Grand Master (in the interim) for a new trial, who, upon satisfactory reasons appearing, may order the same.

- (a) A Brother who has been expelled may obtain a new trial by exhibiting satisfactory reasons therefore to Grand Lodge or the Grand Master, who may thereupon

order a new trial, but the lodge can only grant a new trial by a unanimous vote. (1860)

- (b) The power of the Grand Master to order a new trial is limited to applications by the accused under sentence. In such cases it should only be exercised where the error is clear and the accused has been prejudiced thereby. (1890)

**§8.7.3:** A new trial in the lodge shall proceed (unless special order be made to the contrary by the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master or the lodge) upon the charges and answers already on file and shall begin at the introduction of the proofs. The powers of the Master and the lodge as to amendments, appointments of Commissioners and counsel and all other matters, shall be the same as upon the original trial.

**§8.7.4:** When upon appeal the Grand Lodge refers the matter back to the lodge for further action, the accused is entitled to notice of action by the lodge. (1875, 1975)

**§8.7.5:** If, upon a new trial, the accused be again convicted, he may again appeal to the Grand Lodge. No number of convictions or acquittals can exhaust the right of either party to appeal. (1975)

## **§8.8: Restoration**

**§8.8.1:** A Mason under sentence of definite suspension is, by operation of law, restored, at the termination of the period for which he stood suspended, to all the rights and privileges from which he stood suspended without any action of the lodge or of the accused. The termination of the sentence is the termination of the suspension.

**§8.8.2:** The lodge, on its own motion or on petition, may restore a Mason under sentence of definite or indefinite suspension by a two-thirds vote, but one under sentence of expulsion shall only be restored by the unanimous vote of the lodge wherein the sentence was passed. Restoration from expulsion shall be on petition and shall be treated in all respects the same as the admission of a profane, except as to the conferring of degrees. (1975)

- (a) A lodge has jurisdiction over all of its suspended or expelled material, wherever residing, and the petition for restoration must be made to that lodge (if existing). (1899,1996)
- (b) A lodge does not have the right to refuse a suspended Brother a petition for restoration. (1945)
- (c) The petition of a suspended Brother for restoration may be received without recommendation, but it is better to be recommended. (1868)
- (d) When, upon appeal from the decision of a lodge acquitting a Brother, the Grand Lodge reverses the decision of the lodge and expels the Brother, the Grand Lodge only has the right upon application to restore the Brother, and such action of the Grand Lodge restores the Brother to membership in his lodge. (1877)
- (e) A member who has been suspended or expelled by a lodge, cannot be restored by the Grand Lodge without the consent of that lodge. (1878, 1975)
- (f) A suspended or expelled member cannot be restored to good standing after death. (1881, 1975)

**§8.8.3:** All lodge records are permanent and must not be expunged, altered or erased in any manner, except to rectify a clearly established error. Consequently, an individual's record of suspension cannot be expunged after payment of all dues and restoration. (1949, 1975)

**§8.8.4:** Restoration shall not be granted by the Grand Lodge in any case, except from its own sentence, or on appeal from judgment of a lodge. However, where a lodge, which has imposed the penalty of expulsion or suspension, shall have ceased to exist, otherwise than by consolidation with another lodge, the Grand Lodge has jurisdiction to grant restoration.

## **§8.9: Grand Lodge Trials**

**§8.9.1:** Charges against a lodge, or a Master during his term of office, or for offenses against Grand Lodge, shall be preferred in Grand Lodge only.

**§8.9.2:** The charges shall be in writing and shall be filed with the Grand Secretary. The Grand Master shall thereupon issue a summons to the accused commanding appearance at a time and place therein to be prescribed.

**§8.9.3:** Upon filing of the charges, the Grand Master may make such order as the case shall demand. If the charges are against a lodge, he may arrest its Charter until the conclusion of the trial; if against a Master, he may suspend the accused from office for a like period.

**§8.9.4:** The Grand Secretary shall forthwith serve the summons accompanied by the interlocutory order of the Grand Master, if any, and a certified copy of the charges upon the accused, or cause the same to be done; which service shall be under the like rules as service of summons and charges in trials in the lodge.

**§8.9.5:** Trial in the Grand Lodge shall be conducted substantially under the same rules as a trial in the lodge, except that all judicial action in the Grand Lodge shall be taken by a majority vote, which vote shall be taken as the Grand Master may direct, and may be reconsidered at any time within twenty-four hours.

**§8.9.6:** The Grand Lodge may punish individual offenders by the infliction of any of the Masonic penalties. A lodge shall be punished by the arresting or revoking of its Charter.

**§8.9.7:** The Grand Lodge may, for sufficient cause, grant a new trial within its own body. If the Grand Lodge be not in session, the application for new trial shall be made to the Grand Master who has, in the interim, power to grant the same.

**§8.9.8:** The granting of a new trial in the Grand Lodge is accompanied by similar effects, with regard to the former decision or sentence and the Masonic standing of the accused, as in the similar case in the lodge, and the new trial shall proceed upon the same general principles as in the first case in the lodge. (1975)

## **§8.10: Summary Trial by Grand Master**

**§8.10.1:** Whenever the Grand Master shall issue an edict or general order to all lodges and Masons in this Grand Jurisdiction to refrain from un-Masonic conduct to be specified therein, he shall have the authority to provide for summary trial and discipline for violation of such edict or general order.

**§8.10.2:** The Grand Master may conduct such trial personally, or may appoint a representative or representatives to preside therein and make recommendations to him. The accused shall be informed in writing of the charge and be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard and to have counsel and present testimony. The proceedings shall be had as the Grand Master shall direct. In case the accused is found guilty, the penalty shall be suspension from Masonry until the next Annual Communication of Grand Lodge.

**§8.10.3:** At the next Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, the Grand Master shall make full report of his proceedings in the matter and shall return to Grand Lodge all testimony taken and all instruments, reports, etc., upon which the discipline was founded. Grand Lodge shall review the action of the Grand Master and approve or disapprove it. The suspension shall terminate at the adjournment of Grand Lodge unless Grand Lodge, by a majority vote, shall extend the suspension for a specified or indefinite time.

**§8.10.4:** Summary trial by the Grand Master shall not affect the penal power of the lodges over the accused Brother.

# PENAL CODE SUMMARY

(A Summary of Sections and Sub-Sections)  
(1988)

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§8.1.1.1: Definition

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### §8.1.2: Examples of Offenses

§8.1.2.1: General offenses, examples

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§8.1.2.3: Conferring a Degree after objection

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§8.1.3.3: Charged with offense punishable by incarceration of one or more years

§8.1.3.4: Decision of Grand Master

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§8.1.3.6: Words spoken in provocation

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- §8.1.4: Judicial Cognizance
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## **ACT OF INCORPORATION OF MASONIC ASSOCIATIONS**

(What follows is the original State Statute  
and cannot be modified by the  
Grand Lodge of Michigan.

Following that are  
Model Temple Association Articles of Association  
[Articles of Incorporation].

Contact the Grand Lodge Office for  
an updated copy of these Articles of Association,  
Model Temple Association Bylaws and  
Model Lodge Bylaws.)



# ACT OF INCORPORATION OF MASONIC ASSOCIATIONS

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Act No. 1 Public Acts 1895

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Compiled Laws 1948, Sec. 457, 221, et sequi.  
Mich. Stat. Ann., Sec. 21.1221, et sequi.

AN ACT to provide for the incorporation of Masonic associations.

**§9.1:** That Masonic associations may be incorporated under the provisions of this act.

**§9.2:** Any ten or more residents of this State, who are members of any chartered body or of different chartered bodies of the order of Free and Accepted Masons<sup>13</sup>, may make and execute articles of association under their hands and seals, which said articles of association shall be acknowledged before some officer of this State having authority to take acknowledgment of deeds, and shall set forth: (2001)

First - The names of the persons associating in the first instance, their places of residence and the name and location of the Masonic body or bodies to which they severally belong.

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<sup>13</sup> Ruling by Grand Master W.W. Kent - See G.L. Proc. 1961 (P.35). (1991)

I have ruled that as a matter of law, membership in Masonic Temple Associations is restricted to members of a Masonic Fraternity. They may also be members of the Order of Eastern Star, and I would think that it would be appropriate that some of them were members of the Order of Eastern Star if that organization has joint occupancy with the Masonic lodge. However, the members of the Temple Association and the Board of Directors must all be members of the Masonic Fraternity.

Second - The corporate name by which such association shall be known in the law.

Third - The purpose of the association, which shall be to provide a building or buildings to be used for Masonic purposes, and the period for which such association is incorporated not exceeding thirty years.

**§9.3:** A copy of said articles of association shall be filed with the corporation and securities bureau of the department of commerce, and thereupon the persons who shall have signed said articles of association, their associates and successors, shall be a body corporate by the name expressed in such articles of association. A copy of such articles of association, under the seal of the corporation and securities bureau of the department of commerce, shall be received as prima facie evidence in all Courts of this State of the existence and due incorporation of such association. (1996)

**§9.4:** Every corporation organized under the provisions of this act may take, receive, purchase and hold in its corporate capacity, and for its corporate purposes, real and personal property and the same or any part thereof devise, sell, convey, use and dispose of at pleasure; and may erect and own suitable building or buildings to be used in whole or in part, for meetings of Masonic bodies, and may borrow money and for that purpose may issue its bonds and mortgage its property to secure the payment of said bonds.

**§9.5:** Every such corporation shall have full power and authority to provide by its laws for the issuing of certificates of shares of stock and for the manner in which the same shall be held and represented.

**§9.6:** Every such corporation shall have power to provide by its bylaws for succession to its original membership and for new membership; and shall also have power to provide by its bylaws for election from its members of a board of trustees and to fix the number and term of office of such trustees, but such board shall not be less than five in number and such term of office shall not exceed three years.

**§9.7:** The management and control of the business, affairs and property of such corporation shall be vested in said board of trustees, and said board shall have power to borrow any money and cause to be made and issued any bonds and mortgages authorized by §9.4 of this act. Said trustees shall appoint from their own number, a president, Secretary and Treasurer, who shall perform the duties of their respective offices in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the board of trustees.

**Model Temple Association  
Articles of Association  
[Articles of Incorporation]**

**(Contact the Grand Lodge Office for  
an updated copy of these and Model  
Temple Association Bylaws)**

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*These Articles of Association are to be submitted to the State of Michigan's, Department of Labor & Economic Growth, Bureau of Commercial Services without change except for filling in the blanks and possibly substituting "Masonic Temple Association" or "Masonic Center Association" for "Masonic Building Association".*

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**ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION**

**\_\_\_\_\_ MASONIC BUILDING ASSOCIATION**

The undersigned being ten (10) residents of the State of Michigan and members of a chartered body of the order of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Michigan, do make and execute these Article of Association under our respective hands and seals this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, pursuant to the provisions of Public Act 1 of 1895, and Public Act 162 of 1982, of the State of Michigan.

**ARTICLE I**

The names of the incorporators, places of residence, name and location of the Masonic body to which they severally belong are as follows:

	Name	Residence	Masonic Body	Location
(1)	_____	_____	_____	_____

- (2) \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) \_\_\_\_\_
- (4) \_\_\_\_\_
- (5) \_\_\_\_\_
- (6) \_\_\_\_\_
- (7) \_\_\_\_\_
- (8) \_\_\_\_\_
- (9) \_\_\_\_\_
- (10) \_\_\_\_\_

## ARTICLE II

The name of the association is " \_\_\_\_\_ Masonic Building Association."

## ARTICLE III

The purpose for which the \_\_\_\_\_ Masonic Building Association is organized is to provide a building or buildings to be used for Masonic purposes and the period for which this association is incorporated shall be perpetual.

## ARTICLE IV

The association is organized on a Non-Stock, Non-Profit, membership basis. All members of the association shall be members, in good standing, of a chartered and subordinate Lodge of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Michigan.

The association shall be financed under the following general plan:

Contributions of real and personal property, donations and rental income on real and personal property.

## ARTICLE V

The address of the registered office is: \_\_\_\_\_

The name of the registered agent is: \_\_\_\_\_

## ARTICLE VI

In fulfilling the purpose of the association, as stated in Article III, the \_\_\_\_\_ Masonic Building Association shall have authority and restriction as follows:

- a. To take, receive, purchase and hold in its corporate capacity, and for its corporate purposes, real and personal property and the same or any part thereof devise, sell, convey, use, and dispose of at pleasure; and may erect and own a suitable building or buildings to be used in whole or in part, for meetings of Masonic bodies, and may borrow money and for that purpose may issue its bonds and mortgage its property to secure the payment of said bonds.
- b. To operate exclusively for the purposes set forth in Section 501 (c) 2, of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, specifically to hold title to property, collect income therefrom, and turn over the entire amount thereof, less expenses, to the \_\_\_\_\_ Masonic Lodge, a chartered and subordinate Lodge of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Michigan, an organization exempt for taxation under section 501 (c) 8, of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.
- c. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Articles, the association shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by an entity exempt from federal income tax under Section 501 (c) 2 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.
- d. No part of the net earnings of the association shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the

association shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered, and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the corporate purposes.

## ARTICLE VII

The association has the power to provide, by its By-Laws, for the succession to its original membership and for new membership, provided all members are also members, in good standing, of a chartered and subordinate Lodge of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Michigan; for election from its members of a Board of Trustees; and to fix the number and term of office of such volunteer trustees, but such board shall not be less than 5 in number and such term of office shall not exceed 3 years. The management and control of the business affairs and property of the association shall be vested in the Board of Trustees, and said board shall have the power to borrow any money and cause to be made and issued any bonds and mortgages authorized by Article II, a., Section 4 of Public Act 1 of 1895. Said volunteer trustees shall appoint from their number a president, secretary and treasurer, who shall perform the duties of their respective offices in accordance with the By-Laws of the association, and the rules and regulations prescribed by the Board of Trustees.

To the extent permitted by Section 209 of the Michigan Non-Profit Corporation Act, Public Act 162 of 1982, a volunteer trustee of the association or an officer sitting as a member of the Board of Trustees shall not have personal liability to the association or its membership for monetary damages for breach of such volunteer trustee's or officer's fiduciary duty, except for liability for breach of the duty of loyalty, intentional misconduct, gross negligence, gaining improper personal benefit from corporate transactions, or a violation of Section 551(1) of the Michigan Non-Profit Corporation Act, Public Act 162 of 1982. The association assumes, to the full extent permitted by law, all liability to any person other than the association and its members for all acts or omissions of a volunteer trustee.

## ARTICLE VIII

In the event of dissolution of the association, the Board of Trustees shall cause the assets of the association to be distributed as follows:

- a. All liabilities of the association shall be paid or adequate provisions shall be made for payment.
- b. All of the association's remaining assets, real and personal, shall be distributed to the \_\_\_\_\_ Masonic Lodge, or its successor, if such organization is qualified as tax exempt as a chartered and subordinate lodge to the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Michigan, a fraternal beneficiary association exempt from federal income taxes under Internal Revenue Code of 1986, Section 501 (c) 8, as amended. If the \_\_\_\_\_ Masonic Lodge, or its successor, do not exist the association's remaining assets, real and personal, shall be distributed to the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons or the State of Michigan, if such entity qualifies as exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. If the \_\_\_\_\_ Masonic Lodge, or its successor, and the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Michigan are not so qualified for exemption from federal income taxes under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, then all of the association's remaining assets shall be distributable to an entity qualified as tax exempt under Internal Revenue Code of 1986, Section 501 (c) 3, as amended, as the Board of Trustees shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of, for whatever reason, shall be disposed of by order of the Circuit Court for the County of \_\_\_\_\_, Michigan to such organization or organizations as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes and are qualified as tax exempt under Internal Revenue Code of 1986, Section 501 (c) 3, as amended.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned incorporators as listed in Article I have by their signatures executed these Articles of Association for the purposes as herein stated.

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) \_\_\_\_\_
- (4) \_\_\_\_\_
- (5) \_\_\_\_\_
- (6) \_\_\_\_\_
- (7) \_\_\_\_\_
- (8) \_\_\_\_\_
- (9) \_\_\_\_\_
- (10) \_\_\_\_\_

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_

Notary Public, \_\_\_\_\_ County, Michigan

My commission expires \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_



# § 10

## BYLAWS OF THE MICHIGAN MASONIC HOME



# BYLAWS OF THE MICHIGAN MASONIC HOME

## ARTICLE I

### ***§10.1: Membership and Powers***

#### ***§10.1.1: Membership***

**§10.1.1.1:** Membership in the Michigan Masonic Home (the Corporation) shall be limited to the Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of the State of Michigan (the "Grand Lodge"), hereafter referred to as the "Member." (1998)

#### ***10.1.2: Voting***

**§10.1.2.1:** The voting representative of the Member shall be the Grand Master. (1998)

#### ***§10.1.3: Reserved Powers***

**§10.1.3.1:** The following actions are specifically reserved to the "Member" and not delegated to the Board of Trustees. (1998)

- (a) Approval of the annual capital and operating budgets for the Corporation.
- (b) Approval of any borrowing, as recommended by the Board of Trustees.
- (c) Any amendments of these Bylaws.
- (d) The adoption, approval and amendment of an investment policy for the funds of the Corporation.

## ARTICLE II

### **§10.2: Board of Trustees**

#### **§10.2.1: Functions**

**§10.2.1.1:** Except as otherwise provided in the Corporation's Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws, all rights, powers, duties and responsibilities related to the management and control of the Corporation's property, activities and affairs are vested in the Board of Trustees. In addition to the power and authority conferred upon it by the Bylaws and the Articles of Incorporation, the Board of Trustees may take any lawful action on behalf of the Corporation which is not by law or by the Articles of Incorporation or by these Bylaws required to be taken by some other party. (1998)

**§10.2.1.2:** At each Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, the Board of Trustees shall make full and complete report of its actions and activities during the preceding year. (1994, 1995, 1998)

#### **§10.2.2: Meetings**

**§10.2.2.1:** All annual, regular and special meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be held at the Masonic Home, Alma, unless otherwise ordered by the Board, the President or the Member. The annual meeting of the Board shall be its July meeting. The Board shall hold a minimum of four regular meetings per year as scheduled by the Board, the President or the Grand Master. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President or the Grand Master at such times and places as they may deem necessary and shall be called by the President upon the request of a majority of the members of the Board. Written or telephone notice of such meetings will be given to all Board Members at least five days in advance of the meeting. (1984, 1995, 1998)

**§10.2.2.2:** The Board shall, at such regular meetings, examine the report of the Secretary covering the business transacted since the last meeting and enter their approval or disapproval of such report in the records of the meeting. It shall pass upon

all reports of the Secretary, the Chief Executive Officer and the Treasurer and enter its findings thereon upon the records. (1963, 1995, 1998)

### **§10.2.3: Number and Term**

**§10.2.3.1:** The Board of Trustees shall consist of a minimum of twelve (12) members selected as follows: (2000, 2007)

- (a) The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge shall be ex-officio members of the Board of Trustees. (1987, 1994, 1995)
- (b) A minimum of nine additional Trustees shall be appointed by a two-thirds vote of the Member's Board of Directors. The appointed Trustees shall be selected from nominees possessing the talents and areas of expertise needed on the Board of Trustees. Initially, the appointments shall be staggered in terms of one, two and three years. No trustee shall serve more than two consecutive three-year terms except by unanimous consent of the Member's Board of Directors. (1998, 2000, 2007)

### **§10.2.4: Removal, Resignation**

**§10.2.4.1:** A Trustee may be removed at any time, with or without cause, only by a majority vote of the Member's Board of Directors or by a vote of the majority of the remaining Trustees AND the approval of the majority of the Member's Board of Directors. Failure on the part of any Trustee to attend Board and committee meetings with reasonable regularity may be cause for removal. (1971, 1995, 1998)

**§10.2.4.2:** A Trustee may resign by giving written notice to the President. Unless otherwise specified in the resignation, the resignation shall take effect upon receipt and the acceptance of the resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

### **§10.2.5: Vacancies**

**§10.2.5.1:** All vacancies on the Board, whether by expiration of term of office, death, resignation or any other cause, shall be filled by the Member's Board of Directors, in accordance with

§10.2.3. The appointment shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term. (1994, 1995, 1998)

**§10.2.6: Quorum, Voting, Miscellaneous**

**§10.2.6.1:** A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. (1991, 1995)

**§10.2.6.2:** A majority of the Trustees present, whether or not a quorum, may adjourn any meeting to another time and place. Notice of such adjourned meeting shall be given even though the time and place thereof are announced at the meeting at which the adjournment is taken.

**§10.2.6.3:** Any action required or permitted to be taken pursuant to an authorized vote at any meeting of the Board of Trustees or a committee thereof, may be taken without a meeting if, before or after the action, all Trustee or committee members consent thereto in writing. Written consent shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Trustees or committee. Such consent shall have the same effect as the vote of the Board of Trustees or committee for all purposes.

**§10.2.6.4:** A Trustee or committee member may participate in a meeting by means of conference telephone or similar communications equipment by which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other. Participation in a meeting pursuant to this section constitutes presence in person at the meeting.

**§10.2.6.5:** The vote of the majority of the Trustees present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board of Trustees unless a greater vote is required by law, by the Article of Incorporation or by these Bylaws. Each Trustee present shall have one vote. No Trustee shall be entitled to vote by proxy.

**§10.2.6.6:** Each Trustee shall be entitled to the mileage and per diem established for Grand Lodge Communications, the same to be paid as part of the expense of maintaining the facilities of the Corporation. (1973, 1994, 1995)

**§10.2.6.7:** In case of a tie vote, the presiding officer may cast the deciding vote in addition to his own.

## ARTICLE III

### **§10.3: Officers of the Board**

#### **§10.3.1: Officers**

**§10.3.1.1:** The Officers of the Corporation shall be the President, Vice-President and Secretary, each of whom shall be elected by the Trustees at each annual meeting, and the Treasurer, which office will be filled by the Grand Treasurer. (1995, 1998)

**§10.3.1.2:** The Grand Master shall be the Chairman of the Board of Trustees. (1995, 1998)

**§10.3.1.3:** The Board of Trustees may appoint such other officers as it deems advisable. They shall have such authority and shall perform such duties as may be prescribed by the Board. (1995, 1998)

**§10.3.1.4:** The same person may hold any two or more offices, but an officer shall not execute, acknowledge or verify an instrument in more than one capacity. (1995, 1998)

**§10.3.1.5:** In addition to the powers set forth in these Bylaws, the officers shall have such authority and shall perform such duties as may be determined by the Board of Trustees. (1995, 1998)

#### **§10.3.2: Term of Office and Vacancy**

**§10.3.2.1:** Each officer shall serve for a term of one year or until such officer's successor is selected. Any officer may serve consecutive terms. (1995, 1998)

**§10.3.2.2:** A vacancy in any office shall be filled by vote of the Board of Trustees. A person elected to fill a vacancy shall serve for the balance of the unexpired term. (1995, 1998)

### **§10.3.3: Removal**

**§10.3.3.1:** Any officer may be removed at any time, with or without cause, by the vote of a majority of the Board of Trustees. (1995, 1998)

### **§10.3.4: Duties of Officers**

**§10.3.4.1:** The duties of all officers shall be as set forth in these Bylaws and as specifically established by the Board of Trustees from time to time.

**§10.3.4.2: *Chairman.*** The Grand Master shall be the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and shall preside, if he chooses, at all meetings of the Board of Trustees. The Chairman shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

**§10.3.4.3: *President.*** At its annual meeting, the Board shall elect a President, who, in the absence of the Grand Master or when the Grand Master does not choose to preside, shall preside at meetings of the Board. (1987, 1994, 1995)

**§10.3.4.4: *Vice President.*** At its annual meeting, the Board shall elect a Vice President, who, in the absence of both the Grand Master and the President or in the absence of the President if the Grand Master does not preside, the Vice President shall preside. (1987, 1995)

**§10.3.4.5: *Secretary.*** The Board may elect one of its members as Board Secretary, or it may, in its discretion, elect some person as Secretary who is not a member of the Board. The Secretary shall be elected or appointed at the annual meeting each year. (1987, 1995)

It shall be the duty of the Secretary:

- (a) To keep the correct record of all meetings of the Board.
- (b) To assure that all papers, documents and instruments belonging to the Board and the Home are properly filed and preserved. (1987, 1995)
- (c) To keep a full account of a receipts and disbursements of the funds under the control of the Board. (1987, 1995)

- (d) To do and perform all other duties as the Board may, from time to time, impose. (1987, 1995)

**§10.3.4.6: *Treasurer.*** The Grand Treasurer shall be the Treasurer of the Corporation and shall be the custodian of all moneys contained in the several funds under the control of the Board. He shall pay out the said funds only on proper vouchers drawn by authority of the Board and signed by its Secretary or Chief Executive Officer. The original orders upon which such funds are paid out shall be returned to the Board and filed in the office of the Secretary at the time of the annual audit of the Board's accounts. (1963, 1987, 1995)

### **§10.3.5: *Employees***

**§10.3.5.1:** The Board of Trustees shall employ an Administrator, subject to the approval of the Member's Board of Directors, who shall have charge and management of the Home under such rules, regulations and directives as may be prescribed by the Board. (1963, 1987, 1995, 1998)

**§10.3.5.2:** The Board may require any employee to give bonds for the faithful performance of duties and for proper accounting for all funds and property in their charge. (1987, 1995)

### **§10.3.6: *Compensation***

**§10.3.6.1:** The compensation of all agents, employees, officers and representatives of the Corporation shall be fixed by the Board of Trustees or in accordance with the method for such determination which is established by it. (1998)

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **§10.4: *Committees and Their Reports***

**§10.4.1:** The Board of Trustees may designate one or more committees, each of which will consist of a least one-committee chairperson and one or more committee members. Committee members may be members of the Board of Trustees or other interested individuals. The President will appoint the chairperson and members of the committee. (1998)

**§10.4.2:** The studies, findings and recommendations of all committees will be reported to the Board of Trustees for consideration and action, except as otherwise ordered by the Board of Trustees. Committees may adopt such rules for the conduct of business as are appropriate and as are not inconsistent with these Bylaws, the Articles of Incorporation or state law. (1998)

## ARTICLE V

### **§10.5: Indemnification and Insurance**

#### **§10.5.1: Indemnification of Trustees, Officers and Employees**

**§10.5.1.1:** The Corporation shall indemnify and pay in advance the defense expense of any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, by reason of the fact that he or she is or was a Trustee, officer, partner, employee or agent of the Corporation or is or was serving at the request of the Corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another foundation, corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, whether for profit or not for profit, to the fullest extent permitted by the Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act, as it exists or is hereafter amended, against all expenses (including attorney's fees), liability (including without limitation liability for money damages for breach of fiduciary duty) and loss reasonably incurred in connection therewith.

**§10.5.1.2:** No repeal or modification of this Article shall adversely affect any right of any person existing at the time of or with respect to any acts or omissions occurring before such repeal or modification.

#### **§10.5.2: Insurance**

**§10.5.2.1:** The Corporation shall have power to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person in accordance with the Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act.

## ARTICLE VI

### ***§10.6: Conflict of Interest***

#### ***§10.6.1: Statement of Policy***

**§10.6.1.1:** It is the policy of the Corporation that all officers, trustees, committee members and employees of the Corporation avoid conflict between their individual interests and the interests of the Corporation in actions taken by them on behalf of the Corporation.

**§10.6.1.2:** A contract or other transaction between the Corporation and one or more of its Trustees or Officers, or between the Corporation and an entity of any type in which one or more of the Corporation's Trustees or Officers are Directors or Officers, or are otherwise interested, is not avoid or voidable solely because of such common directorship, officership or interest, or solely because such Trustees are present at the meeting of the Board of Trustees or committee thereof at which such contract or transaction is acted upon, or solely because their votes are counted for such purpose, if any of the following conditions are satisfied:

- (a) The contract or other transaction is fair and reasonable to the Corporation when it is authorized, approved or ratified; or
- (b) The material facts as to such Trustee's relationship or interest and as to the contract or transaction are disclosed or known to the Board of Trustees or committee thereof and the Board of Trustees or committee thereof authorizes, approves or ratifies the contract or transaction by a vote sufficient for the purpose without counting the vote of any common or interested Trustee; or
- (c) The material facts as to such Trustee's relationship or interest and as to the contract or transaction are disclosed or known to the Board of Trustees and the Board authorizes, approves or ratifies the contract or transaction.

**§10.6.1.3:** A contract or transaction involving a possible conflict of interest awarded by the Trustees may nevertheless be disapproved by the Member's Board of Directors. (1998)

**§10.6.1.4:** In weighing any contract or transaction, the Trustees and/or Directors must consider the appearance of the transaction to the Craft, recognizing that contracts which may be legal may nevertheless have the appearance of impropriety and may cause confusion to those not fully conversant with all of the details. (1998)

***§10.6.2: Procedure in Event of Potential Conflict of Interest***

**§10.6.2.1:** In the event that any officer, trustee, committee member or employee of the Corporation has any direct or indirect interest in, or relationship with, any individual or entity which proposes to enter into any transaction with the Corporation, such officer, trustee, committee member or employee shall give the Board of Trustees notice of such interest or relationship and shall refrain from voting or otherwise attempting to exert any influence on the Corporation, its Board of Trustees or its committees, to affect its decision whether to participate in such transaction.

**ARTICLE VII**

***§10.7: Annual Audits and Fiscal Year***

***§10.7.1: Annual Audits***

**§10.7.1.1:** There shall be an annual audit of the financial statements of the Corporation by an independent certified public accountant selected by the "Member." (1998)

***§10.7.2: Fiscal Year***

**§10.7.2.1:** The fiscal year of the Corporation shall be the same as the fiscal year of the Grand Lodge.

## ARTICLE VIII

### **§10.8: Miscellaneous Provisions**

#### **§10.8.1: Expenditure Approval**

**§10.8.1.1:** The Board of Trustees shall designate officers or agents to approve expenses and sign checks, drafts or other obligations for the payment of money. (1998)

#### **§10.8.2: Method of Giving Notices**

**§10.8.2.1:** Any notice required by statute or by these Bylaws to be given to the Trustees, or to any officers of the Corporation, unless otherwise provided herein or in any statute, shall be given by mailing to such Trustee or officer at such Trustee's or officer's last address as appears on the records of the Corporation and such notice shall be deemed to have been given at the time of such mailing. (1998)

#### **§10.8.3: Amendments**

**§10.8.3.1:** These Bylaws may be altered or amended only by the "Member" in session. (1998)

#### **§10.8.4: Additional Rules**

**§10.8.4.1:** The Board of Trustees shall have the control, management and supervision of the Corporation and may make and adapt rules and regulations for its own organization and government and for the government, control and admission of residents into the facilities operated by the Corporation, subject, however, to the orders and directions of and rules for the management of the Corporation's facilities which may be adopted by the Grand Lodge. (1994, 1996, 1998)



# § 11

## **ADOPTED REGULATIONS OF THE MICHIGAN MASONIC HOME**



**REGULATIONS  
ADOPTED BY THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE  
MICHIGAN MASONIC HOME**

***§11.1: Regulations for Admission to the Home***

**§11.1.1:** Individuals meeting one of the following criteria shall be deemed an affiliated member: (2004)

- (a) A Master Mason who has been in continuous good standing in a Michigan lodge for at least ten (10) years prior to the filing of the application. (1987)

A Master Mason who became such by affiliation from another Grand Jurisdiction will be credited with continuous good standing in such other Grand Jurisdiction, provided that such continuous good standing was immediately prior to his affiliation with the Grand Lodge of Michigan and, further, that he must have been a member in good standing in the other Grand Jurisdiction for at least five (5) successive years prior to his affiliation with the Grand Lodge of Michigan. Furthermore, such Master Mason must also have been a member of a Michigan lodge in continuous good standing therein for at least five (5) years prior to the filing of the application for admission.

- (b) The wife or mother of such a Master Mason. (1991)
- (c) The widow or mother of a deceased Master Mason who, at the time of his death, was qualified for admission under the provisions of subsection (a) above.
- (d) A female member of the Order of the Eastern Star, provided her membership in a Michigan Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star has continued in good

standing for the times specified for Master Masons in subsection (a). (1987)

- (e) An employee of the Michigan Masonic Home or the Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of Michigan who retires with twenty (20) or more continuous years of service and their spouse. (1991)
- (f) In exceptional cases or under extraordinary circumstances, the Board, in its discretion, may grant admission when the applicant is not qualified under these rules. (1976, 1991)
- (g) The Board may adopt policies and procedures consistent with applicable provisions of the Blue Book, establishing additional criteria that an individual must satisfy in order to be deemed an affiliated member. (1991, 2004)

**§11.1.2:** Application for admission must be recommended by a lodge or a Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star or other recommendations as allowed by the Board and shall be made on applications provided by the Board. No application will be considered until the same has been completely filled out in accordance with accompanying instructions and until the Board's investigation is completed.

**§11.1.3:** It shall be the responsibility of the Board of Trustees to adopt policies and procedures governing the admission of residents to, and care provided by, the Michigan Masonic Home. Such policies shall comply with all current applicable laws and regulations to which the Home is subject and shall be amended or changed as necessary to comply with laws and regulations then in effect. Further: (1987, 1991, 2004)

- (a) Masonic Home residents have priority over non-residents.
- (b) Affiliated applicants {as defined in §11.1.1 subsections (a) through (e)} shall be given preference and priority admission status for general admissions over any non-affiliated applicants.

- (c) Affiliated applicants meeting clinical-program criteria for medical specialties offered at the Home shall be given preference over any non-affiliated applicants to the medical specialty.
- (d) Non-affiliated applicants meeting clinical-program criteria for medical specialties offered at the Home shall be given preference over any affiliated applicants who do not meet clinical program criteria to the medical specialty.
- (e) Provided, however, that all applicants be eligible for admission according to policies and procedures then in effect as duly adopted by the Board of Trustees.

**§11.1.4:** Except as provided in §11.1.6, applicants for admission shall not have expended, depleted or divested themselves of any part of their assets, except for their own living costs and other documented personal expenses, within the time frame specified by the Michigan Medicaid regulations then in effect. The Board shall require applicants violating this Section to make payment in full for all services provided to them as a condition of continued residency at the Home. (1987, 1991, 1995, 1998, 2004)

**§11.1.5:** Except as provided in §11.1.6, any resident of the Home shall not expend, deplete or divest any part of their assets from the date of admission to the Home and for as long as the applicant is a resident of the Home, except for ordinary living costs and expenses. The Board shall require residents violating this section to make payment in full for all services provided to them as a condition of continued residency at the Home. (1979, 1987, 1,991, 1995, 1998, 2004)

**§11.1.6:** The Board of Trustees may override the transfer provisions of §11.1.4 and §11.1.5 in those instances where it has determined that extraordinary circumstances exist. (1998, 2004)

## **§11.2: *Outside Relief***

**§11.2.1:** Applications for Outside Relief shall be made to the Board by the lodge or a Chapter of the Order of the Eastern

Star of which the proposed recipient is a member and shall be made on forms provided by the Board. (1991)

**§11.2.2:** In all Outside Relief cases, the lodge or the Chapter of the Order Of the Eastern Star making the application shall pay a percentage of the amount requested or granted by the Board in accordance with the provisions of §11.2.3. Upon notification of the action of the Board, the lodge or the Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star shall send its share before the first of each month. The Board may delay payment of Outside Relief to the beneficiary until the remittance from the lodge or the Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star shall have been received at the Masonic Home. (1991)

**§11.2.3:** The percentage to be paid by a lodge or a Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star as their share of Outside Relief requested by them and granted by the Masonic Home Board, shall be 10%, with a yearly limit of \$500 per individual. (2005)

**§11.2.4:** The Board may, in cases where it deems it wise to do so, aid persons who are not residents of the Masonic Home. Such aid is to be paid out of the Outside Relief Fund. (1991)

**§11.2.5:** The following may be granted Outside Relief, at the discretion of the Board:

- (a) All those eligible for admission to the Home when, in the opinion of the Board, they can be better or more economically cared for at their places of residence than at the Home. (1973, 1991)
- (b) The Board may, in its discretion, grant Outside Relief in exceptional cases when the applicant has not been a member for the required time. (1973, 1991)
- (c) Those otherwise qualified for admission to the Home, but who by reason of disease, mental or physical infirmity or other causes are not admissible. (1973)
- (d) Payment of Outside Relief will be stopped in the case of any recipient who shall be found to have concealed or misrepresented any fact upon which the grant was allowed. (1973, 1991)

- (e) Payment of Outside Relief may be granted by the Board, on its own motion, in all cases where the proposed beneficiary is an Officer or a Past Officer of the Grand Lodge, or has rendered the Grand Lodge distinguished service, or to the destitute widow or orphan of such person or persons, in a sum sufficient to provide for their proper support and maintenance, to be paid out of the Outside Relief Fund without request from a constituent lodge or a Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star as required in §11.2.2 and without contribution thereto by the lodge or the Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star as required by §11.2.3. (1973, 1991)

**§11.2.6:** The Board will not assist in reimbursing Relief Boards of other Masonic Grand Jurisdictions for moneys expended in assisting members of this Grand Jurisdiction, unless its agreement to do so is first obtained. Such permission will be granted only on application of the lodge or the Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star of which the person to be relieved is a member and then only when such lodge or Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star contributes at least one-half of the total relief extended. (1973, 1991)

**§11.2.7:** No Outside Relief will be granted in any case, unless the budget for that purpose is sufficient to meet all demands thereon existing when a grant is made. (1973, 1991)

**§11.2.8:** The Board will not in any year make or continue grants for Outside Relief, unless there shall be funds on hand sufficient to provide for the same. Should the fund for this purpose be insufficient, grants previously approved will be reduced as the Board may determine. The lodge or the Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star whose member is in receipt of relief, will be advised when any grant is reduced or discontinued and the reason therefore. (1973, 1991)

**§11.2.9:** All grants of Outside Relief shall be subject to discontinuance at the discretion of the Board. (1973, 1991)

**§11.2.10:** All grants for Outside Relief shall be made in such amounts as shall be deemed appropriate by the Board for each

individual found entitled thereto under these rules. (1973, 1991, 2005)

### **§11.3: Amendments to these Regulations**

**§11.3.1:** Amendments to these Regulations of the Masonic Home Board shall be made only as prescribed in §3.13.2.

**§11.3.2:** Provided, however, that by a majority vote of the Board of Directors of the Grand Lodge and the approval of the Grand Master, such changes in the Regulations may be made as necessary to best protect the interests of the Residents of the Home and of the Fraternity at all times. Any such changes shall be presented for review at the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge and shall be either ratified or rejected at that time. (1976, 1991)

**ACT OF INCORPORATION  
OF THE  
MICHIGAN MASONIC  
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**



**ACT OF INCORPORATION  
OF THE  
MICHIGAN MASONIC  
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**

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**ACT OF INCORPORATION**

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**ARTICLE I**

REGISTERED IN  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
STATE OF MICHIGAN, (JUNE 1, 1995)  
IN CONFORMITY WITH  
ACT NO. 162 PUBLIC ACTS 1982, AS AMENDED

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AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE  
MICHIGAN MASONIC CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

**ARTICLE II**

Purposes

**§12.2.1:** The purposes for which the Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation (the "Corporation") is organized are: (2006)

- (a) To operate exclusively for the purpose set forth in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under code Section 501(c)(3).

- (b) To receive and administer funds for charitable purposes; to acquire, invest, dispose of and deal with real and personal property and interests therein; and to apply gifts, grants, contributions, bequests and devises, and the income and proceeds thereof, in furtherance of the purposes of the Corporation, with all the powers conferred upon it by the provisions of the Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act (the "Act") and by the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of the Corporation. (2004, 2006)
- (c) Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Articles, the Corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Code Section 501(c)(3) or by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Code Section 170(c)(2).
- (d) No part of the net earnings of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its Trustees, Officers or other private persons, except that the Corporation shall be authorized to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article II.
- (e) No substantial part of the activities of the Corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, except as provided in Code Section 501(h), and the Corporation shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.

## **ARTICLE III**

### Dissolution

**§12.3.1:** In the event of dissolution of the Corporation, the Board of Trustees shall cause the assets of the Corporation to be distributed as follows:

- (a) All liabilities of the Corporation shall be paid or adequate provisions shall be made for payment.
- (b) All of the corporation's remaining assets, real and personal, shall be distributed to such organization as is so qualified as the Board of Trustees shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of, for whatever reason, shall be disposed of by order of the Circuit Court for the County of Gratiot, Michigan, to such organization or organizations as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes. (2006)

## ARTICLE IV

### Liability Limitations

**§12.4.1:** To the full extent permitted by law, no volunteer Trustee of the Corporation shall be personally liable to the Corporation or its members for damages for breach of the Trustee's fiduciary duty.

- (a) To the full extent permitted by law, the Corporation assumes all liability to any person other than the Corporation or its members for all acts or omissions of a volunteer Trustee.
- (b) To the full extent permitted by law, the Corporation assumes the liability for all acts or omissions of a non director volunteer.



**BYLAWS  
OF THE  
MICHIGAN MASONIC  
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**



# BYLAWS OF MICHIGAN MASONIC CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

(A MICHIGAN NONPROFIT CORPORATION)

## ARTICLE I

### ***§13.1: Membership and Powers***

#### ***§13.1.1: Membership***

**§13.1.1.1:** Membership in the Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation Corporation shall be limited to the Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of the State of Michigan. (1998, 2006)

#### ***§13.1.2: Meetings***

**§13.1.2.1:** An annual meeting of the Grand Lodge shall be held at such date, hour and month, and at such place, as shall be determined by the Grand Lodge, for the purpose of electing Trustees and for transacting such other business as may properly be brought before the meeting.

- (a) Special meetings of the Grand Lodge may be called at any time at the request of the Grand Lodge.
- (b) The Grand Lodge may adjourn any meeting to another time and place.
- (c) Any meeting of the Grand Lodge may be held at the principal office of the Corporation, or at any other place (either within or outside of the State of Michigan) and at such time as is designated in the Notice of the meeting.

#### ***§13.1.3: Voting***

**§13.1.3.1:** The voting representative of the Grand Lodge shall be the Grand Master unless the Grand Lodge has authorized otherwise.

**§13.1.3.2:** The Grand Lodge may authorize other persons to act for it. Such authorization shall be signed by the Grand Master and is not valid after the expiration of one year from its date unless otherwise provided in the authorization. An authorization is revocable at the pleasure of the Grand Lodge, except as otherwise provided by law.

**§13.1.3.3:** The following actions are specifically reserved to the Grand Lodge and not delegated to the Board of Trustees:

- (a) Approval of the annual capital and operating budgets for the Corporation.
- (b) Approval of any borrowing, as recommended by the Board of Trustees.
- (c) Any amendments of these Bylaws.
- (d) The adoption, approval and amendment of an investment policy for the funds of the Corporation.

**§13.1.3.4:** Any action required or permitted to be taken at an annual or special meeting of the Grand Lodge may be taken without a meeting, without prior notice and without a vote, if a consent in writing, setting forth the action so taken, is signed by the Grand Lodge. Said written consents shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Corporation and shall, for all purposes, have the same effect as a vote of the Grand Lodge.

## **ARTICLE II**

### ***§13.2: Trustees and Quorum***

#### ***§13.2.1: Board of Trustees***

**§13.2.1.1:** Except as specifically provided in the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws, all rights and responsibilities related to the management and control of the Corporation are vested in the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees may take any lawful action on behalf of the Corporation which is not by law or by the Articles of Incorporation or by these Bylaws required to be taken by some other party.

**§13.2.1.2:** There shall be a Board of Trustees consisting of a minimum of twelve (12) members. The Directors of the Grand Lodge shall all be members of the Board in addition to a minimum of six elected members. The Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation Board shall nominate a slate of the appropriate number of candidates for consideration of the delegates at each Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge. The Grand Master may preside at any meeting of the Board. (1998, 2006)

**§13.2.1.3:** The elected members of the Board of Trustees of the Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation shall be elected at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge. Each term shall be for a period of three years. Initially, the election shall be staggered in terms of one, two and three years. Failure on the part of any elected member to attend three consecutive regular meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be cause for immediate removal of said member of the Board. In the event of the death, resignation or removal of a member of the Board, the unexpired term may be filled by an appointment with a two-thirds (2/3) positive vote of the remaining Board Members. (1998, 2006)

**§13.2.1.4:** All vacancies on the Board, whether by expiration of term of office, death, resignation or any other cause, shall be filled in accordance with the preceding §13.2.1.3 for the full, unexpired term. (1998)

**§13.2.1.5:** Annual meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be held within three (3) months of the close of the fiscal year of the Corporation, at a place and time as the Board of Trustees shall determine, for the election of officers and for the transaction of any other business which may come before such meeting.

**§13.2.1.6:** In addition to the annual meeting, the Board of Trustees shall hold four (4) regular meetings a year, at a time and place determined by the Board of Trustees.

**§13.2.1.7:** Special meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be called on the request of the Chairman or any two other members of the Board of Trustees.

**§13.2.1.8:** Written notice shall be given to the Trustees at least ten (10), but not more than sixty (60), days prior to all regular meetings of the Board of Trustees. Special meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be held upon five (5) day written notice mailed to the members of the Board of Trustees. Only the subjects specified in the call of the special meeting shall be discussed at the meeting.

**§13.2.1.9:** Notwithstanding the foregoing, no notice need be given to any Trustee who submits a signed waiver of notice before or after a meeting, or who attends a meeting without protesting any lack of notice.

**§13.2.1.10:** The Board of Trustees may adopt additional rules for the conduct of meetings and for the conduct of the affairs of the Corporation, not inconsistent with the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws.

### **§13.2.2: Quorum**

**§13.2.2.1:** A majority of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum for the purposes of conducting business at any meeting of the Board of Trustees.

**§13.2.2.2:** A majority of the Trustees present, whether or not a quorum, may adjourn any meeting to another time and place. Notice of such adjourned meeting shall be given even though the time and place thereof are announced at the meeting at which the adjournment is taken.

**§13.2.2.3:** Any action required or permitted to be taken pursuant to an authorized vote at any meeting of the Board of Trustees or a committee thereof, may be taken without a meeting if, before or after the action, all members of the Board of Trustees or the committee consent thereto in writing.

**§13.2.2.4:** A member of the board of Trustees or of a committee may participate in a meeting by means of conference telephone or similar communications equipment by which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other. Participation in a meeting pursuant to this Section constitutes presence in person at the meeting.

**§13.2.2.5:** The vote of a majority of the Trustees present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board of Trustees, unless a greater vote is required by Law, by the Articles of Incorporation or by these Bylaws. Trustees may not vote by proxy.

**§13.2.2.6:** Each Trustee shall be entitled to the mileage and per-diem established for Grand Lodge Communications, the same to be paid as part of the expense of maintaining the facilities of the Corporation.

**§13.2.2.7:** In case of a tie vote, the member presiding may cast the deciding vote in addition to his own.

## ARTICLE III

### **§13.3: *Officers and their Duties***

#### **§13.3.1: *Officers***

**§13.3.1.1:** The officers of the Corporation shall be Chairman, President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The President, Vice President and Secretary shall be chosen from among the Trustees and who shall be elected by the Board of Trustees at each annual meeting. The Board of Trustees may appoint other officers as it deems advisable, who need not be Trustees and who shall have such authority and shall perform such duties as may be prescribed by the Board. In addition to the powers set forth in these Bylaws, the officers shall have such authority and shall perform such duties as may be determined by the Board of Trustees.

**§13.3.1.2:** Each officer shall serve for a term of one year or until a successor is elected. Any officer may serve consecutive terms. A vacancy in any office shall be filled by vote of the Board of Trustees. A person elected to fill a vacancy shall serve for the balance of the unexpired term.

**§13.3.1.3:** Any officer may be removed at any time, with or without cause, by the vote of a majority of the Board of Trustees.

## **§13.3.2: Duties**

**§13.3.2.1:** The duties of all officers shall be as set forth in these Bylaws and as specifically established by the Board of Trustees.

**§13.3.2.2:** *Chairman.* The Grand Master shall be the Chairman of the Board and shall preside, if he chooses, at all meetings of the Board of Trustees. The Chairman shall appoint, with the approval of the Board of Trustees, the chairman and members of all committees and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

**§13.3.2.3:** *President.* The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Trustees, shall act as the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation and, subject to the direction of the Board of Trustees, shall have general powers of management of the affairs of the Corporation. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

**§13.3.2.4:** *Vice President.* In the absence or disability of the President, or in the event of (and during the period of) vacancy in that office, the Vice President shall have the powers and perform the duties of the President. The Vice President shall perform other duties as requested by the President.

**§13.3.2.5:** *Secretary.* The Secretary shall keep in permanent form a record of all meetings of the Board of Trustees and shall send out notices of all Board of Trustees meetings.

**§13.3.2.6:** *Treasurer.* The Grand Treasurer shall be the Treasurer of the Corporation, shall have general charge of the finances of the Corporation and shall deposit all funds of the corporation in bank(s) selected by the Board of Trustees. The Treasurer shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements of the Corporation in books open at all times to the inspection of the Board of Trustees and shall make such reports to the Board of Trustees as it may require.

**§13.3.2.7:** The Board of Trustees shall designate officers or agents to approve expenses and sign checks or other obligations for the payment of money.

**§13.3.2.8:** No loans and no renewals of any loans shall be contracted on behalf of the Corporation except when specifically authorized by the Grand Lodge upon recommendation of the Board of Trustees. The authority contained in the Section shall be express and confined to specific instances.

**§13.3.3: Compensation**

**§13.3.3.1:** The compensation of all agents, employees and representatives of the Corporation shall be fixed by the Board of Trustees or in accordance with the method for such determination which is established by it.

## ARTICLE IV

**§13.4: Committees**

**§13.4.1:** The Board of Trustees may designate one or more committees, each of which will consist of at least one committee chairperson and one or more committee members. Committee members may be members of the Board of Trustees or other interested individuals. The members of the committee and its chairman will be appointed by the Chairman.

**§13.4.2:** The studies and recommendations of all committees will be reported to the Board of Trustees for consideration and action. Committees may adopt rules for the conduct of business not inconsistent with these Bylaws, the Articles of Incorporation or state law.

## ARTICLE V

**§13.5: Indemnification of Trustees, Officers and Employees**

**§13.5.1:** The Corporation shall indemnify and pay in advance the defense expenses of any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, by reason of

the fact that he or she is or was a director, officer, partner, trustee, employee or agent of another foundation, corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, whether for profit or not for profit to the fullest extent permitted by the Act, as it exists or is hereafter amended, against all expenses (including attorneys' fees), liability (including without limitation liability for money damages for breach of fiduciary duty) and loss reasonably incurred in connection therewith. No repeal or modification of the Article shall adversely affect any right of any person existing at the time of or with respect to any acts or omissions occurring before, such repeal or modification.

**§13.5.2:** The Corporation may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person in accordance with the Act.

## ARTICLE VI

### ***§13.6: Real and Potential Conflict of Interest***

#### ***§13.6.1: Conflict of Interest***

**§13.6.1.1:** It is the policy of the Corporation that all officers, Trustees, committee members and employees of the Corporation avoid conflict between their individual interests and the interests of the Corporation in actions taken by them on behalf of the Corporation.

**§13.6.1.2:** A contract or other transaction between the Corporation and one or more of its Trustees or officers, or between the Corporation and an entity of any type in which one or more of the Corporation's Trustees or officers are Trustees or officers, or are otherwise interested, is not void or voidable solely because of such common Trusteeship, officership or interest, or solely because such Trustees are present at the meeting of the Board of Trustees or committee thereof at which such contract or transaction is acted upon or solely because their votes are counted for such purpose, if any of the following conditions is satisfied:

- (a) The contract or other transaction is fair and reasonable to the Corporation when it is authorized, approved or ratified; or
- (b) The material facts as to such Trustee's relationship or interest and as to the contract or transaction are disclosed or known to the Board of Trustees or committee thereof and the Board of Trustees or committee thereof authorizes, approves or ratifies the contract or transaction of a vote sufficient for the purpose without counting the vote of any common or interested Trustee; or
- (c) The material facts as to such Trustee's relationship or interest and as to the contract or transaction are disclosed or known to the Grand Lodge, and the Grand Lodge authorizes, approves or ratifies the contract or transaction.

### ***§13.6.2: Procedure in the Event of Potential Conflict of Interest***

**§13.6.2.1:** In the event that any officer, trustee, committee member or employee of the Corporation has any direct or indirect interest in or relationship with, any individual or entity which proposes to enter into any transaction with the Corporation, such officer, trustee, committee member or employee shall give the Board of Trustees notice of such interest or relationship and shall refrain from voting or otherwise attempting to exert an influence on the Corporation, its Board of Trustees, or its committees, to affect its decision whether to participate in such transaction.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### ***§13.7: Audits and Fiscal Year***

#### ***§13.7.1: Annual Audit***

**§13.7.1.1:** There shall be an annual audit of the financial statements of the Corporation by an independent certified public accountant selected by the Grand Lodge.

### **§13.7.2: Fiscal Year**

**§13.7.2.1:** The Fiscal Year of the Corporation shall be the same as the fiscal year of the Grand Lodge.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **§13.8: Method of Giving Notice and Bonds**

#### **§13.8.1: Method of Giving Notice**

**§13.8.1.1:** Any notice required by statute or by these Bylaws to be given, unless otherwise provided herein or in any statute, shall be mailed to the last address on the records of the Corporation, and such notice shall be deemed to have been given at the time of such mailing.

#### **§13.8.2: Bonds**

**§13.8.2.1:** Fidelity bonds shall be required of the Officers or the Board of Trustees as the Board of Trustees deems proper. The cost of said bonds shall be an expense of the Corporation.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **§13.9: Amendments**

**§13.9.1:** These Bylaws may be altered or amended only by the Grand Lodge in session.

**GRAND LODGE  
ORPHANS COMMITTEE  
BYLAWS**



# GRAND LODGE ORPHANS RELIEF AND EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE BYLAWS

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**§14.1:** The committee shall meet prior to Grand Lodge as prescribed in Grand Lodge Bylaws. An organizational meeting shall be held at the close of the Annual Communication. Special meetings may be called by the Chairman or by a majority of the members of the committee. (1971)

**§14.2:** At the organizational meeting, held at the close of the Annual Communication, the committee shall elect a Chairman and a Secretary. The Chairman shall preside at meetings in the absence of the Grand Master, or when the Grand Master does not choose to preside. In the absence of both the Grand Master and the Chairman, the member whose term of office is first to expire, shall preside. In case of a tie vote, the member presiding may cast the deciding vote in addition to his own. At all meetings, there shall be present at least three members of the committee before any action shall be legal.

**§14.3:** The committee may elect one of its members as Secretary, or may, at its discretion, elect some person who is not a member of the committee as its Secretary, who shall have no vote on any matters, unless he shall be legally appointed as one of the five members of the committee.

- (a) It shall be the duty of the Secretary to supply to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge, once each month, a list of recommended expenditures for its beneficiaries, which list, shall be considered authorization for the issuance of checks by the Grand Secretary. A copy of such list shall be sent to all members of the committee.
- (b) The Secretary, if a non-member of the committee, shall receive the same per diem and mileage as the

members, plus such other stipend as a majority of the committee, approved by the Grand Master, shall see fit to grant, provided that such financial expenditures shall not exceed the budget allowance.

**§14.4:** The committee may authorize an investigation as to the qualifications and requirements of orphans, whose need may have been called to its attention, subject to the following regulations.

The following are eligible for receipt of benefits from this committee:

- (a) Children under the age of eighteen years, whose father was a Master Mason in good standing at the time of his death.
- (b) Children under the age of eighteen years, whose father is a Master Mason, provided, such Master Mason is incapacitated and was in good standing for at least five years prior to his incapacity.
- (c) Children under the age of eighteen years, whose grandfather is or was, at the time of his death, a Master Mason in good standing and whose father is dead or not contributing to their support, provided, however, that for such relief a majority vote of the committee and the special approval of the Grand Master is required.

**§14.5:** The financial assistance given by the committee shall be considered as supplemental to the efforts of the guardian or custodian in earning a living for their support, or to State aid or Social Security which the family may be receiving, and assistance shall not be given until efforts to procure the above have been made or initiated. All requests for assistance shall be made by the lodge in which the father or grandfather had held a membership and the lodge should contribute at least ten percent of the amount which shall be given. Checks for such participation should be paid by the lodge at least twice per year when billed by the Grand Secretary's Office.

**§14.6:** The application for assistance shall be executed by the Worshipful Master and the Secretary of the lodge under its

Seal, and a copy of the resolution authorizing the application by the lodge shall be included in the original application.

**§14.7:** The committee shall require that each case shall be re-investigated at least twice per year and the renewal applications shall be signed by the Worshipful Master and the Secretary.

**§14.8:** In the event that the case of a child of a Master Mason or grandchild of a Master Mason shall be called to the attention of the committee and the circumstances surrounding the case do not conform to those prescribed above, consideration and assistance may be given by the majority vote of the committee and the special approval of the Grand Master, provided, however, that such cases shall be subject to review once each year, thereby requiring the specific approval of each Grand Master.

**§14.9:** Children and grandchildren of Masons as listed in §14.4 regardless of age and whose high school records indicate they are worthy, may receive assistance for higher education in the form of loans or grants to be made upon such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the committee. In order to make funds available for this purpose, the committee shall prepare and submit to the Grand Lodge, at each Annual Communication, an itemized and detailed budget of the sums required for such loans or grants to be made from said funds for the then fiscal year. (1954)



**MASONIC JEWELS  
AUTHORIZED BY THE  
GRAND LODGE**



**MASONIC JEWELS  
AUTHORIZED BY THE  
GRAND LODGE**

***§15.1: Grand Master's  
Jewel***

**§15.1.1:** The specifications of the Grand Master's Jewel shall be as follows:

Metal – 14 karat fine gold, except the wreath which is 16 karat green gold.

Weight – 37 dwt.

Diamond – 40 cwt., perfect blue-white stone.

Bars – Top, with attaching pin and locking device on reverse side, wording on the face “GRAND”.

Middle, has the official emblem of The State of Michigan, wording on the face “TUEBOR” and “SI QUAERIS PENINSULAM AMOENAM CIRCUMSPICE”.

Lower, wording on the face “MASTER”, with the hour glass and pair of outstretched wings as illustrated.

Pendant – Solid circular band, surmounted with wreath



Grand Master

of leaves in green gold. Inserted in the wreath are three medallions, each having a blue background. Within the medallion to the left is a “Level”, to the right a “Trowel” and in the lower part is the “All Seeing Eye”. Surmounting the entire face of the pendant is a pair of compasses extended to 60 degrees upon a fourth part of a circle. In the center is a moonstone surrounded by radiating light rays. The adjustment screw of the compasses is surmounted with a 40 cwt. Perfect blue-white diamond.

A solid ball ornament rigidly connects the pendant to the hour glass located in the lower portion of the lower bar.

Ornaments – The full size illustration shows all the ornaments on the Grand Master’s jewel.

Backing – The entire jewel is backed with a double strip of purple silk velvet ribbon.

Jewel Case – The Grand Master’s jewel is enclosed in a leather case marked in gold lettering “Grand Master”.

## ***§15.2: Past Grand Master’s Jewel***

**§15.2.1:** The Past Grand Master’s jewel was officially adopted by the Grand Lodge of Michigan in the year 1910 (Grand Lodge Bylaws §5.2.5.3). It is of the same design and material as the Grand Master’s jewel, with the following exceptions:

Upper bar – attaching pin exposed to view. Bolder lettering in the word “GRAND”.

Lower bar – In bold lettering is the word “LODGE”.

Pendant – The background on the face of the pendant is composed of a wreath of leaves tied at the base with a ribbon. Overlaying the wreath is the square, compasses (extended to 60 degrees) and a quadrant. Inserted within the square and compasses in the center of the pendant are

radiating light rays in the center of which is a 50 cwt., perfect blue-white diamond.

Attached to the rear of the pendant is a circular gold plate for engraving the following wording:

Upper portion:

(1) Name of Past Grand Master

(2) the words PAST GRAND MASTER

Lower portion:

(3) PRESENTED followed by the Date of presentation

(4) BY GRAND LODGE F. & A. M. OF MICHIGAN

Backing – The entire jewel is backed with a double strip of purple silk velvet ribbon.

Jewel Case – The Past Grand Master's jewel is enclosed in a leather case marked with the recipient's name stamped thereon in gold.



Past Grand Master

### **§15.3: Officers' Jewels**

§15.3.1: The illustrations on the next two pages indicate the proper emblems for Constituent and also Grand Lodge Officers' jewels. The emblem, with or without the wreathed circle, may be suspended from a suitable cord, to be placed around he

officer's neck, or it may be attached to the coat lapel by an ornamental barred pin.



Dep. Grand Master  
Worshipful Master



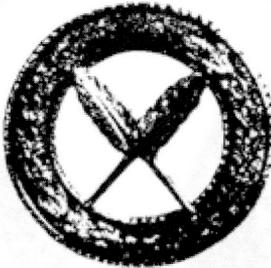
Senior Warden



Junior Warden



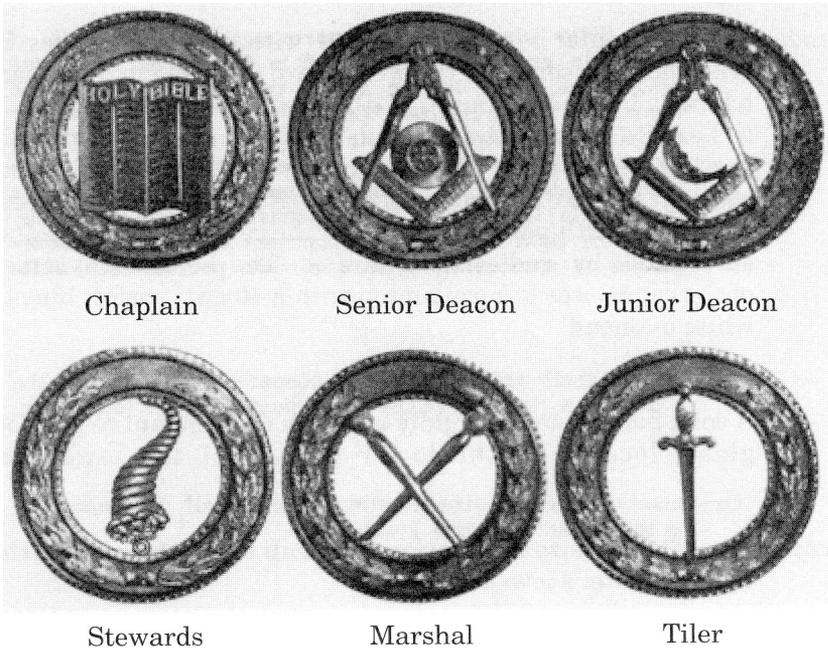
Treasurer



Secretary

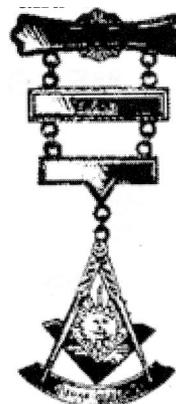


Lecturer



**§15.4: Past Master's Jewel**

§15.4.1: The accompanying illustration is a suggestion for the Past Master's jewel. The designating emblem is composed of the square, compasses and quadrant, in the center of which are indicated light rays, embellished with a moonstone or diamond. Gold metal is proper.



**Past Master**

**§15.5: Membership Award Lapel Buttons**

§15.5.1: The following illustrations show approved designs of lapel buttons for Membership Awards as adopted by the Grand Lodge at the 1974 Annual Communication.

**§15.5.2:** These lapel buttons may be obtained from the Grand Lodge Office. The name of the recipient is required. (1974)

## **MEMBERSHIP AWARD LAPEL BUTTONS**



25 Years



40 Years



50 Years



60 Years



70 Years



75 Years

# INDEX



# INDEX

The Publications Committee had concerns about including page numbers in the Index because, as paragraphs are modified, added to and deleted, the pages upon which a particular item is located will most likely change. Even with the initial printing some of these pages may be incorrect as the paragraph may flow from one page to another and therefore the actual item may be on the preceding or following page. For this reason, you should use the “2008 Page No.” as a start and then look for the “Section Number” on pages near the one given.

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