

PROPOSED CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAW CHANGES FOR 2010

Note that wording to be removed has been struck out, ~~these words for example~~, and any additions are boldfaced and underlined, **these words for example**.

Proposal #1

3-503. **Fees for Special Dispensations**--Every application to the Grand Master for a Special Dispensation, except for performing ceremonies attending the laying of cornerstones and the dedication of halls, and for the election and installation of officers to fill vacancies, shall be accompanied by a fee of ~~Five~~ **Ten** Dollars. If the dispensation is granted, the fee shall be transmitted to the Grand Secretary as part of the revenue of the Grand Lodge; but if the dispensation is refused, the fee shall be returned to the Lodge or officer making the application; **Provided**, That the Grand Master may remit the fee when, in his judgement, the necessities of the case may require.

Rationale: The fee charged for a special dispensation has been \$5 since the 1920's. Today the cost of writing a simple business letter has been estimated at about \$12.50 considering the salary of the secretary, the paper, envelope, postage, etc. Since we not only must write a letter, complete and print a dispensation form, track the issuing and return of the dispensation, and sometimes write several letters reminding Lodges that the dispensation has not been returned, it is time for this special dispensation fee to be increased.

Respectfully submitted,

Council of Administration

Proposal #2

3-424. **Display of Flag**—A United States Flag of suitable size, and of such material as the Lodge may determine, must be displayed in the Lodge room at every Communication. If the colors are to be presented and posted, the Master will raise the Lodge prior to the color party entering the room.

When the color party enters, all present will stand silently facing the alter, right hand over heart **or salute as appropriate**, as the color bearers and escorts march to the East and turn to face the West. All present with then turn to face the colors. The Master may then direct the Lodge to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and/or to sing the National Anthem. The Flag Bearer then places the Flag in the stand, the Master seats the Lodge and the color party retires.

When retiring the colors at the end of the Communication, the color party takes its position in the East and the Master raises the Lodge. All present stand silently, right hand over heart **or salute as appropriate**, as the color bearer removes the flag from its stand, and the party marches to the West.

The flag bearer may hold a portion of the flag against the staff only when lowering the staff to pass through a doorway.

Rationale: Retired Soldiers are Still Proud! Still Serving! Congress has put Still Saluting into law for Retired Soldiers and other veterans. The 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (Public Law 110-181) changed Sect. 9, Title 4, U.S. Code, which covers "Conduct during hoisting, lowering or passing of flag." Following is that section of the U.S. Code, as reworded by the law change:

"During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag or when the flag is passing in a parade or in review, all persons present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute. All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, or if applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Citizens of other countries present should stand at attention. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes." Army Echoes, Sep-Dec 2008. Since the pledge or anthem alone is an abbreviated version of Review (the full version includes the colors being presented and posted, then retired afterward), the provisions provided by Public Law 110-181 (2008) should be allowed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rick Reichert
Past Master, Hancock Lodge #311

Proposal #3

FELONIES AND MISDEMEANORS

Section 1. DEFINITIONS

- a. Felony. An offense for which a sentence of death or a term of imprisonment for one year or more is provided upon conviction.**
- b. Misdemeanor. A crime punishable by less than a year of imprisonment in a county jail and/or a fine.**

Section 2. CONVICTION OF OR PLEADING GUILTY TO ANY FELONY AND TO CERTAIN MISDEMEANORS RELATING TO CHILD MOLESTATION, CHILD PORNOGRAPHY, OR ANY SEXUAL OFFENSE INVOLVING A CHILD.

- a. Felony. Any Mason subject to the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge who has, or hereafter shall be convicted of a felony in any court of competent jurisdiction shall, by direction of the Grand Master, upon the filing with the Grand Master of a certified copy of the court proceedings showing a conviction of the same, as provide in subsection c hereof, be summarily expelled from Masonry without the preferring of charges and the usual Masonic trial.**
- b. Misdemeanors. Any Mason who has, or hereafter shall be convicted of any misdemeanor in any court of competent jurisdiction for any sexual offense involving a child shall, by direction of the Grand Master, upon the filing with the Grand Master of a certified copy of the court proceedings showing guilty conviction of the same, pursuant to subsection c hereof, be expelled, suspended, or reprimanded, depending upon the severity of offense. However, before issuing such**

order of expulsion, suspension, or reprimand, the Grand Master may refer said matter to the Trials and Punishment Committee for their recommendation as to the punishment suitable for the offense. The Trials and Punishment Committee shall forward their written recommendation to the Grand Master within thirty (30) days from the date of the receipt of the request for such recommendation by the Grand Master.

- c. Evidence. A certified copy of the court's proceedings showing a judgment of conviction shall be sufficient evidence to justify expulsion, suspension, or reprimand by the Grand Master as provided in Subsections a and b hereof.
- d. Right of Appeal. Any Mason expelled, suspended, or reprimanded under the provisions of this section shall be entitled to the right of appeal as provided by By-law 5-233.
- e. Master's Duty. It is hereby made the duty of the Master of a subordinate lodge, where a member of his lodge has, or shall hereafter be convicted of felony or misdemeanor hereunder to immediately file with the Grand Master a certified copy of the court proceedings showing his plea of guilty, verdict of guilty, or special verdict upon which a judgment of conviction may be entered.
- f. Grand Master's Duty. It is hereby made the duty of the Grand Master to promptly execute the provisions of subsections a and b of this Section upon his receipt of instruments or documents set out in subsection e hereof.
- g. Reversal of Conviction. If the conviction shall be reversed upon appeal in the criminal court, the Grand Master shall set aside any order of punishment issued by him under this section and shall reinstate the member without loss of time.

Rationale: This proposed by-law is modeled on a similar by-law in the Grand Lodge of Iowa. In the past three years we have had two cases that would be covered in this law where one of our members plead guilty and was convicted and is serving time in prison for child molestation. In both cases the offense was done in another state and numerous letters had to be written resulting in an unduly burdensome investigation of the offenses charged. Under this proposal a Grand Master may take immediate action upon the receipt of certified court paperwork.

Fraternally submitted,

Don Robinett, Chairman of Trials and Punishment Committee

Proposal #4

4-401D. Plural Membership--A member in good standing of a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction may hold plural membership in other Lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction, paying dues and per-capita in each **primary** Lodge and provided that if he is suspended for any other reason than non-payment of dues in one, he shall be suspended in all. In the case of suspension for non-payment of dues, a delay period of 120 days shall be allowed for the certified notification of the member in question. (Adopted 1975 Amended 1983, 1984, 1994, 1996).

Rationale: **A** This would encourage more Plural memberships if the member did not have to pay that extra \$24.00 and would provide some of our smaller Lodges a wider active Membership base from which to choose their Officers to run their Lodge

B A voting member gets only one vote in Grand Lodge regardless of how many Lodges pay per-capita on him.

Respectfully Submitted

Claude L. Carpenter PM Cornerstone Lodge #219 Little River KS
Joseph A Withrow PM Hutchinson Reno Lodge #124 Hutchinson KS

Proposal #5

Grand Chaplain—In addition to such duties as may devolve upon him by general usage and direction of the Grand Master, the Grand Chaplain or his approved designee shall, at the Annual Communication, make appropriate reference and tribute to the memory of those of our own brethren who have passed away during the preceding year.

Rationale: The Grand Chaplain should, as part of his duties, perform the annual Necrology service at the Annual Communication, or else he may arrange for a designee if he is unable to do so.

Respectfully submitted,

Council of Administration

Proposal #5B

~~2-124. Committee on Necrology—The Committee on Necrology shall review the memorials issued by this and other Grand Jurisdictions, and make due report of the same, together with appropriate reference and tribute to the memory of those of our own brethren who have passed away during the preceding year.~~ **Deleted 2010.**

Rationale: The function of the Committee on Necrology should be performed by the Grand Chaplain as part of his duties, except the foreign correspondence aspect, which is currently handled by the foreign corespondent.

Respectfully submitted,

Council of Administration

Proposal #6

Constitution Article VI

Section 4. Title of Grand Officers--The elective officers of the Grand Lodge shall be addressed as follows: The Grand Master as Most Worshipful, and all others as Right Worshipful. **The Grand Chaplain shall be addressed as Very Worshipful.** The Other

subordinate officers of the Grand Lodge shall be addressed as Worshipful. Past officers shall be addressed as present officers of like rank.

Rationale: The Grand Chaplain will basically be functioning as the Grand Lodge Necrology Committee as in many other jurisdictions. This is an attempt to standardize this title with some other jurisdictions with the same position and function.

Respectfully submitted,

Council of Administration

Proposal #7

2-132. Duties of Area Deputy Grand Masters and District Deputy Grand Masters--District Meetings--(a) Duties of Area Deputy Grand Master. Each Area Deputy Grand Master shall arrange for and hold in his Area at least one general meeting each year at such time and place as may be designated by the Grand Master, to which meeting all of the Lodges of his Area shall be invited and the principal purpose of which meeting shall be for carrying out the program of the Grand Lodge. ~~He shall do such other duties as the Grand Master may designate. He shall make such reports as are requested by the Grand Master.~~ **He shall be responsible for assembling information and data from lodges and districts in his area in such a manner and form as shall be determined from time to time by the Grand Master or the Council of Administration, to include necessarily but not be limited to summary of findings for report to the Grand Master, Council of Administration or their designees. He shall function as the coordinating officer for his area for such Grand Lodge programs and efforts as he may be directed by the Grand Master.** (b) Duties of District Deputy Grand Masters. Each District Deputy Grand Master shall visit each lodge in his District at least once each year. He shall not be charged with ritualistic instruction, but shall be the personal representative of the Grand Master in his District and hold at least one general meeting each year at such time and place as may be designated by the Grand Master, at which meeting all of the Lodges of his District shall be invited, the principal purpose of which meeting shall be for instruction in the work. He shall make reports of his doings to the **Area Deputy Grand Master of his Area, or upon request to the Grand Master or his designee,** on blanks furnished for the purpose and additional special reports when requested by the Grand Master. (Amended 1982, 2010). (Rev. 8/91)

Rationale: With ease of modern communication, the role of Area Deputies must necessarily change. This allows the Council of Administration or the Grand Master to assign duties to Area Deputies to assist in the administration of areas, districts or programs, as needed. The Area Deputy will become a mechanism for helping District Deputies complete accurate paperwork in a timely fashion, and assist in districts, as needed.

Respectfully submitted,
Council of Administration

Proposal #7B

2-130. Areas, Area Deputy Grand Masters, Masonic Districts and District Deputy Grand Masters-- This Grand Jurisdiction shall be divided into such Areas and Districts, the number and boundaries of which Areas and Districts shall be determined from time to time by the Council of Administration. The Deputy Grand Master shall, as soon as practicable after his installation, appoint an Area Deputy Grand Master for each such Area and one District Deputy Grand Master for each such District and each of whom shall be a Master or Past Master and resident of his Area of District unless otherwise approved by the Council of Administration, who shall then be an apprentice to the current District or Area Deputy Grand Master in such manner as may be determined from time to time by the Council of Administration. The Deputy Grand Master, or his designee, shall be responsible for providing other training that shall be required. (Amended 1982, 1990 and 1991, 1992, 2009, 2010).

Rationale: This allows appointees as a Deputy to begin apprenticing as soon as his appointment is made by the Deputy Grand Master. If the Deputy Grand Master makes an earlier appointment, he can begin to observe and prepare. It also addresses the reality of how much time it takes for the Deputy Grand Master to make some appointments, however.

Respectfully submitted,

Council of Administration

Proposal #7C

~~2-130A. Appointment of District Deputy Grand Masters--That the District Deputy Grand Masters shall be appointed to start serving as apprentice to present District Deputy Grand Masters and for training six months after each Annual Communication, and then serve as District Deputy Grand Master for the following year all in the District for which appointed. (Adopted 1983). Repealed 2010.~~

Rationale: The adoption of Proposal #7B would eliminate the need for this section.

Respectfully submitted,

Council of Administration

Tabled Proposal

The following proposal was tabled in 2009 to be reconsidered in 2010:

3-619. Serving of Alcoholic Beverages—~~The serving or consumption of any beverage having a recognized or indicated alcoholic content at any communication or social function of any Lodge shall be deemed an offense against the Body of Masonry. This does not preclude lodges from renting their facilities, except Lodge rooms, to groups where alcoholic beverages are served, but not sold. (Amended 1982, 2002). *Cross Reference: By-Laws, Chapter 1.*~~ **Repealed 2010.**

Rationale:

This by-law is already broken by certain degrees in other bodies of Masonry, and in certain social functions in the Fraternity. As by-law 1-110 states “Every Mason who is a member of any organization which predicates its membership upon Masonic affiliation, is bound by the same standards of conduct while present at any meeting or function held or sponsored by such organization, as he would be if such meeting or function were held or sponsored by his Lodge”. It is time that we either adhere to our own by-laws, or remove this so that we are not breaking our own laws any longer.

Fraternally Submitted,
Chad Brewer
PM Mount Zion Lodge #266