

**THE MASONIC CODE**

BEING A

**COMPLETE DIGEST**

OF

*All the Regulations, Laws, Approved  
Rulings, Decisions and Enactments*

OF THE

**Grand Lodge of Tennessee**

Now in force, as recorded in its Constitution, Landmarks,  
the Tennessee Textbook, The Tennessee Craftsman,  
previous editions of the Masonic Code and all the  
proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee.

CONTAINING ALSO

**Quotations from the Best Masonic Authorities**

ALTOGETHER CONSTITUTING

**THE LAW**

Which governs in all matters pertaining to the  
Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons in the  
Jurisdiction of Tennessee.

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Compiled by Order of the Grand Lodge

Proceedings 1980, Page 126

BY THE

**JURISPRUDENCE COMMITTEE**

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TWENTY-FIFTH EDITION, REVISED 2017

4.1001. The Grand Secretary must place on all proceedings sent to Lodges a notice that they are the property of the Lodge and must remain in the Lodge room.

4.1002. Each Lodge must own and keep in the Lodge room a copy of the latest edition of the Masonic Code of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee, and must report such ownership and possession in its annual returns.

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- A. L. – Ancient Landmarks.
- B. of C. – Report of Board of Control of Widows' and Orphans' Home.
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- Const. – Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee.
- D. – Maine Masonic Textbook, by Josiah H. Drummond.
- M. – Masonic Jurisprudence, by Albert G. Mackey.
- Proc. – Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee (usually indicated only by year and page).
- S. – Principles of Masonic Jurisprudence, by John W. Simons.
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**TITLE 1**  
**COPY OF**  
**CIVIL LAWS**

**ISSUED BY THE STATE OF TENNESSEE**

**PERTAINING TO THE STATE OF TENNESSEE FRATERNITY**

**Part 1 - Odd Fellows**

**48-102-101. General powers of grand lodge.**

(A) The officers of the grand lodge of the state of Tennessee, of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and their regular successors, are a body politic and corporate, by the name and style of "The Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of the state of Tennessee" and, by that name, are invested with power to acquire, possess, occupy, and enjoy real and personal estate, and to sell and convey, or otherwise dispose of the same under the bylaws, rules, and regulations of the lodge; provided, that such bylaws, rules and regulations shall not be contrary to the constitutions of the United States and of the state.

(B) The corporation, in its name, shall be competent to contract and be contracted with; to sue and be sued, plead and be impeded, in all courts; to have and use a common seal and to alter the same at its pleasure.

(C) The right of any future general assembly to alter, repeal, or amend this part is expressly reserved.

**48-102-102. Power of grand lodge over property.** - The grand lodge is empowered to acquire by purchase, deed, gift, devise, bequest, or otherwise, and to hold, sell, convey, mortgage, bond or otherwise dispose of or encumber any and all property, real and personal, that it may deem necessary for any legitimate purpose of its organization; provided, that such property is, in the opinion of the grand lodge, necessary or convenient in the execution of the objects and purposes of the grand lodge.

**48-102-103. Subordinate lodges - Power to acquire and hold or convey property.**

(A) The various subordinate lodges of the grand lodge shall be, and each thereof is, empowered to acquire and hold by purchase, deed, gift, devise, bequest, or otherwise any and all property, real and personal, necessary or deemed expedient or proper by the subordinate lodges for the legitimate and proper execution of their objects and purposes, and each and all of the subordinate lodges are empowered to sell, convey, mortgage, bond, or otherwise convey or encumber for lodge purposes, any and all of such property.

(B) The subordinate lodges may sell or convey their real property only by and with the permission of the grand lodge, or the grand master.

**48-102-104. Separate property of subordinate lodges.** - Whenever the grand lodge shall establish or charter a subordinate lodge, the subordinate lodge is invested with the separate right to an amount of real and personal property, to the same extent and under the restrictions of section 48-102-101. The subordinate lodges have the power, and are specifically authorized, to mortgage or convey in trust their real estate for the purpose of securing the payment of notes or bonds for borrowed money or for other purposes, and it shall be sufficient to bind any lodge in such transaction when a mortgage or deed of trust shall be duly executed by the noble grand and secretary of the lodge.

**48-102-105. Control of property - Conveyances.**

(A) Any and all property, real or personal, owned or held by the grand lodge, and all subordinate lodges thereof, irrespective of the amount of property, shall be held, owned, controlled, enjoyed, and disposed of, or encumbered by those bodies, with all the rights and privileges provided for herein, and no question shall be made of the amount, kind, or character of such property, or the manner of its acquisition or its right to hold the same according to the title or interest vested in the body or bodies.

(B) The subordinate lodges may sell or convey their real property only by and with the permission of the grand lodge or the grand master.

**48-102-106. Execution and record of evidences of indebtedness.** - It shall be sufficient for any mortgages, notes, bonds, debentures, or other evidence of indebtedness, or any security executed for or on behalf of the lodges, grand or subordinate, to be executed by such officers as their bylaws may provide, or such officers as the lodges may direct by appropriate action, a record of which shall be made on the minutes or records of the lodge or lodges.

**48-102-107. Construction and maintenance of buildings by lodges.** - The grand lodge and each subordinate lodge are empowered to erect and maintain all necessary and suitable buildings, halls, lodge rooms, hospitals, homes for widows and orphans of deceased members, and all other buildings or plants necessary or deemed expedient in the execution of the objects and purposes of the organization, and to collect and apply all rents and income derived from any and all such property; provided, that the application be had in furtherance of the objects and purposes of the organization.

**48-102-108. Liquidation of subordinate lodges.** - Whenever the authority establishing the subordinate lodge is withdrawn, and the separate existence of the subordinate lodge is destroyed, the property of the lodge shall be placed in the hands of a trustee appointed by the grand lodge from the members of the subordinate lodge or from the members of any other subordinate lodge in Tennessee, to pay its debts and liabilities. The residue of the real estate, if there is any, shall be applied by the trustee, as may be prescribed by the bylaws or resolutions of the grand lodge.

## Part 2 - Freemasons

**48-102-201. Privileges and benefits generally.** - The order of freemasons shall be entitled to all the privileges and benefits of part one (1) of this chapter to the same extent and upon the same conditions, except that the subordinate lodges of Free and Accepted Masonry, as chartered by the grand lodge of the state of Tennessee, are authorized to sell and convey their real property without the permission of the grand lodge or the grand master.

**48-102-202. Ownership of real property.** - The officers and members of a masonic lodge may purchase or take by deed such quantity of ground for the purpose of building a hall or temple, or for a burial place, as may be necessary. The deed shall vest the legal title to the same in such officers and members and their successors.

**48-102-203. Coupon bonds for construction.**

(A) All masonic lodges which hold real estate to the value of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or more have the power to issue coupon bonds from time to time to an amount not exceeding a total of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000), bearing six percent (6%) interest per annum, payable semiannually, for the purpose of erecting a building or hall upon same.

(B) The coupon bonds may be issued in sums of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00), fifty dollars (\$50.00) one hundred dollars (\$100), five hundred dollars (\$500), and one thousand dollars (\$1,000), as may be desired.

(C) The coupon bonds shall not have more than twenty (20) years in which to mature, and may be taken up by the lodge at any time after five (5) years from their issuance.

(D) Any masonic lodge which shall issue coupon bonds under the provisions of this section may execute a mortgage upon its real estate to secure the payment of the bonds and coupons.

(E) The worshipful master and wardens or other proper officers of the lodge have the power to issue the bonds and coupons and execute the mortgage provided for in this section whenever they have been instructed by a meeting of their lodge to do so.





**TITLE 2**  
**CONSTITUTION**  
**AND**  
**RULES OF ORDER**

**Chapter 1**  
**Constitution**  
**of the**  
**M. W. Grand Lodge of Tennessee**

**2.101 ARTICLE I**

**DESIGNATION**

(1) This Grand Lodge shall be known by the name and style of the “GRAND LODGE OF THE ANCIENT AND HONORABLE FRATERNITY OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE.”

**2.102 ARTICLE II**

**MEMBERSHIP**

(1) *Elective Officers:* The Grand Lodge shall consist of the following elective officers; that is to say: The Grand Master (whose style is *Most Worshipful*), Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden, Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary (all of whom are styled *Right Worshipful*).

(2) *Appointed Officers:* Also, of the following appointed officers; that is to say: The Grand Chaplain (whose style is *Right Worshipful*), Senior Grand Deacon, Junior Grand Deacon, Grand Marshal, Grand Sword Bearer, Grand Steward, Grand Pursivant, Grand Tiler, Grand Historian, Grand Organist and Grand Lecturers (who are styled *Worshipful*).

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(3) *Past Grand Officers:* Also, of the Past Grand Masters, Past Deputy Grand Masters, Past Senior Grand Wardens, and Past Junior Grand Wardens of this Grand Lodge, while they continue members of a Lodge under this jurisdiction.

(4) *Past Masters:* Also, of the Past Masters of chartered Lodges in this Jurisdiction who shall have been duly elected, installed, and presided over such a Lodge for six months, while they continue members of a Lodge under this jurisdiction.

(5) *Lodge Representatives:* Also, of the Masters and Wardens, or their proxies, duly constituted of the chartered Lodges under this jurisdiction; or in their absence, then in their stead a representative appointed by resolution of the Lodge; provided such representative or proxy be a Master Mason and a member of the Lodge he represents; and when such representative shall have been received by the Grand Lodge, he shall not be superseded by the officers of the Lodge he represents, except by his own consent.

(6) *Rank:* The rank of the officers of the Grand Lodge is in the order here mentioned.

(7) *Rotation:* No person shall be eligible to the offices of Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden or Junior Grand Warden more than one year in succession. The other officers may always be subject to reelection or reappointment.

### 2.103 ARTICLE III

#### MEETINGS

(1) *Annual Communication:* All meetings of the Grand Lodge shall be held in the city of Nashville, except that the Most Worshipful Grand Master may convene the Grand Lodge in called or a special session at other places for special purposes, stating in the call the purpose; but no business shall be transacted except that stated in the call. A meeting, to be denominated the annual communication, shall be held once in each year, beginning the fourth Wednesday in March. Should unavoidable circumstances arise, which in the opinion of the Grand Master would prevent a majority of the chartered Lodges from being represented at the annual communication, he may postpone the same until such representation can be had (not to extend beyond the succeeding annual communication), due notice thereof being given to the subordinate Lodges.

(2) *Quorum:* The Grand Lodge shall not be opened, nor any business transacted therein, unless there shall be present the representatives of ten of the chartered Lodges, but a smaller number of Lodges may meet and adjourn from day to day until a constitutional quorum shall attend.

(3) *Special Meetings:* Special meetings of the Grand Lodge may be called by the Grand Master whenever, in his opinion, it may be necessary to do so, timely notice being given to all the chartered Lodges of the time of such meeting.

### 2.104 ARTICLE IV

#### GRAND LODGE

(1) *Powers:* The Grand Lodge, when convened agreeably to the provisions of this Constitution, has original and exclusive jurisdiction over all subjects of Masonic legislation, and appellate jurisdiction from the decisions of subordinate Lodges; and its enactments and decisions upon all questions are the supreme Masonic law of the state, when not in conflict with the Ancient Landmarks of Masonry, nor in violation of the reserved rights of subordinate Lodges. Under these restrictions the Grand Lodge may receive and determine all matters of controversy or grievance, which may be brought up by appeal or otherwise; issue dispensations and grant charters to new Lodges; reprove and punish the misconduct of subordinate Lodges; adopt general laws for the government of the Lodges under its jurisdiction, and at pleasure alter, amend, or repeal the same; make

such assessments for revenue on the subordinate Lodges as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Grand Lodge, and generally, do all things right and proper for the promotion of the honor and dignity of the Order and good of the fraternity.

(2) *Officers: How elected and appointed* -The elective officers of the Grand Lodge will be chosen at each annual communication, by ballot, and by a majority of the votes cast; but no vote will be counted which may be given for any brother who may not be in nomination, nor will any nominations be considered good unless it shall be seconded; and in case only one brother shall be in nomination for each office, the Grand Lodge may dispense with the ballot and elect by acclamation. Appointed officers are selected at each annual communication by the Grand Master, and hold their office during his pleasure. Elective officers who have been duly installed, shall continue to hold their respective offices until their successors are duly elected and installed.

(3) *Eligibility*: No brother shall be eligible to any of the elective offices who has not been duly elected, installed, and presided over a chartered Lodge under this jurisdiction for six months, and, at the time of his election, shall be a member of such Lodge. To either of the other offices Master Masons are eligible, if at the time they are members of a Lodge under this jurisdiction.

(4) *Voting*. - A. Whenever practical, a voice vote shall be sufficient to carry or defeat an issue.

B. There is no requirement to conduct a paper ballot, even on matters requiring a super-majority, if a voice vote or show of hands is sufficiently certain to determine the will of the Grand Lodge beyond a reasonable doubt.

C. If the Grand Master declares, or five or more representatives from different Subordinate Lodges demand, a paper ballot must be spread. If a paper ballot results in a tie, the Grand Master, at his prerogative, may:

1. cast the tie-breaking vote;
2. entertain a motion to table, or
3. open the floor for additional debate on the issue, after which another ballot may be cast.

D. There shall be no roll-call ballots at meetings of the Grand Lodge; however, on the second-year ballot on a Constitutional Amendment, each represented Subordinate Lodge has only one vote (One-Lodge-One-Vote). Second-year ballots on Constitutional Amendments must be determined by a paper ballot.

E. Each regular member of the Grand Lodge has one vote.

F. Each Subordinate Lodge is entitled to three (3) votes, its number of representatives notwithstanding.

1. If only two officers of a Subordinate Lodge are present, the ranking officer is entitled to two of the three votes.
2. If a Subordinate Lodge is not represented by any of its Stationed Officers, it may be represented by a Proxy provided:
  - (a) the Proxy is elected by the membership for this purpose;
  - (b) the Proxy is a Master Mason; and
  - (c) the Proxy is a member of the Subordinate Lodge he represents.
  - (d) if he Proxy is also a Past Master of any Lodge, he has four (4) votes.
  - (e) Once an elected Proxy is credentialed by the Registration Committee, he is not required to relinquish his voting privileges to a Stationed Officer of his Lodge who subsequently appears at the Grand Lodge at which the Proxy was elected to receive and exercise voting rights under the Lodges credentials.

- (f) If the Proxy consents to relinquish his voting privileges, he may retain only one (1) vote. If one or more Constitutional Amendments are subject to a One-Lodge-One-Vote ballot, said Stationed Officer has the right to cast the Lodge votes.

(5) *Committees.* - At each annual communication the Grand Master shall appoint the following Standing Committees:

(A) A Committee on Dispensations, which shall particularly examine and report upon the work, records, and proceedings of the Lodge under dispensation, and also upon all petitions that may be presented to the Grand Lodge for the establishment of new Lodges.

(B) A Committee on Appeals and Grievances, to examine and report for the action of the Grand Lodge, all matters of controversy and grievances brought before the Grand Lodge.

(C) A Committee on Correspondence, to examine the proceedings of other Grand Bodies with which the Grand Lodge is in correspondence, and to report such matters found therein as affect the general or local welfare of the Craft, accompanied by such recommendations as they may consider expedient.

(D) A Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, to investigate and report upon all questions that may be referred to them by the Grand Lodge.

(E) A Committee on Ways and Means, to consider the condition of the funds and assets of the Grand Lodge, and all propositions and resolutions affecting its revenue, upon which they shall specially report, recommending any measure which, in their opinion, will operate financially for the benefit of the institution.

(F) A Committee on State of the Craft, composed of all Past Grand Masters of this Grand Lodge while they continue members in good standing of subordinate Lodges under this jurisdiction, whose duty it shall be to formulate policies and recommend plans or legislation in the interest of the advancement of Freemasonry, and to which shall be referred all matters not germane to the specified purposes of any other standing committee.

(G) A Committee on Credentials, to examine credentials, register Lodge representatives and members of the Grand Lodge, and issue to them official ballots designating the number of votes to which they are entitled.

(H) A Committee on Masonic Education and, for greater flexibility, its functions and duties shall be determined from time to time by the Grand Lodge.

(I) A Committee on Insurance to oversee the insurance programs of the Grand Lodge and/or the subordinate Lodges.

The Grand Master may appoint other committees, as circumstances may require.

(J) A Committee on Long Range Planning to oversee the development of five (5), ten (10), and twenty (20) plans for the future of Masonry in Tennessee.

**2.105 ARTICLE V****DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

(1) *Grand Master.* - It shall be the duty of the Grand Master, and he has the power, to preside in the Grand Lodge; to exercise and discharge the executive functions of the Grand Lodge when it is not in session; to convene any Lodge within the jurisdiction, to preside therein, to inspect their proceedings, and require their conformity to Masonic rules; to require attendance of, and information from, any Grand Officer respecting his office; to grant dispensations for new Lodges on proper application, when the Grand Lodge is not in session, under the restrictions prescribed thereby; to appoint representatives to other recognized Grand Lodges, and receive and accredit representatives from other Grand Lodges; and to take upon himself the general superintendence of the subordinate Lodges. He shall, upon convenient occasions, visit the Lodges, examine their work, and give such instructions as may be right and proper, and, when not convenient for him to discharge this duty in person, he may appoint skillful brethren as Grand Visitors to do so in his stead; and the brethren thus appointed shall make a written report to the Grand Master one month before the annual communication. The Grand Master shall perform such other duties and may exercise such other powers and prerogatives as may be in accordance with the Ancient Landmarks of Masonry and the General Regulations of 1721, not in conflict with the provisions of this Constitution.

(2) *Succession.* - In case of the death, absence, or inability of the Grand Master, or a vacancy in his office, the Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, and Junior Grand Warden shall, in succession, succeed to his prerogatives and duties for all purposes. In the absence of all these officers, the oldest Past Grand Officer present, according to rank, shall preside at all meetings of the Grand Lodge.

(3) *Grand Treasurer.* - It will be the duty of the Grand Treasurer to take charge of all the funds and property of the Grand Lodge; to pay out no money except upon order of the Grand Lodge, certified by the Grand Secretary; to report annually the amount of his receipts and expenditures by items, and from whom received and to whom paid, and the amount of funds and property in his hands; and to execute and file with the Grand Secretary an official bond, within ten days after his election, payable to the Grand Master and his successors in office, with sufficient sureties, to be approved by the Grand Master and Grand Wardens, and in such penalty as may be fixed from time to time by the Grand Lodge, conditioned that he will pay or deliver, on demand, to the Grand Lodge, or to his successor in office, or properly account for, all funds and property of the Grand Lodge that may come into his hands as Grand Treasurer; and if the Grand Treasurer elect shall fall or refuse to execute bond as herein required, then the Grand Master, with the approval of the Grand Wardens, shall appoint another Grand Treasurer, who shall execute a bond as required by this section.

(4) *Grand Secretary.* - It shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary to record the transactions of the Grand Lodge; to receive, duly file, and safely keep all papers and documents of the Grand Lodge; to prepare, sign, and certify all charters, dispensations, and other instruments from the Grand Lodge, and, when necessary, affix the seal of the Grand Lodge thereto; to receive and keep a proper account of all moneys of the Grand Lodge, and pay over the same to the Grand Treasurer; to report annually to the Grand Lodge the amount of money received by him, by items, and the specific sources from which it was received; also the Lodges that have neglected to render proper returns and are in arrears, and such general information as to the state of the Lodges as may be proper for the information or action of the Grand Lodge; to attend, with all necessary books and papers under his control, on all meetings of the Grand Lodge. And the Grand Secretary shall execute and file with the Grand Master an official bond within ten days after his election, payable to the Grand Master and his successors in office, with sufficient sureties,

to be approved by the Grand Master and Grand Wardens, and in such penalty as may be fixed from time to time by the Grand Lodge, conditioned that he will promptly pay over or deliver, on demand, to the Grand Treasurer, or properly account for, all funds or other property of the Grand Lodge that may come to his hands as Grand Secretary; and if the Grand Secretary elect shall fail or refuse to execute said bond, then the Grand Master, with the approval of the Grand Wardens, shall appoint another Grand Secretary, who shall execute bond as herein required.

(5) *Compensation.* - The Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary shall receive such compensation for their services as the Grand Lodge may from time to time direct.

## 2.106 ARTICLE VI

### SUBORDINATE LODGES

(1) *Annual Returns.* - Each Lodge subordinate to this Grand Lodge shall transmit annually the names of its officers, together with such other information as will exhibit the true condition of the Lodge, and shall transmit monthly all activity of the Lodge for the previous month, agreeable to forms furnished by the Grand Secretary.

(2) *New Lodges* - No charter or dispensation shall be issued for the formation of a new Lodge, unless upon application of at least seven known Master Masons in good standing, or unless there shall be good reason for the organization of a lodge at that time and place, which petition shall be recommended by any chartered Lodge whose jurisdiction would be affected by the formation of such new Lodge, which must certify to the good moral character of the petitioners and the capability of the persons selected as officers to confer correctly the three degrees of Symbolic Masonry. Dispensations or charters for the formation of a new Lodge in any town or city where one or more Lodges are already established, shall be granted only by vote of the Grand Lodge at an annual communication. The Grand Master shall not issue any dispensation for the formation of a new Lodge, except upon application, accompanied by the recommendation of the two nearest Lodges, fully complying with the foregoing requirements, and not then unless the point designated for the formation of the new Lodge shall be at least ten miles distant from the nearest Lodge; and the proposed Master and Wardens of the new Lodge petitioning for dispensation shall produce a certificate from the Worshipful Masters of the two nearest Lodges, bearing the seals of their Lodges, that they have examined the said Master and Wardens in the work and lectures of the first three degrees of Masonry, and certify that they are fully capable to confer the three degrees correctly.

(3) *Delinquencies.* - Any subordinate Lodge under this jurisdiction which shall fail to be represented in the Grand Lodge for two successive annual communications, or shall be in arrears to the Grand Lodge for two years, shall be suspended until such Lodge shall appear, by its representatives, and pay up, or be released from all arrearages. The Grand Secretary shall, immediately after each annual communication, notify all such delinquent Lodges; and any Lodge thus notified which shall fail or refuse to appear at the succeeding annual communication and comply with the provisions of this section, shall be stricken from the list of Lodges and its charter withdrawn.

(4) *Election of Officers* - The election of officers of subordinate Lodges shall be held once in each year, on the first stated meeting in the month of December, and the installation shall take place as soon thereafter as may be convenient prior to the first day of January. Elective officers who have been duly installed shall continue to hold their respective offices until their successors are duly elected and installed. Provided, however, that should a subordinate Lodge, for unavoidable reasons, fail to hold a stated meeting in December; or should one of its elective officers die, or refuse to accept office after his election and before his installation; or should a Lodge find it necessary for unavoidable reasons to elect or install one or more elective officers at a time other than herein before

specified; the Grand Master in the exercise of sound discretion, good and sufficient cause being shown, may grant to such Lodge a dispensation for otherwise permissible election or installation of officers, or both.

(5) *Appeals* - When an appeal to the Grand Lodge shall be taken from the action of the subordinate Lodge, or of its Master, it shall be the duty of the Master of such Lodge forthwith to cause an accurate copy of all proceedings to be forwarded to the Grand Secretary. The testimony in such case, so far as the same may be committed to writing, must accompany such proceedings; and the Grand Lodge, acting as a court of appeals, shall also receive any parol testimony, not committed to writing, which was used in the trial; but no new testimony shall be heard on appeal; provided, that the Grand Lodge, when in session, or the Grand Master in recess, upon application of either party, may appoint a committee to take additional testimony necessary for the attainment of justice, due notice of the time and place of taking the same being given to the opposite party, and such testimony shall become a part of the record in the cause.

**SEE ALSO CHANGES TO 6.802**

(6) *Minimum Fees* - The Grand Lodge may prescribe the minimum sum to be paid in the subordinate Lodges for initiating, passing and raising a brother; and the sum so required must be paid into the hand of the Secretary of the Lodge before the degree shall be conferred.

(7) *Fees for Dispensations and Charters* - For a dispensation to form a new Lodge there shall be paid to the Grand Lodge the sum of one hundred dollars (\$100.00), and for a charter there shall be paid to the Grand Lodge the sum of one hundred dollars (\$100.00). 2016

## **2.107. ARTICLE VII**

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

(1) *Regulations, Edicts, Bylaws* - The Grand Lodge may, from time to time, enact and adopt such regulations, edicts, and bylaws, as it may deem proper, not inconsistent with this constitution, the ancient landmarks of Masonry, or the reserved rights of the subordinate Lodges, provided that all resolutions, recommendations or proposals pertaining to such enactment and adoption or to amend same, shall be submitted in writing or by E-mail to the Grand Secretary no later than January 1 prior to the annual communication of the Grand Lodge, who shall cause them to be printed and distributed to every subordinate Lodge at least fifty (50) days before said communication. Any such proposals which do not meet this requirement shall lie over until the next annual communication, unless the Grand Lodge, by unanimous consent of the Lodges represented, shall agree to consider and act upon them. Such regulations, edicts and bylaws (after meeting the above requirements) may be altered, amended or repealed at an annual communication by a vote of a majority of the members present

*The Grand Secretary will distribute to the subordinate Lodges a copy of the proposed budget of the Grand Lodge for the coming year, this copy to be distributed with and in the same manner as provided for resolutions, recommendations and proposals in the first paragraph of this section.*

1984, 48, 108, 115; 1985, 51, 111, 120, 2003.

(2) *Amendments*. - No amendments to this constitution shall be made unless the same after being proposed in writing, shall be concurred by a majority of the members present, and shall have been postponed for consideration until the succeeding annual communication; and if at that time it shall be adopted by a vote of two-thirds of the Lodges represented therein, the same shall become a part of this constitution to all intents and purposes.



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## Chapter 2

### Rules of Order For the Grand Lodge

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#### 2.201. A MOTION

A motion is a proposition made by one member and seconded by another.

#### 2.202. REDUCED TO WRITING

On the demand of any member, motions must be reduced to writing.

#### 2.203. GAINING THE FLOOR

A member wishing to gain the floor must rise and address the M. W. Grand Master. The first member that rises is entitled to the floor.

#### 2.204. NOT DEPRIVED OF THE FLOOR

No member shall be deprived of the floor while in order, except by the lapse of time allotted each speaker, or the measure, or by arrival of the time for the order of the day.

#### 2.205. QUESTIONS OF PRIVILEGE

When a member rises to a question of privilege or order, the M. W. Grand Master will recognize that member, and the question of order, or privilege, shall be disposed of at once. The member temporarily interrupted then resumes the floor.

#### 2.206. SPEAKING MORE THAN ONCE

No member shall speak more than once to the same question, without leave of the Grand Lodge, unless he be the mover, proposer, or introducer of the matter pending, in which case he shall be permitted to reply, but not until every member choosing to speak shall have spoken.

#### 2.207. MOTIONS THAT CANNOT BE ENTERTAINED

A motion substantially the same as one disposed of, or under advisement, or inconsistent with one adopted, cannot be entertained at the same session.

#### 2.208. A MOTION WHEN STATED

When a motion has been stated by the Grand Master, it is the property of the Grand Lodge and can be withdrawn only by its consent. A motion to grant leave to withdraw a proposition is not debatable.

**2.209. SUSPENSION OF A MOTION**

A principal motion may be suspended by a privileged question arising out of it, or relating to the rights and privileges of the Grand Lodge or any of its members.

**2.210. WHEN A MOTION BECOMES A QUESTION.**

When a motion is offered, it will be stated by the M. W. Grand Master, then it becomes a question. It is not in order for any member to speak until the motion is so stated.

**2.211. QUESTIONS HAVING PRECEDENCE**

Privileged questions have precedence in the following order:

- (1) To call off.
- (2) To lay on the table.
- (3) To postpone to a definite time.
- (4) To postpone indefinitely.
- (5) To commit.
- (6) To amend.

**2.212. QUESTIONS NOT DEBATABLE**

The following questions are not debatable:

- (1) To call off.
- (2) To lay on the table.
- (3) Shortening the time of discussions or speeches.
- (4) To read papers.
- (5) To grant leave to withdraw a proposition.
- (6) To suspend the rules.
- (7) To postpone to a definite time.
- (8) To fix a time to take the vote on a measure pending.

**2.213. TO LAY ON THE TABLE**

While any resolution, motion, recommendation or committee report or any amendment thereto is being debated, no motion to lay the matter under consideration on the table or calling for the previous question shall be made or received without permission first being obtained from the Grand Master. When a motion to lay on the table is agreed to, it withdraws the matter from consideration. Nothing can be laid on the table by motion which cannot be taken off it again. A motion to lay a proposition on the table, or take it off again, may be made by any member. When laid on the table it may be taken off again at once.

1961.40.105

**2.214. TO POSTPONE TO A TIME DEFINITE**

A motion to postpone to a time definite must include a day of the session of the Grand Lodge. It may be amended by inserting a different day from the one proposed.

**2.215. TO POSTPONE INDEFINITELY**

A motion to postpone indefinitely opens the whole question for discussion. It cannot be amended. If agreed to, the question cannot be revived during the session.

**2.216. TO COMMIT**

A proposition may be referred to a committee, with or without instruction. On a motion to commit, the merits of the case are not debatable. A motion to commit with instructions opens the whole question for debate.

**2.217. AMENDMENTS**

No amendment beyond an amendment to an amendment can be entertained. An amendment is in order at any time before the vote has been taken on the original proposition.

1901, 23

**2.218. AN AMENDMENT WHEN PENDING**

When an amendment is pending, motions to amend must be limited exclusively to that amendment.

**2.219. A MOTION AGREED TO CANNOT BE ALTERED**

When a proposition is agreed to by the Grand Lodge, it cannot be altered or amended. If disagreed to, it cannot be moved again. (See Rule 2.229)

**2.220. REFUSAL TO STRIKE OUT**

If the Grand Lodge refuses to strike out or insert words, a motion to strike out or to insert the same words, with others, would be in order; provided, the coherence is such as to make a distinct proposition from the former.

**2.221. DUTY OF GRAND MASTER BEFORE VOTING TO STRIKE OUT**

If the Grand Lodge refuses to strike out all the words of a paragraph or section, the paragraph or section cannot be amended again. Hence the Grand Master should not entertain a motion to strike out all words in a paragraph or section until all desired amendments have been made to it.

**2.222. A SUBSTITUTE**

A substitute is a motion to strike out all words after the enacting clause, or the word "Resolved," and insert what is offered. It is therefore to be treated as an amendment when before the Grand Lodge, except that a substitute may be laid on the table without laying the original proposition and appendants on the table. The Grand Master will not state a substitute until all desired amendments have been made to the original.

**2.223. LAYING A SUBSTITUTE ON THE TABLE**

If a perfected substitute is laid on the table, the original proposition will be taken up.

The vote, however, will come first on the substitute. If the substitute is rejected, the original proposition is not susceptible of further amendment, and must be adopted or rejected as it stands.

#### **2.224. LAYING AN AMENDMENT ON THE TABLE**

A motion to lay an amendment on the table, if agreed to, lays only the amendment with its appendants on the table, and does not affect the original question.

1903, 68, 76.

#### **2.225. DIVISION OF A QUESTION**

A question will be divided at the request of a member.

#### **2.226 HOW A QUESTION IS TO BE DIVIDED**

A member moving a division of a question must state definitely into how many parts he would have it divided. Each of those parts must be able to stand alone, and the remainder must be able to stand in like manner, and be consistent and entire.

#### **2.227 FILLING BLANKS**

A proposition containing blanks to be filled must have those blanks filled before it can be amended. The longest time or largest number proposed, will be voted on first.

#### **2.228 RECONSIDERATION**

A proposition decided in the affirmative or negative may be reconsidered by a majority vote. No one can move a reconsideration unless he voted with the majority. A motion to reconsider may be laid on the table. A motion to reconsider, if rejected, cannot be moved again.

#### **2.229 MERITS OF THE QUESTION ON RECONSIDERATION**

A motion to reconsider does not bring up the merits of the proposition for discussion. The propriety of reconsidering is the only matter debatable. If the proposition is reconsidered, it is before the Grand Lodge in the same form it, was in immediately before it was voted on.

#### **2.230 WHEN RECONSIDERED ONCE**

A proposition reconsidered once cannot be reconsidered again (except by unanimous consent), unless it has been so amended after the first reconsideration as to virtually a new question.

#### **2.231 READING A PAPER**

A member has the right to require the reading of a paper before he is compelled to vote on it.

**2.232 SUSPENSION OF A RULE**

A rule may be suspended by a vote of two-thirds of those present when the vote is taken.

**2.233 TO “CALL OFF”**

A motion to “call off” takes precedence of all other questions, and is not debatable. A motion to “call off” to a particular time cannot be moved when anything else is pending, and is debatable. A motion to “call off,” being negative, cannot be renewed, unless progress has been made in business; i.e., a vote taken or a speech made.

**2.234 DEBATE**

A proposition subject to debate is open for debate up to the time the negative is put to the vote.

**2.235 RECEPTION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

When the chairman of a committee is ready to report, the M. W. Grand Master, will announce “If there be no objection, let the report be received.” If an objection is made, a vote on the reception of the report must be taken.

**2.236 A REPORT THE PROPERTY OF THE GRAND LODGE**

After a report has been read, it is received, and is the property of the Grand Lodge.

**2.237 COMMITTEE DISCHARGED**

When the report of a committee is received, the committee is discharged, but it may be revived again, and the same matter recommitted to it.

**2.238 ORDERS OF THE DAY**

The Grand Lodge may appoint special orders, or general orders, of the day. Such orders become privileged questions when the time arrives, and supersede all other questions, except such other privileged questions as are entitled to precedence.

**2.239 TIME FOR THE ORDER OF THE DAY**

The time arriving for the order of the day, the M. W. Grand Master will announce the fact, even though a brother be speaking. If no motion is made, either to take up the order of the day or to postpone it, the business under consideration, but temporarily interrupted, will be resumed. A motion to take up the order of the day is not debatable.

**2.240 AN ORDER POSTPONED**

An “order,” by any means postponed, may be taken up at the will of the Grand Lodge, or assigned to another day.

**2.241 COMMITTEES SHALL NOT SIT, ETC.**

Standing Committees shall not sit while the Grand Lodge is actually in session, unless on leave obtained.

**2.242 GRAND LODGE VOTING**

When a vote is taken by the Grand Lodge, whether by voice vote, show of hands, or written ballot, or by electronic methods, it is not considered a "ballot" as in the ballot on petitions for membership in the subordinate Lodge, which requires that no one enter or retire during the time the vote is taken until the result is announced. A vote may be taken by the Grand Lodge, whether by voice vote, show of hands, written ballot or by electronic methods, and the result announced when called for by the Grand Master, regardless of whether members have come and gone, or the Grand Lodge has been called off and called back on. When a vote is taken on raising or lowering per capita tax, it shall be by written ballot or by electronic methods.

1987, 51, 122, 131, 1997, 2017

**2.243 NOMINATIONS**

When the time for election of officers arrives at the annual communication, the Grand Master will call for nominations. Any brother wishing to make a nomination will rise and address the Grand Master. After recognition by the Grand Master, the nomination will be made as follows:

I place in nomination for the office of \_\_\_\_\_ Brother \_\_\_\_\_, a Past Master of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_. A brother wishing to second the nomination will rise, address the Grand Master and, after recognition, second the nomination as follows: I second the nomination of Brother \_\_\_\_\_ for the office of \_\_\_\_\_. No further information concerning the nominee is to be given. The Grand Master will ask three times: Are there any further nominations? If no further nominations are made, the Grand Master shall say: All in favor of Brother \_\_\_\_\_ for the office of \_\_\_\_\_ say aye. Opposed no. I declare Brother \_\_\_\_\_ elected. Brother \_\_\_\_\_, Do you accept?

1987, 51, 122, 131.

**2.244 MODIFICATION OF THESE RULES**

These Rules shall not be modified, except by a vote of a majority of the members present at the time the vote is taken.

1987, 51, 122, 131.

**2.245 APPLICABILITY**

These Rules are for the government of the Grand Lodge alone, and not for subordinate Lodges.

1987, 51, 122, 131.



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## TITLE 3

# THE GRAND LODGE OF TENNESSEE

## Chapter 1

### Organization

**3.101.** The Grand Lodge of Tennessee is a cooperation which controls, as the supreme authority, the three degrees of Symbolic Masonry in the State of Tennessee. It possesses and exercises original, sole and exclusive control over all matters of Masonic legislation within its jurisdiction, subject in all things, however, to the provisions of its constitution, the mandates of which are superior to its edicts and rulings of Grand Masters. Its enactments and decisions upon all questions are the supreme Masonic law of the State, when not in conflict with the Ancient Landmarks of Masonry, nor in violation of the reserved rights of subordinate Lodges.

Const. 2.104(1), 2.107(1); 1895, 25; 1899, 84; 1924, 40, 116, 1925, 22, 50, 125; 1926, 27, 37, 123; Chapter 60 of The acts of the General Assembly of Tennessee, passes April 6, 1925, and approved April 9, 1925.

**3.102.** The Grand Lodge consists of the following, each of whom has one vote, except on constitutional amendments on which only Lodge representatives vote, each Lodge having one vote (See 3.306).

T. B. 283, 320; Const. 2.102(1), 3.102(2); 1983, 53, 120.

(1) Its elected and appointed officers:

(2) The Past Grand Masters, Past Deputy Grand Masters and Past Grand Wardens of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee while they continue members in good standing of subordinate Lodges under this jurisdiction;

(3) The Past Masters of chartered Lodges in this jurisdiction, who preside (as Master) over such a Lodge for six months, while they continue members in good standing of subordinate Lodges under this jurisdiction;

1929, 47.

(4) The Masters and Wardens, or their proxies, or other duly qualified representatives of chartered Lodges in this jurisdiction.

**3.103.** The elective officers of the Grand Lodge and their titles are:

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;

**3.104.** The appointive officers of the Grand Lodge and their respective titles are:

The Right Worshipful Grand Chaplain;  
The Worshipful Senior Grand Deacon;  
The Worshipful Junior Grand Deacon;  
The Worshipful Grand Marshal;  
The Worshipful Grand Sword Bearer;



The Worshipful Grand Steward;  
The Worshipful Grand Pursuivant;  
The Worshipful Grand Tiler;  
The Worshipful Grand Lecturers;  
The Worshipful Grand Historian.  
The Worshipful Grand Organist;  
The Worshipful Grand Photographer;

Const. 182.2; 1979, 118; 1952, 50; 1991, 64; 111; 2004

## Chapter 2. Meetings

**3.201.** All Meetings of the Grand Lodge are held in the city of Nashville, and it may not be opened elsewhere, except that the Most Worshipful Grand Master may convene the Grand Lodge in called or special session at other places for special purposes, stating in the call the purpose; but no business shall be transacted except that stated in the call.

Const. 2.103(1); 1873, 322; 1938, 102

**3.202.** A meeting to be held each year beginning on the fourth Wednesday in March is denominated the annual communication; but a special meeting may be called by the Grand Master whenever, in his opinion, it may be necessary, due notice being given to all chartered Lodges of the time of such meeting.

Const. 2.103(1), 2103(3); 1887, 409; 1953, 109, 2005.

**3.203.** The annual communication may be postponed by the Grand Master to a date not later than the succeeding annual communication, in case of unavoidable circumstances which would prevent a majority of the chartered Lodges from being represented at the time fixed in the constitution.

Const. 2.103(1); 1911, 10.

**3.204.** The representatives of not less than ten chartered Lodges must be present to constitute a legal quorum for opening the Grand Lodge; and the Grand Tiler may admit none but members thereof who are its elected and appointed officers, Past Grand Masters, Past Deputy Grand Masters and Past Grand Wardens; the Past Masters of chartered Lodges in this jurisdiction who presided as Master over such a Lodge for six months; the Masters and Wardens and their proxies, or other duly qualified representatives of chartered Lodges in this jurisdiction, all of whom remain in good standing in this jurisdiction on the main floor of the auditorium must be properly dressed with their own apron during its sessions unless otherwise instructed by the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge.

Const. 2.103; 1914, 101; 1915, 95. 2014

**3.205.** The Credentials Committee may not enroll the names of the stationed officers, Lodge Representative and Secretary, until all the per capita dues and Grand Lodge assessments owing by their lodge shall have been paid.

1954; 56,83 131, 137; 1957, 113.115, 2008.

**3.206.** The business of the Grand Lodge requires the attendance of all its members during its sessions, and no convocation of Past Masters or other Masonic meeting requiring the attendance of members of the Grand Lodge may be held during the hours in which it is in session except as follows: A conference of Secretaries of subordinate Lodges **may** be held during the annual communication at the time and place designated by the Grand Secretary. This conference shall be under the supervision of the Grand Secretary but he may delegate someone to preside over and conduct it in his stead if advisable; this meeting shall be restricted to the general purposes of a conference and shall not be organized into an association or permanent organization of any kind, nor may it accept or act on any resolution or proposal.

1907, 65; 1958, 52, 117.2004

**3.207.** The following is a standing Rule of Order of the Grand Lodge and must be read by the Grand Secretary at the opening of the Grand Lodge at each annual communication:

The Grand Lodge disapproves and forbids the publication of its Proceedings, or any portion thereof, in public newspapers unless such publication is first specifically authorized by the Grand Master. It likewise disapproves and forbids any criticisms in the public print by a member of a Masonic Lodge, whether in the form of open letters or otherwise, of Masonic methods, proceedings and policies. The violation of this rule of the Grand Lodge is regarded as contempt of its authority and subjects the violator to Masonic penalty.

1952, 52; 1939, 98

**3.208.** The minutes of the Grand Lodge should show what actually occurs at its meetings. They may be corrected by it, but until this is done its approved minutes represent its intention, and its last action or direction on a given subject controls.

1916, 111, 112.

**3.209.** At the meetings of the Grand Lodge a chair is to be placed on the left of the Grand Master for the senior Past Grand Master present.

1915, 70; 1988, 49, 130.

**3.210.** The Grand Master may at any time he deems best order a roll call of all or any part of the Lodges and representatives, or other members; when each member shall answer for his Lodge or to his name, if not a representative, unless he has been previously excused or is a member of one of the standing committees. Any brother who shall answer for another at roll call shall be guilty of unmasonic conduct.

191, 84, 2008

**3.211.** In case of the death, absence or inability of the Grand Master, or a vacancy in his office, the Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, and Junior Grand Warden shall, in succession, succeed to his prerogatives and duties for all purposes. In the absence of all these officers, the oldest Past Grand Officer present, according to rank, shall preside at all meetings of the Grand Lodge.

Const. 2.105(2)

## Chapter 3

### Powers, Prerogatives and Limitations

**3.301. A.** The Grand Lodge has the sole authority to grant Charters for the formation of new Subordinate Lodges.

**B.** The Grand Lodge may revoke or suspend the Charter of a Lodge after due trial.

**C.** The Grand Lodge may restore a Charter which:

1. has been arrested or suspended by the Grand Master; or
2. has been suspended by its own actions.

**D.** Under no circumstances may a revoked Charter be healed or reinstated.

Const. 2.104(1), T. B. 273, 320; M. 313, 432, 439; S. 71, 246; Chase 129; 1895, 20; 1896, 20; 1915, 89, 2007.

**3.302.** It may require the subordinate Lodges to make annual reports, and may make such assessments for revenue on the Lodges as may be necessary to defray its expenses.

Const. 2.106(1); T. B. 276, 318; M. 433.

**3.303. Grand Lodge Authority Respecting Allegations of Un-masonic Conduct:**

**A.** The Grand Lodge may order a Subordinate Lodge to try any of its members for un-Masonic conduct upon receipt of information or upon appeal. The Grand Lodge will consider appeals under provisions of this Section if:

1. A Mason has formally preferred charges of un-Masonic conduct in his Lodge concerning another member of his Lodge, and
2. His Lodge has failed to act upon said charges within a reasonable period of time.

**B.** The Grand Lodge may exercise original jurisdiction and utilize any power granted to it under Section 3.304, with full authority to impose any punishment warranted under the Constitution or Code respecting any allegations of un-Masonic conduct.

1879, 354; 1913, 74, 75, 2007.

**3.304. Grand Lodge Original Jurisdiction**

**A.** The Grand Lodge has original and exclusive jurisdiction to investigate, prefer charges, adjudicate or otherwise dispose of all matters concerning:

1. Grand Lodge officers suspected of malfeasance in office;
2. Controversies between Subordinate Lodges;
3. Controversies between members of different Subordinate Lodges; and
4. Masters of Subordinate Lodges suspected of malfeasance in office.

**B.** The Grand Lodge has appellate jurisdiction over all matters concerning the conduct of Subordinate Lodges or members thereof.

**C.** The Grand Lodge has discretionary jurisdiction over all other matters which may have an adverse impact on the welfare of the Craft.

**D.** Grand Lodge decisions respecting jurisdiction are final and binding.

Const. 2.104(1); T. B. 319, 320; S. 246, 247, 255; M. 242, 436, 438, 451; 1913, 74, 75; 1919, 76, 77; 1925, 27, 28, 125; 1927, 23, 129, 1939, 33, 95, 2007.

**3.305.** The Grand Lodge will decide no question of Masonic law and usage except such as comes regularly before it for adjudication, by appeal or by overture from subordinate Lodges, or as may necessarily arise in the administration of the Grand Master.

1869, 374; 1884, 554.

**3.306.** The Grand Lodge has the right to enact such regulations, edicts and laws for its own government and that of the subordinate Lodges and the fraternity as it deems proper, not inconsistent with the constitution, the Ancient Landmarks or the reserved rights of Lodges; and it may at its pleasure alter, amend or repeal the same if done in accordance with the provisions of Article 2.107(1) of the Constitution.

The vote on constitutional amendments shall be by vote of the Lodges only, by written ballot, or electronic methods each Lodge having one vote to be cast by the Worshipful Master, or in his absence the designated official representative of the Lodge (see 2.107(2). or by electronic methods.

1954, 111; 1983, 53, 120, 2017

In voting on proposed changes to the Masonic Code or the Constitution, the vote shall be taken on the issue as it appears in writing, not on the recommendation of the Jurisprudence Committee. An affirmative vote is to pass the proposed change and a negative vote is to defeat the same.

1981, 48, 118.

Edicts become effective from, and after their adoption by the Grand Lodge, unless otherwise provided; but amendments to or changes in the edicts or laws affecting the rights and interests of subordinate Lodges or individual brethren may not be construed to be retroactive unless it is plainly so stated in the resolution upon which the change is based, and will affect as to minimum fees and otherwise only those petitions filed or degrees conferred after the change (see 4.1502).

Const. 2.104(1), 2.107(1); T. B. 318; S. 244; M. 429; 1968, 210; 1870, 545; 1873, 310; 1898, 19; 1900, 29; 1913, 27, 28, 69; 1915, 34, 88; 1916, 51; 1918, 30, 32; 1953, 109.

**3.307.** The Grand Lodge may establish and preserve a uniform mode of work and lectures not inconsistent with the Ancient Landmarks.

T. B. 318; S. 80, 244, 280.

**3.308** The Grand Lodge becomes the owner of all books, papers, jewels, furniture and other property of a subordinate Lodge whose charter for any cause has been forfeited.

1880, 46

**3.309.** The Grand Lodge does not recognize, exercise jurisdiction over, or take official cognizance of so-called side degrees; and it forbids the use of the word "Masonic" in connection with any club or association, without authority for the same from the Grand Lodge.

This is not to be construed as prohibiting the use of the words "Mason" or "Masonic," the name and number of a Lodge, the Masonic emblem or other means of identification for social, recreational or athletic activities, sponsored by Lodges so long as there is no solicitation of funds or prizes from those who are not members of the fraternity, and so long as there is no element of a lottery, gambling or commercialism involved.

The following are the only organizations existing within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee which are recognized by it as being Masonic: all Masonic Lodges created by and subordinate to it; the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Tennessee and Chapters subordinate thereto; the Order of High Priesthood; the Order of the Silver Trowel; the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Tennessee and Councils subordinate thereto; the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Tennessee and Commanderies subordinate thereto; the Order of Knight Crusader of the

Cross; Knight Masons of the U.S.A.; the Supreme Council of the Thirty-Third Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of which James D. Richardson was in 1914 Sovereign Grand Commander, and bodies subordinate thereto; and the York Rite Sovereign College of North America.

All persons or organizations claiming to be Masonic in character, other than those named above, which invade or intrude upon the respective territories of these recognized bodies are regarded by the Grand Lodge as mischievous Intruders, menacing Masonic peace and harmony in Tennessee, and as such are declared to be unworthy of the recognition or support of Freemasons. Any member of a Masonic Lodge under this jurisdiction aiding or abetting such intrusion and disturbance thereby subjects himself to Masonic condemnation.

This is not to be construed as criticism of or as a prohibition against membership in other orders or organizations, such as the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, Order of Eastern Star, Order of DeMolay, etc., which predicate their membership on Masonic membership or other connection therewith, as long as such organizations were generally accepted by the Masonic Fraternity on March 26, 1968.

1965, 518; 1876, 30; 1868, 210; 1894, 575; 1899, 85; 1911, 138; 1914, 129; 1926, 37, 122; 1944, 37; 1966, 27, 116; 1969, 123; 1987, 51, 122, 132, 133; 1988, 25, 49, 130; 1991

**3.310.** A blanket fidelity bond or insurance coverage shall be procured and put into effect by and at the expense of the Grand Lodge covering the Grand Master, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, Custodian of the Endowment Fund, Secretary-Treasurer of the Board of Control, and any other employees who have access to its funds, in the amount of \$500,000 each or collectively.

1958, 52, 114, 117; 1983, 53, 119.

## Chapter 4

### The Grand Master

**3.401.** Except as his prerogatives may be controlled only by the Landmarks, the Grand Master is bound by the constitution and must enforce the laws and execute and obey the legislative acts of the Grand Lodge.

T. B. 321; 1916, 112.

It is his duty and prerogative:

(1) To preside in the Grand Lodge; to exercise and discharge its executive functions when it is not in session; to give the casting vote, in case of a tie, on questions before it, except in the election of officers; and to report all his official acts for review; but there shall be published in its proceedings only such of his rulings as involve a new principle, or as, in the opinion of the Jurisprudence Committee, should be published for the good of the Order.

Const. 2.104(4), 2.105(1); T. B. 323; 1879, 348, 349; 1916 43; 1925, 28, 125; 1927, 234.

(2) To appoint representatives to other recognized Grand Lodges, and to receive and accredit representatives from such Grand Lodges. The latter must have been recommended by the Grand Master of Tennessee and must be permanent members of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee (see 3.102(3)). Whenever one of the latter shall fail twice successively to be present at the annual communication of said Grand Lodge, the Grand

Master of Tennessee shall immediately thereafter notify the Grand Master of the other grand jurisdiction involved that he recommends another for the place, naming him.

Const. 2.105(1); T. B. 323; 1890, 300; 1892, 47; 1899, 90; 1923, 33; 1927, 22; 1932, 124.

(3) To summon any Grand Officer before him, require any information from him respecting his office, and, for cause, to suspend him from the functions thereof.

Const. 2.105(1); T. B. 323

(4) To grant dispensations for new Lodges, subject to constitutional restrictions, and to constitute new Lodges and install their officers, in person or by proxy, when a charter has been issued by order of the Grand Lodge.

Const. 2.105(1); T. B. 322; S. 259

(5) To have the general superintendence of subordinate Lodges; to convene or summon any of them, preside therein and require conformity to Masonic rules, to visit as many of them as he can conveniently, examine their work and give such instructions as are right and proper, or to appoint skillful brethren, as Grand Visitors, to do so in his stead, who shall make a written report to him one month before the annual communication.

Const. 2.105(1); T. B. 281, 322; A. L. 9; 1829, 256; 1900, 71; 1919, 77; 1920, 73; 1921, 83.

(6) To arrest the charter of a Lodge (see 4.201(1)), in person or by proxy; to suspend any of its officers from the functions of his office until the succeeding annual meeting of the Grand Lodge; or to order charges preferred against any member when justice and the welfare of the Craft demand it, or to restore to office any officer removed by him, if and when such officer is cleared of the charges preferred against him.

T. B. 322; S. 260; 1872, 178; 1873, 308; 1877, 19, 34; 1911, 121; 1918, 31; 1926, 36; 1927, 25, 136; 1953, 103.

(7) To officiate, in person or by proxy, at the laying of cornerstones but not on Sunday and the dedication of Masonic buildings (there is no Masonic ceremony for the dedication of any but Masonic buildings) with Masonic ceremonies. Only a subordinate Lodge, not the Grand Lodge, may be opened for the purpose of laying a foundation stone, for which a dispensation to the Lodge is not necessary. The cornerstone should be preferably, but not necessarily, in the northeast corner of the building; and it may be at the base of an upper story when the Lodge's ownership begins there.

The cornerstones of buildings to be laid with Masonic ceremonies, should be ready and the ceremony performed before the walls and roof thereof are complete; but the Grand Master may use his discretion and preside or issue dispensations therefor at other opportune times. He should not preside or issue dispensations for laying cornerstones of buildings that are not Masonic, sacred or public in character, or which are not to be devoted to Masonic, religious, educational or public purposes. The latter is intended to refer only to buildings erected for national, state, county or municipal organizations; buildings erected for private enterprises, although somewhat public in character, such as hotels, stores, factories, railroad structures, banking houses, etc., are not included.

T. B. 163; S. 259, 260; 1873, 310; 1884, 553, 554; 1895, 22; 1907, 20; 1808, 19, 89; 1911, 34; 1914, 126; 1915, 89; 1934; 30, 40, 107; 1969, 123.

(8) To select all the appointive officers of the Grand Lodge. who hold office during his pleasure, and to appoint all committees of the Grand Lodge, both standing and special.

Const. 2.102(2), 2.104(2), 2.104(5); T. B. 323; S. 264, 265.

(9) To grant dispensations for such necessary purposes as may not be in violation of the constitution and rules. This includes dispensations to elect and install officers to fill legal vacancies (for such legal vacancies see 4.402, 4.505 and 4.601), and to give in his report to the Grand Lodge his reasons for issuing or refusing such dispensations; but his dispensation authorizing some act done or business transacted after the close of his term of office is not valid unless ratified and affirmed by the Grand Lodge.

S. 259; M. 21: 1912, 105; 1920, 74; 1923, 108; 1953, 104.

(10) To reverse the action of a subordinate Lodge in order to correct a known illegality.

1882, 209; 1909, 35; 1917, 37, 47; 1918, 33, 37; 1922, 34.

(11) To heal irregularly made Masons, in person or by dispensation to his proxy.

T. B. 322: S. 264; 1866, 596; 1894, 594; 1920, 18, 35; 1921, 38, 86; 1922, 37; 1923, 34, 45, 46; 1924, 32; 1925, 26; 1926, 34; 1927, 27, 28.

(12) To administer exclusion in the Grand Lodge for refusal to submit to its Rules of Order, contumacy to the authority of the Grand Master, or for other conduct not sufficiently heinous to require charges and trial, but too much so to be allowed to pass without notice.

T. B. 313.

(13) To rule on questions of Masonic law during the recess of the Grand Lodge, and his decisions are law until corrected by the Grand Lodge; but he may not make an official ruling on a question involving the construction of civil law, nor in any case except on a question which actually exists before a subordinate Lodge, which must have been certified to him by such Lodge or its Master.

This rule is not to be construed as forbidding the Grand Master to give advice and counsel whenever he may choose to do so, and he should, so far as possible without conflicting with it, make specific replies to inquiries. Its purpose is to prevent the opinion of the Grand Master on suppositive cases which are often put merely to gratify curiosity or to settle a private contention on a question of abstract Masonic law.

1869, 374; 1905, 35, 55, 1915, 87; 1917, 45, 1918, 80; 1919, 25; 1920; 25, 77.

(14) It is his prerogative to make a Mason at sight, in a regular Lodge by the consent thereof, who is thereby made a non-affiliate.

T. B. 241, 322; A. L. 9; 1907, 25, 58

**3.402.** The Grand Master has not the power:

(1) To suspend, by dispensation or otherwise, the operation of any edict or regulation of the Grand Lodge, or any Lodge bylaw, and no case of emergency can possibly arise which would authorize the attempt to do so; nor may he dispense with, set aside or annul a positive law of the Grand Lodge or reverse its decisions.

1873, 309, 310; 1908 23, 1910, 27, 28; 1912, 37; 1923, 35, 36

(2) To borrow money for the Grand Lodge or to pledge its credit; nor may he authorize another to do so.

1877, 35; 1927, 29, 132.

(3) To appoint the officers of a subordinate Lodge already constituted.

T. B. 275; 1877, 19, 35, 40.

(4) To reverse the action of a subordinate Lodge, except to correct a known illegality, and grant a new trial, except in cases on which the Grand Lodge has passed; and to order charges preferred and trial had in a Lodge that has refused to accept charges preferred; or to order a Lodge, which has refused to do so, to entertain a petition for restoration after indefinite suspension.

1873, 310; 1890, 286; 1915, 34; 1919, 32.

(5) To revive a Lodge whose charter has been suspended, or to restore an officer or a member who has been suspended or expelled.

1888, 602; 1895, 20; 1896, 20; 1905, 82; 1906, 33; 1916, 28; 108; 1923, 35, 36, 37, 108; 1927, 26.

(6) To demand a copy of the correspondence had between a former Grand Master while in office and a member of a subordinate Lodge.

1888, 591.

(7) To expel a brother or suspend him from membership, without charges, notice and trial.

1911, 114.

(8) To allow a Lodge to change any part of the ritual; nor should he answer questions pertaining to changes in the ritual, but should refer them to the Board of Custodians.

1894, 574; 1916, 46, 50, 109; 1919, 23, 24, 73.

**3.403.** The Grand Master is the first servant of the Masonic Order, obliged to act with propriety, wisdom, and entire disinterestedness, as if at any moment he must render an account of his administration to the brethren.

Since he is the head of the Masonic family, he must always be the last refuge of the unhappy, a father to the orphans, the succour of the widows. He shall provide care for the poor as well as the most affluent, and look upon all the appendant bodies as members of the same Masonic family, and recognize them as such.

1987, 52, 122, 133.

## Chapter 5

### The Deputy Grand Master

**3.501.** He is the immediate assistant of the Grand Master and his lawful successor when, from any cause, the Grand Master is unable to act. He has no inherent powers, either constitutional or otherwise. By general Masonic law he is required to prepare business concerning Masonry to be laid before the Grand Master, to act as his proxy when required, and to be prepared to succeed to his office in case of need. He is expected to visit as many Lodges as he can conveniently.

Const. 2.105(2); T. B. 323; S. 269, 270; 1829, 256; 1921, 83.



## Chapter 6

### Grand Wardens

**3.601.** Their duties are similar to those of Wardens in a subordinate Lodge, and they are entitled to occupy their respective official stations in any Masonic Lodge, Grand or subordinate, over which the Grand Master presides as Master. They are expected to visit as many Lodges as they can conveniently.

T. B. 323; S. 271; M. 473, 474; 1829, 256; 1921, 83.

**3.602.** They succeed in order of seniority to the duties and prerogatives of the Grand Master when required to do so by the absence of their superior officers, retaining, however, their respective stations unless no superior officer is present.

T. B. 323; S. 271; M. 473, 474.

## Chapter 7

### Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary

**3.701.** Their duties, in addition to those mentioned below, are defined by Constitution Articles 2.102(4), 2.105(3), 2.105(4), 2.106(1) and 2.106(3).

**3.702.** The amount of the official bond or insurance coverage of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary is \$500,000. Their bonds or insurance coverage are written under a blanket policy at the expense of the Grand Lodge.

Const. 2.105(3), 2.105(4); 1875, 537; 1911, 127; 1916, 107; 1917, 110, 112; 1920, 79; 1929, 21; 1958, 52, 114, 117; 1969, 123; 1983, 53, 119.

**3.703.** They receive such compensation for their services as the Grand Lodge from time to time directs, and such allowances as the Grand Lodge makes from time to time for clerical help and postage.

Const. 2.105(5); 1914, 139; 1920, 93; 1922, 58; 1926, 112, 113.

**3.704.** It is the duty of the Grand Secretary to print their reports and those of the Grand Master and Board of Control, in pamphlet form at least fifteen days in advance of the annual communication, to be mailed at least ten days prior to the annual communication to all Grand Officers, Past Grand Masters and members of standing committees, and to be delivered to the representatives at the time of enrollment; to contract for all printing for the Grand Lodge and purchase of supplies for its use and that of the Grand Officers; and to certify all payments of Grand Lodge funds by the Grand Treasurer and countersign his checks therefor.

Const. 2.105(3); 1883, 365; 1896, 63; 1912, 89; 1919, 73, 101.

**3.705.** The Grand Secretary will not sign an expenditure contract over one thousand dollars (\$1000.00) (except in an emergency) without prior approval from the Ways and Means Committee.

2014

## Chapter 8.

### Appointed Grand Officers

**3.801.** Their duties are such as are prescribed by the usages and customs of the fraternity, and the constitution and regulations of the Grand Lodge.

T. B. 326

**3.802.** To any appointive Grand Lodge office any Master Mason is eligible if at the time he is a member in good standing of a subordinate Lodge of this jurisdiction.

Const. 2.104(3).

## Chapter 9

### Grand Lodge Committees

**3.901.** Each newly installed Grand Master appoints the following standing committees consisting of Past Masters of Chartered Lodges in this Jurisdiction, designating the chairmen thereof, except the chairman of the State of the Craft Committee, to serve at its subsequent annual communication, with the following limitations:

2002.

The member of any committee or board appointed by the Grand Master, except the Committee on Correspondence and the Board of Control, who has served the largest number of years consecutively on said committee, when his term of appointment expires, may not be reappointed to that committee or board or appointed to any other committee or board until a period of at least one year has elapsed during which he has not served on any committee or board appointed by the Grand Master. Interim vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the Grand Master for the unexpired term of the previous member.

Const. 2.104(5); 1867, 34, 1912, 97; 1917, 56, 134; 1920, 107; 1921, 56, 71, 72; 1922, 60; 1924, 109; 1926, 105, 106, 124; 1927, 130; 1933, 105; 1934, 109, 1948, 40, 41, 103; 1968, 60, 123; 1969, 70, 123; 1977, 55, 117; 1987, 52, 123, 133.

**(1) DISPENSATIONS AND BYLAWS**, consisting of three members. It must examine and report upon the work, records, and proceedings of the Lodges under dispensation, and also upon all petitions presented to the Grand Lodge for the establishment of new Lodges. To it shall be referred, before approval by the Grand Lodge, all proposed bylaws of new Lodges and all proposed changes in existing bylaws which require Grand Lodge approval.

**(2) APPEALS AND GRIEVANCES**, consisting of five members. It shall examine and report for the action of the Grand Lodge, all matters of controversy and grievances brought before the Grand Lodge. Only an abstract of its report may be printed in the proceedings of the Grand Lodge. No member of a Lodge from which an appeal has been taken may act on this committee on said appeal.

**(3) WAYS AND MEANS**, consisting of five members. It must specially report on all propositions and resolutions affecting the revenue of the Grand Lodge before action may be taken thereon. It shall also prepare and present to the Grand Lodge at each annual communication a budget for the year beginning on January 1 approximately nine (9) months from the time of its approval whose proposed expenditures shall not exceed its proposed revenues. It shall also cause an audit of the Grand Lodge books to be made annually by an independent certified public accountant selected by the committee.

1984, 48, 115; 1985, 51, 111, 121, 2005.

**(4) MASONIC JURISPRUDENCE**, consisting of seven members. To it must be referred, before adoption by the Grand Lodge, all matters pertaining to Masonic Law and Jurisprudence. As occasion occurs, its chairman acts *ex officio* in the capacity of a judge advocate to the Grand Master, who may not, however, be relieved thereby of the responsibility imposed by his office.

(5) **CREDENTIALS**, consisting of seven (7) members to examine credentials, register Lodge representatives and members of the Grand Lodge and issue to them official ballots designating the number of votes to which they are entitled.

1954, 110; 1958, 52, 114, 117; 1968, 60, 124, 2007.

(6) **CORRESPONDENCE**, consisting of one member and allowed to succeed himself on this committee. Its report, being voluminous, is for convenience, usually put in type in advance of the annual communication. It must examine the proceedings of the Grand Jurisdictions with which this Grand Lodge is in fraternal communication, report such matters found therein as affect the general or local welfare of the Craft, keep in correct order an approved list (which must be published annually in the proceedings of the Grand Lodge) of such jurisdictions, and submit from time to time such changes as in its opinion ought properly to be made in said list.

This committee will also be responsible for the coordination of the process of the appointment of Grand Representatives of and to other Grand jurisdictions and for maintaining an accurate list of said representatives.

In giving consideration to requests of other Grand Lodges for the fraternal recognition of this Grand Lodge, this committee shall affirmatively determine that the following prerequisites are satisfied as to each such Body:

That it has been lawfully organized by three or more legally constituted Lodges (or if in the United States, by a majority of all the Lodges in its territory).

That it is an independent, self-governing, responsible organization with entire, undisputed and exclusive dogmatic and administrative authority over Lodges of the three degrees of Symbolic Masonry; and does not share that authority with, nor is in any sense subject to, any other body claiming ritualistic or other supervision or control.

That it occupies exclusively its territorial jurisdiction, if in the United States, or, if in a foreign country, either occupies exclusively or shares the same with another by mutual consent; that it does not presume to extend its authority into, or establish Lodges in a territory occupied by some other lawful Grand Lodge without the expressed consent of such Grand Lodge.

That its dominant purposes are charity, benevolence, education and the worship of Deity.

That it makes Masons of men only.

That its ritual is fundamentally in accord with the ancient landmarks, customs, and usages of the Craft; and that it requires conformity to the following:

Acknowledgment of a belief in, and accountability to a Supreme Being, the Father of all men;

Secrecy;

The symbolism of Operative Masonry;

The division of Symbolic Masonry into the three degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason;

The legend of the Third Degree;

The Sacred Book of the Divine Law, indispensably present in the Lodge while at work.

1923, 55, 123; 1930, 78, 156; 1933, 105; 1968, 122, 2006.

**(7) BOARD OF CONTROL OF THE MASONIC WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' HOME OF TENNESSEE FUND**, One member to be appointed each year. Consists of ten members, Master Masons and members of Tennessee Lodges.

**(8) BOARD OF CUSTODIANS OF THE WORK AND LECTURES**, One member to be appointed each year. Consists of five members.

**(9) BUILDING**, One (1) member to be appointed each year. The committee shall be composed of five (5) members, four (4) of which shall be appointed for a term of four (4) years and be subject to compulsory rotation and the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) member shall be the Grand Secretary to whom the rotation will not apply, and he shall be an *ex officio* member only who shall have no vote. The committee's duty shall be to handle the maintenance and operation of the Grand Lodge Building, including rentals, supplies, repairs, etc. It shall also be the duty of the Building Committee to formulate and administer policy on building use. All members should have some knowledge of building repairs and maintenance.

1974, 43, 110, 2004.

**(10) ENDOWMENT FUND COMMISSION**, One member elected each year for a term of three years. Consists of three members, Master Masons and members of Tennessee Lodges.

1988, 95, 99, 119, 120.

**(11) MASONIC EDUCATION CONSISTS OF NO LESS THEN NINE (9) MEMBERS**, Master Masons and members of a Tennessee Lodge. In addition to the promotion of Masonic Education, the Committee shall encourage all subordinate lodges to engage in community service projects and subject to the approval of the Grand Master; provide information to the public about Freemasonry.

1970, 105; 1973, 127; 1978, 116, 117; 1982, 50, 102, 118, 119; 1991, 1992, 2016

**(12) INSURANCE**, Consists of three members, Master Masons, members of Tennessee Lodges. Its duty shall be to oversee the insurance programs of the Grand Lodge and to recommend and make any changes necessary, consistent with funding approved by the Grand Lodge. It is authorized to change, add to, or delete any insurance programs for the benefit of the Grand Lodge and/or the subordinate Lodges.

1982, 50, 109, 119; 2000,

**(13) PERSONNEL POLICY AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE**, To consist of five members, one member to be appointed each year for a term of five years, members of Tennessee lodges, and with experience in management or human resources policy development. Its duties shall be as follows:

To formulate and revise from time to time a consistent and well documented personnel policy. This policy to cover the compensation, benefits, terms of employment, and other matters relevant to retirees, employees, and contracted temporary or part time workers

including elected and appointed officers of the Grand Lodge who receive compensation or benefits. This policy to be approved by the Grand Lodge; however, changes to the policy may be implemented prior to the approval at the next communication of the Grand Lodge if the committee obtains interim approval of the Grand Master.

To formulate, and from time to time, review and revise if necessary, the organizational reporting structure of employees of the Grand Lodge.

To insure that these policies are clearly communicated to all employees of the Grand Lodge.

To work with the insurance committee, the building committee, The Board of Custodians of the Work and Lectures, and the Ways and Means Committee to provide compensation and benefits packages to employees that will attract a well qualified and productive work force and adequately care for Grand Lodge retirees.

To prepare and submit a budget to the Ways and Means Committee each year detailing anticipated costs associated with employees and retirees.

To act as consultants with the Grand Secretary and others on the Grand Lodge Staff in a supervisory capacity concerning personnel and human resources issues in order to ensure the Grand Lodge personnel policy is being followed.

To act as an appeal board in the event of grievances against the Grand Lodge or Grand Lodge Management Personnel initiated by either employees or retirees and to work with Grand Lodge legal counsel as required.

2005.

**(14) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES COMMITTEE**, consisting of three members (to be appointed initially and thereafter), one member to be appointed each year for a term of three years, members of Tennessee Lodges, and with experience in the information technologies industry.

This committee will be responsible for reviewing the Information Technology (IT) capabilities of the Grand Lodge, making recommendations concerning the introduction of new technology, negotiating for the procurement of IT services, software and hardware, submitting a budget request to the Ways and Means Committee concerning the funding of IT changes or maintenance, and coordinating the implementation of changes in the Grand Lodge Information Technology infrastructure. This committee will be responsible for appointing a Grand Lodge Web Master and for formulating policy on the content of information on any Grand Lodge web site. The committee is further responsible for the integration of separate IT systems within the Grand Lodge IT infrastructure and with establishing standards for interfaces between the Grand Lodge systems and those of subordinate lodges or other entities.

They will also establish Grand Lodge policy on the security of Grand lodge IT resources.

2006

**(15) ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE**, consisting of seven members of Tennessee Lodges to be appointed each year and allowed to succeed themselves on this committee. This committee will be responsible for making physical arrangements for the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge to include:

Negotiating agreements for lodging, meals, meeting and banquet space, decorations, and transportation for the Grand Lodge session.

Setting the price for meal tickets and overseeing the process of ticket sales and reservations for meals associated with the grand Lodge sessions.

The welcoming and accommodation of visitors for the Grand Lodge session.

Submitting a proposed budget for the annual communication and managing costs to stay within the approved budget.

Preparations regarding meeting space, decorations, transportation, and meals associated with the annual communication.

**(16) LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE** consisting of six members from Tennessee Lodges to be appointed each year for a term of six years. This Committee shall be charged with overseeing the development of five (5), ten (10), and twenty (20) plans for our Fraternity. The newly elected Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden each year shall be an ad hoc member of this Committee.

2008

**(17) LIBRARY AND MUSEUM COMMITTEE** consisting of at least (6) members with at least one (1) from each Grand Division of the State, to further develop and implement current and future plans for the Tennessee Masonic Historical Library and Museum. The Grand Lodge Historian shall be an additional member of this committee. Brethren who are not Past Masters may act as consultants for this committee, but may not be voting members of this committee.

2011

**3.902.** The first five of these committees, the Board of Custodians of the Work, the Building Committee and the Masonic Education Committee are required to meet in Nashville on Monday before each annual communication.

1973, 127, 2006.

**3.903.** There shall be a standing committee of the Grand Lodge, composed of all Past Grand Masters of this Grand Lodge while they continue members in good standing of subordinate lodges under this jurisdiction, known as the State of the Craft Committee, the chairman to be elected by the committee, whose duty it shall be to formulate policies and recommend plans or legislation in the interest of the advancement of Freemasonry, and to which shall be referred all matters not germane to the specified purpose of any other standing committee.

1948, 40, 41, 103; 1974, 108; 1975, 117; 1987, 52, 122, 133.

**3.904.** The Grand Master may appoint other committees as circumstances require, and must make the following appointments prior to the close of each annual communication, all which must be approved by the Grand Lodge:

- (1) A member of the Board of Custodians of the Work and Lecturers.
- (2) A member of the Board of Control of the Home.
- (3) A member of the Building Committee.

Const. 2.104(5); 1911, 55; 1923, 78; 1927, 137; 1938, 102; 1974, 43, 110.

**3.905.** No committee of this Grand Lodge shall consider any matter pertaining to the business of the Grand Lodge, unless the same shall have been filed with the Grand Secretary at least five days before the meeting of the Grand Lodge, or referred to the committee by the Grand Lodge. All matters filed with the Grand Secretary shall be noted by him and placed in the hands of the proper committee.

## Chapter 10

### Board of Custodians of the Work and Lectures

**3.1001.** Its purpose is to preserve, free from error and innovation as nearly as possible, the work and lectures of Symbolic Masonry in this jurisdiction; and all questions relating thereto must be referred to it and be decided by it in the name and by the authority of the Grand Lodge.

1916, 46, 109; 1919, 73, 102; 1988, 24.

**3.1002.** It consists of five members, not more than two of whom may reside in anyone grand division of the state. The term of each member is for five years and the term of one member expires with the close of each annual communication of the Grand Lodge. The chairman will be designated by the Grand Master.

1921, 83.

**3.1003.** Vacancies occurring by expiration of term, removal by the Grand Master or other cause, are filled by appointment of the Grand Master when the Grand Lodge is not in session, or by appointment of the Grand Master to be confirmed by the Grand Lodge when it is in session. The holding of other office, either in the Grand Lodge or in a subordinate Lodge, does not act as a bar to membership and service on said board.

1969, 123.

**3.1004.** It must meet in Nashville on the Monday immediately preceding the annual communication of the Grand Lodge and rehearse and agree upon the work and lectures, and any changes therein must be presented specifically to the Grand Lodge and approved by it before being incorporated in the work or put in effect. It may, at the option of the Grand Master, exemplify the work and rehearse the lectures before the Grand Lodge at such time as may be set apart for that purpose, or arrange to have the same done under its direction; and no other exemplification or rehearsal may be permitted before the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Master may, at his discretion, cause the Past Master's degree to be conferred at the annual communication of the Grand Lodge under the supervision of the Board of Custodians.

1884, 553; 1895, 45; 1910, 94; 1938, 101; 1969, 123; 1973,127; 1977, 28, 120.

**3.1005.** It may appoint schools of instruction which officers and members of a number of Lodges may attend, and its members have authority, by virtue of their office, through the Master, to call together, enter and, if necessary, preside over any Lodge when deemed necessary by any one of them or by the Grand Master, not only for the purpose of giving instruction in the adopted work and lectures, but also to inspect the physical and financial condition of said Lodge, the result of their visitations to be reported to the board and to the Grand Master when required or deemed necessary.

1923, 80; 1988, 24.

**3.1006.** Whenever a member of the board is called to visit a Lodge for the purpose of giving instruction, the Lodge so visited must pay him for his services at a rate mutually satisfactory and also for actual expenses incident to such visit.

1923, 80.

**3.1007.** It may issue certificates of proficiency, to be signed by the Grand Master, to any brother who passes a satisfactory examination in the adopted work and lectures, and such brother may be called upon, in its discretion or that of a Grand Lecturer, to assist the Grand Lecturer in giving instruction. A certificate of proficiency is good for three years. but may be revoked if the holder does not remain in good standing or does not pass a creditable examination before a Lecturer or a member of the board during that time. A list of brethren to whom such certificates have been issued shall be published annually in the proceedings of the Grand Lodge.

1865, 528; 1917, 116; 1923, 80, 109; 1926, 107, 124; 1988, 24.

**3.1008.** Whenever a Lodge, having reasonable opportunity to learn and put into practice the adopted work and lectures of the Grand Lodge, willfully or deliberately refuses or neglects to use, to the best of its ability, said work and lectures and that only; or habitually adds to, omits or changes, to an appreciable extent, said work and lectures, it is the duty of the Board of Custodians or of the Lecturer of that district to report the fact to the Grand Master or to the Grand Lodge.

1855, 21; 1923, 80, 81.

## Chapter 11.

### Grand Lecturers

**3.1101.** The Board of Custodians of the Work and Lectures shall recommend to the Grand Master, Grand Lecturers to serve the lodges in Tennessee whose appointment shall be made annually by the Grand Master. The Board has control of the Grand Lecturers and instructs them in the ritual. The Grand Lecturers shall be given a copy of the "Tennessee Adopted Ritual".

1893, 21; 1923, 80; 1954, 107, 111; 1981, 49, 119, 2005, 2007, 2013

**3.1102.** Each Grand Lecturer is required to visit each Lodge assigned to him, so far as it may be possible and expedient, at least once in each year, for the purpose of giving instruction. However, he is not required to visit, in the same year, a Lodge which has been instructed during that year by a member of the Board of Custodians. Each Grand Lecturer shall also, so far as it may be possible and expedient, conduct schools of instruction and education for the Lodges assigned to him; these to be scheduled either individually or in groups, as the Grand Lecturer shall determine the needs of the Lodges.

1923, 80; 1981, 49, 119; 1988, 24.

**3.1103.** It is their duty to teach the work and lectures as imparted to them by the Board of Custodians; to, as far as possible, carry out a program of Masonic education; to investigate the condition of small Lodges with view of effecting the consolidation of such Lodges when practicable; to inform the Lodges visited of the needs of the Widows' and Orphans' Home Fund; to report to the Grand Master the purchase, sale or use, within this jurisdiction, of cipher rituals; and to instruct the Lodges in making out their activity reports and complying with Grand Lodge law.

1893, 297; 1919, 71; 1926, 114; 1981, 49, 119; 1988, 24.



**3.1104.** Their authority and duty in regard to the matters mentioned in 3.1005 and 3.1007 are the same as those of the Board of Custodians as recorded therein.

1923, 80; 1981, 49, 119; 1988, 24.

**3.1105.** Each Grand Lecturer shall be paid one hundred (\$100.00) dollars per official visit to each lodge. No other pay or expense will be paid.

1893, 297; 1919, 71; 1926, 114; 1981, 49, 119, 2005.

**3.1106.** Any brother serving as a Grand Lecturer may not concurrently serve as a District Chairman.

2008

## Chapter 12. Elections

**3.1201.** The offices of the Grand Lodge should be the free, voluntary gift of its members, uninfluenced by ulterior considerations; and it is un-Masonic for a brother to declare himself a candidate or to use, or cause to be used, any influence to advance his own election. It is, however, permissible for any permanent member of the Grand Lodge or any subordinate lodge to submit biographical material concerning a brother and to thereby express their intent to nominate said brother for the office of Junior Grand Warden at the next annual communication of the Grand Lodge. Such material may only be submitted to the office of the Grand Secretary, and must be received in his office prior to the first (1<sup>st</sup>) of December preceding the annual communication of the Grand Lodge. This material may contain a photograph of the brother to be nominated, but may not contain any reference to any other brother. The material shall be limited in content to a description of the brother's biography including such experiences and achievements which might speak to his qualifications to perform the office of Junior Grand Warden. The Grand Secretary shall reproduce and transmit such documents to the subordinate lodges at the same time and in the same manner as proposed changes to the Tennessee Masonic Code.

1875, 521; 1896, 52; 1909, 54; 1921, 41, 85, 2007.

**3.1202.** No brother is eligible to an elective office of the Grand Lodge unless he has been duly elected and installed Master and has presided (as Master) over a chartered Lodge in this jurisdiction for six months, and unless at the time of election he is a member in good standing of such a Lodge.

No person is eligible for election to the office of Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden or Junior Grand Warden more than one year in succession. The other officers are always eligible to reelection or reappointment.

The Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee F&AM shall not hold another paid position within the fraternity during his tenure as Grand Secretary. This ruling shall take effect May 5, 2008.

Const 2.102(7), 2104(2), 2008

**3.1203.** The elective officers of the Grand Lodge must be chosen at each annual communication, whenever the Grand Secretary is able to announce that there is no further business to come before the Grand Lodge.

Const. 2.104(2); 1887, 426.

**3.1204.** For each elective office a nomination must be made and seconded, and a vote for a brother not in nomination will not be counted. The voting must be by ballot slips and a majority of the votes cast is necessary for election; provided, that if only one nomination is made for any office the Grand Lodge may dispense with balloting and elect by

acclamation as follows: after giving ample time for other nominations the Grand Master shall say, "all in favor of Brother Doe for the office of \_\_\_\_\_ say aye, opposed no. I declare Brother Doe elected by acclamation. Brother Doe, do you accept?"

Const. 2.114(2); 1969, 123.

**3.1205.** Each member of the Grand Lodge named in 3.102 is entitled to one vote and no more as his individual prerogative. Each Lodge is entitled to three votes without reference to the number of its representatives present, and if it has but two representatives present the higher officer is entitled to two votes and the other to one. The foregoing is the ratio of voting also when the vote upon any question is taken by Lodges, which shall be done when demanded by the representatives of five Lodges. Representatives may not combine their votes on one ballot slip, and each member of the Grand Lodge may put upon his ballot slip only the number of votes to which he is entitled.

Const. 2.104(4); 1895, 53.

**3.1206.** Elective officers who have been duly installed continue to hold their respective offices until their successors are duly elected and installed.

Any elective officer of the Grand Lodge other than the Grand Master may resign his office by submitting a written letter to the Grand Master.

Const. 2.104(2); 1984, 49, 116.

**3.1207.** Presenting the "A. V. Warr Signet Ring" is part of the ceremony of installation of the Grand Master.

1906, 15.

**3.1208.** Each elective officer of the Grand Lodge is requested to furnish to the Grand Secretary, upon his first election, a brief biographical sketch of himself, and the Grand Secretary is authorized to publish the Masonic substance thereof in the proceedings of the Grand Lodge.

**3.1209.** The Grand Master is requested to furnish to the Grand Lodge, at its expense, his portrait painted and framed under his supervision, 24" x 30" and the width of the frame approximately 3½".

1900, 78; 1923, 59, 109; 1925, 137; 1953, 103.

**3.1210.** The Grand Lodge shall present to each outgoing Grand Master a lapel button and a jewel of the design adopted by it.

1943, 94; 1957, 113; 1996, 126; 1967, 60, 131.

**3.1211.** On his installation into office, each Grand Master shall be presented an apron, suitably adorned for Past Grand Masters, procured by the Grand Secretary, which will be his to keep as his personal property.

1948, 104; 1949, 106.

## Chapter 13.

### Retirement Plan

**3.1301.** Plan of retirement for salaried employees of the Grand Lodge, which shall include all persons who receive their salary or wages from the funds of the Grand Lodge.

1955, 110.

(1) The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior and Junior Grand Wardens shall be designated and hereafter known as "The Employees' Retirement Board" to administer the provisions, expressed and implied of this retirement plan.

(2) Such amounts as may be designated by the Grand Lodge shall hereafter be set aside and added to the fund heretofore created and designated "The Employees' Retirement Fund," out of which all and only retired employees shall be paid an annuity, unless otherwise specifically directed by the Grand Lodge. All annuities shall be paid monthly in equal installments.

1956, 27, 63, 131, 133; 1959, 130; 1969, 49, 131.

(3) Any salaried employee of the Grand Lodge who has reached the age of sixty-five (65) years and who has either devoted his full time of employment to this Grand Lodge or shared it with one or more other Grand Masonic Bodies of Tennessee, for a period of not less than ten (10) years, may be retired permanently at his own request, after having given at least sixty (60) days notice of his intent to the Grand Master, or by order of the Retirement Board after due notice to the employee.

1967, 63, 127; 1984, 49, 117.

(4) Such employee retired by virtue of age shall be paid an annuity of two and one-half percent (2½ %) of his highest average annual salary as computed over any five (5) year period of consecutive service, multiplied by the number of years service, but not to exceed fifty percent (50%) of such highest annual salary.

1967, 63, 127.

(A) The widow of any such employee, provided said employee was a member of a Lodge subordinate to this Grand Lodge at the time of his death and had met the requirements prescribed in (3), whether or not he had actually retired, shall be paid an annuity during her single widowhood of one-half the amount to which said employee was entitled or was receiving at the time of his death, provided she was his wife while he was employed by the Grand Lodge. Payments under this provision shall begin on or after its adoption, and shall include the widow of any such employee who has died since April 1, 1958.

1959, 106, 107, 114.

(5) An employee who is unable to qualify for retirement on the basis of age or length of service, who becomes mentally or physically disabled, may be retired at his own request, provided it is approved by the Retirement Board or by order of said board. Any employee retiring by virtue of such disability shall be paid annuity equal to three percent (3%) of his highest average salary as computed over any five (5) year period of consecutive service, multiplied by the total number of years of such service, but not to exceed fifty percent (50%) of such average annual salary. If his length of service is less than five (5) years at the time of his disability, the average annual salary shall be used.

1986, 64, 114, 123.

(A) The widow of an employee, provided said employee was a member of a Lodge subordinate to this Grand Lodge, and was employed by this Grand Lodge or was retired under the disability provisions at the time of his death, shall be paid during her single widowhood, annuity equal to one-half the amount which he had earned computed as in the preceding paragraph, or was receiving under the disability provisions of the retirement plan, provided she was his wife while he was employed by this Grand Lodge.

1959, 46, 107, 114.

(6) The action of the Employee's Retirement Board in each instance of retirement during the interim between annual communications of the Grand Lodge shall at once become valid and effective, subject to the approval of the Grand Lodge at the following annual communication.

1949, 99, 103, 104; 1951, 113.

**3.1302.** The Retirement System is terminated as to all persons becoming employees after 25 March 1993. The System shall remain in effect as to all persons who are employees on 25 March 1993 and all former employees or spouses of former employees presently receiving benefits or entitled to receive benefits in the future.

## **Chapter 14.**

### **Tennessee Masonic Historical Library and Museum**

**3.1401.** A Tennessee Masonic Historical Library and Museum fund shall be established and such monies as may be designated by the Grand Lodge, or are received through donations, shall be used in the establishment and maintenance of said Library and Museum.

1988, 23, 50, 131.2004, 2006,157, 2011,117.

## **Chapter 15.**

### **Order of Business**

**3.1501.** The proposed budget shall be the last order of business before the election of officers at the annual communication.

1959, 54, 126, 135.

## **Chapter 16**

### **“Andrew Jackson Medal”**

**3.1601.** The Grand Master shall appoint a committee (one from each Grand Jurisdiction of the State of Tennessee) to establish an award program in recognition of “notably distinguished service in the cause of Freemasonry, Humanity and Country.” This silver medal shall be designated as the “Andrew Jackson Medal” and the recipients are to be selected by the committee members with the approval of the Grand Master on an annual basis.

1991

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## Chapter 17

### “Lewis Jewel”

**3.1701.** The Lewis Jewel may be worn by a Master Mason, if at the time of his initiation, his father, grandfather, or great-grandfather was a Master Mason in good standing (or if the father be deceased that he was a Master Mason in good standing at the time of his death) under the following criteria.

- (1) A Lewis is the son, grandson, or great-grandson of a Master Mason.
- (2) The Lewis' initiation age is 18 or older.
- (3) No distinction should be made whether a Lewis' father, grandfather, or great-grandfather was a Master Mason before or after the Lewis was born.
- (4) A Lewis is to be considered any son, grandson, or great-grandson of a Master Mason, not just the first born.
- (5) A Lewis may wear the Jewel received from another Grand Jurisdiction in our Grand Jurisdiction.
- (6) The initiate of a deceased father, grandfather, or great-grandfather of a Master Mason in good standing at the time of his death would qualify as a Lewis.
- (7) The Lewis Jewel consists of bars connected by chains –  
The upper bar contains the name of the oldest relative and date of his Initiation, progressing downward to the Lewis and date of his Initiation.  
Suspended from the bars is the Craftsman Lewis pendant.

By definition, the Craftsman's Lewis consists of three metal pieces suspended from two bars making it a device used for lifting stones.

## Chapter 18

### DUTIES OF THE DISTRICT CHAIRMAN

**3.1801** The requirements for the position of District Chairman are as follows: He is appointed only by the presiding Grand Master for a term of three (3) years. He must be a Past Master of a Tennessee Lodge or an elected Line Officer of a Tennessee Lodge. He must support the programs of the Grand Lodge and its Committees. He must visit each Lodge in his District at least once annually to explain and support the programs of the Grand Lodge and its Committees.

**3.1802.** The District Chairman is to bring the Lodges in his District into closer relations with each other, and with the Grand Lodge, by promoting the annual District Meeting, and other special meetings in the Districts throughout the year; planning and encouraging visitations between the Lodges, and assisting in the interpretation and promotion of the programs of the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge. He is to assist the Lodges in the planning of special meetings to avoid a conflict with Holidays and other Masonic family meetings.

**3.1803.** He is to inform himself fully as to the condition of the Lodges in his District, and advise the Worshipful Master as to the settlement of any difficulties which might exist; at all times respecting the sovereignty of the Lodges and its Worshipful Master.

**3.1804.** He is to encourage peace and harmony between the Lodges and individual Brethren, enlisting their support in all worthwhile Masonic activities, acting always in an advisory capacity.

**3.1805.** He is to endeavor to correct by Masonic means and under Masonic Principles, through cooperation with the officers of the Lodges, any Masonic error or un-Masonic conduct existing, and if deemed necessary, report the same immediately to the Grand Master.

**3.1806.** He is to punctually perform any assignment given by the Grand Master, at all times remembering that he is the representative of the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge, by personal conduct setting an example of Masonic leadership worthy of emulation ever remembering that he is the direct representative of the Grand Master in his District at all times. He is the eyes and ears of the Grand Master in his District. He is to conduct investigations, audit financials, and other activities as required by the Grand Master. He is to gather required information or documents as directed by the Grand Master.

**3.1807.** He is to advise members of the proper protocol for visiting Grand Officers and Past Grand Officers of the Grand Lodge. To observe this protocol at all official meetings, i.e. District Meetings, Stated Meetings, Called Meetings, etc.

**3.1808.** He is to seek opportunities to coordinate with all the appendant bodies at the district and county level. He is to become familiar with their area representatives (his counterparts). He is to seek opportunities to explain the programs to Masonic clubs such as Past Masters Associations, Scottish Rite or Shrine Clubs, or Demolay parent's clubs.

**3.1809.** It is expressly understood that in the exercise of the above duties, district chairmen shall not undertake to teach the ritualistic work or have any supervision over it.

## Chapter 19

### **DUTIES OF THE DISTRICT DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (Formerly known as the County Chairman)**

**3.1901.** The requirements for the position of District Deputy Chairman are as follows: He is appointed only by the presiding Grand Master. He must be a Past Master of a Tennessee Lodge. He must support the programs of the Grand Lodge and its Committees. He must be assigned at least three (3) Lodges in his District for which he is responsible to the District Chairman.

**3.1902.** The duties of the District Deputy Chairman do not in any way overlap or duplicate those of the District Chairman. On the contrary, they should merge and amplify each other. The District Deputy Chairman holds a responsible position, one which affords him many opportunities to bring the Brethren and the District Lodges closer together, thus placing Masonry on a high plane in their respective District.

**3.1903.** He must work closely with the District Chairman, reporting to him anything of importance that is happening in his assigned area. As the District Chairman is the eyes and ears of the Grand Master, so is the District Deputy Chairman the eyes and ears of the District Chairman and should report to him on a regular basis. He should plan programs and encourage the Lodges in his assigned area of responsibility to be active, not only in degree work, but in activities within the District which help make the District a better place in which to live in the name of Masonry.

**3.1904** He is to be an “ambassador of good will” and motivate the Lodges within his assigned area. He should visit other Lodges as much as possible and be a messenger to all as to what is being planned within his area and District. He should encourage attendance and fellowship and promote good ritual in all ways possible.

**3.1905.** He is a very important person and should introduce himself as District Deputy Chairman and let the Brethren know that he is willing to help them as far as Masonry is concerned and that he can do this through his District Chairman and the Grand Master, if need be.

## TITLE 4

### THE SUBORDINATE LODGE

#### Chapter 1

##### New Lodges

**4.101.** A charter for the formation of a new Lodge may be granted by the Grand Lodge at an annual communication. (The form of petition will be supplied by the Grand Secretary.)

Const. 2.104(1), 2.105(1), 2.106(1); T. B. 271, 322; A. L. 9; 1879, 367; 1917, 28, 2006.

**4.102.** A dispensation for the formation of a new Lodge may be granted by the Grand Master upon petition for the formation and charter of a new Lodge, if it is clearly apparent that there is good reason for the organization of a Lodge at that time and place. A charter may only be issued by the Grand Lodge upon favorable vote at an annual communication.

Const. 2.106(2), 1873, 368; 1906, 34, 2006.

**4.103.** The application fee to form a new Lodge, by dispensation, is (\$100) dollars payable to the Grand Lodge. This fee must be paid before the petition to form a new Lodge can be considered.

Const. 2.106(7); 1896, 41; 1963, 102, 2004, 2006, 2008.

**4.104.** All petitioners for a new Lodge must be members of Lodges chartered in Tennessee, or a non-affiliate. Petitioners who are members of Tennessee Lodges are not required to demit from their original Lodges to petition for the formation of a new Lodge. The name of a non-affiliate will not be recognized in considering such petition unless his demit or its equivalent accompanies the petition (See 5.105). If a charter or dispensation is granted, the petition becomes a matter of Grand Lodge record and can be changed only by the Grand Lodge.

1913, 28; 1917, 43; 1919, 26; 1923, 41; 1924, 35; 1925, 49, 2006.

**4.105.** A petition for a new lodge must be signed by at least seven (7) Master Masons. Said petition must state the name and number of the Lodge of which each petitioner is a member or from which he holds a demit or its equivalent (see 5.105). The membership and standing of the several petitioners who are members of Tennessee Lodges must be certified by their respective Lodges under seal.

1875, 511, 512, 535; 1895, 21; 1903, 52, 2006.

**4.106.** A petitioner for a new lodge who is a member of a chartered Lodge in Tennessee remains a member of his lodge until such time as he requests a demit from his original Lodge.

1879, 353; 1907, 73; 1910, 36; 1912, 34; 1914, 69; 1917, 43, 114; 1925, 39, 49; 1929, 46, 140; 1930, 31, 2005, 2006.

**4.107.** No Lodge may bear the name of a living person or of a Lodge already existing in Tennessee, nor may a Lodge change its name without permission of the Grand Lodge, except as provided in 4.109.

1874, 442; 1932, 34, 122, 2006.



**4.108.** Powers and limitations of a Lodge under dispensation:

- (a) It may appoint all officers except the Master and Wardens, but its officers may not be installed.
- (b) It may “initiate, pass and raise Freemasons” and may receive members on demit or transfer.
- (c) It may require all its members to pay dues, and may dispose of its funds in any lawful manner upon favorable vote of the membership.
- (d) It may bury the dead with the honors of Masonry.
- (e) It may prefer charges and try, suspend or expel its members.
- (f) It may observe the Festivals of St. John (see 1.1107 and 1.1108), but may hold no public celebration except by permission of the Grand Master.
- (g) It may send an ex officio representative to Grand Lodge Communications, but said representative is not entitled to vote in the proceedings.
- (h) It may not grant demits.
- (i) It may not be constituted, consecrated or dedicated, nor may it elect officers.

Const. 2.102(5), 2.106(2); T. B. 272, 339; 1894, 574; 1899, 20; 1900, 29; 1908, 25; 1910, 25; 1918, 29, 79; 1923, 39, 2006.

- 4.109.** (a) A dispensation for a new Lodge may be revoked at any time by the Grand Master, but if the dispensation is not revoked, it remains in force until the next annual communication of the Grand Lodge, when a charter may be ordered by the Grand Lodge - (if the Lodge operating under dispensation has kept minutes as required in 4.406). If a charter is not granted and the Grand Master does not renew the Lodge’s dispensation, the Lodge ceases to exist and those who were initiated, passed and raised are entitled to certificates of good standing. If a charter for a new Lodge is granted, the Lodge continues to operate under dispensation until the Lodge is regularly constituted.

(b) If for any reason the Worshipful Master or Wardens named as such in the dispensation are not to be named in the charter, the Lodge must notify the Dispensations and Bylaws Committee of that fact before the charter is granted, and must nominate and recommend others for the offices.

T. B. 271; M. 285, 301; 1918, 79; 1929, 54, 139; 1969, 70, 123, 2006.

**4.110.** If the Grand Lodge elects not to issue a charter to a Lodge operating under a dispensation or the Grand Master revokes a dispensation for a new Lodge, the petitioners who were members of other Lodges in Tennessee resume at once their former Status and membership in their respective Lodges; those who were nonaffiliates and those who have been made Masons by the Lodge while under dispensation will receive certificates of good standing from the Grand Secretary in lieu of demits, and the Lodge must send its books, jewels and other property to the Grand Secretary within 14 days of notification of its extinct status.

M. 286; 1925, 49, 2006.

**4.111.** No Mason under suspension may petition for a dispensation or charter of a new Lodge.

1909, 30; 1914, 68, 2006.

**4.112.** Each new Lodge must submit a copy of its bylaws (see 4.1901) at the first annual communication of the Grand Lodge after its charter has been granted. Any Lodge operating under a dispensation must adopt and abide by the Uniform Code of Bylaws adopted by the Grand Lodge for use by subordinate Lodges, until such time as it had been awarded a charter and its bylaws are approved by the Grand Lodge.

2006.

**4.113.** A fee of one hundred (\$100) dollars to the Grand Lodge must be paid when the charter is granted; and the charter must not be issued until this fee is paid.

Const. 2.106(7); 1896.41; 1963, 102, 2004, 2006.

**4.114.** (a) The organization of a newly chartered Lodge consists of four items, to wit: Consecration, Dedication and Constitution, and the Installation of the various officers in their several stations and places. These ceremonies may be performed only by the Grand Master or his proxy, and they must be performed as soon as practicable after the issuance of the charter.

(b) Prior to its organization such Lodge must select its officers, either by choosing one or more new ones (see 4.301 and 4.602.), or by signifying (in the ceremony of consecration) its satisfaction with those already chosen. A dispensation for the election (previous to consecration) or installation of such officers is not necessary if the Grand Master is personally present, but it is necessary if the ceremonies are performed by his proxy and should be included in the Grand Master's delegation of the work. Officers may not be installed until after the Lodge has been constituted, but they must be installed as soon thereafter as possible.

T. B. 117, 123, 127, 272, 287; S. 73; M. 288; 1894, 574; 1895, 21; 1896, 41; 1901, 55; 1910, 29; 1918, 79; 1927, 133, 2006.

**4.115.** Chartered Lodges (but not Lodges under dispensation) must procure a suitable seal; and no return or other document emanating from such a Lodge shall be respected without its seal (a printed facsimile will not answer) being affixed thereto, unless the Worshipful Master and Secretary certify the Lodge has no seal and has not been able to procure one.

1918, 31; 1924, 37, 2006.

**4.116.** (a) Immediately following the consecration and dedication of a newly chartered Lodge its Secretary must furnish to the Grand Secretary, a certified list of its members who were qualified signers of the petition for a charter, said list to show the names, numbers and locations of the Lodges from which said members were drawn. The Grand Secretary thereupon must notify the Lodges involved to drop these names from their rolls unless the brethren have chosen to remain plural members with their original lodge(s), and to look to the new Lodge for any dues, not exceeding those of one (1) year, which such a member may owe his old Lodge. Such members must be reported as "admitted by charter" (see, 4.1801) in the returns of the new Lodge for that year. Such Masons are plural members of both their original Lodges and the new Lodge unless they elect to demit from their original Lodges. Charter members of newly made Lodges may not be granted a demit from the new Lodge within the first year following the grant of its charter.

2007.

(b) Such members must be reported as "admitted by charter" (see 4,1801) in the returns of the new Lodge for that year.

1920, 80; 1929,46, 140, 2006.

## Chapter 2.

### Concerning Charters

**4.201.** A charter may be granted only by vote of the Grand Lodge, and usually upon a favorable report from the Committee on Dispensations and Bylaws, which, when recommending the issuance of a charter, must name the brethren whom it recommends to be appointed Worshipful Master and Wardens of the new Lodge, and the charter or a photostatic copy thereof must be present at all meetings, both stated and called; of the Lodge. Once granted a charter may be forfeited only in one of two ways, to wit:

(1) By vote of the Grand Lodge revoking it, following a dereliction of the Lodge (not merely the private misdoing of officers) caused by gross ignorance, irregularities or failure to observe the best interests of Freemasonry, and after due trial and unequivocal proof of one or more of the following: contumacy to the authority of the Grand Master or Grand Lodge; departure from the original plan of Masonry and the Ancient Landmarks; disobedience to the constitution; having a membership less than seven in number; failure to meet within a period of one year; failure to be represented in the Grand Lodge for two successive annual communications; arrearage to the Grand Lodge for two years (either of the last two automatically causes its suspension which thereby becomes effective immediately).

A charter is revoked when the Grand Lodge finally confirms the action of the Grand Master or of the Grand Lodge in suspending or arresting it.

(2) By voluntary surrender ordered by a majority of the members after due summons; provided, that seven members, should they refuse their consent to the surrender, may retain the charter, whatever may be the majority in favor of surrender.

Const. 2.106(3); T. B. 273; S. 70,71; M. 313, 314, 315; 1855, 21; 1889, 40; 1895, 20; 1896, 20; 1905, 95; 1909, 54; 1917, 60, 1919, 76; 1920, 67; 1925, 27, 125; 1929, 54, 139; 1931, 129; 1932 30, 122; 1953, 104.

**4.202.** When a Lodge loses its charter or it is irreparably damaged, a duplicate may be issued by order of the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge, and without payment of the usual fee if such loss or damage was caused by fire or other unavoidable cause; but if the loss or damage was through misplacement or through other than plainly unavoidable cause, the Lodge must pay to the Grand Secretary for the duplicate an amount equal to the fees fixed for original charters by the constitution. Such duplicate charters shall bear the names of the same officers and Grand Officers as the original charter, and a certification in the margin signed by the Grand Secretary, stating the date and authorization of the reissue.

1860, 326; 1874, 456; 1920, 23, 81; 1921, 36, 93; 1922, 34; 1941, 25, 99; 1958, 53, 118.

**4.203.** A charter may be temporarily suspended for cause (see 4.201 above) by the Grand Master or by the Grand Lodge, said suspension not to extend beyond the next annual communication of the Grand Lodge. Suspension of its charter arrests the work of a Lodge, relieves it of its liability for Grand Lodge dues during the term thereof, suspends its functions and prevents its meetings; but until finally confirmed by the Grand Lodge, it does not affect the Masonic standing of its members, nor their rights and privileges as such with respect to visiting, avouchment, trial, appeal, relief or burial.

Const. 2.106(3); T. B. 273; S. 72; M. 313; 1910, 33, 34, 38; 1919, 76; 1921, 87; 1932, 33; 1923, 36, 38; 1926, 33; 1927, 25, 107, 136.

**4.204.** A charter which has been forfeited (see 4.201 and 4.202) may not be restored, nor may its number be used again on a charter. Such Lodge is defunct, and the remedy of its members, who are thereby made non-affiliates (see 5.108 and 5.109), is to procure certificates of good standing from the Grand Secretary (see 5.105) and petition for a dispensation for a new Lodge or petition another Lodge or Lodges for affiliation. Such certificate may not be issued until the demise of the Lodge is complete nor until all dues of the applicant are paid.

1889, 40; 1895, 20; 1896, 20; 1910, 34; 1915, 89; 1916, 50; 1919, 76; 1921, 87; 1923, 35, 36; 1932, 115.

## Chapter 3.

### Election and Installation of Officers

**4.301.** The officers of a subordinate Lodge are: Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Secretary, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, two Stewards, Chaplain and Tiler. The first five of these must be elected annually (except by a Lodge under dispensation) on the first stated meeting in December; the remaining officers below the Secretary may be either elected by the Lodge or appointed as the bylaws of the Lodge determine, and the installation must take place as soon thereafter as may be convenient prior to the first day of January (but see 4.302 below). Also, at the option of the Lodge, there may be a Physician, Marshal, Historian and Board of Trustees, (the powers of the Trustees should be fixed by the bylaws of the Lodge.)

No two of the first five offices mentioned above may be held by the same man in the same Lodge at the same time.

Const. 2.106(4); T. B. 277; S. 89; M. 338; 1908, 32; 1910, 37; 1928, 34; 1922, 34; 123; 1939, 92, 97; 1953, 108.

**4.302.** Unless prevented by its bylaws, a Lodge may install its officers on the day of their election, but neither election nor installation of elective officers may be held at a time other than that specified in 4.301, above, without a dispensation from the Grand Master (but see 4.114).

Provided, however that should a subordinate Lodge, for unavoidable reasons fail to hold its stated meeting in December; or should one of its elective officers die or refuse to accept the office after his election and before his installation; or should a Lodge find it necessary for unavoidable reasons, to elect and install one or more elective officers at a time other than that herein before specified, the Grand Master in the exercise of sound discretion, good and sufficient cause being shown, may grant to such a Lodge a dispensation for otherwise permissible election or installation of officers, or both. Appointive officers may be installed at any time without dispensation.

Const. 2.106(4), T. B. 286; S. 139; M. 339; 1873, 333; 1877, 17; 1879, 255; 1894, 574; 1901, 55; 1908, 32; 1916, 32, 112, 113; 1920, 74; 1924, 28; 1926, 23; 1927, 128; 1931, 128; 1932, 31, 33, 122; 1936, 108; 1941, 100, 102; 1942, 94; 1946, 37; 1958, 51, 117; 1959, 106.

**4.303.** Elective officers who have been duly installed shall continue to hold their respective offices until their successors are duly elected and installed.

Const. 2.106(4), 1887, 401; 1904, 73; 1920, 94; 1926, 34.

**4.304.** Only the members of a Lodge who are in good standing may be elected to office therein, and a Lodge may elect such a member in his absence; but a member may decline to accept an office to which he has been elected.

T. B. 287; 1886, 257; 1899, 21.

**4.305.** The presence of a majority of members of a Lodge is not essential for an election, but it may not be held while the Lodge is at refreshment.

1889, 20; 1907, 30.

**4.306.** Each member of the Lodge in good standing and not under sentence is entitled to one vote and a majority of all votes cast is necessary for an election, which must be by written ballot; provided, however, that if a Lodge chooses that nomination shall or may be made and only one nomination is made for any office, the Lodge may dispense with balloting and elect by acclamation.

T. B. 286; 290, 303, S. 140, 142; 1910, 36; 1975, 53, 118.

**4.307.** A member who has a physical defect, or who is under charges, or against whom charges are pending, is not thereby disqualified from voting (except upon his own trial) or from holding office, and if elected to an office he is entitled to installation if he is in good standing.

1868, 211; 1877, 23; 1897, 399; 1880, 20; 1892, 20; 1899, 90; 1904, 34; 1953, 104.

**4.308.** The term of a newly chosen officer begins immediately following his installation, without which he cannot legally enter upon his duties. Officers, therefore, must be installed in person (it may not be done by proxy), but an officer reelected to the same office need not be installed.

T. B. 127, 287; 1895, 22; 1895, 22; 1901, 55; 1908, 32; 1910, 37; 1912, 38; 1924, 37.

**4.309.** The installation of the officers of a Lodge may be performed only by a Worshipful Master or by Past Master (not by a Warden temporarily acting as Worshipful Master), who may perform the same without having received the degree of Past Master; and without dispensation it may be done publicly, all private ceremonies being omitted, and in an auditorium other than the Lodge hall.

An officer of a Tennessee Lodge may not be installed by a Lodge in another Grand Jurisdiction.

T. B. 127, 132, 283, 287; S. 114; 1882, 207; 1895, 25; 1918, 32; 1929, 47.

**4.310.** A Worshipful Master is entitled to receive the Past Master's Degree, but he may legally preside without having received it, which does not affect the presence of one who has received it. It may not be conferred by a Lodge of Master Masons, and the Grand Master may not issue a dispensation to confer it. It may be conferred by three or more Past Masters, but only actual Past Masters may officiate.

T. B. 133, 283; 1846, 625; 1876, 618; 1879, 354; 1900, 29; 1903, 21; 1907, 31; 1910, 30; 1912, 34; 1918, 29, 2017.

**4.311.** Each Lodge must furnish each year to the Grand Secretary in the space provided in its returns a list of the names of its officers, of which those of the Worshipful Master and Secretary, with their addresses, will be published in the proceedings of the Grand Lodge. Should it fail to do so, it shall be penalized the sum of \$5.00, which shall be used for the benefit of the Widows' and Orphans' Home.

Const. 2.106(1); 1872, 172; 1917, 118; 1929, 55, 139; 1936, 40, 109; 1953, 109.

## Chapter 4.

### The Worshipful Master

**4.401.** No brother may be elected Worshipful Master unless he has regularly served (after election and installation in a chartered Lodge or after appointment for the term in a Lodge under dispensation) as Master or Warden in some Lodge, either chartered or under dispensation, in this Jurisdiction. Service in another Grand Jurisdiction, by temporary appointment, or to fill a vacancy, does not qualify.

A Master Mason who has not served as Warden is eligible for appointment as Worshipful Master of a Lodge under dispensation.

T. B. 280; 1899, 82; 1906, 55; 1912, 35; 1926, 33, 34.

**4.402.** He may reside in the jurisdiction of another Lodge, and may even be a citizen of another state, and still be qualified to serve as Master of his Lodge.

1869, 376.

**4.403.** He may call or summon a meeting of his Lodge at any time he thinks proper, even several times on the same day, to transact any business not prohibited at called meetings (see 4.1104 and 4.1106). It is his prerogative to congregate his Lodge, and to preside therein unless the Grand Master or his duly appointed representative be present (but see 3.1005 and 3.1205).

T. B. 281; S. 99; 1908, 25; 1909, 37; 1920, 27; 1923, 40.

**4.404.** He fills temporarily, by appointment, all vacancies that occur in Lodge offices (see 4.505 and 4.601 for permanent vacancies which may be filled by election held under dispensation), and at any single meeting may appoint Master Masons not members of his Lodge to fill the various offices at that meeting and open the Lodge with no other member of the Lodge present but himself, but under such circumstances no business or work of the Lodge may be transacted (see 4.1101).

T. B. 281; 1869, 375; 1895, 22; 1910, 31, 79; 1920, 74; 1953, 104.

**4.405.** He may regulate discussion, participate therein without leaving the chair (but see 6.615), close debate and put the question at any time; and he may close the Lodge at will, not arbitrarily, but for good reason, whether business is completed or not.

T. B. 281, 282, 283; S. 104; 1909, 32.

**4.406.** He directs the order of business, which may be different from that prescribed by the bylaws, and the first of which, at a stated meeting, should be reading all unapproved minutes of the Lodge that they may be approved.

He has control of the minutes of the Lodge, which should contain all its transactions lawful to be written and which must truthfully show what actually occurs at its meetings, and he should see that nothing improper (*i.e.* untrue or not lawful to be written) is written therein and that nothing essential is omitted.

Minutes thus written must be read to the Lodge for its approval, and may be changed only prior to its approval of them and only to correct errors or omissions therein. Amendments thereto may not be made at a later meeting by striking out a part thereof, nor may they be corrected at a later meeting by a certificate of the Secretary.

Minutes must be written legibly and in ink; must show on their face that they were read and approved; must be signed by the worshipful Master and Secretary in their own hands, immediately after they are approved, and may be typewritten and kept in a loose-leaf book, provided that each page of minutes so kept must be initialed or signed by the Worshipful Master and Secretary when they sign said minutes. They are competent as evidence in Masonic trial

T. B. 282, 283, 288, 311; S. 102; 1829, 245; 1850, 31; 1895, 29; 1897, 63; 1909, 40; 1918, 28; 1919, 46.

**4.407.** He appoints, and may act with, all committees. He may arrest further proceedings on a petition after its reference to a committee and its report, if any illegality is discovered either in the petition or in the action of the committee; and he may refuse to confer a degree, notwithstanding the action of the Lodge.

T. B. 282, 283; S. 103; 1876, 621; 1887, 399.

**4.408.** He is the custodian of the charter and is responsible for its safekeeping. Neither he nor any other member may withhold it in an effort to suspend any of the functions of the Lodge, but on the contrary, he shall see that the charter or a photostatic copy of the same is present at all meetings, both stated and called, of the Lodge.

He signs all drafts on the Treasurer.

T. B. 282, 283; 1829, 246; 1953, 104.

**4.409.** He is the representative of his Lodge at all communications of the Grand Lodge (see 4.503), provided all dues from his Lodge are paid.

T. B. 283; 1896, 16.

**4.410.** He may not demit or resign after installation, and no vacancy can occur in his office except by death, suspension, expulsion or removal from office by the Grand Master. A legal vacancy may be filled by election which can be held only at a stated meeting and when authorized by dispensation from the Grand Master.

T. B. 283; 322; 1884, 554; 1897, 47; 1904, 34; 1916, 113; 1919, 73; 1953, 104.

**4.411:** He may not be tried by his Lodge for any offense, however heinous, and may not be suspended for non-payment of dues.

T. B. 242, 283; S. 15, 109; A. L. 12; 1879, 354, 355; 1897, 20.

**4.412.** His decision may not be discussed by the Lodge even with his permission, and no appeal therefrom may be taken to the Lodge. It is his duty to know Masonic law, and his ignorance of it will not excuse him for violating it.

T. B. 293; S. 14; A. L. 6; M. 239; 1879, 354; 1911, 123; 1920, 87; 1924, 36.

**4.413.** He may not set aside the rulings of a former Worshipful Master in matters which the Lodge has approved, nor may he declare null and void the action of the Lodge at a former meeting, duly recorded and approved, except when the Lodge rescinds the same, which may be done only when no law or its evident purpose will be violated thereby.

1868, 220; 1870, 544; 1897, 63; 1905, 93; 1908, 25; 1909, 40; 1918, 37; 1923, 35.

**4.414.** It is the duty of the Worshipful Master to maintain dignity and decorum at all times. In the conferring of degrees he must see to it that the ritual is carried out in a solemn and impressive manner. If he deems it necessary, he should read to the Lodge at the commencement of work the provisions of 4.1510 of the Code and such other regulations as may be appropriate.

1979, 118.

## Chapter 5.

### Senior and Junior Wardens

**4.501.** The Senior Warden is charged with the superintendence of the Craft while at labor, and the Junior Warden while at refreshment.

T B. 284.

**4.502.** In the temporary absence or disability of the Worshipful Master, his rights, prerogatives and duties devolve upon the Senior Warden, and in the absence or disability of both, upon the Junior Warden. If this occurs when the presence of both Wardens is required, the oldest Past Master present shall be the acting Worshipful Master and (see 4.704) will fill the vacancy or vacancies thus caused, by a *pro tempore* appointment. The Junior Warden does not succeed to the duties of the Senior Warden in any contingency. Permanent vacancies should be filled by election, held at a stated meeting, upon receipt of a dispensation from the Grand Master (see 4.505).

T. B. 284; S. 121; 1877, 24; 1894, 572; 1897, 47; 1898, 21; 1899, 21; 1916, 113; 1919, 73; 1953; 104.

**4.503.** They have the right to act as representatives of their Lodge at all communications of the Grand Lodge, jointly with the Worshipful Master, provided all dues from their Lodges are paid. If the Worshipful Master fails to represent his Lodge, the right to do so reverts to the Senior and Junior Wardens, in the order named, who may demand it. In the absence or disability of all three, the one of them having the right to do so may select a proxy, and if this is not done the Lodge may select one of its members to act as its representative.

Const. 2.102(5); T. B. 284; 1896, 16; 1898, 21; 1905, 89.

**4.504.** It is the official duty of the Junior Warden to prefer charges against a Mason and to prosecute the same when ordered by the Lodge (see 6.504).

T. B. 284; S. 120; 1891, 569, 591.

**4.505.** They may not resign after being installed, unless they submit a written request: stating reason for resignation to the Master and the Lodge; after receipt of this request, they will be allowed to resign. If a vacancy in either of their offices caused by election to another office, death, suspension, expulsion, legal withdrawal, removal from office by the Grand Master, or resignation under the conditions set forth above, such vacancies may be filled by election, which can be held only at a stated meeting and when authorized by dispensation from the Grand Master. In the absence of such election, vacancies must be filled from time to time by appointment of the Worshipful Master. All information must be submitted to the Grand Secretary's office.

T. B. 284; 1895, 22; 1897, 47; 1916, 113; 1919, 73; 1953, 104; 1956, 57 - 59, 132, 2014

**4.506.** They may be tried by their Lodge for Masonic offenses, except while acting as Master.

S. 109, 117; M. 357, 358, 372; 1882, 202. 2014(renumbered)



## Chapter 6

### Other Officers

**4.601.** The duties of the Treasurer and Secretary are defined in the Ceremony of Installation of Lodge Officers (T. C. 121, 122 and in 6.617). They may resign if they find it necessary and may demit under the same rule as given in 4.506 above. They may be elected to another office in case of a legal vacancy therein and upon dispensation by the Grand Master. If a vacancy occurs in either of their offices caused by election to another office or their resignation, death, suspension, expulsion, legal withdrawal or removal from office by the Grand Master, such vacancies may be filled by election, which can be held only at a stated meeting and when authorized by dispensation from the Grand Master. In the absence of such election, vacancies must be filled from time to time by appointment of the Worshipful Master.

M. 380, 383; S. 124; Const. 2.106(4); 1893, 288; 1895, 22; 1907, 31; 1910, 28; 1916, 47, 113; 1918, 79; 1919, 73; 1929, 54; 1930, 32, 155; 1953, 104.

**4.602.** The remaining officers of a Lodge, below the rank of Secretary, may be either elected by the Lodge or appointed, as the bylaws of the Lodge determine. If elected, the same laws apply regarding resignation, demits, and the creation and filling of vacancies, as are specified in 4.601 above.

If they are appointed the appointments must be made by the Worshipful Master, and he may, at his discretion, revoke an appointment and fill the vacancy, caused thus or otherwise, by a new appointment Brethren placed in office by appointment may resign or demit under the same rules which apply to other members of the Lodge.

1876, 621; 1895, 22; 1916, 113; 1920, 74.

## Chapter 7

### Past Masters

**4.701.** A Master Mason who has been duly elected and installed Worshipful Master of a chartered Lodge in this jurisdiction and has presided over it (as Master) for six months or until its charter was arrested, is a Past Master of such Lodge. If he presided over the same (as Master) for six months, he is a member of the Grand Lodge so long as he is a member in good standing of a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, entitled to vote on all questions under the rules, and is eligible to any elective or appointive office in the Grand Lodge.

Const. 2.102(4); 2.104(2), 2104(3); 1929, 47; 1948, 32, 101, 2004

**4.702.** As a courtesy, he is entitled to a seat in the East in a subordinate Lodge.

T. B. 284; S. 115.

**4.703.** Past Masters of other jurisdictions have no official rank as such on removal to this jurisdiction.

1879, 402; 1884, 554.

**4.704.** In the temporary absence of the Worshipful Master and Wardens of a Lodge, the duties of the Master devolve upon the oldest Past Master present, and if none be present the members according to seniority may preside and have all the rights of a regularly installed Master. Permanent vacancies should be filled by election held only at a stated meeting after receipt of a dispensation from the Grand Master

## Chapter 8

### Lodge Committees

**4.801.** Lodge committees are such standing committees as may be required by the bylaws of the Lodge, and such special committees as may be appointed from time to time by the Worshipful Master (see 4.407). No Lodge committee may demand pay for its services unless a contract to that effect is made in advance.

1910, 33.

**4.802.** A special committee of investigation is appointed on every petition for the degrees, affiliation, restoration, or advancement on certificate of good standing and waiver of jurisdiction, and a Lodge may receive a report from a majority of such a committee, and proceed with the ballot thereafter.

1875, 523; 1908, 33; 1910, 29; 1912, 36, 102; 1914, 71.

**4.803.** Masonic usage and practice require that a committee of investigation shall exercise due diligence and report at the stated meeting next following their acquisition of the information necessary for them correctly and intelligently to advise the Lodge. Sufficient time should be allowed such committee for all necessary inquiry, but if it fails to exercise due diligence or is absent from the stated meeting at which its report is expected, and has filed no report, the Worshipful Master may, with the consent of the Lodge, recall said committee and appoint a new one. The new committee thus appointed may, in its discretion, present an immediate report, and it should do so if it is in possession of the information necessary for it to be done correctly and intelligently; but the Worshipful Master may not require it as a matter of right.

1912, 107; 1922, 34, 35; 1931, 128.

**4.804.** A committee which refuses to report may be tried and dealt with for contumacy.

1886, 247; 1897, 22.

## Chapter 9

### Powers or Attributes of a Lodge

**4.901.** The powers of a subordinate Lodge are of two classes, inherent and constitutional.

Const. 2.104(1); T. B. 275, 276; A. L. 14; 1874, 418; 1901, 86; 1915, 35; 1927, 131, 133.

**4.902.** INHERENT POWERS are controlled only by the Ancient Landmarks and may not be made the subject of Grand Lodge legislation, but the Grand Lodge may fix standards of membership or ban certain vocations without infringing thereon. They are:

- (1) To decide who shall be admitted to membership or be initiated therein, of such as may be properly qualified.
- (2) To make Masons of those it has decided to admit.
- (3) To place on trial a member against whom charges have been preferred for unmasonic conduct or for violation of its rules or bylaws, to pronounce sentence, to enforce discipline and to restore him, even if he has become a resident of another Grand Jurisdiction.
- (4) To select and install its officers and to elect or appoint Deacons, Stewards and Tiler, as it deems best (but see 4.602, 4.110(1) and 4.110(9)).
- (5) To fix its time of meeting.
- (6) To require its members to contribute to its funds, and to fix the amount of their dues to be paid to it.
- (7) To be represented at all communications of the Grand Lodge (see 4.110(7)).
- (8) To instruct its representatives, for their government at all communications of the Grand Lodge.

**4.903.** CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS are subject to the control and approval of the Grand Lodge and are to be exercised only in the manner and under the restrictions prescribed by its Constitution and Regulations. They are:

- (1) To make a code of bylaws for its internal government, not in derogation of its inalienable rights or of those of its members. (See 4.1901.).
- (2) To perform all the work pertaining to the three degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry.
- (3) To transact all business that may be legally transacted by a duly constituted Lodge of Freemasons; but no work or other business of the Craft may be performed in any Lodge below the degree of Master Mason, except that of lecturing, examining and voting on the proficiency of candidates for advancement (if examination is conducted and approved by a competent committee the Lodge does not vote on the candidate's proficiency, the fact is simply reported at the next stated meeting and incorporated in the minutes), conferring the first or second degree, or for the reception of testimony and the trial of an Entered Apprentice or a Fellow Craft (but see 4.1410 and 4.1411).

1912, 35; 1952, 117; 1953, 105.

(4) To appeal to the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge from the decision of the Worshipful Master (but see 4.2004 and 5.202).

T. B. 276; M. 239; S. 79, 81.

(5) To change its place of meeting (but see 4.1109).

(6) To control its funds and to expend them but only for Masonic or charitable purposes, which does not include refunding any part of the fee for a degree. The Grand Lodge will not interfere with its expenditures unless they are palpably unmasonic and improper. Its minutes should record all receipts and disbursements of its money. (See 4.1101 and 4.2002(4).

T. B. 289; 1879, 354; 1886, 259; 1887, 419; 1892, 19; 1904, 34; 1920, 27; 1921, 32.

(7) To dispose of its property, including the Lodge building and real estate, as its members may decide. The interest of the Grand Lodge there in is one of revision and becomes operative only upon forfeiture of charter (see 3.308), after which it must be disposed to the best advantage of the Grand Lodge, but only by the Grand Treasurer.

1879, 401; 1901, 82; 1910, 88; 1917, 41.

## Chapter 10.

### Duties and Limitations of a Lodge

**4.1001.** As soon as possible after the close of each annual communication, each Lodge will receive from the Grand Secretary a synopsis of the proceedings of the meeting, which must be read at the first stated meeting after its reception, and such reading must be entered on the minutes and reported in the annual returns.

The Grand Secretary must place on all proceedings and other books except "The Tennessee Craftsman" sent to Lodges a notice that they are the property of the Grand Lodge and must remain in the Lodge room.

1898, 73; 1924, 115.

**4.1002.** Each Lodge must own and keep in the Lodge room a copy of the latest edition of the Masonic Code of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee. An up-to-date supplement of said Code must be published annually by the Grand Secretary, and an up-to-date copy of the changes therein or the entire Code sent to the Secretaries from time to time.

1917, 61, 116; 1918, 85; 1930, 141, 174, 2007.

**4.1003.** For receipts for dues, petitions, demits, applications for transfer of membership, and certificates of membership, Lodges may use standard forms only, which may be obtained through the office of the Grand Secretary. Uniform dues cards shall be of a size that will conveniently fit in a man's wallet.

1917, 54, 116; 1930, 157; 1942, 33, 34, 87, 94, 2007.

**4.1004.** Each subordinate Lodge shall transmit to the Grand Secretary a monthly report on forms to be supplied by the Grand Secretary and furnish the information and date called for therein, each report to cover the period of one (1) month ending on the date of the stated meeting of the Lodge and be transmitted so as to reach the Grand Secretary not later than the tenth (10th) day of the next calendar month or be postmarked not later than the seventh (7th) day of the next succeeding month.

A Lodge must be penalized \$2.00 per month for failure to transmit its monthly report so as to be received by the Grand Secretary not later than the 10th day of the succeeding month or be postmarked not later than the 7th day of the succeeding month. The penalties shall be used for the benefit of the widows, orphans and old Masons, through the general fund. The Grand Secretary has no authority to waive any of the above penalties.

The Grand Secretary shall send annually, in June, to the Secretary of each subordinate Lodge, a list of the members (Master Masons only) of his Lodge as of said date. The Lodge Secretary shall check the list against his records and acknowledge the correctness of it, or provide the needed corrections, to the Grand Secretary prior to **September 1st** of the same year.

All lodges must be able to communicate with the Grand Lodge and send all reports possible electronically by 1 January 2020.

Const. 2.106(1); 1897, 61; 1905, 82; 1906, 80; 1917, 117; 1919, 71; 1924, 48; 1939, 90; 1942, 81, 94, 95; 1953, 105, 109; 1959, 45, 106; 1963, 41, 101; 1968, 123; 1974, 118; 1975, 117, 118; 1976, 119; 1979, 124.2004, 2007, 2008, 2015, 2017

**4.1005.** No Lodge, under penalty of forfeiture of charter, may issue a circular to its sister Lodges asking aid or cooperation for any private purpose or personal object, except with the official approval of the Grand Master, under Grand Lodge seal, a permit for which ends with his term of office.

1913, 71; 1916, 17, 49, 107; 1973, 61, 127.

**4.1006.** A Lodge may not ask its sister Lodges, by circular letter or resolution, to join with it in instructing their delegates to the Grand Lodge to vote for either men or measures; nor may it protest or appeal to other Lodges from the action of the Grand Lodge.

1859,171; 1903, 23, 67.

**4.1007.** A lodge may not participate in, or officially approve of, an illegal or immoral business project. The subordinate lodge will be solely responsible for its compliance with all Local, State, and Federal laws, filings, permits, forms, registrations, and any other legal requirements. For purposes of this section, an immoral business project will be defined by Masonic and/or Civil law.

1931, 36; 1954, 45, 46, 109; 1991, 2006.

**4.1008.** A Lodge may send to its members notices, in envelopes sealed, or unsealed, or in Lodge bulletins folded so as not to reveal to the general public the contents thereof (not postal cards) or via email to a member provided the Lodge can reasonably assure that only the intended member has access to the email containing the names of petitioners for degrees, affiliation or restoration, those to be voted upon for initiation or advancement or affiliation, deceased brethren, and brethren to whom demits have been issued, those suspended or expelled, but not the names of those against whom charges have been preferred or those in arrears for dues. Such notice will not serve in lieu of a specific notice in a case which requires the latter.

1879, 350; 1910, 89; 1921, 34, 88; 1950, 47, 100; 1963,42, 101; 1965, 39, 113; 1976, 119; 1978, 118, 2001.

**4.1009.** The names of petitioners for degrees, affiliation or restoration, those to be voted upon for initiation or advancement or affiliation, deceased brethren, and brethren to whom demits have been issued, those suspended or expelled, and the names of those against whom charges have been preferred or those in arrears for dues may **NOT** be posted on a Lodge's **INTERNET** Home Page.

2001.

## Chapter 11

### Lodge Meetings, Time and Place

**4.1101.** Lodge meetings are of two kinds, stated and called. Stated meetings are fixed by its bylaws and require no notice; called meetings are congregated by order of the Worshipful Master (See 4.403).

Three members of a Lodge present at a stated or called meeting constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business that may lawfully come before it. A Lodge may not make attendance at its meetings compulsory except by summons (but see 4.2102), nor may it impose a fine for nonattendance.

T. B. 52; T. C. 36; 1826, 184; 1878, 190; 1879, 384, 385; 1882, 228; 1889, 82.

**4.1102.** A Lodge may not convene a stated meeting at an hour different from that fixed by its bylaws and the time of meeting therein prescribed may be changed only by an amendment thereto, regularly made (see 4.1902), with the following exceptions: when the stated meeting of a Lodge falls on any nationally designated holiday, Christmas Eve, the dates of the annual meetings of the Masonic Grand Bodies of Tennessee, or the date of the Grand Lodge District Meeting to which the Lodge is assigned, by action of the Lodge at a prior stated communication, the conflicting stated meeting may be held on the week day next preceding or succeeding that date, at the same hour designated in its bylaws for stated meetings, provided all resident members are notified by mail of the change at least one week prior to the date on which the meeting is to be held. If a Lodge fails to hold a stated meeting the minutes of the next stated meeting held should show why.

Where the bylaws of a Lodge fix a stated meeting in each month on a certain day of the week with relation to the full moon, either before or after, the exact date is the specified day of the week in the month named which immediately precedes or follows that lunar phase, even though the latter occurs in the following or preceding month, as the case may be.

T. B. 875, 281, 293; 1894, 575; 1907, 28, 59; 1919, 73; 1931, 128; 1960, 50, 116; 1983, 54, 120; 1988, 25.

**4.1103.** If the bylaws of a Lodge provide for two stated meetings per month, any business maybe transacted at either or both which it is proper to transact at a stated meeting only, e.g., reading and approving minutes; receiving or withdrawing petitions; examining candidates; balloting on petitions for the degrees, advancement on certificate and waiver, affiliation or restoration; applying for or granting demits, certificates or waivers of jurisdiction, appropriating monies; amending bylaws; voting on consolidation of Lodges; presenting or withdrawing charges; requesting or consenting to the removal of a Lodge. None of these may be done at called meetings, except candidates may be examined and their proficiency voted on at a called meeting as provided in 4.1411.

TB. 268, 269, 281, 309; 1887, 400; 1895, 21; 1911, 34, 47; 1912, 33; 1918, 78, 79; 1921, 87; 1924, 36; 1946, 39, 93; 1952, 117; 1953, 105.

**4.1104.** At called meetings degrees may be conferred, candidates examined and voted on for proficiency in the lectures, and such other work or business done (except as noted in 4.1103 above) as may have been specified in the call, but no other.

T. B. 281; 1879, 355; 1908, 25; 1952, 117; 1953, 105.

**4.1105.** No application for admission should be announced or attended to during the ceremony of opening or closing, during the reading of the minutes, while a Brother is addressing the Lodge, or while a degree is being conferred; nor should countenance be given to the practice of entering or retiring from the Lodge during the ceremonies.

T. B. 289.

**4.1106.** A Lodge maybe called off from day to day on the first second and or third degrees, to transact any business not prohibited at called meetings (but only in an emergency rendering such a course imperatively necessary), and it must be closed on each degree separately before the next stated meeting. When a Master Masons' Lodge, which has been called off at a stated meeting, is called on again the same day and at the same meeting, it is a continuation of the stated meeting; but when it is called on again on a later date, it is not a continuation of the stated meeting, and no business may be transacted which may be transacted only at a stated meeting (see 4.1103).

A motion to adjourn is unmasonic, and cannot be entertained.

T. B. 297; 1866, 589; 1899,20; 1904,33, 74; 1906,33; 1908,25; 1927,128; 1930,31.

**4.1107** Other Things being regular, a Lodge may confer degrees and transact other Masonic business on Christmas or other legal holidays; but not on Sunday, except funeral services, or the observance of St John's Day when the latter falls thereon, When either St. John's Day falls on Sunday, it may be observed with appropriate ceremonies, but degrees may not be conferred nor any other business transacted on Sunday except public ceremonies of constitution and/or consecration of a new Lodge, installation of Lodge officers, celebration of Lodge anniversaries, and dedication of Lodges and Lodge halls may be held on Sunday between the hours of 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., without special dispensation.

1900, 29; 1910, 30, 37, 66; 1915, 35; 1965, 39, 113; 1969, 70, 122; 1980, 58, 125.

**4.1108.** It is customary for Lodges to observe the Festival of St John the Evangelist on December 27 and the Festival of St John the Baptist on June 24, and these dates should be observed if convenient. If a Lodge finds it advisable, these Festivals may be observed on any date, including Sunday, within the period beginning not more than seven days before and ending not more than seven days after those respective dates.

On St. John's Day degrees may be conferred and such other work or business done (except when it falls on Sunday) as may be performed at a called meeting.

1845, 547; 1874, 434; 1889, 37; 1895, 25; 1899, 19; 1900, 29; 1906, 33; 1907, 23; 1910, 30; 1917, 44; 1921, 38; 1923, 32, 40; 1932, 31, 122; 1953, 105; 1957, 52, 110.

**4.1109.** (a) A Lodge may not, for any purpose, be opened or hold a meeting at a place other than its usual meeting place, without the consent of its members and the permission of the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master, nor may a Lodge have more than one regular meeting place; but such permission may be given that a Lodge, in an emergency, have one place of meeting for stated meetings and another for degree work.

(b) No Lodge may meet as such, confer degrees or otherwise be at labor in two or more separate Lodge rooms at the same time, even by using two or more corps of officers or workers in different rooms of the same building.

A dispensation is necessary for a Lodge to move from one hall to another, but not if in the same building. Such dispensation shall not be issued until the new place of meeting is ready and available for occupancy and shall state the effective date thereof.

1869, 373; 1887, 417, 1895, 21, 22; 1919, 22; 1929, 7; 1932, 32, 123; 1951, 112; 1957, 114, 2006.

**4.1110.** When a Lodge bearing the name of a locality changes its sites it may also change its name, although retaining its number, and a dispensation of this Charter must be so conditioned. In such cases, the old charter shall be returned to the Grand Secretary, who shall issue a new charter, without charge, showing the new name of the Lodge.

1917, 59, 134; 1920, 74, 1990, 2006.

**4.1111.** When two or more subordinate Lodges of this jurisdiction desire to consolidate and unite as one Lodge, they shall have the right to do so. Before such consolidation shall take place, each Lodge shall give written or printed notice to every resident member thereof that a proposition is pending looking to such consolidation. The proposition shall lie over in each Lodge at least one month, or from one stated meeting to the next stated meeting. Thereupon, if each Lodge, by three-fourths majority vote of those present at said stated meeting, favors such union, the Lodges shall, after the approval of the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge has been obtained, become one Lodge, taking the number of either of the old Lodges thus united, and such name as they may elect. The property and effects of the Lodges thus consolidated will become the property of the remaining Lodge, and it will be liable for the debts and liabilities of the Lodge or Lodges going out of existence. If the remaining Lodge, or newly chartered Lodge, wishes to retain custody of any retired charter for historical reasons it may do so, provided it is clearly labeled with the retirement date.

1974, 109.

**4.1112.** A Lodge may occupy a Lodge room located on the ground floor, or at least one floor above the ground floor, of a building, if it is so constructed as to contain no windows or doors which can be opened to the outside directly into the Lodge room; and if a door is located in the Lodge room it must be for emergency purposes only and must contain panic type hardware, located on the inside of said door, with no hardware of any kind located on the outside; and of such materials and nature as to assure absolute privacy; and no dispensation may be granted for the organization or removal of a Lodge unless the petition therefor states that a suitable place of meeting has been secured; and if for organization it has suitable furniture and paraphernalia for properly conferring the degrees.

Master Masons in good standing may meet in a properly tiled room other than a Lodge room and rehearse the work and lectures of Symbolic Masonry provided absolute privacy is assured beyond question.

T. B. 271; 1898, 68, 1920, 74; 1924, 114; 1925, 31; 1929, 47, 52, 141; 1930, 37, 155; 1955, 46 109; 2000.

**4.1113.** It is not advisable to allow a Masonic hall be to used by other organizations or societies, or for any purpose not Masonic; but a Lodge may occupy a Lodge room which is used by other organizations and societies, and if it is controlled by the Lodge they may be allowed to use it free or for rent as is decided by the Lodge, not by its Trustees unless they have been given direct authority therefor.



A member who makes possible the use of any part of a Lodge building for a certain purpose, knowing that the Lodge declined to permit it, commits a Masonic offense thereby.

1875, 532; 1886, 256; 1891, 562; 1895, 21; 1899, 20; 1913, 77, 87; 1922, 35; 1925, 34, 38, 130.

**4.1114.** The joint occupancy of a building for Masonic and residential purposes is not prohibited, even though both are on the same floor, provided the Lodge is so situated that its privacy is beyond question; but a private residence is an improper place to confer the degrees of Masonry, and a Lodge meeting should not be used which is under, over, or adjacent to rooms used for residential or other purposes, if it is necessary for the occupants to leave said rooms while the Lodge is in session in order to secure privacy for the Lodge.

1858, 26; 1917, 39, 112; 1921, 31; 1925, 35.

**4.1115.** When the corner stone of a Lodge hall has been laid with Masonic ceremony, it may be again properly placed when the hall is rebuilt after being torn down and moved from its former location; but it is not necessary that the stone be again laid with ceremony, though it would not be inappropriate to do so.

1929, 45.

**4.1116.** Alcoholic beverages may not be served in any Lodge hall or Masonic temple, or in connection with any Masonic gathering, or in a building controlled by a Lodge or in which a Lodge has an interest. This is not intended to prohibit the use of ceremonial wine in Masonic or Masonic related ceremonies. As the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge extends to all individual Masons, each Mason is charged to observe the provisions of this section at all official meetings or gatherings convened by any Masonic or other orders or organizations which predicates their membership on Masonic membership or other connection therewith.

1935, 25; 1950, 40, 99; 1979, 118; 1982, 22 - 25, 50, 51, 120, 121.

**4.1117.** A Lodge may not acquire ownership of a building or Lodge hall jointly with any person, persons, firm, corporation, organization, or association other than one or more of those subordinate Masonic bodies mentioned in the second paragraph of 3.309, unless a contract is executed with the co-owner prohibiting the use of any part of the building for purposes which are contrary to Masonic restrictions, and that this provision shall be made a part of the contract covering future leases or sale of the building by the co-owner.

1950, 45, 100; 1952, 50, 51, 113.

## Chapter 12.

### Territorial and Personal Jurisdiction of a Lodge

**4.1201** (a) Except when the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge specifies to the contrary (see 4.1203), and except as provided in the succeeding paragraph the territorial jurisdiction of each subordinate Lodge chartered or under dispensation is abandoned within the state of Tennessee.

(b) Residents of Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi and Missouri may petition for the degrees, affiliation or advancement on certificate and waiver in Tennessee Lodges only under special dispensation of the Grand Masters of Tennessee and the state in which the petitioner resides.

(c) Residents of North Carolina and Virginia may petition for the degrees, affiliation or advancement on certificate and waiver in Tennessee Lodges if the applicant's residence is closer to the Tennessee Lodge to which he is applying than to the nearest Lodge to his residence in his home state.

*Chase* 182; 1908, 30; 1913, 30; 1914, 67; 1916, 49; 1917, 42, 53; 1918, 21, 22; 1919, 76; 1920, 76; 1926, 31; 42, 96; *Special Correspondence*; 1948, 35, 98, 101, 102; 1951, 114; 1955, 47, 109; 1960, 117, 118; 1966, 47, 119; 1983, 54, 121, 122, 2003, 2006, 2010, 2011

**4.1202.** The concurrent jurisdiction of King Lodge No. 461 of Tennessee and Shelby Lodge No. 162 of Virginia is limited to the towns of Bristol, Tennessee and Bristol, Virginia, and is not coexistent with the territorial jurisdiction of each Lodge.

1876, 614.

**4.1203.** A petition for the three degrees by a Tennessee resident may be received by any Lodge in the State of Tennessee.

T. B. 268, 276; 1887, 400; 1895, 23; 1889, 20; 1909, 36, 55, 56; 1912, 36; 1913, 27, 28; 1914, 66, 67; 1915, 30, 31, 32, 86; 1917, 41, 43; 1918, 31, 33, 81; 1920, 75; 1921, 30; 1922, 33, 34; 1925, 32, 48, 128; 1926, 32; 1946, 39, 93; 1960, 117, 118, 2004, 2006.

**4.1204.** A Tennessee resident is defined as one whose actual and legal (not merely technical) residence has been substantially continuous within the state for one year preceding the date of his application, so as to give the brethren full opportunity to ascertain by association and observation that he is worthy (See 4.1206). The Grand Master of this or another Grand Jurisdiction may not waive or change this regulation.

2006.

**4.1205.** The Masonic residence of an applicant for degrees is a matter of fact, not of theory or conjecture, and is to be determined by the Lodge and not by the Grand Master. What counts in determining such residence, making allowance for temporary absence, is where he actually and legally resides in person (with his family, if he has one.) Masonic domicile is fixed by civil law and a man's residence is the same Masonic as political, that of a married man is supposed to be where his family is permanently located.

The Masonic residence of a member of the armed forces of the United States is presumed to be where he resided during the year next preceding his induction into service.

A Lodge does not acquire jurisdiction over a profane who resides temporarily within its jurisdiction but retains his legal residence within the jurisdiction of another Lodge.

1875, 523; 1890, 286; 1906, 32; 1908, 29; 1909, 31; 1914, 67; 1922, 33; 1923, 38; 1924, 36; 1925, 32, 35; 1926, 34; 1929, 45; 1953, 105; 1980, 57, 123.

**4.1206.** When an applicant for the degrees is rejected by a Lodge, no Lodge may receive or act upon his petition for the degrees until 12 months from the date of his rejection. The Lodge which rejected his petition originally or any other Lodge he could have petitioned when he submitted his original petition may receive and act on subsequent petitions not less than 12 months apart (see 4.1509).

1882, 208; 1885, 92; 1896, 21, 56, 100; 1915, 31; 1917, 42; 1919, 23, 24; 1924, 36; 1929, 46; 1946, 39, 93; 1947, 16, 110; 1948, 32, 101; 2000, 2001, 2006.

**4.1207.** A Lodge loses jurisdiction over a profane if he has within the 12 months following his election to take the three degrees failed to present himself to undertake the work. The Lodge may issue a certificate of good character if decided by unanimous ballot.

1887, 400, 401; 1894, 574; 1895, 23; 1909, 34; 1916, 47, 110; 1918, 29, 81; 1920, 75, 79; 1921, 30, 94; 1922, 33, 34; 1923, 34, 38; 1925, 37; 1946, 39, 93, 2006.

**4.1208.** A Lodge retains jurisdiction for a period of 12 months over a profane who has lawfully petitioned it for the degrees, even though he may not present himself for initiation after being elected, or though he may remove from its territorial jurisdiction; and it may not rescind a lawful election of an applicant to receive a degree. Within 12 months after his election a properly elected applicant may be prevented from receiving the first degree only by objection. After the expiration of 12 months a new petition and ballot are necessary and in case of removal the candidate is then at liberty to petition at his new home.

1889, 19; 1907, 59; 1908, 30; 1915, 33; 1918, 34; 1920, 27; 1925, 128; 1930, 30, 153; 1946, 39, 93; 1947, 16, 110, 2006.

## Chapter 13.

### Candidates and Petitions for Degrees

**4.1301.** A candidate for the mysteries of Freemasonry must be a man of good report, and he should have some visible and honorable means of earning a livelihood for himself and those dependent upon him. It should be manifest at the time of his application that nothing as to his health or his situation in other respects will render him or those dependent upon him a charge upon the institution. He must be able to read and write, his crossmark or his name signed by proxy is not sufficient

No person may be initiated, passed or raised who is engaged in the illegal manufacture or sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, or who owns, operates, or is employed in a place of business, where the sale of beer, either for consumption on the premises or to carry out, causes or permits said business to become disreputable and a discredit to the Fraternity, or who is an old man in dotage, a young man not yet eighteen years of age, an irreligious libertine, an atheist, a bondman or one born in bondage, a female or one not mentally sound. A man may not be initiated passed or raised whose mental deficiencies or physical disabilities or deformities are such that he is incapable of earning a livelihood, or of learning the art, or of learning and reciting the lectures of Freemasonry.

The Lodge to which the application is made (not the Grand Master) must decide on the candidate's qualifications, being careful to conform to the above requirements which may not be ignored; and inquiries to the Grand Master regarding the same must be answered accordingly.

T. B. 266 - 268; 1867, 30; 1870, 544; 1879, 353; 1891, 568; 1892, 19; 1900, 72; 1901, 86; 1905, 31, 34; 1908, 27; 1910, 32; 1911, 46; 1912, 34, 36; 1914, 73, 126; 1915, 33, 34, 87; 1920, 28; 1922, 33; 1924, 37, 116; 1925, 32; 1934, 41, 107; 1946, 91, 94; 1949, 98; 1963, 108; 1964, 96, 150; 1978, 118, 2005.

**4.1302.** A candidate for Masonry must believe in the immortality of the soul, in the existence of God and in his own accountability to Him as the author of our being. Before initiation he must make a satisfactory statement of the motives which influence him in seeking admission and of his willingness to conform to the customs and usages of the Fraternity.

It is reprehensible to use Masonry for personal gain or for promoting the interest of a candidate for office either political or Masonic.

T. B. 266, 268; A. L. 1; T. C. 6; 1866, 590; 1898, 56; 1909, 54.

**4.1303.** A man may not be made a Mason if he is a member of a church which condones polygamy; but if a candidate has the other essential requirements he is not barred from Masonry because of being a member of a church which condemns Masonry or of some other secret order, or because of illegitimacy, or of the fact that he has served a sentence for a criminal offense (but due consideration should be given it) or of the fact that he is a foreigner and not yet a naturalized citizen of the United States.

The status of a member is not affected merely because he is an alien enemy; but a Lodge may not make a Mason of an alien enemy during the time of war, which continues, legally, until a treaty of peace is made.

1846, 629; 1851, 21; 1863, 370; 1905, 32; 1916, 46; 1917, 41; 1918, 91; 1919, 23; 1920, 26; 1924, 37; 1926, 32.

**4.1304.** A petition for the degrees, affiliation, or advancement on certificate and waiver must be signed by the applicant with his full correct name; also, as recommenders, by two members in good standing of the Lodge to which the application is made. It must be presented on the first day or night of a stated meeting of the Lodge; must state the name, age, residence and vocation of the applicant, and whether a similar application has been made to any other Lodge. If a former application was rejected the petition must give the name and location of the rejecting Lodge and, as nearly as possible the date of rejection.

T. B. 21, 268; 1841, 405; 1848, 23; 1872, 172; 1909, 33; 1914, 70, 71; 1920, 77; 1946, 39, 93; 1948, 32, 101.

**4.1305.** A Lodge may not receive the petition of a profane before he is eighteen years of age, and refer it to a committee to be held until the applicant is of age. A minor is not competent to make a petition.

1879, 353; 1895, 25; 1906, 34; 1909, 32; 1957, 51, 114, 2005, 2006.

**4.1306.** A Lodge may by majority vote refuse to receive a petition for the degrees, affiliation or advancement or certificate and waiver. It is proper, however after the petition is presented and read, to treat it as received unless the question is raised. It must then be referred to a committee of investigation and remain on file at least until the next stated meeting which must not be less than 28 days after its reception by the Lodge.

T. B. 268; 1895; 25; 1912, 101; 1946, 39, 93; 1952, 52, 115, 116; 1953, 105.

#### **4.1307. REGULAR WITHDRAWAL OF PETITIONS**

- A. If a petition for the degrees, affiliation, advancement on certificate and waiver, or restoration has been presented to and received by a Lodge, it is the property of that Lodge and under no circumstances shall it be returned to the petitioner regardless of its disposition: approved, sustained objection, withdrawn or rejected.
- B. All petitions for the degrees, affiliation, advancement on certificate and waiver, or restoration must be endorsed to show final action of the Lodge, the date thereof, and be placed in the permanent files of the Lodge.
- C. Attachments to petitions, such as Certificates of Good Standing or Certificates of Demit, and all fees required from the petitioner, must be returned to the petitioner if the petition is regularly withdrawn, sustained objection, or rejected.
- D. Process and Consequences of Regular Withdrawal Prior to Action by the Lodge:
  1. The petitioner must request withdrawal of his petition in writing before balloting on it has begun either to:
    - (a) an officer of the Lodge; or
    - (b) one of the Masons who signed his petition as a recommender
  2. The petition will be regularly withdrawn if either:
    - (a) one Mason recommending the petition rescinds his recommendation, or
    - (b) the Lodge votes unanimously to honor the request for withdrawal.
    - (c) If neither of the two preceding options is exercised, the petition will proceed as if no request for withdrawal was tendered.
  3. A profane or Mason who has regularly withdrawn a petition:
    - (a) is thereby restored to his Masonic status prior to petitioning the Lodge; and
    - (b) is not subject to further action of the Lodge petitioned.
- E. Process and Consequences of Regular Withdrawal After an Action by the Lodge:
  1. A Mason who petitions a Lodge for affiliation, advancement on certificate and waiver, or restoration may not withdraw his petition after a ballot on the petition has begun.
  2. A profane, elected to receive the Degrees, may withdraw his petition in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph D of this Section and not proceed with the work, but he may renew his petition in writing accompanied by the

required fee within one (1) year from the date of his election. A request for renewal of a petition to Receive the Degrees shall proceed as if it were a new petition in almost all respects:

- (a) The petition shall have a first reading in the Lodge at a stated meeting; and
- (b) be assigned to an investigation committee and caused to lay over for at least one (1) lunar month; and
- (c) following the report of the investigating committee, the petition shall have a second reading at a stated meeting.
- (d) If there is no objection to the request for renewal, the profane will be scheduled to be regularly initiated into the Order.
- (e) If an objection to the request for renewal of the petition is leveled at anytime between the first reading and the close of business at the stated meeting in which the second reading occurs, the petition shall be treated in all respects as if it were regularly withdrawn except that the one-year renewal period is not renewable.

T. B. 268; 1869, 377; 1886, 256; 1895, 21; 1906, 33; 1910, 30; 1913, 29, 70; 1914, 71; 1915, 34; 1946, 39, 93; 1952, 52, 115, 116; 1953, 105; 1957, 52, 110, 1969, 70, 123, 2007.

**4.1308.** A clandestinely made Mason may petition a Lodge in the same manner and subject to the same conditions and requirements as any other profane, or under certain circumstances he may be healed by the Grand Master. The effect of the latter is to make him a nonaffiliate (see 5.110).

186, 566, 596; 1868, 209; 1894, 573; 1919, 28, 29, 75, 76; 1921, 39; 1926, 35.

**4.1309.** If a petition for the degrees or a petition of an E.A. or F.C. for the remaining degrees on certificate of good standing and waiver of jurisdiction \* is rejected or held up by objection, the applicant may not again petition the same or another Lodge in Tennessee until after twelve months from the time of said rejection, unless, in case of an objection, it is withdrawn by the member who filed it or the objector ceases to be a member of the Lodge before the expiration of the objection, the applicant may again petition the same Lodge or any other Lodge. The new petition should be acted upon in the same manner as if no petition had been previously filed by the petitioner, except if in the same Lodge that a new committee of investigation is unnecessary within one year from the date of the filing of the previous petition (see 4.1703). Notice need not be given of the renewal of the petition.

T. B. 269; 1892, 55; 1894, 574; 1909, 30; 1910, 30, 31, 33, 36; 1911, 46; 1912, 35; 1914, 68, 69; 1919, 24; 1921, 86; 1925, 38, 128; 1927, 127, 128; 1946, 39, 93; 1947, 16, 110; 1948, 101; 1953, 106; 1968, 123; 2000, 2001, 2006.

\* Jurisdiction in this context is in personam, not territorial. All Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts are under the jurisdiction of the Lodge which conferred those degrees until and unless the Lodge to which the Brother initially applied grants a waiver of jurisdiction upon petition of the Brother to continue his work at another Lodge.

## Chapter 14.

### Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts

**4.1401.** They are the property of the Lodge as work begun, but are not members and may not be forced to advance. A mason advances of his own free will and accord.

T. B. 246, 298; S. 170; 1879, 354; 1912, 38, 108; 1916, 45.

**4.1402.** They are not required to pay dues, may make no claim upon the treasury, and their families have no claim for assistance from the Lodge.

T. B. 298.

**4.1403.** They may not appear in Masonic processions, and may not receive Masonic burial in case of death.

T. B. 298; S. 171.

**4.1404.** They may visit their own Lodge when opened on a degree which they have received, and may even be permitted to visit other Lodges, as a matter of courtesy, when properly vouched for.

T. B. 298; S. 171; M. 162.

**4.1405.** They have no voice or vote in the proceedings of the Lodge, and may not hold office or serve on committees.

T. B. 298; S. 171.

**4.1406.** They may not demit, but are entitled to certificates of good standing, if such be the fact and no charges are preferred, in either of the following cases: (a) when they remove permanently from the jurisdiction of the Lodge to which they belong; (b) when said Lodge becomes extinct, in which case the Grand Secretary will furnish such certificate; (c) when advancement is prevented by the objection of a member. Waiver of jurisdiction may or may not be included in the certificate of good standing, as the Lodge decides, and may not be included during the life of an objection but when issued is absolute and not revocable.

1866, 596; 1873, 324; 1886, 256; 1892, 55; 1893, 288; 1895, 21; 1896, 21; 1902, 19; 1907, 25; 1908, 24, 27, 34; 1912, 38, 108; 1913, 28, 69, 70; 1920, 77; 1925, 35.

**4.1407** (a) A waiver of jurisdiction may be granted to an Entered Apprentice or a Fellow Craft who petitions another Subordinate Lodge for continuation of his Degree work. A waiver of jurisdiction is not a certificate of character.

(b) An application for a waiver of jurisdiction must be in writing and either signed by the applicant or made, at his request, by the Lodge in which advancement is proposed to be made.

(c) The receiving Lodge may require a certificate of good standing or a certificate of character.

(d) A Certificate of Good Standing may be issued by the Secretary or Worshipful Master of the lodge to which a Brother is a member.

(e) A Waiver of Jurisdiction and a Certificate of Character may only be issued upon a unanimous ballot of the Lodge but may be decided at the Stated Meeting at which the request is first read.

(f) A duplicate certificate of good standing and/or waiver of jurisdiction may be issued, but it must show:

(i) the original date of issuance;

(ii) the reason for its issuance; and

(iii) must be marked "duplicate".

1885, 20; 1907, 23, 25; 1912, 37; 1919, 74; 1922, 34; 1924, 35, 36, 114; 1925, 37; 1926, 32, 123; 1929, 47, 2006.

**4.1408** (a) An Entered Apprentice or a Fellow Craft from another Grand Jurisdiction, or one who for any reason desires to petition for advancement in another Lodge in Tennessee, may petition for advancement in the latter Lodge. A petition for advancement in other than the parent Lodge may only be received by a Lodge in Tennessee if accompanied by a certificate of good standing and waiver of jurisdiction from the parent Lodge or from the Grand Secretary if the parent Lodge is extinct. The applicant's petition must be referred to a committee of investigation and lie over at least until the next stated meeting (which must be at least 28 days) before the ballot may be taken. If the petition is from an Entered Apprentice, a single ballot shall elect to the other two degrees. If a petition of an Entered Apprentice or a Fellow Craft for the remaining degrees on certificate of good standing and waiver of jurisdiction is rejected by ballot or held up by objection, the applicant may not petition the same or another Lodge in Tennessee until after a lapse of twelve months from time of rejection, unless in the case of an objection which is withdrawn by the member who filed it, or the objector ceases to be a member of the Lodge.

(b) The fees for degrees thus conferred belong to the Lodge which confers the degrees, and an applicant advanced under these conditions becomes a member of the Lodge which raises him to the degree of Master Mason. If such petition is rejected by ballot or held up by objection, the certificate and waiver should be returned to the applicant.

1866, 596; 1879, 355; 1887, 400; 1889, 18, 19; 1894, 574, 575; 1907, 27; 1908, 31, 34; 1909, 33; 1910, 29, 35; 1912, 38, 108; 1915, 33; 1918, 34; 1920, 77; 1921, 94; 1923, 35, 39; 1925, 37, 39, 40, 128; 1948, 102; 1953, 106, 2006.

**4.1409.** An applicant may advance only after he has passed a complete and satisfactory examination through the whole of the first section of the degree which he last received; but a degree, conferred without this examination having been made, is not invalid because of that fact, but the petitioner must be healed by the Grand Master.

If such examination, at the request of the parent Lodge or its Master (see 4.1508), is made by a Lodge other than the parent Lodge but said other Lodge has not been requested to advance the applicant, he may not be advanced by the parent Lodge (nor may the parent Lodge request another Lodge to advance him) until after the parent Lodge has received from said examining Lodge written notice, under Lodge seal, that he has passed such complete and satisfactory examination.

After such examination the brother is eligible to advance at any time without regard to the interval elapsing since the preceding degree; even though no one can be found who was present when the applicant received said degree; provided, in case of the latter, the records of the Lodge or of the Grand Secretary verify the fact that he received the degree regularly and, his identity having been established proving him to be the one who received said degree, he remembers enough of what happened at that time to convince a Mason that he received it.

T. B. 281; 1853, 28; 1894, 573; 1895, 22; 1903, 22; 1908, 26; 1909, 33; 1916, 45; 1921, 38, 87; 1929, 46; 1946, 39, 93; 1950, 46, 99, 100.

**4.1410. (A)** Examination of candidates for advancement as to proficiency in the different degrees shall be made at a stated or called meeting of the Lodge open on the degree in which the examination is to be conducted, or before a competent committee of at least three members of any Tennessee Lodge, appointed for that purpose by the Worshipful Master, each of whom must be a holder of a certificate of proficiency or a Grand Lecturers' Card issued by authority of the Board of Custodians of the Work. Two members of such committee may render a report, if the vote is tied, another examination must be conducted by three members and the majority report shall be accepted when a candidate has passed a complete and satisfactory examination before such a committee,



or at a called meeting, the fact shall be reported at the next stated meeting of the Lodge, and incorporated in the minutes thereof; however it is not necessary to wait until after such stated meeting to confer the next degree provided at least 28 days have elapsed since the preceding degree was conferred if the examination is conducted at a stated or called meeting of the Lodge, it must be done in such manner that all members present may hear it and pass upon its sufficiency. The proper way to pass on the proficiency of a candidate is by motion, and not by secret ballot. Only Master Masons are eligible to vote, though the vote be taken in the Lodge open on the degree in which the examination is conducted. The majority vote of Master Masons present decides.

T. B. 298; 1895, 21; 1911, 34; 1913, 27; 1918, 78, 79; 1921, 38; 1927, 41, 131; 1952, 117; 1953, 105; 1973, 61, 127; 1998.

**(B)** In the event that a Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the State of Tennessee has Elected to membership a Member of the Armed Services of the United States of America and the prospective member has been ordered stationed outside of the territorial boundary of the United States of America as a part of his service to this country and there is not time to confer any of the Degrees in accordance to the Tennessee Masonic Code, the following remedy is approved. The Lodge is to petition the Grand Master for relief for the time required between the degrees as proscribed in the code. The Grand Master may, at his discretion, wave the proscribed time requirement. The Grand Master's consent notice shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting of the Lodge and a copy of the consent shall accompany the monthly activity report sent to the Grand Secretary.

2008

**4.1411.** A candidate is entitled to be examined as to his proficiency, in either manner set out in the preceding item, at any time after receiving the degree in which he is to be examined, even if his advancement is prevented by objection, and he may be counted as one of the number necessary to open the Lodge on his degree for his own examination.

If the examination was conducted and approved by at least two members of a competent committee, the Lodge does not vote on his proficiency. After due proficiency, and in the absence of legal objection he is entitled to advance to the next degree, at the expiration of the 28 day period since the preceding degree was conferred.

1946, 39, 93; 1952, 117; 1953, 105.

**4.1412.** An Entered Apprentice or a Fellow Craft is amenable to his Lodge for his conduct and he may be tried for un-masonic conduct. He has the same rights of trial and appeal as a Master Mason. He must be tried in his own degree, but all voting connected with such trial must be in a Master Masons' Lodge.

S. 173, 174; M. 171; 1866, 590; 1894, 575; 1903, 21, 23; 1913, 29; 1916, 53; 1921, 31, 87.

## Chapter 15.

### Degrees and lectures

**4.1501.** The three degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry may be conferred only within a legally constituted Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, duly opened on the first, second and third degree, respectively; and only after petition and acceptance by unanimous ballot, except when the Grand Master makes a Mason at sight

A. L. 10; 1907, 59.

**4.1502.** The fee to be paid for each degree shall be fixed by the bylaws of the Lodge, but the total sum paid for the three shall not be less than sixty dollars, regardless of where the fees are paid. A Lodge, by approved bylaw, may require the fees for all three degrees to be paid in advance before the first degree is conferred.

Each lodge shall conduct a multistate criminal background check on each applicant for the three degrees. The fee shall accompany the petition and is not refundable. The fee shall be set by the bylaws of each Lodge. The petitioner shall sign a waiver to allow the background check to be done. Each Lodge shall be responsible for ordering the background check. No copies of the background report shall be made, nor shall its contents be revealed by or to anyone other than the members of the Investigation Committee, Worshipful Master and Secretary. The complete background report shall be returned to the candidate regardless of whether the candidate is accepted or rejected and a signed receipt obtained by the Lodge and made a part of the Lodge records. The Worshipful Master, Secretary and Investigation Committee, or any member thereof, shall not, after having made its report, disclose any information which was received by the Lodge concerning the background investigation. Each subordinate Lodge shall determine the vendor of the background check. The effective date of this provision will be immediately upon passage.

1910, 30, 31; 1912, 34, 36, 37, 107; 1913, 28, 69; 1915, 34, 88; 1921, 31; 1933, 106; 1945, 34, 98; 1968, 122; 1969, 70, 123; 1980, 24, 123, 2006, 2015, 2016

**4.1503.** No degree may be conferred until the fee for that degree has been paid into the hands of the Secretary.

Const. 2.106(2); 1842, 458; 1895, 21; 1962; 46, 112.

**4.1504.** A Lodge may not give the degrees free of charge, even to a minister of the gospel, and it may not, under penalty of forfeiture of charter, refund any portion of the fees of any candidate except when he is rejected or fails to present himself. In the latter case it may, in its discretion, retain or return the fee.

1851, 11, 31; 1877, 23; 1898, 20; 1904, 34; 1908, 31; 1911, 45, 46; 1914, 67, 68; 1918, 32; 1921, 31.

**4.1505.** The same degree may not again be conferred on one who has, or states that he has, previously received it in another recognized Lodge, except when said statement cannot be verified.

1887, 400; 1895, 21; 1914, 128; 1926, 33, 122.

**4.1506.** A Lodge may not initiate, pass or raise more than one candidate at the same time; however any number of candidates may be initiated, passed or raised at one meeting.

1968, 122.

The interval between conferring of successive degrees on the same applicant must not be less than a full lunar month of twenty-eight days, and the Grand Secretary shall report to the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge any violation of this regulation of which the former may have knowledge. For each violation of this regulation the offending Lodge shall be penalized the sum of \$10.00 which shall be used for the benefit of the Widows' and Orphans' Home through the General Fund. Except as provided in 4.1410B. The Grand Master may not authorize a disregard of these regulations.

T. B. 252, 275; 1889, 47; 1890, 299; 1908, 28; 1910, 28; 1911, 45; 1912, 35; 1918, 32; 1919, 22; 1920, 27; 1921, 87; 1923, 40; 1924, 30; 1927, 132; 1936, 109; 1937, 88, 95; 1943, 98, 99; 1953, 106; 1963, 122. 2009

**4.1507.** The Worshipful Master must give the lectures or cause them to be given, pertaining to all the sections of each degree that is conferred and no degree shall be considered fully conferred until such lectures are given. After the first section of each degree the lectures which follow may be given to several candidates at the same time. A Lodge may not confer part of a degree and postpone the conclusion of it until a later date,

except in an extreme emergency, and then the minutes must show the facts as they occurred.

1894, 574; 1907, 22; 1916, 46, 109; 1919, 24, 74; 1920, 90.

**4.1508.** A Lodge or a Worshipful Master may request another Lodge, orally or in writing, to instruct and/or examine a candidate in the lectures; and a Lodge may, by majority vote at a stated meeting, request another Lodge (but only in writing and under seal of the Lodge) to confer one or more degrees on a candidate, but the electing Lodge retains jurisdiction over him and he remains the property of said Lodge, which is entitled to the profit and liable for the expense incident to the degree and must pay to the Tennessee Grand Lodge the tax thereon. The working Lodge may do the work either gratis or for hire, as is stipulated, but the responsibility for working on its material, by its request, must remain upon the electing Lodge as a lawful charge, and it may control its lawful fees.

If the Lodge requested to conduct the examination or to confer the degree is in another Grand Jurisdiction, the request must not be made, under penalty of forfeiture of charter, except through the Grand Masters or Grand Secretaries of the two Grand Jurisdictions. This requirement having been complied with, the law, customs, and ritual of said Grand Jurisdiction, governing the conferring of degrees shall prevail and be accepted in lieu of the law, customs, and ritual of this Grand Jurisdiction for all intents and purposes. The sole duty of the requesting Lodge shall be to elect and receive the degrees and collect the total fees.

A communication calling for an official reply should not be sent to a Grand Officer of another Grand Lodge, except through the Grand Master or Grand Secretary of Tennessee.

1882, 208; 1894, 573; 1905, 55; 1907, 26, 59; 1910, 29, 32, 37; 1911, 46, 112; 1912, 106; 1913, 27, 30; 1918, 30; 1920, 23, 24; 1923, 36, 102, 108; 1925, 38; 1946, 39, 93; 1947, 56, 110; 1959, 46, 99, 100, 2008.

**4.1509.** The Lodge which lawfully begins the work on a candidate is entitled to complete it. No Lodge may confer a degree on an applicant who is rightfully the material of another Lodge, without the consent of said Lodge. If it does so, its charter may be arrested therefor and it shall pay to the Grand Lodge the fee charged by said offending Lodge for the degree (which must be reported in its returns) plus a penalty of \$15.00 for each applicant on which a degree was thus conferred. In event the jurisdiction of a Lodge in another Grand Jurisdiction is invaded, the offending Lodge must remit the fee for the degree that would have been charged by the Lodge having jurisdiction, plus a penalty of \$15.00, to the Grand Secretary, who in turn will reimburse the Lodge whose jurisdiction was invaded, retaining the penalty. The penalty shall be levied only if the petitioner stated on his petition that he had petitioned and been rejected in another Lodge. If he did not so state, charges should be preferred against him in accordance with Sec. 6.204(11).

1977, 120.

The Grand Master, after hearing the petitioner of the irregularity under which he received the degree, shall order the offending Lodge to drop the applicant's name from its roll and, if the degree thus conferred was the first or second, the Grand Master shall also order the offending Lodge to issue to the applicant a certificate of good standing, stating the facts, with which he may petition for advancement in the Lodge having jurisdiction over him; but if the degree thus conferred was the third, the Grand Master shall instruct the Grand Secretary to issue to the applicant a certificate which, in lieu of a demit, may accompany his petition for affiliation to the Lodge of his choice.

The charter of a Lodge shall be automatically suspended, if it commits such offense three times within a period of twelve months; which involves accepting petitions from three different individuals. A Lodge may instruct and/or examine a candidate in the

lectures at the request, written or oral, of another Lodge to which the candidate belongs or of the Master of the latter (it is not essential that either Lodge vote on the matter); and a Lodge may confer a degree for another Lodge, but only when so requested in writing and under seal of the Lodge to which the candidate belongs, or it may, for its own reasons, refuse to do so. The Lodge requested to confer the degree is not required to pass on the eligibility of the candidate, physical or other, except as specified in the obligation of a Master Mason, that being the responsibility of the electing Lodge. Upon receipt of a legal request in writing under the seal of the Lodge signed by the Worshipful Master or the Secretary for courtesy work, the Worshipful Master of the Lodge requested to confer the degree or degrees, may arrange for and have them conferred, without action on the part of his Lodge, unless he has reason to believe his Lodge would not desire it done (objection will not prevent it) and the Lodge has the right to charge for the work; but the regular fee

belongs to the requesting Lodge. If the Lodge making the request is in another Grand Jurisdiction a Tennessee Lodge may not comply with it, under penalty of forfeiture of charter, unless it is made through the Grand Masters or Grand Secretaries of the two Grand Jurisdictions; but if it is in Tennessee this requirement does not control.

1879, 355; 1888, 602; 1894, 575; 1904, 33; 1905, 55; 1908, 34; 1910, 29, 31; 1911, 45; 1912, 35, 106; 1913, 37; 1916, 46, 109; 1921, 24, 25, 86; 1923, 36; 1924, 37; 1926, 32; 1928, 33, 36, 39, 40, 122, 123; 1929, 50, 141; 1930, 22, 23, 153; 1931, 36; 1935, 27, 98; 1940, 23, 96, 97; 1943, 35, 98; 1950, 46, 99, 100; 1953, 106; 1962, 113.

**4.1510.** No part of the ritual may be changed to suit the views of a profane who wishes to become a Mason, nor may a Lodge, under penalty of forfeiture of charter, use any secret work or ritual other than that approved and adopted by the Grand Lodge and promulgated by the Board of Custodians of the Work and Lectures. The language used therein and in the Tennessee Craftsman is the language to be used in conferring the degrees. No methods or customs may be used except those in conformity with said ritual and with the laws of the Grand Lodge, and they only in such manner as is calculated to impress on the candidate the sublime teachings and spirit of Freemasonry.

Any roughness or manhandling of the candidate in any section of any degree is contrary to the teachings and spirit, and shall not be permitted in a Lodge in this state, even by a team from another Grand Jurisdiction. Any levity, roughness, horseplay, talking, audible laughter, or any other noise which would distract the attention of the candidate, especially in the second section of the third degree is strictly prohibited.

1979, 118.

(a)The lodge may use instrumental and or vocal music, recorded or performed by the brethren present of appropriate nature and that such performance shall not coincide with or supplant any portion of the spoken ritual.

2008.

No section of any degree may be conferred in a Lodge in Tennessee upon one of its candidates by a visiting team from another Grand Jurisdiction. When a team from another Grand Jurisdiction is invited to exemplify the work of that jurisdiction in a Tennessee Lodge, they must provide their own candidate, and the work may not be done until a dispensation is granted by the Grand Master of both jurisdictions.

No degree may be conferred in a Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction, by the use of any ritual other than one which purports to be founded on the York Rite Ritual of Ancient Craft Masonry.

Using the adopted Tennessee Ritual, a brother visiting from another grand jurisdiction, may participate in the conferral of a Tennessee Degree.

1855, 21; 1894, 574; 1916, 50; 1917, 31, 32, 94; 1919, 23, 24, 73; 1920, 106; 1923, 81; 1926, 32, 33, 122; 1934, 106; 1964, 96, 150; 1980, 57, 123, 2009.

**4.1511.** The Grand Lodge condemns and forbids the purchase, sale or use within this jurisdiction of all printed or written keys, ciphers, notes or characters of any kind purporting to be descriptive of the secret work, lectures, or ritual of the three degrees of Symbolic Masonry. The disregard of this prohibition is a Masonic offense, and the use in a Lodge of any such misleading ritual, or of a monitor other than that adopted by the Grand Lodge, is just cause for the arrest of its charter.

This prohibition does not apply to such parts of the ceremonial work as the Custodians of the Work and Lectures and the Grand Lodge may approve for publication in present or future editions of the Tennessee Craftsman, which Lodges must use as the approved monitor and which is the final authority as to the published or monitorial work of the three degrees, and the ceremonies published therein.

The Grand Lodge will make available a large print version of the Tennessee Craftsman for those in need of such a device. A fee is to be determined by the Board of Custodians and the Work and Lectures will be charged for copies of this edition.

1868, 210; 1899, 62, 93; 1902, 67; 1907, 91; 1908, 75; 1910, 31; 1916, 51, 66; 1917, 94; 1920, 106; 1922, 100; 1951, 113, 2005.

**4.1512.** The Master of a Lodge may designate a brother present to preside and confer a degree, regardless of whether the designated brother is or has been an officer, the Master remaining present and assuming full responsibility for the proper rendition of the work and for the decorum which is observed.

The Grand Lodge of Tennessee is a corporation which controls as the supreme authority the three degrees of Symbolic Masonry in the state of Tennessee (see 3.101).

A Tennessee Lodge may be opened and closed in another Grand Jurisdiction and a degree conferred on its own candidate provided the Grand Masters of both jurisdictions grant a dispensation authorizing the work. A Lodge of another Grand Jurisdiction may be opened and closed in Tennessee and a degree conferred on its own candidate provided the Grand Masters of both jurisdictions grant a dispensation authorizing the work.

1964, 96, 150; 1979, 56, 119; 1980, 57, 123.

Any Lodge within this jurisdiction, after having secured a dispensation from the Grand Master, and he in turn the approval of the Grand Master of Virginia, may upon due notice hold a special meeting in the Symbolic Lodge room of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial at Alexandria, Virginia, and confer degrees upon duly and constitutionally elected candidates, with the same responsibility upon the Worshipful Master of the Lodge for the proper conduct of the meeting that would be his for a meeting held within this jurisdiction.

1910, 31, 79; 1921, 87; 1925, 38, 39; 1953, 106.

**4.1513.** A Lodge may open on the first and second degrees before opening on the third degree, and it may close the Master Masons' Lodge and confer the first and second degrees while the Master Masons' Lodge is closed. A Lodge cannot be open on two degrees at the same time, although it may be at refreshment or called off on one or more degrees, while at labor in another and it must be closed separately on each degree before the next stated meeting. Opening and closing a Lodge on one degree does not open or close it on either of the other two. The opening, closing, calling off or calling on of a Lodge must be separate on each degree. There is only one way to open a Lodge, namely: "In due and ancient form." Therefore the opening ceremony in any degree may not properly be abridged and should never be performed slovenly or hastily.

To "close the Great Lights" the Bible must be closed mere disarrangement of the square and compasses is not sufficient.

The position of the lesser lights is one east, one south and one west of the altar, on a line with the east, south and west stations crossing the center of the altar; the distance between the ones in the east and south should be three spaces, between the ones in the

south and west should be four spaces, and between the ones in the west and east should be five spaces.

T. B. 288; 1873, 366; 1895, 22; 1900, 29, 1910, 35; 1912, 37; 1916, 45; 1922, 100; 1929,28; 1930, 31: 1965, 48, 99.

**4.1514.** A Lodge may not receive a lecture on any of the degrees of Masonry from an itinerant lecturer, unless such lecturer presents proper authority from the Grand Master.

**4.1515.** The Worshipful Master, Senior or Junior Warden must deliver all of one of the three lectures at least once in each month in open Lodge, and the minutes must show by whom and at what time it was delivered. The spirit and intent of this requirement is fulfilled acceptably when the lecture of one of the degrees is recited in open Lodge by any well informed member thereof, at the request of the Worshipful Master or when a degree is conferred in the Lodge or when the Worshipful Master organizes a Lodge of instruction for the information of the brethren under his own direction, that of some well-informed member of the Lodge, a member of the Board of Custodians, or of the Grand Lecturer.

1879, 354; 1880, 20; 1889, 32; 1954; 107, 111.

## Chapter 16.

### Lodge Membership and Rights

**4.1601.** Only Master Masons may be members of a Lodge. Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts have not yet acquired membership.

T. B. 298, 299; S. 169; 1912, 108.

**4.1602.** A Mason may not be an honorary member of his own lodge. He may be elected to honorary membership in others in Tennessee, but he may not vote or hold office therein, since honorary membership is complimentary only and does not carry with it the right to vote, hold office or to participate in the transactions of the Lodge.

T. B. 300; S. 179; M. 189; 1864, 501, 376; 1895, 21; 1899, 21; 1910, 34; 1913, 22; 1917, 42, 43; 1978, 118; 1991,1993.

**4.1603. GRANTING MEMBERSHIP TO MASONS OF OTHER SUBORDINATE LODGES OR GRAND JURISDICTIONS**

A. A Subordinate Lodge may not be compelled to accept a Mason as a member, nor may membership be granted therein in any manner other than:

1. Being a charter member; or
2. By petition for affiliation (5.110 and 5.111).

B. Once chartered or granted, membership in a Subordinate Lodge may be terminated only by death, demit, transfer, or expulsion after trial in due form, each of which requires an appropriate notation in the minutes of the Lodge and a report of same to the Grand Secretary.

C. A member of a Lodge in another grand Jurisdiction may become a member of a Tennessee Lodge only by:

1. affiliation on demit, transfer or certificate of good standing if it is the equivalent
  - of a demit (5.110); or
  2. on a certificate of good standing for dual membership, or the equivalent thereof (5.111).

1879, 353; 1882, 208; 1901, 86; 1910, 36; 1912, 34; 1915, 86; 1918, 80; 1919, 28, 75, 76; 1921, 86; 1925, 49; 1926, 33, 35; 1978, 118, 2007.

**4.1604.** A Mason may not be deprived of his rights to vote or hold office, or of any other right, by the mere operation of a bylaw. Only by trial and conviction by due process of law may he be deprived of any rights or privileges, among which, if he is a member in good standing in either a chartered Lodge or one under dispensation, are the following: to be at all meetings of his Lodge, to vote on all questions coming before it (but see 4.107) except upon his own trial and to appear in all its public processions.

T. B. 272, 303; 1879, 353; 1882, 208; 1892, 20; 1898, 65.

## Chapter 17.

### Objections

**4.1701.** An objection is not the same as a black ball, although equally effective while it is in force, and the distinction should be clearly understood.

An objection is the written or oral protest of a member to the initiation of a profane, the advancement of a candidate, the affiliation of a brother, or the admission of a visitor,

made privately to the Master or publicly in open Lodge. Any member in good standing of the Lodge to which application is made has the right to object to the initiation or advancement of any candidate of the Lodge, either before or after his election by said Lodge and at any time before the obligation, and he may not be required to give his reasons for objecting. An objection will not prevent the acceptance of a petition for the degrees, advancement on certificate and waiver or affiliation, but if it is filed before the ballot on such petitions is held, no ballot shall be spread, and the matter shall be handled as prescribed in the following sections 4.1702, 4.1703. Such objection is sufficient to bar the progress of the candidate while it is in force, even in the absence of the objector if he has not been subsequently suspended; and the disregard of it while it is in force subjects the offending Lodge, officer or member to punishment.

S. 60; Chase 218; T. B. 270; 1869, 377; 1879, 399; 1894, 574; 1899, 82; 1908, 30, 31, 32; 1909, 30; 1910, 36; 1911, 122, 124; 1913, 27 - 29; 1914, 66 - 69; 1921, 32, 86; 1924, 37; 1925, 27, 36, 125, 127; 1953, 106, 107.

**4.1702.** If an objection is made privately to the Worshipful Master, he must receive it and the objector's name must not be disclosed. If made privately to the Worshipful Master or orally in open Lodge, it must be done in person, not by proxy, and the objector's name may go on record if he so desires. When an objection is filed, either written or oral, the fact that it has been filed shall be recorded in the minutes of the next stated meeting, giving the date; but an objection to a petition for the degrees, advancement on certificate and waiver or affiliation does not go into effect until after the petition has been accepted by the Lodge. When filed in writing an objection must be signed by the objector, and such writing, including the signer's name, may or may not be recorded in the minutes, depending on whether the objector desires his name withheld.

1887, 400; 1901, 23; 1903, 22, 67; 1911, 121 - 123; 1913, 29; 1914, 128; 1929, 47; 1946, 39, 93; 1953, 107; 1989, 55, 56, 126, 135.

**4.1703.** The life of an objection to initiation is twelve months; to advancement, six months; to affiliation, thirty days; and an objection may be renewed as soon as it expires. It expires also when the objecting Brother ceases to be a member of that Lodge, or is suspended. When an objection to initiation, advancement or affiliation has expired or has been withdrawn, which may be done only unconditionally, the petitioner should be notified immediately and the following applies: If the objection was to initiation or affiliation, a new petition (of which no notice is necessary) may be received under the same conditions, and must be handled in exactly the same manner, as if it were the first petition, except it is not necessary for it to lie over from one stated meeting until the next, and another committee of investigation is unnecessary on a new petition for the degrees

within one year from the date of the filing of the previous petition; but if the objection was to advancement, before advancement may be made the fact that the objection has expired or has been withdrawn shall be announced by the Worshipful Master or Secretary at a stated meeting, after which announcement the Lodge may proceed as if no objection had been made.

1879, 355, 356; 1892, 19; 1908, 32; 1911, 46; 1916, 52; 1921, 32, 86; 1925, 27, 38, 127, 128; 1927, 24; 1947, 51, 111; 1953, 106, 107.

**4.1704.** It is not necessary that an objection filed with a Worshipful Master be renewed to a succeeding Worshipful Master; but when a brother states to a Worshipful Master that he withdraws a secret objection made to a former Worshipful Master, before allowing the petition to be renewed the Worshipful Master should ascertain from the former Worshipful Master that all objections to the petition of the applicant, filed with him, has been removed. If this cannot be done because of the death of the former Worshipful Master or for other cause, the entire membership of the Lodge, both resident and nonresident, must be notified in writing of the renewal of the petition not less than thirty days before action is taken thereon.

1898, 20; 1911, 123; 1918, 82.

**4.1705.** It is the privilege of a Mason in good standing to file a protest or an objection to initiation, advancement or affiliation in a Lodge of which he is not a member, and while a Lodge is not bound to regard an objection so offered by a member of another Lodge, it should give due consideration to the statements accompanying it. It must regard an objection only when filed by one of its own members in good standing.

1888, 602; 1910, 30, 31, 33; 1911, 122, 124; 1923, 41; 1925, 28, 125.

**4.1706.** It is unlawful for an applicant for the degrees or for membership, stopped by an objection, to demand or seek to learn the name of the objector. If such an effort is made he should be admonished, and if he persists he should be dealt with more severely.

1899, 20; 1921, 31.

## Chapter 18. Dues

**4.1801.** Each subordinate lodge must annually pay to the Grand Lodge twenty dollars (\$20.00) for each Master Mason member enrolled in the lodge on December 31<sup>st</sup> of that year (which includes all accepted signatory members of newly chartered lodges.) A Lodge is not required to make such payment, however, for a member who holds a fifty-year membership certificate (see 4.1812), provided said Lodge does not require him to pay annual dues.

1879, 399; 1919, 69; 1928, 123, 125; 1933, 113; 1936, 147; 1948, 15, 103; 1953, 109; 1969, 22; 1978, 117; 1982, 51, 121; 1986, 62, 114; 1993, 2003, 2011

**4.1802.** Until a charter is granted to a new Lodge, Lodges in Tennessee will continue to collect dues from, and pay dues for, their members who signed a petition for a dispensation for it. Lodges under dispensation will not pay dues for those of their members who are reported and paid for on the rolls of other Lodges in Tennessee, but will collect dues from, and pay dues for, those members who were non-affiliates.

1917, 40, 113.

**4.1803.** The Grand Lodge will not remit any part of its rightful dues because of loss or damage to Lodge property, but all overpayments of the same must be promptly refunded by the Grand Treasurer on being reported to him by the Grand Secretary.



A Lodge which fails to pay the dues mentioned in 4.1801 and 4.1802 above so as to be received by the Grand Secretary by March 1 or be postmarked by February 27, or to forward its December report and annual return so as to be received not later than January 10 or be postmarked not later than January 7, must pay as a penalty five per cent of the amount due by it to the Grand Lodge for dues and fees on degrees. The Grand Secretary has no authority to waive this penalty.

1871, 30; 1899, 46; 1904, 83, 84, 90; 1907, 87; 1917, 61, 95, 116, 117; 1920, 71, 80; 1936, 40, 109; 1953, 109; 1954, 49, 110; 1974, 110; 1975, 118; 1976, 119, 1980, 58, 124, 125, 2008.

**4.1804.** A Lodge which is in arrears to the Grand Lodge for two years shall be suspended until it appears, by its representatives, and pays up or is released from all arrearages. The Grand Secretary shall, immediately after each annual communication, notify all such delinquent Lodges; and any Lodge thus notified which shall fail or refuse to appear at the succeeding annual communication and pay up or be released from all arrearages shall have its charter revoked.

Const. 2.106(3)

**4.1805.** The bylaws adopted by each Lodge must specify the amount of money to be paid annually into its treasury by each member for dues. This requirement may not be disregarded by the Lodge except by amendment of its bylaws, or by the member without violation of his obligation, even though charges against him are pending. Each Lodge should charge at least enough dues to have a decent margin left after paying Grand Lodges dues, but it may not tax its members pro rata or make an extraordinary assessment on them to pay its debts or for any other purpose. A special assessment for a particular purpose, which may be made by action of the Lodge at a stated meeting though called dues, is not dues, and payment thereof may not be forced under the penalty for nonpayment of dues, nor may a demit or transfer of membership be refused merely because of failure to pay such an assessment or a debt to the Lodge other than for dues.

Charges may be preferred for nonpayment of dues, even though they are partly paid or partly remitted.

1877, 23, 41; 1880, 20, 31; 1885, 20; 1898, 20; 1899, 20; 1908, 32; 1909, 31; 1910, 35, 38; 1926, 32; 1929, 29.

**4.1806.** The bylaws of a Lodge may require that its dues shall be payable annually in advance. If so, a demit or a transfer of membership may not be given until the dues of the member who applies for it are paid for the whole of the current year, unless they are wholly or partly remitted (see 4.1807); but an application for a demit or transfer of membership, received by a Lodge's Secretary prior to the first stated meeting held in the third month of that Lodge's fiscal year, may not be denied merely because the applicant has not paid his dues for the current year. A Lodge is not required to refund dues paid in advance, but in case of death, demit or transfer of membership it should refund any unmatured portion thereof.

The bylaws of a Lodge may also require that dues be collected, for the unexpired term, from members raised or admitted during the year. If so, the dues begin with the date of raising or of affiliation, even though (in case of the latter) they have been paid in advance to another Lodge which refuses to refund as a Mason should not carry a card in a Lodge from which he has demitted. In such cases the Secretary must take up the card of the demitting Lodge and may return it to that Secretary with a request for the refund of the unearned portion thereof, which upon receipt should be returned to the member. Dues may not be collected from a member for the time, if any, during which he was a non-affiliate or from a member of a defunct Lodge for the time after the charter was surrendered or revoked.

1877, 24, 35; 1888, 602; 1895, 26; 1908, 32; 1909, 31; 1917, 43; 1919, 24; 1922, 33; 1928, 32 122; 1929, 47, 142; 1932, 31, 123; 1948, 15, 103; 1951, 115; 1953, 107, 108; 1954, 58, 110; 1960, 70, 123.

**4.1807.** A Lodge may remit the dues of a member (even for life) for good and sufficient reasons, but the Grand Master may not order it done. If a member is indigent and unable to pay, the Lodge ought to remit his dues and not suspend him for nonpayment of dues. Remission of dues by a Lodge, however, does not relieve it of payment of the Grand Lodge tax except as provided for in 4.1801.

1867, 36; 1872, 177; 1879, 401; 1880, 17, 35; 1889, 18; 1896, 23; 1909, 31; 1914, 67; 1916, 26, 108; 1917, 43; 1919, 24, 77, 78; 1925, 41; 1969, 70, 123.

**4.1808.** Dropping from the roll as punishment for nonpayment of dues or other cause, by any process other than that defined in 6.613, is illegal and void as a penalty and does not affect the good standing of a member, even after years, or the liability of the Lodge for the Grand Lodge tax accruing to the Lodge because of him. It may not be done even at his own request.

In case a Lodge shall have erroneously suspended a member for nonpayment of dues which at that time had been paid or remitted, the error should be corrected as soon as possible, care being exercised that the minutes and records of the Lodge show the facts, that the name of the member thus erroneously suspended be restored to the roll, that the Grand Lodge tax accruing because of him be paid as if the error had not occurred, and that on the minutes in which the erroneous action was recorded marginal reference be made to the adjustment.

1889, 18; 1897, 69; 1901, 23; 1905, 82; 1910, 38; 1917, 37, 112; 1922, 36, 67; 1934, 42, 108.

**4.1809.** A suspended Mason is not chargeable with dues accruing during the time of his suspension: but since the dues which a member owes constitute a moral and legal debt, if he has been suspended for nonpayment of dues and applies for restoration, the Lodge should either remit or collect his dues unpaid at the time of his suspension. If collected they should be retained even though the petition for restoration is denied, since the payment of the amount due is merely the discharge of an obligation already incurred and the receipt of the money in no way binds the Lodge. Death does not settle this account.

1870, 545; 1917, 42; 1921, 85.

**4.1810.** The dues which an expelled Mason owed prior to expulsion should be collected if he is restored to membership by a subordinate Lodge, but are not collectable if he is restored by the Grand Lodge.

1877, 23; 1892, 19.

**4.1811.** A Lodge may issue to the widow, orphans or relatives of a brother who dies while a member of said Lodge in good standing a certificate of his good standing, but it should not include any commendation or reference to the relationship of the holder to the deceased brother, which might be used for unmasonic appeals for aid or assistance.

1873, 325; 1877, 24; 1903, 23, 68; 1905, 82; 1916, 26, 108; 1935, 32.

**4.1812.** A certificate of the fact that he has been a Mason in good standing for fifty years may be issued by the Grand Secretary to a member who establishes that fact when applying for such certificate and the Grand Lodge, through Grand Secretary, shall provide and present a fifty-year button to each of such fifty-year Masons and also those who have reached sixty years will be recognized with a certificate and a sixty-year button to each of such. The Lodge shall be exempt from payment of Grand Lodge dues on such member, provided all dues are remitted by the Lodge.

1932, 34, 122; 1943, 98, 99; 2015

**4.1813.** Every Master Mason, in good standing and a member of a Lodge in this jurisdiction, shall be furnished with an annual dues card, authenticated by its Secretary

under the seal of the Lodge and by the Grand Secretary and the seal of the Grand Lodge.

1979, 123.

## Chapter 19.

### Bylaws

**4.1901.** It is the province of the Grand Lodge, and not of the Grand Master, to approve or disapprove bylaws. Lodges presenting bylaws for approval must adopt the Uniform Code of Bylaws adopted by the Grand Lodge for use by subordinate Lodges (see Annex A, this Title).

Those sections printed in italics in the Uniform Code of Bylaws must be included, others may be omitted. Additional articles and sections may be added to create, supervise, govern or direct special committees, funds or projects not specifically covered by other sections of the bylaws, and not in conflict or a repetition of the Masonic Code but no bylaw may be adopted which provides any restrictions on the transaction of the business of a Lodge or control of its funds by any method or majority than prescribed in 4.2002 and related sub-sections.

4.2002(1) to 4.2003(3).

Bylaws or amendments thereto presented for approval must be in duplicate, both copies to bear the seal of the Lodge (see 4.115) and the signatures of the Worshipful Master and Secretary, showing the date of adoption, one copy to be returned to the Lodge after approval and the other to be filed with the Grand Secretary. When amendments only are submitted for approval, one copy of the bylaws must accompany same. Any bylaw in conflict with the constitution, edicts and regulations of the Grand Lodge is null and void, although it may have been approved by the Grand Lodge.

1870, 546; 1893, 288; 1908, 34; 1919, 73; 1920, 28; 1925, 37; 1933, 107; 1935, 93; 1938, 96; 1954, 48, 100; 1969, 71, 124; 1988, 25.

**4.1902.** A Lodge may not suspend one of its bylaws on any pretense whatever. In order to make a change therein, the alteration or amendment (which itself may be amended at the same meeting) must be proposed in writing at a stated meeting, when it must be entered on the minutes, and it must lie over until the next stated meeting at which time action thereon may be taken. At that meeting, when it comes up for consideration, any amendment germane thereto may be offered and acted upon at that time. It is not necessary that the Lodge be summoned, but all resident members must be regularly notified of the proposed change, and of the time and place of the meeting when final action will be taken. In case the proposition is tabled, which can be done only by permission of the Worshipful Master, the same requirements regarding notification of members must be met as in the first instance before final action may be taken.

The approval of such change by the Grand Lodge at its next annual communication is necessary before it may become effective, unless it has reference to: (a) the time of stated meeting; (b) an increase or decrease of yearly dues; (c) an increase or decrease of the compensation of its officers; (d) the fees for the degrees, provided they are not reduced below the minimum sum fixed by 4.1502, establishment of or changing fees for affiliation and/or restoration. Changes in these items will be in force from and after the date of their regular adoption by the Lodge, unless otherwise specified at the time of the change. Notice of such changes must be given to the Grand Secretary as soon as they become effective using the same process as noted in Section 4.1901 above.

T. B. 272; S. 78, 80; Chase 389; 1837, 345; 1868, 224; 1871, 24; 1876, 618; 1879, 355, 458; 1895, 22; 1897, 21; 1906, 32; 1907, 31; 1911, 47; 1913, 29; 1918, 30, 78; 1919, 73; 1934, 42, 108; 1937, 31, 92; 1952, 52, 117,

2007.

**4.1903.** The bylaws of a Lodge may specify what compensation, if any, is to be paid to any of its officers, and they may require certain of its officers to be bonded at its expense; but this requirement may not be made by resolution only. The bylaws must be so amended. A Lodge may enforce the bond of a defaulting officer, being its own judge as to the propriety of so doing, but it may not penally enforce compliance with its resolution unless they have been regularly adopted and approved as part of its bylaws.

T. B. 276; 1869, 374; 1877, 23; 1891, 568; 1925, 21.

## Chapter 20.

### Voting

**4.2001.** Voting, by ballot or otherwise, is legal only when done in a Master Mason's Lodge and on the first day or night of a stated meeting, except that it may be done at either stated or called meeting to consent to bury a non-affiliate, to express satisfaction with a candidate's proficiency after examination, to sustain charges, to inflict a penalty, and to excuse from voting. It may not be done by proxy.

T. B. 268, 269, 298, 309, 310; 1848, 23; 1895, 21; 1902, 76; 1903, 21; 1905, 31; 1953, 105.

**4.2002.** The votes, of those members present, necessary to consent to or decide various questions which may come before a Lodge, are as follows:

(1) A unanimous vote is required on petitions for the degrees, advancement on certificate and waiver, affiliation and restoration after indefinite suspension (except for NPD); and for excusing from voting, withdrawing a petition, waiving jurisdiction over an Entered Apprentice or a Fellow Craft, or issuing a certificate of character to a profane.

1993; 1999.

(2) A three-fourths vote is necessary for consolidation of Lodges.

(3) A two-thirds vote is necessary for conviction on Masonic trials, inflicting the penalty of expulsion or of indefinite suspension, restoration after definite suspension (if proposed to be terminated prior to the date fixed therefor), and for reaffiliation with the Lodge from which the petitioner is demitted, or for the burial of a non-affiliate.

1993.

A two-thirds majority vote is required for restoration after suspension for non-payment of dues.

1994.

(4) A majority vote is sufficient to inflict the penalty of definite suspension, to restore from definite suspension and to decide all other questions which may come before a Lodge, including a change to the bylaws of the Lodge.

1904, 86; 1907, 29; 1913, 29; 1916, 47, 110; 1946, 39, 93; 1974, 43, 109; 1981, 51, 112, 120; 1987, 53, 122, 134; 1988, 23, 50, 131; 1993.

**4.2003.** On all questions coming before a Lodge for a decision the vote is taken by one of the following methods:

(1) By the ballot, using a secret ballot box, the vote being with white and black balls, or with balls and cubes. This method is always used in voting on petitions for the degrees, advancement on certificate and waiver, affiliation, except for reaffiliation with the Lodge from which the petitioner is demitted (sec 4.2002(3)), or restoration after expulsion. On petitions for the degrees a single ballot elects to all three, and for advancement of an Entered Apprentice on certificate and waiver a single ballot elects to the other two degrees. Several ballot boxes, with the name of one applicant on each, may be used at the same time. A ballot may be taken collectively on several petitions at the same time, but a separate ballot must be taken on each of the petitions thus grouped if a black ball appears in the collective ballot.

T. B. 269; 1866, 589; 1888, 602; 1909, 32; 1923, 38; 1924, 36; 1946, 39, 93; 1969, 71, 124.

(2) By the use of slips of paper; on one of which each brother writes his vote and delivers it to a teller. This method is used in the election of officers, in voting on charges and specifications at a Masonic trial, in voting on restoration after suspension, reaffiliation with a former Lodge, or to waive jurisdiction over an Entered Apprentice or a Fellow Craft. Blank ballot slips are votes and must be counted.

T. B. 286, 290; 1872, 173; 1903, 22; 1912, 37; 1916, 52; 1969, 71, 124.

(3) By the ordinary methods used in deliberative bodies, such as answering to roll call, voting “aye” or “no” together as each view of the question is put, rising to the feet and remaining thus until counted, or showing of hands, either of which may be used at the discretion of the Worshipful Master in all other matters requiring a vote of the Lodge.

**4.2004.** The rules which govern the first method, specifically known as “the ballot”, are as follows:

If it must be unanimous in order to decide in favor of the proposition and, unless excused by unanimous vote of the Lodge, each member present must vote, including the Tiler. Unless he is thus excused, the failure to vote of any member present when the ballot is commenced, renders it void and it should be retaken at once.

Since an opened Lodge should not be left untiled, even for a moment, the Tiler should be temporarily relieved by a substitute to enable the former to cast his ballot. This is not to be considered leaving the room, referred to in 4.2005 and 4.2006.

T. B. 269; Chase 272; S. 57; 1843, 501; 1886, 247; 1935, 25.

**4.2005.** A Worshipful Master may order subsequent ballots (if one black ball appears a second ballot is advisable) before any member present on the first ballot shall have left the room, and no brother may object to or appeal from his ruling on this point; provided that when the formal declaration of the result is made, which must be by the Worshipful Master (response by the Junior and/or Senior Warden does not constitute a formal declaration), or if a brother leaves the room after the first ballot, it is a finality and no further ballot may be taken thereafter on that particular question. However, when a ballot is cast by a brother who is not entitled to vote, the result is null and void, and a new ballot may be taken before any member leaves the room, or at a later stated meeting, the resident membership having been summoned to attend said meeting for that purpose. “Leaving the room” in this connection does not cover temporary absences, and if the brother returns to the room, subsequent legal ballots may be held.

T. B. 270; 1873, 312; 1880, 21; 1887, 400, 421; 1895, 22; 1903, 20; 1909, 35; 1914, 71, 72; 1917, 43; 1924, 36; 1925, 34; 1953, 107.

**4.2006.** The ballot having been commenced, it must not be interrupted until completed and the result announced. The Worshipful Master and Wardens alone inspect it and

announce the result, but they should not, even upon inquiry, divulge how many unfavorable votes were cast.

1869, 375; 1887, 421; 1895, 22; 1897, 21; 1904, 34, 74; 1906, 31; 1913, 70

**4.2007.** The ballot on a petition for the degrees, advancement on certificate and waiver, or affiliation must be secret, and for a brother to tell at any time how he voted (except to withdraw a black ball or to correct an erroneous announcement) or to inquire or seek to discover how another voted, is a Masonic offense liable to any of the punishments. There should be allowed no such discussion of the merits of a candidate as this may, in effect, be an exposure of the ballot.

T. B. 269; A. L. 11; 1867, 30; 1879, 399; 1902, 77; 1913, 29; 1946, 39, 93; 1952, 52, 116.

**4.2008.** After a candidate has been formally declared rejected by ballot, a new ballot may not be ordered at a subsequent meeting, except on a new petition of the candidate after at least 12 months shall have elapsed, not even to correct an error supposed to have been previously made or in a case of supposed mistaken identity (but see 4.2005).

T. B. 269; 1873, 319; 1888, 591; 1903, 20; 1909, 30; 1915, 34; 1917, 43; 1925, 34; 1948, 32, 101.

**4.2009.** A member who cast a black ball may not withdraw the same if previous to such withdrawal the Worshipful Master has made formal declaration of the rejection of the candidate, or if a member has left the room permanently, or if the Lodge has been closed. The ballot however must be retaken if a black ball is withdrawn before the Worshipful Master has made formal declaration of the rejection of the candidate, and no member has left the room and the Lodge has not been closed.

1873, 312; 1895, 24; 1903, 20; 1924, 36; 1948, 32, 101; 1952, 116.

**4.2010.** Unless withdrawn by unanimous vote after a request for such withdrawal by the petitioner through an officer of the Lodge, or by one of the recommenders who signed the petition, a petition for the degrees, advancement on certificate and waiver, or affiliation, which has been presented to and received by a Lodge must proceed to the ballot, even if the report of the committee of investigation is unfavorable, unless prevented by a legal objection filed before the ballot is held. After the report of said committee it is not necessary that such petition be actually present when the ballot is taken thereon.

T. B. 269; 1866, 590; 1869, 377; 1913, 30; 1924, 36; 1953, 105, 107.

## Chapter 21.

### Summons

**4.2101.** A legal summons is a Masonic writ issued by authority of the Worshipful Master or by order of the Lodge, and served by a proper person. If it is by order of the Worshipful Master and in writing, he must sign it officially. If it is by order of the Lodge, it must be signed by the Secretary and must have the seal of the Lodge attached. It is sufficient that it is known that a Master Mason received it, and he is not relieved from the observance of it should he get it through the post office. The Master may issue a verbal summons equally binding, but a newspaper notice is not a legal summons.

T. B. 282, 309; S.99, 105; 1877, 24; 1879, 356; 1909, 34; 1914, 113, 149; 1919, 67.

**4.2102.** The summons may be employed to require: attendance at stated or called meetings, or as a witness at a trial; all Masons within the jurisdiction of the Lodge to answer complaints against them; the officers of the Lodge to render their accounts or to answer for delinquencies; the members of the Lodge to attend the funeral of a deceased

brother. It should not be resorted to except when it is required by law, or when deemed absolutely necessary by the Lodge or the Worshipful Master.

T. B. 282; S. 105; 1879, 365; 1893, 295.

**4.2103.** The cases in which the use of summonses to resident members is required by law are: for the trial of a brother, except for nonpayment of dues or failure to answer a summons; to vote on surrendering a Lodge's charter; and for taking a new ballot as provided in 4.2004. The defendant must always be summoned to attend his trial, even for nonpayment of dues.

T. B. 273; 1861, 104.

**4.2104.** Every member of each Lodge, whether resident or nonresident, and every member of another Lodge and non-affiliate within its territorial jurisdiction, is bound by his obligation to obey its summons or to render a lawful excuse for failure to do so, in which case he may be excused by the Worshipful Master or by the Lodge. Refusal or failure, without legal excuse, to obey a summons subjects the offender to suspension or, in aggravated cases, to expulsion; and a Lodge should not, under penalty of forfeiture of charter, fail to enforce an answer to such summons.

T. B. 307; 1872, 174; 1879, 354, 365; 1882, 207; 1890, 285; 1895, 24; 1903, 22; 1911, 112; 1920, 26.

**4.2105.** A respectful answer to a summons ought to be treated *prima facie* as an answer, its sufficiency to be determined by the Lodge in each case.

1897, 21.

## Chapter 22.

### Masonic Burial

**4.2201.** It is the duty of a Lodge to bury, with Masonic honors, its members who die while in good standing, but not unless requested to do so by the deceased or his family. If a member dies without making such request, the funeral honors are generally accorded to his remains at the request of his family or near relatives.

T. B. 305; S. 203; M. 250; 1960, 49, 115, 116; 1980, 58, 117, 125.

**4.2202.** Masonic funeral ceremonies may be performed only by a lawful Lodge, opened on the third degree, and not by Masons as such in an individual capacity. (For order of service, see Tennessee Craftsman) Lodges should exercise great caution in granting requests for Masonic funeral services to ascertain that the deceased is not suspended or expelled, as such are not entitled to these Masonic honors (See 6.305 and 6.306).

T. B. 191, 219; 1868, 210; 1969, 71, 124; 1980, 58, 117, 125.

**4.2203.** Only an affiliated Master Mason of good character, who dies while in good standing, has the right of Masonic burial; but a nonaffiliate may be buried with Masonic honors, regardless of the age of his demit, if in the discretion of the Worshipful Master it should be done. In case of death by suicide, or if a question is raised as to the character of the deceased, the Worshipful Master when applied to for burial must decide, in the exercise of sound discretion, what action it will take.

T. B. 305; S. 203, 204; Chase 414; 1872, 175; 1873, 321; 1883, 349; 1884, 552; 1887, 400; 1896, 21; 1908, 29; 1910, 33; 1911, 138; 1918, 81; 1927, 131

**4.2204.** On the death of a sojourner who was an affiliated Master Mason and who had expressed a wish to be buried with Masonic ceremonies, that duty will devolve upon the Lodge within whose jurisdiction the death occurs; and if in a place where there is more than one Lodge, then upon the oldest Lodge, unless otherwise arranged; but if the body is removed to the jurisdiction of another Lodge, the latter may assume the duty.

T. B. 188; 1882, 208; 1980, 58, 117, 125.

**4.2205.** The Lodge within whose territorial jurisdiction he has his legal residence when he dies has jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to the Masonic funeral of a nonaffiliate, or of one who dies while a member in good standing of a Lodge whose charter has been arrested.

1895, 23; 1919, 33; 1923, 38; 1980, 58, 117, 125.

**4.2206.** The Masonic funeral service may be held at the grave of a deceased brother or at an appropriate place as designated by the Worshipful Master.

1898, 20; 1900, 30; 1903, 20; 1906, 32; 1910, 28; 1918, 26, 27; 1924, 115; 1925, 48; 1960, 49, 115, 116; 1980, 58, 117, 125.

**4.2207.** A Lodge may not unite with another fraternal order in a funeral service, nor may it participate in a Masonic funeral service other than the one in the Tennessee Craftsman. The whole ceremony must be under the direction of the Master of the Lodge, but other organizations may join in the procession. However, at his request the Masonic funeral service may be permitted for a past officer of the Grand Lodge when other orders officiate.

If the deceased was a Grand or a Past Grand Officer of the Grand Lodge of the state of Tennessee, the elective officers of the Grand Lodge should be notified of the time and place of the funeral, and the Master of the Lodge having jurisdiction should request the Grand Officer present who has attained the highest rank to conduct the funeral service.

1868, 215; 1892, 24, 47; 1894, 616; 1896, 20; 1904, 33; 1930, 157; 1934, 46, 109; 1980, 58, 117, 125.

**4.2208.** On the death of an illustrious member of the Grand Lodge a committee shall be appointed by the Grand Master to prepare and submit to the Grand Lodge a suitable tribute to him, which, after being adopted by the Grand Lodge, shall be printed, together with a memorial page in the Grand Lodge proceedings.

1890, 309; 1980, 58, 117, 125.

**4.2209. LODGE OF SORROW.** A Worshipful Master may open a Lodge of Sorrow as soon after his installation as he deems advisable, for the purpose of attending and conducting Masonic funeral services. This Lodge may remain open during the remainder of the year but must be closed prior to the installation of officers at the end of the year. The opening and closing shall be done in accordance with instructions compiled by the Board of Custodians of the Ritual.

1966, 56, 114, 115, 119; 1980, 58, 117, 125.



## Chapter 23.

### Processions

**4.2301.** A Lodge in procession is strictly under the discipline of the Lodge room, and hence under the control of the Worshipful Master.

T. B. 187 190, 298; S. 171; 1871, 24; 1883, 349; 1886, 259; 1998.

**4.2302.** The following are the only purposes for which public Masonic processions are permitted (see 4.1107), for which a dispensation from the Grand Master is not necessary: (a) Masonic funerals; (b) erecting or unveiling monuments to deceased brethren; (c) celebration of the Festivals of St John; (d) laying cornerstones; (e) dedication of Masonic buildings; (f) memorial services; (g) going to church for religious purposes or for divine worship, if not clothed in aprons or other Masonic regalia; (h) celebrating, on November 4, George Washington's Masonic birthday; (I) public parades celebrating holidays such as New Years, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Veterans Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

T. B. 175; 1875, 530; 1895, 22; 1900, 29; 1903, 20; 1909, 32; 1910, 28; 1911, 34, 46; 1920, 76, 77; 1921, 38, 41, 84; 1923, 103, 104; 1924, 115; 1925, 126, 128, 1998.

**4.2303.** Other public Masonic processions are permitted only under dispensation of the Grand Master.

1998.

## Chapter 24.

### Lodge of Research

**4.2401.** A dispensation may be issued for the Lodge of Research 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 subordinate Lodges under this Grand Lodge. A dispensation for the Lodge of Research shall be issued without fees and with compliance with the usual provisions designated in Chapter 1 through 2 of this Title.

**4.2402.** 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 to serve as officers of the Lodge, as designated by its bylaws. The Lodge of Research is exempted from provisions of Chapters 3 through 23 of this Title. The territorial jurisdiction of the Lodge of Research shall be statewide. The Lodge of Research need not designate a specific meeting place. It shall however, meet in a dedicated Lodge hall within the territorial jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge. A copy of the Lodge of Research's bylaws, and amendments thereto, shall be kept on file in the Grand Lodge.

**4.2403.** The Lodge of Research shall not confer any of the degrees of Freemasonry, but shall be formed exclusively for the purpose of researching Masonic information and educational material. The Lodge of Research shall have no authority to receive charges for unmasonic conduct, conduct any masonic trial, or conduct any Masonic funeral services.

**4.2404.** The Grand Lodge may issue a Charter to the Lodge of Research without fees upon its approval at an annual communication, and without compliance with the usual requirements as designated in Chapters 1 and 2.

**4.2405.** Membership in the Lodge of Research shall be exclusively by Master Masons in regular standing in subordinate Lodges of this jurisdiction or affiliated with Lodges in jurisdictions recognized by this Grand Lodge. The Lodge of Research is exempted from the Dual and Plural Membership status cited in the Tennessee Masonic Codes. If a member of a Research Lodge forfeits or loses his membership in his subordinate Lodge, he shall automatically forfeit his membership in the Lodge of Research.

**4.2406.** The Lodge of Research shall at all times maintain at least fifteen members who are members of the Tennessee Lodges and are domiciled within the territorial jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge. Failure to maintain the required number of members shall cause the dispensation or Charter to be automatically arrested.

**4.2407.** The Lodge of Research shall meet at least once in each calendar quarter. The time, election and installation of its officers shall be as determined by the bylaws of the Lodge of Research.

**4.2408.** The Lodge of Research shall be exempt from the payment of all per capita on its membership. The Lodge of Research will be permitted to issue its own dues cards, using the blank Grand Lodge dues cards.

**4.2409.** The Lodge of Research shall have no representation or vote in the Grand Lodge, nor shall its members have any vote in the Grand Lodge by virtue of office held in the Lodge of Research.

**4.2410.** The Secretary of the Lodge of Research shall send to the Grand Secretary a report each January showing the Lodge officers and number of members on its active rolls as of December 31 last.

2000.

## Chapter 25.

### Life Memorial Membership In Perpetuity Plan Of The Grand Lodge Of Tennessee F & AM

**4.2501.** Name of Plan: The name of this Plan shall be: Life Memorial Membership in Perpetuity Plan of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee F & AM (Hereinafter referred to as "The Plan" or LMMP).

**4.2502** **Eligibility:**

**A. LMMP:** All living Master Masons may become perpetual members provided such member is in good standing and possesses a current dues card from his Lodge and his Lodge approves his participation in the plan. Plural members have the right to assign this Plan as to the Lodge of his choice or to cover each Lodge with a separate plan. If a member in good standing transfers his membership to another Lodge in the State of Tennessee, he can also transfer his LMMP upon the acceptance of his new lodge.

**B. Memorial Perpetual Membership:** A Memorial Perpetual Membership may be purchased in any participating Lodge within this Grand Jurisdiction for a deceased Master Mason of any of the Lodges of Tennessee, provided he was in good standing with his Lodge at the time of his death. Any person may add an additional amount to an endowed membership (MPM) through the secretary of the Lodge where such membership is or was in effect.

**4.2503 LMMP & MPM Fees:** The LMMP fee shall be 20 x the Lodge dues including per capita tax: but excluding the Grand Lodge Building Renovation Assessment imposed effective March 23, 2006 (if a Lodge includes this assessment in its dues structure) or \$850.00, whichever is greater. The current years dues must be paid. Arrangement may be made to pay in installments, however, until LMMP dues are paid in full, yearly dues and assessments would have to be paid in as prompt a manner at the current annual dues and assessments in effect at that time. LMMP fees will be calculated by the dues including per capita tax at the applicant's Lodge at the time of the final installment is made. The minimum LMMP fee of \$850.00 shall be adjusted in the year 2010 and each 5-year period thereafter based on the inflation rate of the previous 5 years as measured by the United States government. MPM fees will be \$200.00 minimum.

2006, 2010.

**4.2504 Administration of Plan:** The Plan shall be administered by the Grand Lodge of Tennessee. The Grand Master shall appoint the Plan Manager. All monies are to be maintained separately from all other Grand Lodge funds. All original amounts shall be forever kept and maintained with only the earnings of any kind of investments to be made available for the payments to the Grand Lodge and the participating Lodges. Investment of the monies received shall be made by the Plan Manager with oversight and approval of the Ways and Means Committee, under the same guidelines followed by the Grand Lodge Endowment Fund Commission (see 7.305.). Separate accounting records shall be maintained for the LMMP and MPM funds under the supervision of the Plan Manager. The Plan Manager shall provide quarterly reports concerning the LMMP and MPM funds to the Ways and Means committee. All administrative expenses of the LMMP and MPM funds will be paid by the Grand Lodge.

2000.

**4.2505 Method of Payment:** The LMMP fee of a member shall be paid to the secretary of his Lodge, who shall certify whether the brother is in good standing, make a record of the application thereof and forward the fee with a copy of the application to the Grand Secretary for further investigation. His membership dues must be current at the time of his application except if the member is deceased. The LMMP fee may be paid in full or installments to the participating Lodge's secretary, who will act as custodian of the Installment payments until the total fee is collected. The installment period shall not be for more than five years. However, the amount of the Lodge's and Grand Lodge's dues in effect at the time of the last installment will be the basis of the fee calculation.

**4.2506 Payments of Earnings:** On or about January 1st of each year the earnings from the LMMP and MPM funds corpus will be paid to the Grand Lodge of Tennessee and the participating Lodges under the direction of the Plan Manager.

**4.2507 Fee Division:** Each LMMP fee shall be divided between the Grand Lodge and the participating lodge as follows: (1) an amount equal to twenty times the per capita tax then in effect shall be paid to the Grand Lodge to form the corpus of a fund for the benefit of the Grand Lodge; and (2) all of the remaining balance shall be held to form the corpus of a fund exclusively for the benefit of the participating lodge. Only the earnings from the respective corpus funds shall be paid to the respective bodies.

The LMMP fees shall be divided forty percent to the Grand Lodge corpus fund and sixty percent to the participating lodge's corpus fund.

**4.2508 Dues Increases, Decreases or Special Assessments:** A participant shall not be liable for any change regarding the dues and special assessments after the certification of his application by the Grand Secretary.

**4.2509 Death of a Participant:** Payments of the earnings from the corpus to the participating Lodge and the Grand Lodge shall be in the same proportion as they were prior to the death of the participant

**4.2510 Refunds:** No refunds will be made from the Plan to any participant or any other person after initial certification by the Grand Secretary.

**4.2511 Disciplinary Action:** No participant shall be exempt from disciplinary action. In the event of suspension, expulsion or demit, the Plan Manager shall continue to make the payments to the Lodge and the Grand Lodge. A life member suspended and subsequently restored and elected to membership in the same Lodge is also restored to all rights pertaining to his Life Membership.

**4.2512 Dues Cards:** The annual dues card as furnished by the Lodge will have the additional authentication by the Grand Secretary that the member in good standing has a Life Memorial Membership in Perpetuity.

**4.2513 Dual & Plural Memberships:** A life membership in one Lodge shall not excuse the member with plural membership from the dues in Lodges in which he holds dual or plural membership. Suspension from one Lodge for any reason is suspension from all Lodges in the Grand Lodge of Tennessee's jurisdiction.

**4.2514 Transfer:** A participant may transfer his LMMP to another Lodge in the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee if accepted by the new Lodge. If the new lodge does not accept the LMMP then the Lodge corpus will remain with his former Lodge. Even if the new lodge does not accept the transfer of the LMMP the new lodge will not be required to pay the per capita tax for the transferring member. Transfers of LMMP's outside of this jurisdiction are not allowed and the LMMP is retained by the former Lodge of the Participant.

**4.2515 Loss of Charter:** If a Lodge consolidates with another Lodge, the LMMP funds will be credited to that Lodge. If a Lodge surrenders its Charter, the funds will follow each participant to his new affiliation. In the case of no affiliation the funds will be credited to the Grand Lodge of Tennessee. The funds will be restored to the member's new Lodge when he affiliates within this jurisdiction.

**4.2516 Effective Date:** This legislation is effective at the close of the 1999 Grand Lodge Session.

**4.2517 Charter Life Membership:** Any Brother applying for Life Membership before the end of 1999 will have his Life Membership card stamped as a Charter Life Member. The application and fees for a Charter Life Membership must be post-marked no later than December 31, 1999. Life Membership will always be available.

## Chapter 26

### Perpetual Per Capita Tax Credit

**4.2601.** A Lodge may be exempt from paying the following year's per capita tax on a named member by paying (or by the individual Brother paying) into the Grand Lodge of Tennessee Perpetual Fund an amount equal to twenty times the current per capita tax rate. The original investment amount can never be refunded or spent under any circumstance (even when the Brother's membership ceases), the Interest income only can be placed in the General Fund.

If the perpetual membership per capita tax was purchased by the Lodge, perpetual membership is not transferable. If the individual Brother purchased the perpetual membership and he transfers his membership to another Tennessee Lodge, his perpetual membership per capita tax credit transfers also.

If the individual Brother ceases to be a member, his perpetual membership per capita tax credit will be reactivated after his membership is restored. The perpetual membership is purchased for a particular Lodge; therefore if the Brother is a Plural Member, perpetual memberships must be purchased for each Lodge in order to obtain the per capita tax credit

In the future, as the Grand Lodge per capita tax changes, the cost of a perpetual membership will change accordingly.

The Perpetual Per Capita Tax Credit Plan will be managed and its funds invested as specified in the Life Memorial Membership in Perpetuity Plan of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee F. & A.M. listed in Title 4 Chapter 25 of the Tennessee Masonic Code.

2000, 2005.

## APPENDIX A

## Uniform Code of Bylaws

ADOPTED BY THE GRAND LODGE FOR  
USE BY SUBORDINATES

(See 4. 1902)

(Those sections printed *in italics* are required, others may be omitted at the option of the Lodge.)

BYLAWS OF \_\_\_\_\_ LODGE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_, F.&A.M.  
HELD AT \_\_\_\_\_ TENNESSEE

## ARTICLE I

## STATED MEETINGS

**Section 1.** *The stated meetings of the Lodge shall be held on the \_\_\_\_\_ of each month, and shall begin at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, \_\_\_\_\_ m. except as provided in 4.1102 of the code.*

## ARTICLE II

## OFFICERS AND ELECTION

**Section 1.** *The officers of this Lodge shall consist of a Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Secretary, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Senior Steward, Junior Steward, Tiler, Chaplain, Physician, Marshal, Historian, and \_\_\_\_\_ Trustees. \**

**Section 2.** *Of said officers, the following shall be elected annually: \_\_\_\_\_ and the others shall be appointed. @*

**Section 3.** At the election of officers (1) nominations may be made. (2) nominations may not be made. (3) it shall be decided by vote of the Lodge, immediately prior to the election, whether or not nominations may be made. #

## ARTICLE III

## DUTIES AND COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS

**Section 1.** The Treasurer shall pay out funds of the Lodge only on an order signed by the Worshipful Master and Secretary, and (except as provided in Article V, Section 1, B) only after the same has had the prior approval of the Lodge.

\* Any of the last four may be omitted

+ Must be at least the first five of those named in Section 1 of this Article

@ If all are to be elected, the words "and the others shall be appointed" must be omitted.

# Choose one method and omit the other two.

**Section 2.** The Secretary shall keep a correct record of all proceedings of the Lodge lawful to be written; preserve all papers and records and belongs to the Lodge; keep a separate ledger account of each member, showing the amount of dues he has paid, date of his birth when possible, and the date of his admission, initiation, passing, raising, restoration, withdrawal, suspension, expulsion, or death; keep the financial records of the Lodge in such manner and condition that they may be verified and audited at any time; and perform the duties generally expected of a Secretary.

**Section 3.** (Specify duties of Trustees, if any are included in Section 1 of Article II.)

**Section 4.** The compensation, if any, of the Treasurer, Secretary and/or Tiler for services for the ensuing year, shall be fixed by the Lodge at the first stated meeting in December and prior to the annual election of officers.\*

**Section 5.** (State what bond, if any the Treasurer and/or Secretary shall furnish, at the expense of the Lodge.)

**ARTICLE IV**

**FEES AND DUES**

**Section 1.** *The fees for the degrees shall be:*

*First degree* \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*Second degree* \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*Third degree* \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 2.** No petition for the degrees shall be considered unless the fee for the first degree accompanies it, and no degree shall be conferred until after the fee for that degree has been paid. No petition for advancement on certificate and waiver shall be considered unless the fee for the next degree to be conferred upon the applicant accompanies it.  
1946,39,93; 1947,109.

**Section 3.** *Each member in good standing, (+) not raised, admitted, or restored since the close of the Lodge's preceding fiscal year, shall pay annually, (1) before the close of each fiscal year, the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars to the Lodge as dues. (2) in advance at the beginning of each fiscal year, the Sum of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars to the Lodge as dues. (3) in advance at the beginning of each fiscal year, the sum of dollars, plus the Grand Lodge per capita tax to the Lodge as dues.#*  
1982, 52, 12.

**Section 4.** Each member raised, admitted, or restored shall pay the Lodge, (1) before the close of that fiscal year of the Lodge, a pro rata amount at the rate specified in section 3 of this article, as dues for the balance of that fiscal year. (2) in advance, a pro rata amount at the rate specified in section 3 of this article, as dues for the balance of that fiscal year. @.

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\* *Instead*, the amount of compensation for any of these officers may be definitely fixed by the bylaws per meeting, per month, or per year.  
+ State here exceptions, if any, in parenthesis.  
# Choose one method and omit the other two.  
@ Choose one method and omit the other, conforming to the method chosen in section 3 of this article

**Section 5.** The fee for affiliation shall be \_\_\_\_\_ dollars, which must accompany the application therefor.\*

**Section 6.** The Secretary shall read to the Lodge each year, at a stated meeting in \_\_\_\_\_ the names of those members whose dues for the Lodge's previous + fiscal year have not been paid or remitted; and charges shall be preferred against such members, in the manner prescribed by Grand Lodge law, not later than the first stated meeting in \_\_\_\_\_.

## ARTICLE V

### COMMITTEES

**Section 1.** The Worshipful Master shall, as soon as possible after the installation of officers each year, appoint the following Standing Committees; of each of which a majority shall constitute a quorum:

**A-** An Auditing Committee, whose duty it shall be to audit the books, vouchers, records; and all reports of the Treasurer and the Secretary, and report fully thereon at a stated meeting in January and at such other times as the Worshipful Master may direct.

**B-** A Charity Committee, consisting of three members of the Lodge, who shall have authority during recess of the Lodge to expend not more than \$\_\_\_\_\_ dollars for that purpose.

**C-** A Conduct Committee, consisting of three members of the Lodge, whose duty it shall be to take cognizance of the conduct of the brethren within the jurisdiction of the Lodge, reconcile differences which may arise among brethren, and when proper, prepare and prefer charges to the Lodge for its action.

**D-** A Visiting Committee, whose duty it shall be to visit sick and distressed brethren and their families and sick and distressed widows and orphans of deceased brethren, and report to the Worshipful Master of the Lodge.

**E-** An Inquisitorial or Interview Committee, consisting of three or more members of the Lodge, whose duty it shall be to interview each prospective candidate from whom a petition for the degrees has been received and obtain from him such information relative to his motives and moral fitness as may appear advisable. No ballot on such petition shall be taken until after said committee has reported thereon.

1946,39,93; 1947, 109; 1960,51, 116

## ARTICLE VI

### DELINQUENCY OF INVESTIGATOR

**Section 1.** Whenever a member to whom a petition has been referred for investigation shall fail to report thereon at the proper time or to present a satisfactory explanation of his failure to do so, he shall be summarily discharged by the Worshipful Master, if necessary. and another appointed in his stead.

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\* If section 5 is used, the words "raised, admitted, or restored" in section 4 of this article should be changed to "raised or restored"

+ Instead of the word "previous," the word "current" may be substituted if the second option is used in sections 3 and 4 of this article.



**ARTICLE VII**

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**Section 1.** The following shall be the order of business at all stated meetings, unless the Worshipful Master shall otherwise direct.

- A-** Reading and approving all unapproved minutes of previous meetings.
- B-** Reading and referring petitions.
- C-** Reports of committees on petitions.
- D-** Balloting on petitions.
- E-** Reports of committees other than on petitions.
- F-** Unfinished business.
- G-** Receiving and considering resolutions.
- H-** Bills and communications.
- I-** Disposing of such other business as may lawfully come before the Lodge.
- J-** Conferring degrees.

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Worshipful Master

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Secretary

SEAL



# The Individual Mason

## TITLE 5

### Chapter 1

#### Demits, Transfers, Affiliation, and Nonaffiliation

**5.101.** The right of a Mason to withdraw from membership or to demit, and thus sever his connection with the chartered Lodge of which he is a member, belongs to every Mason who has paid all of his dues to said Lodge and can meet other conditions mentioned in 5.102 below. If he no longer desires to be an affiliated member, the Lodge should not hold that fact against him, but should grant his request for a demit regardless of his reasons for making the request.

T. B. 304, 305; 1851, 21; 1880, 20; 1910, 35; 1969, 71, 124.

**5.102.** A application for a demit must be made in writing at a stated meeting and must be signed by the applicant or by the Secretary of a Lodge which has elected the applicant to membership upon receipt of a demit or transfer certificate. A demit granted otherwise is void and the certificate of demission, if issued, must be revoked. Such application having been thus presented, the Secretary having reported all dues of the applicant paid or remitted, a demit or transfer may not be denied if the application therefor was received by the Secretary of the Lodge prior to the first stated meeting held in the third month of its fiscal year, if dues up to and including the previous year have been paid or remitted, and no charges are pending the Worshipful Master having given ample opportunity for any Brother present to ask for time in which to prefer charges or to appeal from a verdict of acquittal and no member having responded, it is the duty of the Worshipful Master (a motion is not necessary) to declare the petition granted (but it is not to be granted in favor of any particular Lodge), and from that moment, the membership of the applicant ceases. A certificate of demission, for which a fee may not be charged, must be issued by the Secretary and dated, and may be signed by the Worshipful Master and/or the Secretary under the Lodge seal, but it is not invalidated by the absence of the Lodge seal or the signature of the Worshipful Master.

1874, 443; 1877, 24; 1879, 354; 1882, 208; 1883, 364; 1889, 18; 1894, 574; 1895, 26; 1898, 20; 1909, 31, 35; 1912, 36, 58; 1917, 44, 46; 1928, 32, 122; 1929, 47, 142; 1951, 115; 1953, 108; 1954, 58, 110; 1962, 46, 112.

#### **5.103. CERTIFICATE OF DEMIT**

A certificate of demit is presumed to have been issued lawfully. The action of a Lodge granting a demit may not be reconsidered or revoked, even if a certificate of demission is not delivered or if a check for payment of dues is not paid. A demitted Brother may become a member of a Lodge only through petition for affiliation (5.110).

1884, 536; 1895, 26; 1903, 23; 1917, 42; 1969, 71, 124; 1987, 53, 122, 134; 1988, 23, 50, 131, 2007.

**5.104.** Neither a legally issued demit nor its equivalent keeps the holder thereof in good standing for a period longer than one year from the date granted, and he is not thereafter entitled to any Masonic privilege except that of affiliation or Masonic burial if the Lodge requested approves. All demits issued in this jurisdiction must express these limitations, but there is no time limit within which an application for affiliation may be made, regardless of the age of the demit.

1914, 66; 1916, 46, 51, 110; 1917, 41; 1918, 29, 30; 1919, 25; 1926, 34; 1927, 131; 1953, 108.

**5.105.** No certificate except a certificate of demission or of transfer of membership from a Lodge or of good standing from the Grand Secretary (see 4.204 and 6.805) evidences the severance of a Brother's membership in the Lodge granting the certificate or its equivalent of a demit, and no other certificate may serve as a demit for affiliation in another state. Certificates of good standing should not be issued by Lodges to Master Masons, except as stated below, as a current dues card is sufficient evidence of good standing. Such certificates may be issued to Entered Apprentices or Fellow Crafts, for purpose of identification, as they are not entitled to regular dues cards.

Certificates of good standing will be issued to members in good standing of defunct Lodges, to members raised in or affiliated with U. D. Lodges, which fail to receive a charter, and to members restored to the rights and privileges of Masonry, but not to Lodge membership.

If a certificate of good standing is required by a member before another Lodge will accept his petition for transfer, such certificate should plainly state that it may not be used in lieu of a demit and is not a release by the issuing Lodge.

A Tennessee Lodge has no duty in the matter when a Lodge in another state refuses to accept a demit because of its age.

1686, 209; 1895, 21, 24; 1910, 36; 1912, 34; 1918, 30, 80; 1919, 74; 1921, 87; 1925, 49; 1969, 71, 124.

**5.106.** A duplicate certificate of demission without Lodge action, may be issued to a demitted Mason who requests it, and may not be refused if the original is lost. It should show the original date and the reason for its issuance and should be marked "duplicate."

1872, 176; 1908, 28; 1914, 68; 1916, 111; 1919, 25; 1925, 41.

**5.107.** A demit may not be demanded or required to satisfy the misconduct of a Brother. It is evidence of the moral standing of the holder on the date of its issue, although it is not equivalent to a certificate of character and if a Lodge grants a demit merely that it may be rid of an undesirable member, it practices fraud upon the fraternity.

1895, 21, 24; 1918, 79; 1919, 74.

**5.108.** A demitted Mason, or one whose Lodge is defunct, but who is otherwise in good standing, is termed a nonaffiliate. He is subject to the rules of the fraternity, and Lodges have the power to exercise all the rights of discipline over nonaffiliates in their jurisdiction and they are derelict to duty if they fail to do so.

T. B. 305; 1882, 208; 1883, 349; 1896, 20; 1919, 77.

**5.109.** Nonaffiliation does not deprive a Brother of his individual rights as a Mason, but only of such additional rights as are acquired by a Lodge membership (5.104). Both he and his family have claims upon individual Masons, but they are not entitled, as a matter of right, to the charities of the Lodge or to the honors of the Institution.

T. B. 305; 1870, 533; 1883, 349; 1914, 148.

**5.110.** Affiliation is the act by which a Mason is received into the membership of a Lodge other than that in which he was made a Mason, or by which he is reinstated to membership in his parent Lodge after demission (5.103). He may affiliate with a Lodge only by a petition for membership and except when he has been healed (4.1308), the petition must be accompanied by his demit or its equivalent (5.105 and 5.117). If the Lodge of the applicant has ceased to exist or its charter has been forfeited, a certificate of good standing at that time from the Grand Secretary of the grand jurisdiction in which the Lodge was

located will be recognized as a demit. A demitted Mason or a member of a Lodge which has lost its charter is not responsible for unpaid Grand Lodge tax of his former Lodge.

1866, 588, 1889, 18; 1895, 23; 1897, 21; 1910, 33; 1917, 42; 1918, 35; 1921, 87; 1922, 33, 66; 1925, 49; 1929, 47, 54, 142; 1978, 118; 1988, 23, 50, 131.

**5.111** A petition for affiliation may not be received if it is based on a demit from a Lodge not recognized by the Grand Lodge of Tennessee. It may be received if based on a duplicate of the applicant's last demit from a recognized Lodge.

1916, 111; 1922, 35.

**5.112.** A Master Mason may affiliate with and become a member of any Lodge that will receive him, even if he can neither read nor write, is in bad health, or has a physical defect, and regardless of his place of residence or of the date of his dismissal from his former Lodge. In this respect he is exempted from restrictions of state lines or jurisdictions.

1866, 589; 1869, 379; 1876, 621; 1879, 355; 1892, 20; 1897, 21; 1906, 32; 1908, 31; 1913, 27, 28; 1914, 66, 70; 1917, 44; 1920, 24; 1922, 33; 1926, 34; 1927, 131.

**5.113.** A petition for affiliation must be signed by the applicant with his full correct name; also, as recommenders, by two members in good standing of the Lodge to which application is made. It must be presented on the first day or night of a stated meeting of the Lodge; must state the name, age, residence and vocation of the applicant, and whether similar application has been made to another Lodge. If a former application was rejected by ballot or held up by objection, the petition must give the name and location of the rejecting Lodge, and, as nearly as possible, the date of rejection. He may file a new petition after 30 days at any future stated meeting.

1848, 23; 1872, 172; 1909, 32; 1911, 45; 1920, 77; 1948, 32, 101.

**5.114.** A petition for affiliation takes the same course as one for degrees (4.1304 through 4.1307) and may not be received by a Lodge unless the petitioner is vouched for as, or can prove himself to be, a Master Mason, A demit is not a sufficient voucher and is necessary only to satisfy the Lodge that the petitioner is not a member of another Lodge.

If a Brother dies pending action upon his petition for affiliation, the minutes of the succeeding stated meeting should show the facts, and the fee paid, if any, must be returned to his legal representative.

1874, 421; 1879, 353; 1880, 20; 1895, 21; 1908, 34; 1911, 45; 1924, 37.

**5.115.** An applicant for affiliation may, but ought not, be present while the ballot is being taken on his petition if it is rejected, he is entitled to receive a certificate of that fact from the Lodge rejecting him and to have the demit, filed with his application, returned without endorsement thereon; but he is not thereby relieved from the disabilities attached to nonaffiliation. It is his duty to apply again to the same or to another Lodge, which he may do at any future stated meeting, but not until the expiration of thirty (30) days from his rejection. There is no limit to the number of applications he may make, but he must sign a petition each time, of which no notice is necessary, and the same formalities must be observed each time as at first. The ballot may be taken on the new petition after a lunar month expires, but only at a stated meeting. A unanimous ballot is required for affiliation and a two-thirds majority ballot is required for reaffiliation with the Lodge from which the applicant demitted.

1866, 596; 1870, 533; 1879, 353, 354; 1883, 371; 1890, 286; 1892, 20; 1898, 19; 1914, 66; 1919, 23; 1948, 32, 101; 1953, 107; 1969, 71, 124; 1987, 53, 122, 134; 1988, 23, 50, 131.

**5.116.** Unless the bylaws of a Lodge require that each Brother who affiliates with it must pay to it a certain affiliation fee, the Lodge has the right to charge him such fee; but if its bylaws require that he pay such fee, payment must be submitted with the petition.

1929, 46.

**5.117.** A Master Mason in good standing, privileged to demit (5.102), may make application to a Lodge for membership therein by transfer, without first demitting from the Lodge of which he is a member, which also applies, so far as this grand jurisdiction is concerned, to such transfers to or from Lodges in other jurisdictions having the same law. Such application must be made in writing at a stated meeting, signed by the applicant and give his age, residence and the name, number and location of the Lodge of which he is a member, state that he is in good standing therein, that no charges are pending against him and that he desires to transfer his membership to the Lodge to which the application is made.

It shall be received by the Lodge to which presented, provided the applicant holds an official dues card for the current year, issued by the Lodge of which he is a member (which must be a regular lodge chartered by the Grand Lodge of Tennessee or by a Grand Lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of Tennessee - see list in proceedings), and shall take the same course as that provided for petitions for affiliation on demit. No notice or inquiry of any kind should be sent to the other Lodge until a ballot is spread upon the application. If elected by the Lodge to which application is made, the Secretary of said Lodge shall notify the Lodge of which the applicant is a member (4.1508), sending the lower half of the transfer form being sure that the request for demit is attached and signed by the applicant, that he has been elected to membership by affiliation, conditioned to and effective upon issuance of demit by that Lodge, whereupon, at the next stated meeting, all dues of the applicant having been paid or remitted (4.1806 and 4.1807), and no charges having been preferred or time requested in which to prefer the same or appeal from a verdict of acquittal, the Worshipful Master shall declare the application granted (a motion is not necessary) and said Lodge shall issue a demit or the certificate attached to the regular transfer form, and cause it to be mailed direct (4.1508) to the Secretary of the new Lodge, his membership ceasing in the old and becoming effective in the new Lodge **ON THAT DATE.**

1952, 49, 50, 113.

## Chapter 2

### Visiting and Avouchment

**5.201.** Although visitation is a privilege and not a right, yet to visit any Lodge which he may desire to enter as he passes through the world is one of the most important Masonic privileges of a Master Mason in good standing. It is based on the principle of the identity of the Masonic institution as one universal family, and is the exponent of the well-known maxim that "in every clime a Mason may find a home, and in every land a Brother."

M. 29, 203; S. 14, 180; Chase 298; 1869, 374; 1899, 19; 1912, 37; 2001.

**5.202.** It is the prerogative of the Worshipful Master to control the admission of visitors to his Lodge, by withholding that permission without which they may not enter; and he may exclude a visiting Brother (unless the Brother is entitled to visit by the nature of his office) from his Lodge, without being called upon for his reasons for so doing, and from this there may be no appeal.

Const 2.105(1); T. B. 281, 300, 322; S. 181; 1866, 588; 1879, 355; 1899, 19; 1923, 80.

**5.203.** A Lodge may exclude from visiting it one who has been expelled by it but restored by the Grand Lodge to the rights and privileges of Masonry.

1853, 33.

**5.204.** Any member, including the accused on trial before his Lodge, may object to the admission or presence of a visitor (unless he is entitled to visit by the nature of his office), provided he is present in the Lodge when the visitor is announced (6.609). In such case the Master must refuse admission, but an objection to a visitor is not valid in the absence of the objector.

Const. 2105(1); T. B. 281, 322; 1866, 588; 1879, 354, 399; 1894, 574; 1923, 80.

**5.205.** Every person in the hall must be known to be a Mason in good standing of the degree on which the Lodge is to be opened. The Worshipful Master must know them to be such either by personal knowledge, examination, legal information or avouchment; and he must be satisfied that a visitor is a Mason in good standing of the degree on which the Lodge is opened before ordering his admission. If the avouchment is not satisfactory, he must order an examination by a committee (5.104).

Ritual; 1868, 209.

**5.206.** A Brother may not be required to exhibit a receipt for the current year's dues before being allowed to visit a Lodge, if he is vouched for (5.208); but a visitor from another grand jurisdiction who seeks admittance into a Lodge and is not vouched for, may not be examined until he has presented a card or receipt for dues showing him to be in good standing in a regular Lodge; nor may a member of a Tennessee Lodge be examined until he has presented a standard receipt for dues. Such examination should be conducted by the Worshipful Master or by a committee appointed by him for the purpose; it should be rigid and thorough, and the result convincing beyond a reasonable doubt. The Tiler's Oath should be administered, and should conclude rather than precede the examination.

T. B. 300, 301, 303; S. 183, 185; M. 211, 213; 1917, 54, 116; 1924, 114; 1925, 37; 1948, 15, 103.

**5.207.** The possession of a certificate of demission or of a written testimonial is not sufficient proof to justify admission to a Lodge. Personal avouchment is necessary, even for one whose petition for membership is before the Lodge or who desires advancement therein on certificate and waiver.

1868, 209; 1880, 20; 1922, 34.

**5.208.** A Master Mason in good standing may vouch for another (4.1404) who is present at the time, if he knows him to be in good standing, and (a) if he has been present with him within a legally constituted and duly opened Lodge of the degree for which avouchment is made, (b) if he has been introduced to him by a Brother known to be a Master Mason in good standing, who says in so doing, "I have sat in open Lodge with this Brother," or "I have carefully examined him," (c) if, as one of a committee or otherwise he has carefully examined him. The personal examination of a Brother by another casually met should rarely be accepted. The Brother vouching must be known to be competent to conduct such an examination.

T. B. 300, 301; M. 220; 1842, 463; 1874, 449.

## Chapter 3

### Charity

**5.301.** Every Lodge is entitled to all the rights and benefits, and has all the burdens and responsibilities, which properly belong to a subordinate Lodge; but while a Lodge, as an organization dispensing charity from a common fund like a municipal corporation, is primarily bound to look after the indigent within its own territorial jurisdiction, yet in the broad sense of our covenant relation Masonic charity is not controlled by territorial jurisdiction. On becoming a Mason a man becomes a member not only of a Lodge, but of the whole Masonic family. A Mason's charity should be bounded only by his ability to contribute to the needs of the applicant. In this sense Masonic charity attaches to the individual member, and not to the Lodge.

A. L. 8; 1875, 523; 1883, 349; 1904, 34.

**5.302.** Worthy Masons are entitled to relief from brethren and Lodges whenever they are found in need of it. A Brother or a Lodge granting such aid is not entitled to demand reimbursement therefor, except in accordance with a previous agreement; but when a member is relieved by a Lodge not his own, common courtesy and duty alike demand that his Lodge reimburse the Lodge giving relief to its member, if its financial condition permits it.

T. B. 304; 1882, 209; 1895, 24; 1896, 56; 1910, 33; 1915, 85.

**5.303.** A Lodge should not bestow charity upon a traveling Mason until it first confers, by telegram or otherwise, with the Lodge to which the applicant claims to belong; nor may the funds of the Lodge be dispensed for charity without the consent of the Lodge, unless its bylaws authorize it.

1897, 21; 1904, 33.

**5.304.** The widow and orphans of a member who died while in good standing do not lose their claim upon the Lodge, even if he committed suicide; but when it becomes known that his widow and daughters are not living virtuous lives, they are not subjects of Masonic relief. When a Mason's widow marries a profane she loses her claims upon the fraternity.

1882, 207; 1893, 288; 1896, 22.

## Chapter 4

### Dual Membership

**5.401.** Dual membership or membership in a Lodge of this grand jurisdiction and a Lodge of another grand jurisdiction at the same time is permitted subject to the provisions of this chapter.

**5.402.** Dual membership is permitted only if the other Grand Lodge (1) allows dual membership; (2) will furnish a certificate of standing for dual membership or its equivalent when one of its Masons seeks dual membership here; (3) will notify this Grand Lodge when one of its Masons is elected to membership there or his membership is terminated; and (4) will recognize the suspension or expulsion here of a Mason holding dual membership.



**5.403.** Application for dual membership here is in the same way, and under the same rules as affiliations on demit from another grand jurisdiction, except it is on a certificate of standing for dual membership or its equivalent, issued by the other Grand Lodge and approved by the Grand Secretary of this Grand Lodge.

When application for dual membership is applied for here the applicant must furnish the Lodge with the certificate of standing for dual membership or its equivalent issued by his Grand Lodge. The Secretary of the Lodge shall forward the certificate to the Grand Secretary who will endorse his approval thereon if it is in order and return it to the Secretary. The applicant cannot be elected to membership until the Lodge receives the certificate back from the Grand Secretary with his approval endorsed upon it.

**5.404.** A member of a Lodge here, who desires to affiliate with a Lodge of another grand jurisdiction for dual membership shall apply in writing to the Grand Secretary for his certificate of standing for dual membership. The application must show the full name and birth date of the applicant, the date to which his dues are paid, that he has no charges pending against him, and the name, number and location of the Lodge he will apply to for affiliation. The application must be certified correct under the Lodge seal by the Secretary of the Lodge and forwarded to the Grand Secretary who will, if it is in order, issue the certificate.

**5.405.** A certificate of standing for dual membership is substantially the same as a certificate of good standing, except it must show the date to which the dues are paid, that it is not a demit, and that it is granted to the applicant for use in applying for membership in a Lodge in another grand jurisdiction mentioned in his application. It must have the Masonic history of the applicant endorsed on it and contain such other information or instructions as maybe deemed useful.

**5.406.** If a Mason holding dual membership demits from the Lodge in another grand jurisdiction it will not change his status here, but if he is suspended or expelled from a Lodge in another grand jurisdiction he is deemed suspended or expelled here. On receipt of notice from the other Grand Lodge, his membership here will be terminated by entry on the records of the Lodge and the Grand Lodge.

**5.407.** The Grand Secretary will notify the other Grand Lodge when one of its members is elected to membership here or his membership is terminated.

**5.408.** Dual membership means membership in more than one grand jurisdiction. There is no limit on the number of Lodges to which a Tennessee Mason may belong. For the Grand Lodge which utilize the term "plural membership" the term "dual membership" as used herein shall be the same as "plural membership" in such other Grand Lodges.

2012

## Chapter 5

### Plural Membership

**5.501.** A Master Mason who is a member in good standing of a Lodge in this grand jurisdiction, may become a member of one or more additional Lodges in this grand jurisdiction, provided he has been elected to membership by affiliation to said additional Lodge, and provided further that each Lodge to which he has been elected records him a plural member in the Lodge's reports to the Grand Lodge of Tennessee.

**5.502.** (1) Plural members are permitted to hold any office in one subordinate Lodge. If a plural member holds the office of Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden Treasurer or Secretary in one lodge, he may hold any other office whether appointed or elected in the other subordinate lodge of which he is a member **except** for the office of Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer or Secretary. This provision is permitted provided that the time and date of the stated meeting of one lodge does not conflict with the other. In the event that the time and date of the stated meeting of both Lodges are the same, the plural member cannot hold office, either appointed or elected in more than one lodge at the same time.

(2) Plural members will not hold the office of Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer or Secretary in two subordinate Lodges at the same time.

2010.

**5.503.** Should a Master Mason holding plural membership desire to withdraw his membership from one of the Lodges to which he belongs; he will ask for a demit from said Lodge and immediately inform all other Lodges to which he belongs of said demit.

**5.504.** Nothing within this chapter shall be construed to limit in any way the power of any Lodge to impose discipline upon any plural member of said Lodge. If convicted of a Masonic offense the plural member shall suffer the same punishment in all Lodges of which he is a member.

1993.



## TITLE 6

### THE PENAL CODE

#### Chapter 1

##### General

**6.101.** Title 6 shall be known as The Penal Code Chapters 8 apply exclusively to individual Masons and Chapter 9 exclusively to Lodges. Chapters 1 and 10 may apply to both.

**6.102.** Discipline of a Mason of this grand jurisdiction by the disciplinary authority of another grand jurisdiction for an offense committed there is recognized here if the other grand jurisdiction accords the same rights and privileges over its Masons to this grand jurisdiction. The Grand Master determines finally all matters of comity.

**6.103.** The primary purpose of Masonic discipline is to preserve the good repute and integrity of the Masonic institution by the prosecution and punishment of a Lodge or a Mason whose acts or omissions have injured the Craft as a whole, the Grand Lodge, a Mason or even a profane. It is not intended for the determination and settlement of private disputes whether religious, political or secular. However the fact that such a private dispute is involved will not prevent discipline if a Masonic offense has been committed.

**6.104.** Prosecutions pending at the time of the adoption of a new law are continued and disposed of in conformity with the old law unless the new law expressly provides otherwise. New prosecutions are under the new law.

**6.105.** Prosecution for a Masonic offense that is a felony or involves moral turpitude may occur at any time but prosecution for any other offense must commence within one year after it is discovered or it is barred. Prosecution begins when charges are preferred.

**6.106.** Masonic discipline may be applied to conduct engaged in prior to the granting of a charter or prior to being made a Mason if the conduct is discovered afterwards and is a grave Masonic offense and if discipline is invoked promptly.

**6.107.** The date of service of any summons or notice is deemed to be the date it is delivered personally or the date it is placed in the mail to be delivered.

**6.108.** In computing the time in which a thing must be done, the first day shall be excluded and the last day included except when the last day falls on Saturday, Sunday or a legal holiday it shall be excluded. When no time is fixed, the thing is to be done within a reasonable time.

**6.109.** If the accused neglects to appear after being served with charges and summons as provided herein the trial shall proceed to judgment on the proof without him.

**6.110.** Every Mason except the accused may be required to be a witness at a trial and state all that he knows about the case. But he may not be required to reveal information received under his obligation or as counsel for the accused. The accused may be a witness but may not be compelled to. If he is not a witness it shall not be used against him for any purpose.

**6.111.** The accused is presumed to be innocent. He may not be convicted unless the prosecution proves he is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

**6.112.** A judgment of conviction or acquittal of the accused or other official record in his case in a court of law may be received in evidence by certified copy thereof from the court. Such record is not conclusive of the accused' guilt or innocence and is merely evidence. The accused may be tried and convicted or acquitted regardless of the result of a trial in a court of law.

**6.113.** When the trial is by a Commission the Chairman may take the statement of a profane or of a Mason who is unable to attend the trial, at another place, reduce it to writing, and use it in the trial as evidence. When the trial is by a Lodge the Secretary may take the statement of a profane or of a Mason who is unable to attend the trial, and must if requested take the statement of an accused who cannot be present in open Lodge because he is a suspended Mason or nonaffiliate, at another place outside the Lodge, reduce it to writing and use it in the trial as evidence.

But no such statement may be taken and used as evidence in the trial unless the accused and the accuser are present by agreement or have been notified of the time and place the statement is to be taken and have a reasonable opportunity to be present in person and by counsel and ask questions of the witness. The Chairman or the Secretary shall give all necessary notice.

**6.114.** The Judge Advocate is authorized to prepare a manual for the conduct of trials, which must be consistent with this Code to be filed in the office of the Grand Secretary and made available for inspection by a Commission or a Lodge. The Grand Secretary may furnish copies of such parts thereof as may be requested.

## Chapter 2

### Offenses

**6.201.** An indiscreet and unwise act, even though amounting to unmasonic conduct, is not necessarily a Masonic offense subject to punishment. A penalty is invoked only for a willful and intentional violation which should be determined by the overt acts of the accused. Also, a Mason is entitled to know with reasonable certainty the Masonic offenses for which he may be held accountable. Accordingly, a Mason may be put to trial and punished only for a transgression that is willful and intentional and declared in this Code to be a Masonic offense.

**6.202.** Violations of the bylaws, rules and regulations of a Lodge and the constitution and laws of the Grand Lodge that amounts to Masonic offenses are delineated separately in this Code. An act done or omitted that violates any other obligation assumed in the three degrees is a Masonic offense.

**6.203.** It is a Masonic offense to commit any felony whatever, or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude. A misdemeanor involves moral turpitude if the act is so immoral that it is an act of baseness, vileness, or depravity in the private and social duties which a man owes to his fellow men or to society in general.

**6.204.** The following are violations of the bylaws, rules and regulations of Lodges or of the constitution and laws of the Grand Lodge and amount to Masonic offenses:

- (1) Willful nonpayment of dues.
- (2) Drunkenness.
- (3) Gambling, in any amount or at any time, which may unreasonably impair one's ability to support himself or those having prior claims upon him, or which causes a discredit to the brother or to the fraternity.
- (4) Profanity or the habitual use of obscene and filthy speech.
- (5) Defamation of a Mason or a profane, a Lodge, the Grand Lodge, or the fraternity.
- (6) Refusal to answer questions in a trial, unless the one refusing has received his information under his Masonic obligation, or as attorney for the accused, or failure or refusal to answer a summons to appear at a trial.
- (7) Failure of an officer of a Lodge to settle and to return his books over to it at the proper time, or failure to perform with fidelity a duty as an officer of a Lodge or of the Grand Lodge.
- (8) To object to initiation, advancement or affiliation for revenge or on purely personal, political or religious grounds.
- (9) To threaten to prevent, by blackball or objection, affiliation or conferring degrees.
- (10) Refusing obedience to the commands of a Masonic superior.
- (11) To make a false statement about a material matter in an application for the degrees, affiliation or restoration.
- (12) To engage in the illegal manufacture or sale of drugs, beer and intoxicating liquors as a beverage.
- (13) To cause or permit a place of business where beer is sold to become disreputable and a discredit to the fraternity.
- (14) To wear a Masonic emblem, or otherwise claim to be a Master Mason in good standing while an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft Mason, a suspended or expelled Mason, or a Mason unaffiliated for more than one year.
- (15) To be a member of an organization composed of Masons that permits or encourages Masonic offenses.
- (16) Using Masonic membership for political or commercial purposes.
- (17) To publish or report the proceedings of the Grand Lodge without authority, or to criticize in the public print or other media Masonic methods, proceedings and policies.
- (18) To answer roll call for another at Grand Lodge.
- (19) To allow a Lodge building to be used for unauthorized purposes.
- (20) To use unauthorized printed or written keys, ciphers, notes or characters purporting to be descriptive of the secret work, lectures or ritual of the three degrees as presently worked in Tennessee.
- (21) To disregard an objection to initiation, advancement or affiliation.
- (22) To reveal a vote on a petition for the degrees, restoration or affiliation, except to withdraw a black ball or correct an erroneous announcement, and to inquire or seek to discover how another voted.
- (23) To exhibit in open Lodge gross disrespect for Lodge members, the Grand Lodge or its officers, or the fraternity in general.
- (24) To interfere with the work or the peace and harmony of a Lodge by repeatedly preferring baseless or purely technical charges or charges purely for spite or revenge.
- (25) To abuse or mistreat wife and children or neglect to provide for them according to ability.
- (26) To be an atheist at the time of initiation or become one afterwards.
- (27) To engage in lewd conduct. To promote or engage in homosexual activity. To cohabit immorally in a situation without the benefit of marriage.
- (28) To promote or encourage the production, distribution or use of obscene films, pictures or writings.
- (29) To declare oneself a candidate for, or to actively campaign for, or ask another member to campaign for him, for an office in the Lodge.

**6.205.** Any violation of a bylaw, rule or regulation of a Lodge or the constitution or a law of the Grand Lodge not otherwise specified as a Masonic offense in this Code is a Masonic offense if a Mason who has been engaging in such violation refuses to cease and desist after being warned by a Lodge or the Grand Master.

## Chapter 3

### Punishments

**6.301.** The punishments inflicted in a Masonic trial are reprimand, definite suspension or suspension for a definite period of time, indefinite suspension, and expulsion.

Suspension and expulsion automatically remove from office an accused who is an officer. When the punishment is reprimand and the accused is an elective officer of a Lodge, removal from office may be invoked.

**6.302.** The penalty for nonpayment of dues is indefinite suspension. The penalty for other offenses may be any of the punishments. However, expulsion is inflicted only for an offense involving moral turpitude or a flagrant violation of Masonic law.

**6.303.** Exclusion is a Masonic penalty but it is not used in a trial and instead is imposed without charges and trial. The Lodge or the Master or the Grand Master may exclude a member from a meeting for conduct that disrupts order and decorum which is in the nature of a preceding for contempt. A Master may exclude a visitor, except Grand Officers, without assigning a cause which is a prerogative of his office. Exclusion continues only for the duration of the meeting from which a Mason is excluded.

**6.304.** Reprimand is a mild punishment and is considered rather as an admonition and as a notice of intention to preserve the dignity of the Order. It should be administered, after time for appeal has expired, in open Lodge at a stated meeting by the Master or under his direction or in cases decided by the Grand Master by him or at his direction in such manner as he may elect.

**6.305.** Suspension, either definite or indefinite, deprives a Mason of all his rights and privileges while the penalty operates except that of appeal and of petitioning for restoration.

**6.306.** Expulsion irrevocably severs all connection between a Mason and the fraternity and is called Masonic death. The family of an expelled Mason has no claim on the fraternity.

**6.307.** A suspended or expelled Mason may not be admitted into a Lodge for any purpose.

**6.308. PUBLICATION OF THE NAMES OF DISCIPLINED MASONS**

**A.** The names of Masons expelled or suspended under Masonic law during the preceding year shall be published in the Grand Lodge Proceedings on a page that states in bold print at the top of the page:

**CONFIDENTIAL AND PRIVILEGED INFORMATION. DISCLOSURE  
TO A PERSON NOT A MASON IS A SERIOUS MASONIC OFFENCE.**

**B.** At the heading of the list of those expelled, the Proceedings shall state:

**“The following named people are no longer eligible to receive Masonic communication.”**

**C.** The word “expelled” (or any equivalent) shall not be printed anywhere in the Proceedings to describe the action of any Lodge in this or any other Grand Jurisdiction against an individual.

## Chapter 4

### Jurisdiction

**6.401.** In accordance with the Ancient Landmarks, every Mason is amenable to the laws and regulations of the jurisdiction in which he resides, even though he be a member of a particular Lodge in some other jurisdiction.

1980,58,125.

**6.402.** The penal jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge and of a subordinate Lodge is as follows:

- (1) The Grand Lodge has penal jurisdiction, which is original and exclusive, over its officers and other Masons who commit an offense against the Grand Lodge and over the Grand Master and Masters of Lodges, who commit any offense. It may assume original penal jurisdiction over any Mason if the subordinate Lodge having jurisdiction neglects or refuses to exercise it. When the Grand Lodge is not in session, the Grand Master acts for it in all penal matters.
- (2) Except in cases in which the Grand Lodge has original penal jurisdiction, a subordinate Lodge has penal jurisdiction (1) over its members who commit an offense anywhere, including suspended or expelled members and its Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts over whom it has not waived jurisdiction, and (2) over all Masons who reside and commit an offense in its territorial jurisdiction.

A Mason charged with an offense in a subordinate Lodge shall have the same right the Lodge has to request that he be tried by a trial commission.

1980,58,125,126.

**6.403.** When penal jurisdiction is concurrent among Lodges, the Lodge in which charges are first preferred takes jurisdiction to the exclusion of other Lodges.

**6.404.** When original penal jurisdiction is assumed by the Grand Lodge it becomes exclusive and any proceedings commenced in the Lodge are terminated. Such jurisdiction may be assumed at any stage of the proceedings prior to judgment. If judgment has been made, the Grand Lodge will review the case only on appeal.

## Chapter 5

### Charges

**6.501.** Charges against all Masons except the Grand Master are preferred only by the Grand Master or some other affiliated Master Mason in good standing or by a Lodge. Charges against the Grand Master are preferred only by the Grand Lodge.

**6.502.** Charges against Grand Officers and other Masons for an offense against the Grand Lodge and against Masters of Lodges for any offenses are filed with the Grand Master. Charges against all other Masons are filed with a Lodge having penal jurisdiction over them.

**6.503.** When the Grand Lodge assumes original jurisdiction the Grand Master may prefer or cause to be preferred charges against the accused. If charges are pending in a



Lodge, he may proceed on them or on new charges at his option. On request the Secretary of the Lodge shall file with the Grand Master six copies of pending charges under Lodge Seal.

**6.504.** Charges must be in writing and signed by the Mason preferring them or if preferred by a Lodge they must be signed by the Junior Warden or some other member designated by the Lodge for that purpose.

**6.505.** Charges need not be in any particular form or comply with any technical rules but must specify the offense the accused is charged with and state the facts constituting the offense in ordinary and concise language and in such a manner as to enable a man of common understanding to know what is intended. Multiple offenses may be charged at the same time but their separate nature must clearly appear.

**6.506.** Charges are preferred or accepted by a Lodge having penal jurisdiction or by the Grand Lodge or Grand Master exercising original jurisdiction if there is probable cause to believe an offense has been committed and the accused committed it.

**6.507.** The accused is not entitled to notice that charges are being considered by a Lodge or the Grand Master or to appear and be heard on the same. He becomes entitled to notice only after charges are pending and a trial is to be conducted.

**6.508.** Charges in a Lodge must be read in open Lodge and preferred or accepted by the Lodge by majority vote at a stated meeting which must be reflected in the minutes. Until charges are written, signed and read they cannot be preferred or accepted by the Lodge. Charges must be accepted or rejected within a reasonable time after they are preferred by a brother. They cannot be indefinitely postponed.

**6.509.** After charges are pending and ready for trial they cannot be amended or changed. New charges must be preferred or accepted instead.

**6.510.** If a Mason other than the one who signs the charges is to be the accuser in the trial his name shall be endorsed thereon as such.

**6.511.** If charges are not accepted the same charges may be preferred a second time but no more. If refused twice the only remedy is appeal.

**6.512.** When charges are preferred before the Grand Master or a Lodge and are not accepted, the Grand Master or the Secretary respectively shall make and sign a written statement of the evidence presented, including any reasons assigned by the Grand Master or the Lodge for not accepting them, which shall be preserved for use in the record in case of appeal.

## Chapter 6

### Trials

**6.601.** When the Grand Master is to be tried by the Grand Lodge the Grand Lodge shall adopt a resolution detailing the procedure to be used in the case which shall include provisions for notice and a hearing in person and by counsel. Termination of the Grand Master's term shall not terminate proceedings against him for an offense committed during his term.

**6.602.** The trial of all other Masons is:

- (1) By a commission acting for the Grand Lodge in cases of original jurisdiction when the Grand Lodge is not in session, or
- (2) By a commission acting for a Lodge at the request of the Lodge or the accused, or
- (3) By a Lodge.

1981,51,120

**6.603.** When the Grand Lodge has exclusive original penal jurisdiction, which includes offenses committed by a Master during his term of office, or assumes original penal jurisdiction, the Grand Master shall appoint a trial commission which shall conduct a trial and report its findings to the Grand Master together with its recommendations on innocence or guilt and punishment. The report shall be in writing and signed by a majority of the members. The Grand Master shall review the record made before the commission including the report and pronounce an independent judgment. The judgment shall take effect on the date thereof. He shall deliver or mail a copy of his and the commission's action to the accused. A copy shall be sent to the accused's own Lodge if an affiliate in this grand jurisdiction or to proper authority if in another grand jurisdiction. The Secretary shall read the results of the trial at the next stated meeting of the Lodge.

**6.604.** When a Lodge has penal jurisdiction and has preferred or accepted charges, it may decide by majority vote to request that a trial commission be appointed to try the accused or the accused may make such request by notice to the Worshipful Master. In such case the Secretary shall forward to the Grand Master six copies of the charges under Lodge Seal together with notice the Lodge or the accused has made the request. The Grand Master then shall appoint a trial commission which shall conduct the trial and decide the case for and instead of the Lodge. When the commission has made its findings and judgment, which shall be in writing and signed by a majority of the members, the judgment shall take effect on the date thereof. It shall send a copy of the same to the Secretary of the Lodge with copy to the Grand Master and Grand Secretary. The Secretary shall read the findings and judgment of the commission to the Lodge at the next stated meeting after receiving them and note the result of the trial in the minutes. He shall send the accused a copy of the findings and judgment but failure to do so shall not invalidate the judgment.

1981,51,120.

**6.605.** A trial commission, whether appointed to act for the Grand Lodge or a Lodge, shall be composed of three (3) disinterested Past Masters who shall not be members of the Grand Lodge Appeals and Grievances Committee or members of a Lodge to which the accuser or the accused belongs. Commissioners may be excepted to by the accuser or the accused for bias, interest or other cause by notice in writing to the Grand Master setting out the reasons at least 10 (ten) days before the trial in which event the Grand Master shall grant or deny the exception and his action shall be final. He may appoint other commissioners as may be necessary prior to the trial. The term of no commissioner shall expire until his work is completed or he is relieved regardless of when the Grand Master's term ends. He shall appoint a chairman who shall be in charge of the trial and shall act for the commission in all preliminary matters including the issuance and service of any summons or notice. Commissioners shall receive no compensation for their services. All necessary expenses of the proceeding may be paid but the Grand Master must first approve the same.

1979,123, 2007

**6.606.** A commission, whether acting for the Grand Lodge or a Lodge, shall cause a certified copy of the charges, together with a summons to appear at the time and place of the trial, to be served on the accused by a messenger who is a Master Mason or by certified return receipt requested mail sent to him at his address if known. But if he evades service or refuses delivery or if his address is unknown and cannot be ascertained after diligent inquiry the copy of the charges and the summons sent to him at his last known address by certified return receipt requested mail shall be sufficient notice. The trial shall be not less than 15 days after the accused is served with a copy of the charges and a summons. The commission shall immediately appoint in writing counsel for the prosecution, who may or may not be the accuser, he to be consulted in that regard if there is an accuser, and thereafter he shall be responsible for the presentation of the case for the prosecution at the trial. It may appoint also in writing counsel for the accused, who may or may not be the accused, he to be consulted in that regard if possible, and thereafter he shall be responsible for the presentation of the case for the defense at the trial. The accused may select counsel of his own, in which case, the commission shall not appoint his counsel. All counsel must be Master Masons in good standing. The chairman shall summon any witness who knows any material facts about the case requested by the parties or counsel, they furnishing the name, address and telephone number of each, and any witness known by the chairman to be a witness for either side. No profane may be summoned but may be requested to appear. All papers sent out by the commission shall include the name and address of the chairman.

1979,123.

**6.607.** Trial by a commission acting for a Lodge is held in the territorial jurisdiction of the Lodge. Trial by a commission acting for the Grand Lodge, of a Master of a Lodge or a Mason over whom original jurisdiction is assumed, is held in the territorial jurisdiction of his own Lodge or a Lodge that otherwise would have had penal jurisdiction over him, and of a Mason who commits an offense against the Grand Lodge, in the Grand Lodge building. The commission may change the venue for good cause.

**6.608.** If the accused desires to raise any objection to the sufficiency of the charges or any other objection whatever to the proceeding he must file his motion in writing with the chairman at least 10 days before the trial. If no motion is filed in time all objections may be treated as waived and the trial may proceed on the merits at the appointed time.

A motion to dismiss the charges for some defect or slip in preferring or accepting the same should be denied unless it appears the accused will be prejudiced thereby in his trial. A motion may be granted, however, if the charges are invalid or if proceeded with will prejudice the accused. If the charges are dismissed on motion they cannot be amended. The commission in such case will report its action and its work will end. New charges may be preferred or accepted by proper authority and another commission appointed composed of other or the same members. The same process preliminary to trial is followed on new charges as on any others.

The commission may continue a hearing that has not commenced by notice to the parties and witnesses personally or first class mail or continue a hearing already commenced by announcement at the hearing. Summons and notice in such cases remain

in effect and Masons are bound to be present at the new time set. A trial may not be indefinitely postponed.

**6.609.** A trial by a commission is conducted in a Lodge room or other place that can be properly tiled. The commission may admit any Master Mason in good standing to the hearing but it may restrict those present before it to the accuser, accused, counsel for the prosecution and defense, reporter, and one witness at a time. It is authorized to appoint other than counsel such persons as may be necessary to assist it in the trial including a Tiler, marshal and reporter. All present shall be Master Masons in good standing except an Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, suspended Mason or nonaffiliate may be present if he is the accused or as a witness while a witness. A profane may be present only while a witness.

**6.610.** The object of a Masonic trial is to discover the truth and technicalities are to be ignored but the hearing must be orderly and on competent evidence to achieve justice. Except as otherwise provided in Masonic law, the rules for the conduct of trials and the reception of evidence are substantially as in a court of this state.

A witness may not be sworn in the trial and an atheist may not be a witness. The commission may take the statement of a profane or a Mason who is unable to attend the trial in another place for use in the trial as described in the general provisions of this Code.

The chairman shall cause to be kept a full, true and perfect record of the entire proceeding, including the appointment of the commissioners and all correspondence, the facts about the issuance and service of every notice and summons, the disposition of motions, the filing of exhibits, and a written narrative of the substance of what is said at the trial by the witnesses and others that is material. The narrative may be a separate document or incorporated in the findings and must be signed by a majority of the members. In addition the chairman may cause a verbatim report to be made of the hearing by means of a reporter or a recording device but the incurring of any expense connected with the same must be approved by the Grand Master. All of the papers and the entire record shall be filed with the Grand Secretary at the conclusion of the case. The chairman may at that time certify the record or he may wait and certify it in case of an appeal.

**6.611.** The members of a commission are for the time being superior Masonic officers vested with all the powers necessary for the discharge of their duties and all Masons are bound to obey their lawful commands.

Commissioners may not receive any evidence except in the trial or discuss the merits of the case with any other person until the case is over.

**6.612.** The request of a Lodge or the accused for a trial of the accused by a commission is granted to promote harmony and justice and this method of trial is recommended except in the trial of charges for nonpayment of dues which is always by the Lodge. But a Lodge is entitled to try the accused in open Lodge in all cases in which it has penal jurisdiction and the accused has not requested a trial by a commission. The trial in open Lodge must be in the manner and under the regulations herein specified.

1981,51,120.

**6.613.** The only way to suspend a member for nonpayment of dues is to prefer charges against him and dispose of his case as provided in this section.

At a stated meeting, after the Lodge has remitted the dues of such delinquent members as it may elect, the Junior Warden shall prefer charges against all other delinquent members for nonpayment of dues which shall be in writing and signed by him as in other cases. After the Junior Warden has preferred charges, he or the Secretary shall read the same, or the names appearing thereon, to the Lodge and the Lodge shall act on the charges by majority vote. If the charges are accepted the Secretary shall immediately mail to the last known address of each member charged by first class mail with his return address thereon, a copy of the charges showing the amount due together with a summons to attend the next stated meeting, or other stated meeting set by the Lodge, to answer the charges.

At the stated meeting specified in the summons, if the dues are not paid and the members are not present to show cause why they should not be suspended or are present and fail to show cause, the Lodge may by two thirds majority vote suspend indefinitely all such delinquent members. The Lodge may, after such charges and notice, still remit dues or postpone the trial to another stated meeting without further notice but ultimately the charges must be disposed of. When a member is suspended indefinitely for non payment of dues the Secretary shall immediately mail to the suspended member, at his last known address by first class mail with a return address thereon a notice of the suspension together with a blank application for restoration, but failure to do so shall not invalidate the suspension.

The official minutes shall reflect the foregoing proceedings, including the names of members whose dues are remitted, those charged with non payment of dues, and those suspended.

**6.614.** In all cases in which trial is by the Lodge, except in cases for nonpayment of dues, trial shall be in open Lodge at a time to be fixed by the Lodge. The Secretary shall serve a certified copy of the charges, together with a summons to appear at the time and place of the trial, under seal of the Lodge, on the accused personally or by certified return receipt requested mail sent to him at his address if known. If the accused Mason evades service or refuses delivery or if his address cannot be ascertained after diligent inquiry the copy of the charges and the summons sent to him at his last known address by certified return receipt requested mail shall be sufficient notice. The trial shall be not less than 15 days after the accused is served with the copy of the charges and a summons. The Secretary must certify under Lodge seal the manner and time he served the papers and file the certificate in the record of the case.

The Secretary shall summon every resident member <sup>4</sup> of the Lodge to attend the trial of the accused which summons shall be delivered personally or sent by first class mail at the same time he serves the charges and summons on the accused. The Secretary must certify under Lodge Seal that he served the summons on resident members, listing their names and addresses, and file the certificate in the record of the case.

The Worshipful Master shall immediately appoint counsel for the prosecution and notify said counsel and the accuser in writing of his appointment. The appointed counsel shall be responsible for the presentation of the case for the prosecution at the trial. The accused may select his own defense counsel, but if he makes no selection, the Master shall appoint his counsel. All counselors must be Master Masons in good standing. The Secretary shall summon any witness requested by the parties or their counsel or the

Worshipful Master, they furnishing the name, address and telephone number of each. He shall serve each summons personally or by first class mail and keep a record thereof to be filed with the other papers in the case. No profane may be summoned but may be requested to appear outside the Lodge to give his statement.

1979,123, 2006, 2017.

**6.615.** The Worshipful Master presides at all trials by the Lodge. It is his duty to see that the accused has a fair and impartial trial and he should not participate in the argument of the case before the Lodge or attempt to influence its decision.

He may preside even in a case in which he is interested but may elect not to do so in which event he shall designate a Past Master to preside in his stead.

**6.616.** If the accused desires to raise any objection to the sufficiency of the charges or any other objection whatever to the proceeding he must file his motion in writing with the Secretary at least 10 days before the trial. If no motion is filed in time all objections may be treated as waived and the trial may proceed on the merits at the appointed time.

A motion to dismiss the charges for some defect or slip in preferring or accepting the same should be denied unless it appears the accused will be prejudiced thereby in his trial. A motion may be granted, however, if the charges are invalid proceeded which will prejudice the accused. If the charges are dismissed on motion, they cannot be amended. New charges may be preferred or accepted by the Lodge and the cause proceeded with anew.

The Lodge may continue a case before it has commenced by notice given to the parties and the witnesses by the Secretary or after it has commenced by announcement at the hearing. In such case any summons remains in effect and a Mason is bound to be present at the new time appointed. A case may not be indefinitely postponed.

**6.617** The object of a Masonic trial is to discover the truth and technicalities are ignored but the hearing must be orderly and on competent evidence to serve justice. Except as otherwise provided in Masonic law, the rules for the conduct of trials and reception of evidence are substantially as in courts of law.

A witness may not be sworn in the trial and an atheist may not be a witness.

A suspended Mason or nonaffiliate may not appear in a trial in open Lodge as a witness or even as an accused. His statement, and likewise the statement of a profane, must be taken outside the Lodge and reduced to writing for use in the trial as described in the general provisions in this Code.

When the accused is a suspended Mason or a nonaffiliate and cannot be present in open Lodge at the trial arrangements must be made for him to be near the place where the trial is held to confer with counsel.

The Secretary shall make a full, true and perfect record of the entire proceeding, including a record of those present when the trial commenced, who entered or retired from the Lodge thereafter and when, the number voting for and against each proposition, and the ruling of the Master in each case. He shall make also a written narrative of the substance of what is said at the trial by witnesses and others that is material and certify that it is correct to the best of his knowledge. He shall cause to be made, if the Lodge requires it, a verbatim report of the hearing by means of a reporter or a recording device.

On Lodge order he shall cause the report to be transcribed. The Lodge must furnish the Secretary with any assistance he may need. All of the papers in the case and the record made by the Secretary, including the report and any transcription thereof shall be preserved and only Master Masons in good standing may inspect the same. The Lodge may authorize copies to be made for use by the parties in preparing their appeal but they must promise to use them for no other purpose.

**6.618.** When all of the evidence has been placed before the Lodge the parties or their counsel may comment thereon under regulation of the Master after which the accused, the accuser, all visitors, and all members who have not heard all the evidence, shall retire. Only members who have been present and heard all the evidence may be present and vote but a temporary absence from the room shall not disqualify. If the trial is of an Entered Apprentice or FellowCraft, the Lodge shall be closed and then opened on the third degree. The Lodge shall then vote on the case. Every member present shall vote unless excused by unanimous consent of the Lodge. The vote is taken secretly by each member writing his vote on a slip of paper and delivering it to tellers appointed by the Master. The tellers make a written report of the vote to the Master who announces the result.

The first question on which the vote must be taken is, "Are the charges sustained?" and on this question the vote must be taken on each charge separately. Two thirds of all the votes cast are necessary to sustain the charges. No action may be reconsidered after the vote is announced.

If charges are sustained, the next step in the trial, except in cases for nonpayment of dues in which conviction carries with it indefinite suspension, is to determine the punishment. The vote proceeds immediately after conviction before any member has left the room, secretly by writing on slips of paper and delivering them to the tellers, and on each conviction separately.

In cases in which the accused is subject to all the penalties, the Master will put the question without motion, "Shall the penalty be expulsion?" If two thirds of the members present vote "yes," the penalty of expulsion is determined. If less than two thirds vote "yes," the Master will then put the question, "Shall the penalty be indefinite suspension?" If two thirds vote "yes," the penalty is determined. If less than two thirds vote "yes," the Master will then put the question, "Shall the penalty be definite suspension?" If a majority vote "yes," the penalty is determined but the time of definite suspension must be fixed. The vote will be taken first on the longest time placed in nomination, then on the next longest time, and so on until the Lodge agrees by majority vote on the length of time. If the penalty of definite suspension is not agreed on, the Master will put the question, "Shall the penalty be reprimand?" and if a majority vote "yes," that penalty is determined.

Suspension or expulsion automatically removes an officer from office. If the penalty is reprimand, the Lodge may also remove an elective officer from office by majority vote. It is the exclusive prerogative of the Master to remove appointive officers.

The Secretary shall notify the accused of the results of the trial but failure to do so shall not invalidate a conviction.

## Chapter 7

### Appeals

**6.701.** All appeals are to the Grand Lodge. There are no appeals to the Grand Master.

**6.702.** An appeal may be taken from a refusal to accept charges and from a final judgment in a trial as follows:

- (1) By a Mason who prefers charges that are not accepted.
- (2) By the accused or the accuser aggrieved by the final judgment of a Lodge in a trial.
- (3) By the accused, the accuser or a Lodge aggrieved by the final judgment of a commission or the Grand Master in a trial.
- (4) By the Grand Master from the refusal of a Lodge to accept charges and from the final judgment of a Lodge or a commission acting for a Lodge in a trial.

**6.703.** A refusal to accept charges or the final judgment in a trial stands until it is changed by the Grand Lodge except the Grand Master may on a petition of one aggrieved hold in abeyance a final judgment of conviction and punishment until the Grand Lodge acts. In acting on a petition to hold in abeyance such a judgment the Grand Master uses a sound discretion and acts only after carefully reviewing the record and hearing all parties to the controversy.

**6.704.** An appeal may be taken in a trial only after final judgment of dismissal, acquittal, or conviction and punishment. All questions, including interlocutory actions complained of, are heard in the same appeal.

**6.705.** To appeal a refusal to accept charges or a judgment in a trial the appellant shall serve notice of appeal on the opposite party, with copy to the Grand Secretary, by delivery personally or mailing by first class mail with return address thereon, within 30 days after charges are refused or the judgment takes effect. Within 60 days after refusal to accept charges or the judgment takes effect, he shall serve his reasons for appeal on the opposite party, with copy to the Grand Secretary, in the same way as the notice of appeal. Unless these provisions are complied with, no appeal may be allowed except by order of the Grand Master for a delayed appeal as provided herein.

**6.706.** When the appeal has been perfected by serving notice and reasons on time and is from the action of a Lodge the Grand Secretary shall notify the Secretary of the Lodge to certify the record under Lodge seal and forward it to the Grand Secretary. The Secretary shall have 30 days within which to comply. When the appeal is from the action of a commission or the Grand Master the Grand Secretary shall cause the chairman to certify the record if he has not already certified it. The record from a Lodge may be the original or a copy except original recordings, if any, shall be sent up.

**6.707.** If a commission or a Lodge makes a record of all or part of a trial by means of a recording device the original recording, authenticated by the chairman or the Secretary, shall be a part of the record on appeal. If it has not been transcribed, the parties or their counsel may hear the recording under the supervision of the Grand Secretary or a member of his staff. But the Grand Master may order the recording transcribed by the Grand Secretary in which event the transcription may be seen instead.

**6.708.** If an applicant fails to perfect an appeal on time through no fault of his own he may petition the Grand Master in writing for permission to take a delayed appeal, which



the Grand Master may grant or deny in his discretion and his decision shall be final. If granted, the appeal shall be perfected in such time and manner as the Grand Master may direct.

**6.709.** An appeal is heard by the Grand Lodge at the annual communication that occurs 30 days or more after the appeal is perfected or the record made in a Lodge is filed with the Grand Secretary. The Grand Master may order an appeal to be heard at an annual communication that occurs less than 30 days after an appeal is perfected or a record filed.

**6.710.** A party entitled to appeal or counsel may file a written brief and argument with the Committee on Appeals and Grievances by sending it to the Grand Secretary at least 30 days before the next annual communication with copy to the other party who may reply in 15 days in the same manner. A party or counsel may argue the case orally before the committee by sending a notice on the opposite party at least 30 days before the next annual communication with a copy to the Grand Secretary. If one party gives notice the other may appear and argue without giving notice. The Grand Secretary will notify the parties of the time and place set by the committee for oral argument which may be prior to the convening of the Grand Lodge. Argument before the committee, whether written or oral is entirely on the record and no new evidence may be received. There is no argument by the parties or counsel before the Grand Lodge.

**6.711.** A record is open for inspection by a party entitled to appeal but a party is not entitled to a copy thereof at the expense of the Lodge or the Grand Lodge. It may be furnished by the Lodge or the Grand Lodge to a party entitled to appeal if he is willing to pay therefor such reasonable charges as may be exacted and pledges that he will limit the use thereof to the purposes of appeal. If the record contains reference to secret work or other matter that might prejudice the fraternity if known by the profane it must be omitted from the copy and the applicant must rely on the original record in that respect. The Secretary or the Grand Secretary makes the determination in such cases.

**6.712.** The Grand Lodge will not entertain an appeal taken solely to raise a technical point of law and not to prevent a wrong, or one that would serve no useful purpose to decide, or one prosecuted only for the purpose of harassment or fomenting discord. It will dismiss summarily such an appeal.

**6.713.** On appeal the Grand Lodge may affirm, reserve, modify or change a refusal to accept charges, or a final judgment in a trial. It will make whatever order is necessary to carry out its decision. It will if possible decide every case finally but it may order a new trial in whole or in part.

**6.714.** The Grand Lodge acts entirely on the record already made in the case. It will hear no new evidence.

**6.715.** An appeal from a sentence of suspension or expulsion does not act as a stay of punishment. Such sentence takes effect from the time the court or officer exercising original jurisdiction fixes it and may not be fixed to become effective conditionally or at a later date; but a brother may appeal from a sentence of reprimand, and a Lodge should not inflict that punishment without giving reasonable time for an appeal to be taken.

**6.716.** Reversal, by the Grand Lodge on appeal, of sentence of expulsion or suspension and dismissal of the case, is not restoration, but is absolute annulment of the sentence, and places the brother in the same relation to the Lodge as though charges had not been preferred, to wit, in good standing.

## Chapter 8

### Restoration

#### **6.801 PETITION FOR RESTORATION OF A SUSPENDED MASON**

- A. A suspended Mason may be restored by a Subordinate Lodge or the Grand Lodge as provided herein. A Mason who dies while suspended may not be restored.
- B. A suspended Mason desiring restoration must submit a petition for restoration either to:
1. the Subordinate Lodge from which he was suspended; or
  2. another Subordinate Lodge that is willing to accept him under a concurrent petition for affiliation, or
  3. the Grand Lodge.
- C. A petition for restoration must include:
1. the Mason's full name and signature;
  2. the Mason's date of birth;
  3. the Mason's most recent affiliation by Lodge name, number and location;
  4. the date and reason for suspension;
  5. if the Mason has petitioned another Lodge for affiliation and restoration; and
  6. such other information as may be requested by the Lodge.

*1999, 2007.*

#### **6.802 RESTORATION OF SUSPENDED MASONS**

- A. A suspended Mason can only be restored by the Lodge from which he was suspended by unanimous secret ballot. If that Lodge is defunct, he may:
1. Be restored by any other Tennessee Lodge in which he is concurrently granted membership through a petition for affiliation by unanimous secret ballot (5.110); or
  2. By the Grand Lodge, if he is a resident of another Grand Jurisdiction.
- B. A Mason suspended by the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge under exercise of original jurisdiction may be restored only by the Grand Lodge after:
1. the Grand Lodge has received favorable report from a commission specifically appointed to investigate the propriety of the proposed restoration; and
  2. the Grand Lodge has taken affirmative action to restore the Mason.
  3. a Mason restored by the Grand Lodge will be non-affiliated until such time as he has been granted membership in a Subordinate Lodge through a petition for affiliation (5.110).
- C. A Lodge restoring a Brother after his suspension for nonpayment of dues shall remit to the Grand Lodge upon his restoration a per capita amount equal to the per capita rate in the year during which the Brother was suspended.

*2006, 2007.*

**6.803.** A Mason may not be restored until after the time fixed in a definite suspension. He is restored under the same rules prescribed for restoration in case of indefinite suspension, except restoration by a Lodge after expiration of the time fixed in a definite suspension requires only a majority vote of the members present.

**6.804.** An expelled Mason may not be restored to membership by a subordinate Lodge.

**6.805.** Restoration by a Lodge restores a Mason to all Masonic rights and privileges, including his former status as an Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft or member of the Lodge. Restoration by the Grand Lodge restores a Mason to all Masonic rights and privileges except membership or other status in a Lodge. When restored by the Grand Lodge he receives a certificate from the Grand Secretary which shall be recognized as a demit or as a certificate of good standing and waiver of jurisdiction.

**6.806.** A suspended Mason may present a petition for restoration any time after suspension. If a petition is rejected, another may not be presented until the expiration of six months.

1999.

**6.807.** A suspended Mason cannot be restored while he is confined in a jail or penitentiary or on probation because convicted of a crime.

1999.

## Chapter 9

### The Lodge

**6.901.** Except for having less than seven members, a Lodge may be put to trial and punished only for a transgression that is willful and intentional and declared to be a Masonic offense in this Code.

**6.902.** An act or omission by a Lodge contrary to any of the Ancient Landmarks is a Masonic offense.

**6.903.** It is a Masonic offense for a Lodge to neglect or refuse to obey a lawful order of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master, or other superior Masonic officer, or to interfere with the execution of such an order.

**6.904.** It is a Masonic offense for a Lodge to neglect or refuse to obey a lawful summons, notice, or other process.

**6.905.** The following are violations of the constitution and laws of the Grand Lodge and are Masonic offenses:

- (1) Having a membership of less than seven.
- (2) Failure to meet within a period of one year.
- (3) Failure to be represented in the Grand Lodge for two successive annual communications.
- (4) Arrearages to the Grand Lodge for two years.
- (5) To issue an appeal to other Lodges asking aid or cooperation for any private purpose or personal object except by written order under seal by the Grand Master.
- (6) To confer a degree on an applicant who is rightfully the material of another Lodge without the consent of said Lodge.
- (7) To confer a degree for a Lodge of another grand jurisdiction unless the request is made through the Grand Masters or Grand Secretaries of this and the other grand jurisdiction
- (8) Failure to enforce an answer to a summons.
- (9) To purchase, sell or use unauthorized printed or written keys, ciphers, notes or characters purporting to be descriptive of the secret work, lectures or ritual or use a monitor other than that adopted by the Grand Lodge.
- (10) To refund fees of a candidate except when he is rejected or fails to present himself to take the degree.

- (11) For a Lodge or any Masonically affiliated. organization to permit or engage in any form of raffle, bingo, lottery, or game of chance upon any property owned, operated or used by said Lodge or organization.

1989,57,126,137.

**6.906.** Any violation of the constitution or laws of the Grand Lodge not otherwise specified as a Masonic offense in this Code is a Masonic offense if a Lodge that has been engaging in such violation fails to cease and desist after being warned by the Grand Master.

**6.907.** The punishments inflicted in a trial of a Lodge are reprimand, temporary arrest or suspension of the charter, and arrest or suspension of the charter with recommendation that it be revoked by the Grand Lodge.

**6.908.** The Grand Lodge has exclusive original penal jurisdiction over Lodges.

**6.909.** Charges against a Lodge are preferred by the Grand Master, or preferred by another Master Mason in good standing or a Lodge and filed with the Grand Master. They are preferred in the same way and under the same rules as charges against a Mason in a case of exclusive original penal jurisdiction by the Grand Lodge.

**6.910.** The trial of a Lodge is by a commission acting for the Grand Lodge in the same way and under the same rules as the trial of a Mason in a case of original penal jurisdiction by the Grand Lodge except each resident member must be summoned to the trial personally or by first class mail sent to his last known address The trial is held in the territorial jurisdiction of the Lodge. The commission may change the venue for good cause The Grand Master, however, may dispense with a commission and conduct the proceeding himself.

**6.911.** The accuser or the Lodge aggrieved by the final judgment of the Grand Master may appeal to the Grand Lodge in the same way and under the same as in the case of an appeal of a Mason in a case of original penal jurisdiction by the Grand Lodge.

**6.912.** The final judgment of the Grand Master maybe to arrest or suspend the charter until the next annual communication of the Grand Lodge, with or without a recommendation that it be revoked, or to arrest or suspend it for a lesser period of time. In either event he may, in his discretion, restore the charter before the time has elapsed, which shall restore all the rights and privileges of the Lodge and its members If the charter is arrested or suspended when the next annual communication occurs the record of the trial shall be certified to the Grand Lodge, whether an appeal has been prosecuted or not, and the Grand Lodge will revoke or restore the charter or take other action thereon.

## Chapter 10

### Summary Proceedings

**6.1001.** The disposition of a controversy or question outside a trial is by a summary proceeding which is informal and according to no set rules unless rules are specified in the Code. To be valid the proceeding must at some point give the parties a reasonable opportunity to be heard. The opportunity should be in the original proceeding but it is sufficient if it is given on appeal.

**6.1002.** An appeal may be taken to the Grand Lodge by a Mason or a Lodge aggrieved by an order or decision made outside a trial by the Grand Master, Grand Secretary, other superior Masonic officer, a Lodge, and by a Master of a Lodge except on admission of visitors and ordering additional ballots.

**6.1003.** An order or decision made outside a trial stands until it is changed by the Grand Lodge except the Grand Master may on petition of one aggrieved hold in abeyance the order or decision until the Grand Lodge meets.

**6.1004.** To appeal an order or decision made outside a trial the party aggrieved shall serve notice and reasons of appeal on the Lodge or officer making the order or decision within 30 days after it is made with copy to the Grand Secretary. If the party aggrieved and the Lodge or officer cannot agree on a statement of the order or decision and the material facts involved, the aggrieved party shall make and sign a written statement thereof to the best of his knowledge, file it with the Grand Secretary, and serve a copy on the Lodge or officer in 60 days after the order or decision is made. The Lodge or officer may make, file and serve such a statement in the same way in 90 days after the order or decision is made. Service is by delivery personally or first class mail as in other cases. The statements together with such other statements as the Grand Lodge may require shall constitute the record on appeal. Argument is made and the matter disposed of by the Grand Lodge under the same rules as in an appeal in a trial.

## Chapter 11

### Automatic Suspension

**6.1101.** When a Mason amenable to the laws and regulations of this Grand Lodge shall be convicted of a felony in a state or federal court, he shall stand indefinitely suspended automatically from the date recorded on his certified conviction document received by the Grand Secretary, unless such conviction is appealed from, in which event, if the conviction is affirmed his suspension shall become effective on the date of the affirmation, and shall not be restored except by legal action of the Lodge after due petition. No petition for restoration by one so suspended shall be received until at least one year following the completion of the service of his sentence, whether the sentence by probation or confinement in a penal institution.

The automatic suspension regulation may be set aside by the Lodge of which the accused is a member, if within 60 days after the affirmation of the sentence; the Lodge takes action in the case in accordance with the penal regulations of the Code. In this event the decision of the Lodge if it conducts the trial or the trial commission shall prevail. If the Lodge fails to take such action within 60 days after the sentence is affirmed, the automatic suspension regulation becomes effective, and the member shall stand suspended as provided thereby.

1979,120,121, 2015

**6.1102.** When a Mason subject to the laws and regulations of the Grand Lodge shall file suit in any civil court or initiate an administrative action against the Grand Lodge or any of its officers, agents, representatives, or employees, or any subordinate Lodge in Tennessee or any of its officers, agents representatives, or employees (collectively the "Masonic Body") as a result of any action by a Masonic Body suspending, trying, expelling, or removing from office such person; such person shall stand immediately and irrevocably expelled from the Fraternity, and shall not be restored even if the suit is withdrawn.

2007



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## TITLE 7

### MASONIC WIDOWS, AND ORPHANS' HOME FUND OF TENNESSEE FUND

(As amended 1966, pp. 95-99, 119, 120)

#### Chapter 1

#### Organization

**7.101.** To help, aid and assist, and to the extent of ability, to provide for the necessities of worthy Master Masons, their wives, widows and orphans, is one of the most sacred obligations resting upon every Lodge and upon every Master Mason who is worthy of the title which has been conferred upon him. The Grand Lodge has emphasized this truth by repeated enactments and liberal appropriations. The duty and genius of Masonry require that it extend such aid and encouragement, particularly to those institutions having in view the education of worthy Master Masons' children, as may be done without incurring financial disabilities.

The Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home of Tennessee Fund is an incorporated institution having for its purposes the objects mentioned above. The Old Masons' Home, which was incorporated February 3, 1913, is a part of said institution, but it may be discontinued or converted to the use of widows and orphans whenever, in the judgment of the Grand Lodge, either becomes necessary.

The Grand Lodge has exclusive ownership and control over said funds, and is represented in its management and supervision by a Board of Control of ten members, consisting of four Trustees, who are the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, and Junior Grand Warden, and six other Master Masons who are members of Tennessee Lodges, one of whom shall be appointed annually by the Grand Master for a term of six years with no more than two from one Grand Division of the state.

The Treasurer of said board must furnish bond or insurance coverage for \$500,000 at the expense of the Grand Lodge (see 3.310).

1896, 22; 1897, 26, 38, 58; 59; 1898, 72; 1912, 79, 89; 1916, 82 107, 123; 1917, 110, 112; 1918, 82.83; 1922 57; 1923 109; 1925 22, 125; 1967, 53, 127; 1983, 53, 119.

**7.102.** The Board of Control has exclusive direction and control of all business transactions of said funds, subject to the regulations of the Grand Lodge, and to it are entrusted the administration and management of Grand Lodge relief funds. The Grand Master shall designate the chairman. It makes all necessary rules and regulations concerning its own organization, meetings and modes of transacting business.

It has the power to appoint all officers needed for the successful management of the funds and for the full attainment of its objectives; to define their duties and fix their compensation, and a change in the board will not affect such properly executed contracts; to remove or discharge them whenever, in his judgment the welfare of the fund demands it.

**7.103.** The members of the Board of Control receive no compensation for their services (except the administrator of such funds).

1897 60; 1999, 2007

**7.104.** At each annual communication of the Grand Lodge the board must submit a full report of all transactions under its management during the year; said report to be carried in the Grand Lodge pamphlet and proceedings showing an audit has been made of its transactions.

1897, 60; 1913, 68; 1916, 124; 1921, 56; 1922, 58; 1926, 113.

**7.105.** All contributions and bequests to the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home Fund must pass through the hands of the Secretary of the Board of Control of the Masonic Widows and Orphans Home Fund, and unless otherwise specified, must go to the Endowment Fund. Conditional bequests are not to be accepted until approved by the Grand Lodge. Collections for the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home Fund are always in order and Lodges and members are requested to make special donations for that purpose on the Festival of St. John the Baptist (see 4.1108), which is known and must be observed as Widows' and Orphans' Day.

1899, 83; 1903, 55; 1911, 46; 1912, 106; 1916, 125; 1918, 82, 83; 1927, 29, 2011

**7.106.** The rules of the Grand Lodge governing the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home are mandatory upon the Board of Control, and they are not subject to the exercise of discretion, even by the Grand Master.

1919.77.

**7.107.** To be eligible for assistance from the fund, the applicant must be the worthy wife, widow, mother or minor child of a Master Mason who is, or was at the time of his death, a member in good standing of a Tennessee Lodge; or a Master Mason who was raised in a Tennessee Lodge and has been continuously thereafter a member in good standing of a Tennessee Lodge; or a Master Mason who was raised in a Tennessee Lodge and whose membership in a Tennessee Lodge has been interrupted thereafter, but who has been continuously for five years previous to filing his application a member in good standing of a Tennessee Lodge; or a Master Mason who was raised in other than a Tennessee Lodge but who has been continuously for five years previous to filing his application a member in good standing in a Tennessee Lodge.

B. of C. 1926, 69; 1896, 22; 1902, 22, 63; 1919, 77; 1920, 75, 1922, 35; 1923, 109; 1975, 53, 119; 1998

Care and assistance may be given an unmarried daughter of a Master Mason, regardless of age, who because of physical or mental disability is incapable of earning a livelihood, or to a son who became disabled mentally or physically before his twenty-fifth birthday to the extent that he is incapable of earning a livelihood.

1962, 47, 113.

**7.108.** A Lodge should exhaust its resources so far as it possibly can before applying for assistance for one of its dependents and it may be penalized for imposing upon the Board of Control in this respect.

1923, 28; 1926, 114.

**7.109.** An application by a Lodge for assistance for one of its dependents must be made on an application form furnished to the Lodge Secretary by the Secretary-Treasurer of the Board of Control. No applicant will be enrolled for assistance until the applicant has been



approved by the Board and the Lodge Secretary so notified. The Board reserves the right to reject any applicant. Applicants must be unable to earn a living and without children able to support them.

1962, 47,113.

## Chapter 2

### Educational Fund

**7.201.** The children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews of Tennessee Master Masons in good standing, without other financial means for attending college, technical or vocational school in the opinion of the Educational Committee. which children, have scholastic records justifying such further education in the opinion of the Education Committee, shall be eligible for financial aid to further such training.

1965, 89; 1967, 63, 64, 127.

**7.202.** A determination of the amount to be received by way of financial aid per year, the number of years for which such aid is available and the recipients of such financial aid will be determined by the Educational Committee.

**7.203.** The Educational Committee will consist of the Board of Control, Widows' and Orphans' Home Fund of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee.

**7.204.** The total amount allotted to the educational fund for each ensuing year will be determined by the Grand Lodge at its annual meeting, based upon the recommendations of the Educational Committee, and the Educational Committee shall, at each annual meeting of the Grand Lodge, report in detail its actions during the immediate preceding year.

## Chapter 3

### Endowment Fund

**7.301.** The Endowment Fund Commission, whose duty it is to secure and administer a permanent Endowment Fund for the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home of Tennessee Fund, consists of three members, Master Masons and members of Tennessee Lodges, one of whom is elected annually by the Grand Lodge for a term of three years.

1967. 53. 54, 126, 127.

It is organized each year by the election of a Chairman, a Treasurer and a Secretary, the Treasurer to be bonded or insured for \$500,000 at the expense of the Grand Lodge (see 3.310).

1897, 46; 1898, 23, 59; 1906, 73; 1912 59; 1917, 110 112; 1958, 52, 144, 117; 1983, 53, 119.

**7.302.** All monies and funds donated to the Endowment Fund and unidentified donations or un designated bequests must be paid to and received by the commission, which must give its official vouchers in duplicate thereof, one to the person paying, and the other to the Grand Secretary for his archives. The money so received must forthwith be deposited in the name of the three commissioners in some solvent and accredited bank or trust company in Nashville, selected by the commission, subject to the approval of the Grand Master, to be the custodian of the Endowment Fund.

1967, 53, 126, 127; 1969, 71, 124; 1983. 55. 120.

Money so deposited may be drawn out only on the check of two of the three commissioners. The Grand Secretary must be notified of the bank or trust company selected, and he must send the same a copy of this rule.

1899, 80; 1921, 56; 1982, 52, 122.

**7.303.** The principal of the fund must be preserved inviolate and the entire income from it must be retained and handled by the commission in the same way as the principal and made a part thereof, until the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master otherwise directs.

Unused monies from the appropriations made each year at the Annual Communication shall be deposited in a short term interest-bearing account until such time the Board of Control feels those monies are sufficient to establish an emergency buffer fund in the event interest on the Endowment is not sufficient to fund appropriations for the support and operation if its needs. A full and detailed report of such fund and interest earned shall be made apart of the Board of Control Report given at the Annual Communication.

All securities must be deposited in a box in a vault of some bank or trust company, which box may be opened only in the presence of two of the three commissioners, or of the bonded Treasurer.

1899, 80; 1912, 60; 1917, 95.

**7.304.** The commission must keep minutes of all its proceedings and accounts of all receipts and disbursements in books to be provided by it and paid for out of the interest on the fund, and it must annually report to the Grand Lodge, giving a succinct account of its doings during the year and of the condition of the fund.

1899, 80.

**7.305.** The present fund and all subsequent funds received shall adhere to the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act as adopted by the State of Tennessee. These funds shall be invested in the following manner and none other. All investments must be covered by either Federal Deposit Insurance Corporate (FDIC) or Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC), or be:

- (1) Obligations of the United States of America, or obligations guaranteed or issued by the United States Government or its agencies;
- (2) Obligations of the State of Tennessee, Counties, Cities or towns of Tennessee as long as such obligations are rated A or higher by Standard and Poor's or Moody's rating agencies. Preferably insured.
- (3) Not less than 50% of all funds shall be invested in fixed income instruments including those described in section (1) and (2), or in corporate bonds or obligations rated A or higher by Standard and Poor's or Moody's rating agencies. Amount of corporate bonds are restricted to not more than 5% of the total portfolio value from any one issuer.
- (4) Up to 50% of all funds may be invested in equities, Mutual Funds, or Exchange Traded Funds, priced daily on a United States exchange. The amount of equity invested in one company stock is restricted to not more than 1% of the total portfolio value. The amount of investment in one Mutual Funds, or ETF is restricted to not more than 20% of the total portfolio value.
- (5) First mortgages on improved real estate in the State of Tennessee at not over fifty per cent of the fair value of said property, bearing interest at the highest rate obtainable with due regard to safety.
- (6) Real estate, where the Endowment Fund Commission now owns, or may hereafter become the owner of an undivided interest in real estate, acquired through the foreclosure of a mortgage held by the commission, or by will.

1912, 59; 1917, 135; 1932, 100, 124; 1945, 40, 99; 1983, 55, 120, 2011, 2015, 2017.



## TITLE 8

### GRAND LODGE BUILDING ENHANCEMENT FUND

#### Chapter 1

##### Organization

**8.101.** That funds are available to preserve and enhance the beauty and integrity of the Grand Lodge building, an endowment fund is hereby established. The fund shall be known as The Grand Lodge Building Enhancement and Preservation Fund.

**8.102.** The fund is to be controlled and maintained by the Grand Lodge, the Secretary of the Board of Control and the Endowment Fund Commission that now controls the existing Masonic Widows and Orphans' Home of Tennessee Fund.

**8.103.** The Grand Lodge has exclusive ownership and control over said fund, and is represented in its management and supervision by the Building Endowment Fund Commission, whose duty is to secure and administer the permanent endowment fund. This commission consists of three members, Master Masons and members of Tennessee Lodges, one of whom is elected annually by the Grand Lodge for a term of three years. It is organized each year by the election of a chairman, a Treasurer and a Secretary; the Treasurer to be bonded or insured for \$500,000 at the expense of the Grand Lodge (see 3.310).

#### Chapter 2

##### Endowment Fund

**8.201.** All monies and funds donated to the Building Enhancement Fund must pass through the hands of the Grand Secretary, and unless otherwise specified, must go to the Endowment Fund Commission, which must give its official vouchers in duplicate thereof, one going to the person paying and the other to the Grand Secretary for his archives. The money so received must forthwith be deposited in the name of the three commissioners in some solvent and accredited bank or trust company in Nashville, selected by the commission, subject to the approval of the Grand Master.

**8.202.** Money so deposited may be drawn out only on the check of two of the three commissioners. The Grand Secretary must be notified of the bank or trust company selected, and he must send the same a copy of this rule.

**8.203.** The principal of the fund must be preserved inviolate and the entire income from it must remain and be handled by the commission in the same way as the principal and made a part thereof, until the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master otherwise directs that the fund is creating sufficient interest to fund a specifically approved project or projects.

**8.204.** All securities must be deposited in a box in a vault of some bank or trust company, which box may be opened only in the presence of two of the three commissioners, or of the bonded Treasurer.

**8.205.** The commission must keep minutes of all its proceedings and accounts of all receipts and disbursements in books provided by it and paid for out of the interest on the fund, and it must annually report to the Grand Lodge, giving a succinct account of its doing during the year and of the condition of the fund.

**8.206.** The present fund and all subsequent funds received shall adhere to the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act as adopted by the State of Tennessee. These funds shall be invested by the Endowment Fund Commission in the following manner, and none other:

- (1) Obligations of the United States of America or obligations guaranteed or secured by the United States Government or its agencies;
- (2) Obligations of the state of Tennessee;
- (3) Obligations of the counties of the state of Tennessee having a population of not less than fifteen thousand whose total debt does not exceed seven per cent of the assessed valuation of all properties in said county;
- (4) Obligations of cities and towns situated in the above counties where the total debt of said city or town does not exceed ten per cent of the assessed valuation of all properties in said city or town and where the population of said city or town is not less than forty-five hundred; and/or
- (5) First mortgages on improved real estate in the state of Tennessee at not over fifty per cent of the fair market value of said property bearing interest at the highest rate obtainable with due regard to safety;
- (6) Real estate where the Endowment Fund Commission now owns or may hereafter become the owner of an undivided interest in real estate, acquired through the foreclosure of a mortgage held by the commission. or by will.

## **Chapter 3**

### **Approval of Projects**

**8.301.** Projects funded by the Grand Lodge Building Enhancement Fund must have prior approval in the following manner: The Grand Lodge Building Committee will compile a list of the enhancement or maintenance projects to be considered for approval. These will be prioritized according to need (emergency maintenance work would still be covered in the regular Grand Lodge budget until the interest accumulated in the enhancement fund can sufficiently finance this maintenance) or “would like to” projects. The chairman of the Building Committee will secure bids for performing the work on the proposed project(s), including the estimated duration of time required to complete the project(s), from at least three (3) sources. He will then submit these projects to the Secretary of the Board of Control and the Grand Master. The three of them will then decide which project(s) are attainable considering the amount of funds available and approve the project(s).

**8.302.** The Endowment Fund Commission will then be notified that a project has been approved, the firm cost of the project and the time the funds for payment of the project must be available. The commission will then make arrangements to have the funds available at the appropriate time.



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