

**CONSTITUTION  
OF THE GRAND LODGE  
OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS  
OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA**

As amended, revised and recommended by the  
Re-write Committee and adopted by the Grand Lodge

**November 13, 2006**

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**Charges of a Free-Mason**

**THE CHARGES**

of a

**FREE-MASON**

Extracted from the

**ANCIENT RECORD OF LODGES**

**BEYOND THE SEA**

And of those in

ENGLAND, SCOTLAND AND IRELAND

For the use of the lodges in London

---

TO BE READ AT THE MAKING OF NEW BRETHREN  
OR WHEN THE MASTER SHALL ORDER IT

THE GENERAL HEADS, VIZ:

- I. Of God and Religion.
- II. Of the Civil Magistrate, Supreme and subordinate.
- III. Of Lodges.
- IV. Of Masters, Wardens, Fellows and Apprentices.
- V. Of the Management of the Craft in working.
- VI. Of Behavior, viz:
  - 1 - In Lodge while constituted.
  - 2 - After Lodge is over and the Brethren not gone.
  - 3 - When brethren meet without Strangers, but not in Lodge.
  - 4 - In presence of Strangers not Masons.
  - 5 - At Home and in the Neighborhood.
  - 6 - Towards a strange Brother.

## **Charges of a Free-Mason**

### **I. CONCERNING GOD AND RELIGION**

A Mason is obliged by his Tenure, to obey the Moral Law; and if he rightly understands the Art, he will never be a stupid Atheist; nor an irreligious Libertine. But though in Ancient Times Masons were charg'd in every Country to be of the Religion of the Country or Nation, whatever it was, yet 'tis now thought more expedient only to oblige them in that Religion in which all Men agree, leaving their particular Opinions to themselves; that is to be good Men and True, or Men of Honour and Honesty by whatever denominations or persuasion they may be distinguished; whereby Masonry becomes the Center of Union, and the Means of conciliating true Friendship among Persons that must have remain'd at perpetual Distance.

### **II. OF THE CIVIL MAGISTRATES, SUPREME AND SUBORDINATE**

A Mason is a peaceable Subject to the Civil Powers wherever he resides or works, and is never to be concerned in Plots and Conspiracies against the Peace and Welfare of the Nation, nor to behave himself undutifully to inferior Magistrates; for as Masonry hath been always injured by War, Bloodshed and Confusion, so ancient Kings and Princes have been much dispos'd to encourage the Craftsmen, because of their Peaceableness and Loyalty, whereby they practically answer'd the Cavils of their Adversaries, and promoted the Honour of the Fraternity who ever flourished in times of Peace. So that if a Brother should be a Rebel against the State, he is not to be countenanced in his Rebellion, however he may be pitied as an unhappy Man; and, if convicted of no other Crime, though the loyal Brotherhood must and ought to disown his Rebellion, and give no Umbrage or ground of political Jealousy to the Government for the time being; they can not expel him from the Lodge, and his Relation to it remains indefeasible.

### **III. OF LODGES**

A Lodge is a place where Masons assemble and work; Hence that Assembly or duly organiz'd Society of Masons, is call'd a Lodge, and every Brother ought to belong to one, and to be subject to its Bylaws and General Regulations. It is either particular or general, and will be best understood by attending it, and by the regulations of the General or Grand Lodge hereunto annexed. In ancient Times no Master or Fellow could be absent from it, especially when warn'd to appear at it, without incurring severe Censure, until it appeared to the Master and Wardens, that pure Necessity hindered him.

The Persons admitted Members of a Lodge must be good and true Men, free-born, of mature and discreet Age, no Bondmen, no Women, no immoral or scandalous Men, but of good Report.

### **IV. OF MASTER, WARDENS, FELLOWS, AND APPRENTICES**

All Preferment among Masons is grounded upon real Worth and personal Merit only; that so the Lords may be well served, the Brethren not put to shame, nor the Royal Craft despised. Therefore, no Master or Warden is chosen by Seniority, but for his Merit. It is impossible to describe these things in writing, and every Brother must attend to his Place, and learn them in a way peculiar to the Fraternity; only Candidates may know, that no Master should take an Apprentice, unless he has sufficient Employment for him, and unless he be a perfect Youth, having no Maim or Defect in his Body, that may render him incapable of learning the Art of serving his Master's Lord, and of being made a Brother, and then a Fellow-Craft in due time, even after he has served such a Term of Years, as the Custom of the Country directs; and that he should be descended of honest parents; that so, when otherwise qualify'd, he may arrive to the Honour of being the Warden, and the Master of the Lodge, the Grand Warden, and at length the Grand Master of all the Lodges, according to his Merit.

No brother can be a Warden until he has pas'd the part of a Fellow-Craft; nor a Master until he has acted as a Warden, nor Grand Master unless he has been a Fellow-Craft before his Election, who is also to be nobly born, or a Gentleman of the best fashion, or some eminent Scholar, or some curious Architect, or other Artist, descended of honest Parents, and who is of singular great Merit in the opinion of the Lodge. And for the better, and easier, and more honourable

## **Charges of a Free-Mason**

Discharge of his Office the Grand Master has power to chuse his own Deputy Grand Master who must be then, or must have been formerly, the Master of a particular Lodge, and has the Privilege of acting whatever the Grand Master, his Principal should act, unless the said Principal be present, or interpose his Authority by a Letter.

These rules and Governors, Supreme and Subordinate, of the ancient Lodge, are to be obey'd in their respective Stations by all the Brethren, according to the Old Charges and Regulations, with all Humility, Reverence, Love and Alacrity.

### **V. OF THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CRAFT IN WORKING**

All Masons shall work honestly on working Days, that they may live creditably on Holy Days; and the time appointed by the Law of the Land, or confirmed by Custom, shall be observed.

The most expert of the Fellow-Craftsmen shall be chosen or appointed the Master, or Overseer of the Lord's Work; who is to be called Master by those who work under him. The Craftsmen are to avoid all ill language, and to call each other by no disobliging Name, but Brother or Fellow; and to behave themselves courteously within and without the Lodge.

The Master, knowing himself to be able of Cunning, shall undertake the Lord's Work as reasonably as possible, and truly dispend his Goods as if they were his own; nor to give more Wages to any Brother or Apprentice than he really may deserve.

Both the Master and the Masons receiving their Wages justly, shall be faithful to the Lord and honestly finish their work, whether Task or Journey, nor put the Work to Task that hath been accustomed to Journey.

None shall discover Envy at the Prosperity of a Brother, nor supplant him, or put him out of his Work, if he is capable to finish same; for no Man can finish another's work so much to the Lord's profit, unless he be thoroughly acquainted with the Design and Draughts of him that began it.

When a Fellow-Craftsman is chosen Warden of the Work under the Master, he shall be true both to Master and Fellows, shall carefully oversee the Work in the Master's absence to the Lord's Profit; and his Brethren shall obey him.

All Masons employed shall meekly receive their Wages without Murmuring or Mutiny and not desert the Master till the work is finish'd.

A Younger Brother shall be instructed in working, to prevent spoiling the Materials for want of Judgment, and for increasing and continuing of Brotherly Love.

All tools used in working shall be approved by the Grand Lodge.

No Labourers shall be employed in the proper Work of Masonry; nor shall Free-Masons work with those that are not free without an urgent Necessity; nor shall they teach Labourers and Unaccepted Masons, as they should teach a Brother or Fellow.

### **VI. OF BEHAVIOUR**

#### **1. In the Lodge while Constituted**

You are not to hold private Committees or separate Conversation without leave from the Master, nor talk of anything impertinent or unseemly, nor interrupt the Master or Wardens, or any Brother speaking to the Master or Wardens, or

## **Charges of a Free-Mason**

any Brother speaking to the Masters; nor behave yourself ludicrously or jestingly while the Lodge is engaged in what is serious and solemn; nor use any unbecoming Language upon any Pretense whatsoever; but to pay due Reverence to your Master, Wardens and Fellows, and put them to worship.

If any Complaint be brought, the Brother found guilty shall stand to the Award and Determination of the Lodge, who are the proper and competent Judges of all such controversies (unless you carry it by Appeal to the Grand Lodge), and to whom they ought to be referred, unless a Lord's Work be hindered the meanwhile, in which Case a particular Reverence may be made but you must never go to Law about what concerneth Masonry, without an absolute Necessity apparent to the Lodge.

### **2. Behaviour after the Lodge is Over and the Brethren Not Gone**

You may enjoy yourself with innocent mirth, treating one another according to ability, but avoiding all excess or forcing any brother to eat or drink beyond his inclination, or hindering him from going when his occasions call him, or doing or saying anything offensive, or that may forbid an easy and free conversation; for that would blast our harmony, and defeat our useful purpose. Therefore, no private piques or quarrels must be brought within the door of the Lodge, far less any quarrels about religion, or nations or state policy, we being only, as Masons, of the Catholic religion above mentioned; we are also of all nations, tongues, kindreds and languages and are resolved against all politics as what never yet conducted to the welfare of the Lodge, nor ever will. This charge has been always strictly enjoined and observed; but especially ever since the Reformation in Britain, of the dissent and secession of these nations from communion of Rome.

### **3. Behaviour when Brethren Meet without Strangers but not in a Lodge Formed**

You are to salute one another in a courteous manner, as you will be instructed, calling each other Brother, freely giving mutual instruction as shall be thought expedient, without being overseen or overheard, and without encroaching upon each other, or derogating from that respect which is due to any Brother, were he not a Mason; For though all Masons are as Brethren upon the same Level, yet Masonry takes no Honour from a man that he had before; nay, rather it adds to his honour, especially if he has deserved well of the Brotherhood who must give honour to whom it is due, and avoid ill manners.

### **4. Behaviour in Presence of Strangers not Masons**

You shall be cautious in your words and carriage, that the most penetrating stranger shall not be able to discover or find out what is not proper to be intimated; and sometimes you shall divert a discourse, and manage it prudently for the honour of the worshipful fraternity.

### **5. Behaviour at Home, and in Your Neighborhood**

You are to act as becomes a moral and wise man; particularly not to let your family, friends and neighbors know the concerns of the Lodge, etc., but wisely to consult your own honour, and that of the ancient Brotherhood, for reasons not to be mentioned here. You must also consult your health, by not continuing together too late, or too long from home, after Lodge hours are past; and by avoiding of gluttony or drunkenness, that your families be not neglected or injured, nor you disabled from working.

### **6. Behaviour toward a Strange Brother**

You are cautiously to examine him, in such a method as Prudence shall direct you, that you may not be imposed upon by an ignorant false pretender, whom you are to reject with contempt and derision, and beware of giving him any hints of knowledge.

But if you discover him to be a true and genuine Brother, you are to respect him accordingly; and if he is in want, you must relieve him if you can, or else direct him how he may be relieved; You must employ him some days, or else recommend him to be employed. But you are not charged to do beyond your ability, only to prefer a poor Brother, that is a good man and true, before any other people in the same circumstances.

## Charges of a Free-Mason

Finally, all these charges you are to observe, and also those that shall be communicated to you in another way; cultivating brotherly-love, the foundation and cap-stone, the cement and glory of this ancient fraternity, avoiding all wrangling and quarreling, all slander and back-biting, nor permitting others to slander an honest Brother, but defending his character, and doing him all good offices, as far as is consistent with your honour and safety, and no farther. And if any of them do you injury, you must apply to your own or his Lodge, and from thence you may appeal to the Grand Lodge at the quarterly communication, and from thence to the annual Grand Lodge, as has been the ancient laudable conduct of our forefathers in every nation; never taking a legal course but when the case can not be otherwise decided, and patiently listening to the honest and friendly advice of Master and Fellows, when they would prevent your going to law with strangers, or would excite you to put a speedy period to all law suits, that so you may mind the affairs of Masonry with the more alacrity and success; but with respect to Brothers or Fellows at law, the Master and Brethren should kindly offer their mediation, which ought to be thankfully submitted to by the contending Brethren and if that submission is impracticable, they must, however, carry on their process, or law suit, without wrath or rancor (not in the common way), saying or doing nothing which may hinder brotherly love, and good offices to be renewed and continued; that all may see the benign influence of Masonry, as all true Masons have done from the beginning of the world, and will do to the end of time.

Amen, So Mote It Be.

# THE LANDMARKS

or the

## UNWRITTEN LAW

By Albert G. Mackey

---

Sir William Blackstone commences his Commentaries on the Law of England with the succinct definition that "law, in its most general and comprehensive sense, signifies a rule of action, and is applied to all kinds of action, whether animate or inanimate, rational or irrational." It is in this sense that we speak of the laws of a country as being those rules, whether derived from positive enactment of the legislative authority, or from long established custom, by which the conduct of its citizens or subjects is regulated.

So, too, societies which are but empires, kingdoms, or republics, in miniature, are also controlled by rules of action which are, to their respective members, as perfect laws as the statutes of the realm. And, hence, Freemasonry as the most ancient and universal of all societies, is governed by its laws or rules of action, which either spring out of its organization, and are based upon its long-established customs and usages, or which are derived from the enactment of its superintending tribunals.

This difference in the origin of the laws of Masonry leads to a three-fold division of them, as follows:

1. Landmarks.
2. General Regulations.
3. Local Regulations.

The writers of municipal law have made a division of all laws into unwritten and written—the *leges nonscriptae* and *leges scriptae*. Applying these terms to the three-fold division of Masonic Law, we should say that the unwritten laws or customs of Masonry constitute its Landmarks, and that the written law is to be obtained in the regulations made by the supreme Masonic authority, and which are either general or local, as the authority which enacted them was either general or local in its character.

Of the nature of the Landmarks of Masonry, there has been some diversity of opinion among writers; but perhaps the safest method is to restrict them to those ancient, and therefore universal customs of the Craft, which either gradually grew into operation as rules of action, or if at once enacted by any competent authority were enacted at a period so remote, that no account of their origin is to be found in the records of history. Both the enactors and the time of the enactment have passed away from the record, and the Landmarks are therefore "of higher antiquity than memory or history can reach."

The first requisite, therefore, of a custom or rule of action to constitute it a Landmark is, that it must have existed from "time whereof the memory of man



## Landmarks

runneth not to the contrary." Its antiquity is its essential element. Were it possible for all the Masonic authorities at the present day to unite in an universal congress, and with the most perfect unanimity to adopt any new regulation although such regulation would, so long as it remained unrepealed be obligatory on the whole Craft, yet it would not be a Landmark. It would have the character of universality, it is true, but it would be wanting in that of antiquity.

Another peculiarity of these Landmarks of Masonry is that they are unrepealable. As the congress to which I have just alluded would not have the power to enact a Landmark, so neither would it have the prerogative of abolishing one. The Landmarks of the Craft, like the laws of the Medes and the Persians, can suffer no change. What they were centuries ago, they still remain, and must so continue in force until Masonry itself shall cease to exist.

It is fortunate for the stability of Masonry that Landmarks so unchangeable should exist; they stand in the way of innovations controlling and checking them, and if sometimes inadvertently violated, are ever bringing the reflective and conscientious Mason back again under their influence, and preserving that general uniformity of character and design which constitutes the true universality of the institution. But it is equally fortunate for the prosperity of the Craft, and for its capacity of keeping up with the progress of the age, that these Landmarks are few in number. They are sufficiently numerous to act as bulwarks against innovation, but not sufficient to stand in the way of needful reform.

The Landmarks of Masonry, so far as I have been enabled to compute them, after the most careful examination, amount only to twenty-five in number, and are as follows:

### LANDMARK FIRST

The modes of recognition are, of all the Landmarks, the most legitimate and unquestioned. They admit of no variation; and if ever they have suffered alteration or addition the evil of such a violation of the ancient law has always made itself subsequently manifest. An admission of this is to be found in the proceedings of the late Masonic Congress at Paris, where a proposition was presented to render these modes of recognition once more universal - a proposition which never would have been necessary, if the integrity of this important Landmark had been rigorously preserved.

### LANDMARK SECOND

The division of symbolic Masonry into three degrees is a Landmark that has been better preserved than almost any other, although even here the mischievous spirit of innovation has left its traces, and by the disruption of its concluding portion from the third degree, a want of uniformity has been created in respect to the final teaching of the Master's degree; and the Royal Arch of England, Scotland, Ireland and America, and the *high degrees* of France and Germany, are all made to differ in the mode in which they lead the neophyte to

## **Landmarks**

the great consummation of all symbolic Masonry. In 1813 the Grand Lodge of England vindicated the ancient Landmark by solemnly enacting that Ancient Craft Masonry consisted of three degrees, Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason, including the Holy Royal Arch. But the disruption has never been healed, and the Landmark, although acknowledged in its integrity by all, still continues to be violated.

### **LANDMARK THIRD**

The legend of the third degree is an important Landmark, the integrity of which has been well preserved. There is no rite in Masonry, practiced in any country or language, in which the essential elements of this legend are not taught. The lectures may vary, and indeed are constantly changing, but the legend has ever remained substantially the same. And it is necessary that it should be so, for the legend of the Temple Builder constitutes the very essence and identity of Masonry. Any rite which should exclude it, or materially alter it, would at once by that exclusion or alteration, cease to be a Masonic rite.

### **LANDMARK FOURTH**

The government of the fraternity by a presiding officer called a Grand Master, who is elected from the body of the Craft, is a fourth Landmark of the Order. Many persons ignorantly suppose that the election of the Grand Master is held in consequence of a law or regulation of the Grand Lodge. Such, however, is not the case. The office is indebted for its existence to a Landmark of the Craft. Grand Masters are to be found in the records of the institution long before Grand Lodges were established; and if the present system of legislative government by Grand Lodges were to be abolished, a Grand Master would still be necessary. In fact, although there has been a period within the records of history, and indeed of very recent date, when the Grand Lodge was unknown, there never has been a time when the Craft did not have their Grand Master.

### **LANDMARK FIFTH**

The prerogative of the Grand Master to preside over every assembly of the Craft, wheresoever and whensoever held, is a Fifth Landmark. It is in consequence of this law, derived from ancient usage, and not from any special enactment, that the Grand Master assumes the chair, or as it is called in England, the *throne*, at every communication of the Grand Lodge; and that he is also entitled to preside at the communication of every Subordinate Lodge, where he may happen to be present.

### **LANDMARK SIXTH**

The prerogative of the Grand Master to grant dispensations for conferring degrees at irregular times is another and very important, Landmark. The statutory law of Masonry requires a month, or other determinate period, to elapse between the presentation of a petition and the election of a candidate. But the Grand Master has the power to set aside or dispense with this probation, and to allow a candidate to be initiated at once. The prerogative he possessed in common with all Masters, before the enactment of the law requiring a probation, and as no statute can impair his prerogative, he still retains the power, although the Masters of Lodges no longer possess it.

### **LANDMARK SEVENTH**

The prerogative of the Grand Master to give dispensations for opening and holding Lodges is another Landmark. He may grant in virtue of this, to a sufficient number of

## **Landmarks**

Masons, the privilege of meeting together and conferring degrees. The Lodges thus established are called "Lodges under Dispensation." They are strictly creatures of the Grand Master, created by his authority, existing only during his will and pleasure, and liable at any moment to be dissolved at his command. They may be continued for a day, a month or six months; but whatever be the period of their existence, they are indebted for that existence solely to the grace of the Grand Master.

### **LANDMARK EIGHTH**

The prerogative of the Grand Master to make Masons at sight is a Landmark which is closely connected with the preceding one. There has been much misapprehension in relation to this Landmark which misapprehension has sometimes led to a denial of its existence in jurisdictions where the Grand Master was perhaps at the very time substantially exercising the prerogative without the slightest remark or opposition. It is not to be supposed that the Grand Master can retire with a profane into a private room, and there, without assistance, confer the degrees of Freemasonry upon him. No such prerogative exists, and yet many believe that this is the so much talked of "making Masons at sight." The real mode and the only mode of exercising the prerogative is this: The Grand Master summons to his assistance not less than six other Masons, convenes a Lodge and without any previous probation, but at sight of the candidate confers the degrees upon him, after which he dissolves the Lodge, and dismisses the brethren. Lodges thus convened for special purposes are called *Occasional Lodges*. This is the only way in which any Grand Master within the records of the institution has ever been known to "make a Mason at sight." The prerogative is dependent upon that of granting dispensations to open and hold Lodges. If the Grand Master has the power of granting to any other Mason the privilege of presiding over Lodges working by his dispensation, he may assume this privilege of presiding to himself and as no one can deny his right to revoke his dispensation granted to a number of brethren at a distance, and to dissolve the Lodge at his pleasure, it will scarcely be contended that he may not revoke his dispensation for a Lodge over which he himself has been presiding within a day, and dissolve the Lodge as soon as the business for which he had assembled it is accomplished. The making of Masons at sight is only the conferring of the degrees by the Grand Master, at once, in an occasional Lodge constituted by his dispensing power for the purpose, and over which he presides, in person.

### **LANDMARK NINTH**

The necessity for Masons to congregate in Lodge is another Landmark. It is not to be understood by this that any ancient Landmark has directed that permanent organization of Subordinate Lodges which constitutes one of the features of the Masonic system as it now prevails. But the Landmarks of the Craft always prescribed that Masons should from time to time congregate together, for the purpose of either operative or speculative labor, and that these organizations should be called Lodges. Formerly these were extemporary meetings called together for special purposes, and then dissolved, the brethren departing to meet again at other times and places, according to the necessity of circumstances. But warrants of constitution, Bylaws, permanent officers and annual arrears, are modern innovations Landmarks wholly outside the Landmarks, and dependent entirely on the special enactments of a comparatively recent period.

## **Landmarks**

### **LANDMARK TENTH**

The government of the Craft, when so congregated in a Lodge, by a Master and two Wardens is also a Landmark. To show the influence of this ancient law, it may be observed by the way, that a congregation of Masons meeting together under any other government, as that for instance of a president and vice-president, or a chairman and sub-chairman, would not be recognized as a Lodge. The presence of a Master and two Wardens is as essential to the valid organization of a Lodge as a warrant of constitution is at the present day. The names, of course, vary in different languages, the Master, for instance being called

*Venerable* in French Masonry, and Wardens *Surveillants*, but the officers, their number, prerogatives, and duties, are everywhere identical.

### **LANDMARK ELEVENTH**

The necessity that every Lodge, when congregated, should be duly tyled, is an important Landmark of the institution, which is never neglected. The necessity of this law arises from the esoteric character of Masonry. As a secret institution, its portals must of course be guarded from the intrusion of the profane, and such a law must therefore always have been in force from the very beginning of the Craft. It is therefore properly classed among the most ancient Landmarks. The office of Tyler is wholly independent of any special enactment of the Grand or Subordinate Lodges, although these may and do prescribe for him additional duties, which vary in different jurisdictions. But the duty of guarding the door and keeping off cowans and eavesdroppers, is an ancient one which constitutes a Landmark for his government.

### **LANDMARK TWELFTH**

The right of every Mason to be represented in all general meetings of the Craft, and to instruct his representatives, is a twelfth Landmark. Formerly, these general meetings, which were usually held once a year, were called "General Assemblies" and all the fraternity, even to the youngest Entered Apprentice, were permitted to be present. Now they are called "Grand Lodges" and only the Masters and Wardens of the Subordinate Lodges are summoned. But this is simply as the representatives of their members. Originally, each Mason represented himself; now he is represented by his officers. This was a concession granted by the fraternity about 1717, and of course does not affect the integrity of the Landmark, for the principle of representation is still preserved. The concession was only made for purposes of convenience.

### **LANDMARK THIRTEENTH**

The right of every Mason to appeal from the decision of his brethren in Lodge convened, to the Grand Lodge or General Assembly of Masons, is a Landmark highly essential to the preservation of justice, and the prevention of oppression. A few modern Grand Lodges in adopting a regulation that the decision of Subordinate Lodges, in cases of expulsion, cannot be wholly set aside upon an appeal, have violated this unquestioned Landmark, as well as the principle of just government.

### **LANDMARK FOURTEENTH**

The right of every Mason to visit and sit in every regular Lodge is an unquestionable Landmark of the Order. This is called *the right of visitation*. This right of visitation has always been recognized as an inherent right, which inures to every Mason as he travels

## **Landmarks**

through the world. And this is because Lodges are justly considered as only divisions for convenience of the universal Masonic family. This right may, of course, be impaired or forfeited on special occasions by various circumstances; but when admission is refused to a Mason in good standing, who knocks at the door of a Lodge as a visitor, it is to be expected that some good and sufficient reason shall be furnished for this violation of what is in general a Masonic right, founded on the Landmark of the Craft.

### **LANDMARK FIFTEENTH**

It is a Landmark of the Craft that no visitor, unknown to the brethren present, or to some one of them as a Mason, can enter a Lodge without first passing an examination according to ancient usage. Of course, if the visitor is known to any brother present to be a Mason in good standing, and if that brother will vouch for his qualifications, the examination may be dispensed with, as the Landmark refers only to the case of strangers, who are not to be recognized unless after strict trial, due examination or lawful information.

### **LANDMARK SIXTEENTH**

No Lodge can interfere in the business of another Lodge, nor give degrees to brethren who are members of other Lodges. This is undoubtedly an ancient Landmark, founded on the great principles of courtesy and fraternal kindness, which are at the very foundation of our institution. It has been repeatedly recognized by subsequent statutory enactments of all Grand Lodges.

### **LANDMARK SEVENTEENTH**

It is a Landmark that every Freemason is amenable to the laws and regulations of the Masonic Jurisdiction in which he resides, and this although he may not be a member of any Lodge. Non-affiliation, which is, in fact, in itself a Masonic offense, does not exempt a Mason from Masonic jurisdiction.

### **LANDMARK EIGHTEENTH**

Certain qualifications of candidates for initiation are derived from a Landmark of the Craft. These qualifications are that he should be a man, shall be unmutilated, free born, and of mature age. That is to say, a woman, a cripple, or a slave, or one born in slavery, is disqualified for initiation into the rites of Masonry. Statutes, it is true, have from time to time been enacted, enforcing or explaining these principles; but the qualifications really arise from the very nature of the Masonic institution, and from its symbolic teachings and have always existed as Landmarks.

### **LANDMARK NINETEENTH**

A belief in the existence of God as the Grand Architect of the universe, is one of the most important Landmarks of the Order. It has been always deemed essential that a denial of the existence of a Supreme and Superintending Power is an absolute disqualification for initiation. The annals of the Craft never yet have furnished or could furnish an instance in which an avowed atheist was ever made a Mason. The very initiatory ceremonies of the first degree forbid and prevent the possibility of so monstrous an occurrence.

## Landmarks

### LANDMARK TWENTIETH

Subsidiary to this belief in God, as a Landmark of the Craft, is the belief in a resurrection to a future life. This Landmark is not so positively impressed on the candidate by exact words as the preceding; but the doctrine is taught by very plain implication, and runs through the whole symbolism of the Craft. To believe in Masonry, and not believe in a resurrection, would be an absurd anomaly, which could only be excused by the reflection, that he who thus confounded his belief and his skepticism, was so ignorant of the meaning of both theories as to have no rational foundation for his knowledge of either.

### LANDMARK TWENTY-FIRST

It is a Landmark that a *Book of the Law* shall continue an indispensable part of the furniture of every Lodge. I say advisedly, a *Book of the Law*, because it is not absolutely required that everywhere the Old and New Testaments shall be used. The *Book of the Law* is that volume which, by the religion of the country is believed to contain the revealed will of the Grand Architect of the universe. Hence, in all Lodges in the Christian countries the *Book of the Law* is composed of the Old and New Testaments; in a country where Judaism was the prevailing faith, the Old Testament alone would be sufficient; and Mohammedan countries, and among Mohammedan Masons, the Koran might be substituted. Masonry does not attempt to interfere with the peculiar religious faith of its disciples, except so far as relates to the belief in the existence of God, and what necessarily results from that belief. The *Book of the Law* is to the speculative Mason his spiritual Trestle-board; without this he cannot labor; whatever he believes to be the revealed will of the Grand Architect constitutes for him this spiritual Trestle-board, and must ever be before him in his hours of speculative labor, to the rule and guide of his conduct. The Landmark, therefore, requires that a *Book of the Law*, a religious code of some kind, purporting to be an exemplar of the revealed will of God, shall form an essential part of the furniture of every Lodge.

### LANDMARK TWENTY-SECOND

The equality of all Masons is another Landmark of the Craft. This equality has no reference to any subversion of those gradations of rank which have been instituted by the usages of society. The monarch, the nobleman, or the gentleman is entitled to all the influence, and receive all the respect which rightly belongs to his exalted position. But the doctrine of Masonic equality implies that, as children of one Father, we meet in the Lodge upon the level - that on that level we are all traveling to one predestined goal - that in the Lodge genuine merit shall receive more respect than boundless wealth, and that virtue and knowledge alone should be the basis of all Masonic honors and be rewarded with preferment. When the labors of the Lodge are over, and the brethren have retired from their peaceful retreat, to mingle once more with the world, each will then again resume that social position, and exercise the privileges of that rank to which the customs of society entitle him.

### LANDMARK TWENTY-THIRD

The secrecy of the institution is another and a most important Landmark. There is some difficulty in precisely defining what is meant by a *secret society*. If the term refers, as perhaps, in strictly logical language, it should, to those associations whose designs are concealed from the public eye, and whose members are unknown, which produce their

## **Landmarks**

results in darkness, and whose operations are carefully hidden from the public gaze-a definition which will be appropriate to many political clubs and revolutionary combinations in despotic countries, where reform if it is at all to be effected must be effected by stealth-then clearly Freemasonry is not a secret society. Its design is not only publicly proclaimed, but is vaunted by its disciples as something to be venerated. Its disciples are known, for its membership is considered an honor to be coveted-it works for a result, of which it boasts-the civilization and refinement of man, the amelioration of his condition, and the reformation of his manners, But if by a secret society is meant-and this is the most popular understanding of the term-a society in which there is a certain amount of knowledge, whether it be of methods of recognition, or of legendary and traditional learning, which is imparted to those only who have passed through an established form of initiation the form itself being also concealed or esoteric, then in this is Freemasonry undoubtedly a secret society. Now, this form of secrecy is a form inherent in it, existing with it from its very foundation, and secured to it by its ancient Landmarks. If divested of its secret character, it would lose its identity, and would cease to be Freemasonry. Whatever objections may, therefore, be made to the institution on account of its secrecy, and however much some unskilled brethren have been willing in times of trial for the sake of expediency, to divest it of its secret character, it will be ever impossible to do so, even were the Landmark not standing before us an insurmountable obstacle, because such change of its character would be social suicide, and death of the Craft would follow its legalized exposure. Freemasonry, as a secret association, has lived unchanged for centuries-as an open society it would not last for as many years.

### **LANDMARK TWENTY-FOURTH**

The foundation of a speculative science upon an operative art, and the symbolic use and explanation of the terms of that art, for purposes of religious or moral teachings, constitute another Landmark of the Order. The Temple of Solomon was the cradle of the institution, and therefore, the reference to the operative Masonry which constructed that magnificent edifice, to the materials and implements which were employed in its construction and to the artists who were engaged in the building, are all competent and essential parts of the body of Freemasonry, which could not be subtracted from it without an entire destruction of the whole identity of the Craft. Hence, all the comparatively modern rites of Masonry, however they may differ in other respects, religiously preserve this temple history and those operative elements, as the substratum of all their modifications of the Masonic system.

### **LANDMARK TWENTY-FIFTH**

The last and crowning Landmark of all is that these Landmarks can never be changed. Nothing can be subtracted from them - nothing can be added to them-not the slightest modification can be made in them. As they were received from our predecessors, we are bound by the most solemn obligations of duty to transmit them to our successors. Not one jot or one tittle of these unwritten laws can be repealed; for, in respect to them, we are not only willing but compelled to adopt the language of the sturdy old barons of England - *Nolumus leges mutari*.

**Constitution and Laws - Grand Lodge**

**CONSTITUTION AND LAWS  
OF THE GRAND LODGE  
OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS  
OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA**

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**PREAMBLE**

**WHEREAS**, every Grand Lodge possesses the inherent power to form a constitution as the fundamental law of its Masonic action, and to enact such Bylaws from time to time as it may deem necessary for its own government and to make such rules and prescribe such regulations for the government of its subordinate lodges as will insure their prosperity and promote the general good of Masonry and,

**WHEREAS**, every Grand Lodge is the true representative of all the Fraternity in communication therewith, and is in that behalf an absolute and independent body with supreme legislative authority, Provided, always, that the ancient landmarks of the Fraternity be held inviolate. In order to make its laws more definite and certain, it does hereby recognize and adopt the landmarks as laid down by Dr. Albert G. Mackey, being 25 (twenty five) in number, and does make and prescribe the following Constitution, Uniform Code, Trial Code and Trial Commission for its future government and for the government of the lodges under its jurisdiction.



## Constitution and Laws - Grand Lodge

### ARTICLE I - GRAND LODGE

**SECTION 101. NAME:** The name of this Grand Lodge shall be the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Oklahoma.

**SECTION 102. JURISDICTION:** The jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge shall embrace the entire State of Oklahoma.

**SECTION 103. AUTHORITY:** The Grand Lodge is the source of all Masonic authority over Ancient Craft Masonry in its jurisdiction, possessing all the attributes of sovereignty and government - legislative, executive and judicial - limited only by a strict adherence to the adopted ancient landmarks and customs of the fraternity and its own constitution and regulations.

- A. LEGISLATIVE:** It may make such laws for the government of itself, its members, its constituent lodges and their members, and all Masons within its jurisdiction and alter, amend or repeal the same as it shall deem proper, so long as they do not conflict with the adopted landmarks. All such laws shall be binding upon all lodges and Masons within its jurisdiction.
- B. EXECUTIVE:** The Grand Lodge may constitute new lodges under charter and, for cause, annul or revoke the same. It may grant dispensations for any and all purposes in accordance with the landmarks and its own constitution and regulations. It may exercise all authority necessary to conduct its business, to carry into effect the landmarks, customs and regulations of the Craft and its own constitution, laws, regulations and judgments.

The Grand Lodge shall appropriate annually from the next year's anticipated income such funds as are necessary to conduct its business for the ensuing year. No funds may be expended by any person or persons in excess of those appropriated pursuant to this Constitution.

For the purpose of this section, anticipated income shall mean money which the Grand Lodge expects to receive from such sources as: per capita, dues, fees, assessments, dividends, interest and recovered expenses. It shall not include interest from the retirement or deferred income funds, anticipated fund raisers, charitable or educational funds. It shall not include devises or bequests. It shall not include money or assets which the Grand Lodge has accumulated at the end of a budget year, except for any portion of that money which was contributed for a specific purpose.

## Constitution and Laws - Grand Lodge

### C. JUDICIAL:

1. **MEMBERS:** It has original judicial authority over all its members, its constituent lodges and their members, and all Masons within its jurisdiction. It has authority to settle any and all Masonic controversies between them without regard to classification. It may enforce such judgment and discipline against them as it may deem just and necessary.
2. **APPELLATE:** It has appellate judicial authority in all controversies upon appeal from its constituent lodges, in appeals which may arise otherwise, and may affirm, set aside or modify any judgment and/or discipline. It may remand the cause for a new trial, or determine the matter and inflict such punishment or discipline as it may deem just and necessary, or dismiss such cause from further consideration.

**SECTION 104. COMPOSITION:** The membership of Grand Lodge shall consist of every Oklahoma Master Mason. The voting membership of Grand Lodge shall consist of a Grand Master; Deputy Grand Master; Senior Grand Warden; Junior Grand Warden; Grand Treasurer; Grand Secretary; Grand Lecturer; Senior Grand Deacon; Junior Grand Deacon; Senior Grand Steward; Junior Grand Steward; Grand Marshal; Grand Chaplain; Grand Bible Bearer; Grand Pursuivant; Grand Sword Bearer; Grand Flag Bearer; Grand Musician; Grand Tyler; all Past Masters of this Grand Jurisdiction; Masters and Wardens of its constituent lodges, so long as they remain members in good standing of one of its constituent lodges. With the cessation of such membership, his office and membership in this Grand Lodge shall cease. A change of membership from one lodge to another within this Grand Jurisdiction shall not constitute a cessation of membership within the meaning of this section.

**SECTION 105. ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE:** No member shall be eligible to an office in the Grand Lodge or on any of its committees or boards unless he is a present Master or a Past Master and a member of a constituent lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction. No member shall be eligible for the Office of Grand Master or Deputy Grand Master of this Grand Lodge unless he shall have been previously elected and served as a Grand Warden of this Grand Jurisdiction.

It is understood and agreed that the portion of this section requiring a member to be a Master or a Past Master does not apply to the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma or to any other corporate body or corporate board created by this Grand Lodge.

## Constitution and Laws - Officers

### ARTICLE II - OFFICERS

**SECTION 201. GRAND OFFICERS:** The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Wardens, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary and Grand Lecturer shall be elected by paper ballot, without nominations, at each annual communication. They shall be installed before its close and shall hold their offices one (1) year or until their successors are elected and installed. A majority of all the votes cast shall be necessary to elect the officers mentioned herein.

Eligible members of the Fraternity may indicate their availability for an elected office of this Grand Lodge by completing and filing a form provided by the Grand Lodge with the Grand Secretary. The filing period shall commence after the closing of the annual communication and close on the last day of March preceding the opening day of the next annual communication of this Grand Lodge. A filing fee of \$100 (one hundred dollars) must accompany the form before it can be accepted, the entire amount of which shall be refunded to the candidate if he receives at least 10% (ten percent) of the votes cast, otherwise the fee shall be credited to the Grand Lodge General Fund.

The Grand Lodge Trustees will review each submission to insure that the information provided is appropriate and conforms to the constitution and laws. All submissions will include the brother's Masonic history with dates of suspension, reinstatements and or expulsion listed. If changes are necessary, they shall be returned to the brother filing the form for modification or the changes may be made with the consent of the brother. The final modifications must be returned to the Grand Secretary no later than the last day of May. The Grand Lodge shall publish and distribute the information on each candidate as soon as possible after the May deadline.

The incumbent elected Grand Lodge officers are exempt from filing for office. The names of the line officers (Deputy Grand Master and Grand Wardens) shall be placed on the ballot for the next progressive office. The names of the Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary and Grand Lecturer shall be placed on the ballot for their respective offices at subsequent elections. Any officer may request that his name be removed from consideration.

Only incumbent officers, as mentioned in the previous paragraph, and the eligible brethren who have complied with the provisions of this section shall be considered during the election of officers. Votes for any other brother shall be declared mutilated and will not be counted, except in the event when more than one brother has filed for the same office and due to death, physical injury or ineligibility only one candidate remains on the ballot, then write-in ballots shall be accepted.

## **Constitution and Laws - Officers**

If construction of the above ballot for Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary or Grand Lecturer results in no name being listed for one or more of these office(s), the following procedure will be used:

1. If the vacancy occurs between the first day of April and sixty (60) days before the opening of the Grand Lodge Session, the Grand Lodge will open a new filing period, operating as described above, for a period of not less than two (2) weeks.
2. If the vacancy occurs less than sixty (60) days before the opening of the Grand Lodge Session, the office will be filled by written ballot, by the Grand Lodge delegates, without nomination.

It shall be a Masonic offense for any brother to hand-out, post (including, but not limited to, all electronic media such as e-mail, facebook, twitter, myspace, texting, photo sharing, blogging, etc) and/or distribute in any manner, any items or materials which would promote the election of any candidate for Grand Lodge office, provided that this shall not restrict the Grand Lodge Trustees from complying with the provisions of this section.

### **SECTION 202. GRAND MASTER:**

- A. DUTIES:** It shall be the duty of the Grand Master to:
1. Preside at all communications of the Grand Lodge.
  2. Make printed report to the Grand Lodge at its annual communication setting forth all of his official acts during the year and the general condition of the Craft in this Jurisdiction.
  3. Make such recommendations as he may deem necessary for the welfare of the Craft.
  4. See that the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge are obeyed.
  5. Constitute, in person or by authorized representative, all chartered lodges in accordance with ancient custom.
  6. Sign all legal documents executed by the Grand Lodge as its principal officer.
  7. Call quarterly meetings of the Jurisprudence committee (or an executive committee designated by the Jurisprudence committee) to review Grand Master decisions, Grand Lodge budget and any other items of Masonic law, custom or usage that has arisen since the last quarterly meeting.
- B. POWERS:** When the Grand Lodge is not in session he shall exercise all its powers, except the granting of charters:

He shall have power:

## Constitution and Laws - Officers

1. To grant dispensations:
  - a. To hold elections and installations of officers in constituent lodges at other times than may be prescribed by law.
  - b. To confer degrees upon candidates in less time than is provided by law.
  - c. To form public processions for any purpose provided for in this Constitution and Code or which to him may seem right and proper and for the benefit of the Craft.
  - d. To move a lodge's charter, to hold out of door meetings or temporarily relocate the lodge.
  - e. To waive any time requirements relating to petitions and applications specified within the Constitution and Laws or Uniform Code of this Grand Lodge.
2. To convene any lodge, preside therein, inspect its proceedings and compel its conformity to Masonic usage and the laws of this Grand Lodge.
3. To arrest the charter or dispensation of any lodge for good reason appearing to him and suspend the operation thereof until the next annual communication of the Grand Lodge.
4. To suspend the Master of any lodge from the exercise of the power and duties of his office, for good reason appearing to him, until the next annual communication of the Grand Lodge.
5. To convene the Grand Lodge in special or emergent communication whenever he shall deem such action necessary.
6. To constitute Lodges that have been granted charters by the Grand Lodge.
7. To lay cornerstones of Masonic or public buildings.
8. To fill all vacancies in Grand Lodge except Line Officers.
9. To appoint representatives near other Grand Lodges and nominate representatives for them near this Grand Lodge to serve for a period of five (5) years. Any Grand Representative that fails to register and attend the annual communication of Grand Lodge for three (3) consecutive years may be replaced.
10. To appoint all committees of the Grand Lodge.
11. To appoint Special Deputies and Representatives.
12. To do and perform and to require all other acts and things to be done and performed which Grand Masters may of right do, consistent with this Constitution and the ancient usages of Masonry.

## Constitution and Laws - Officers

### SECTION 203. DECISIONS OF GRAND MASTER:

- A. Decisions of the Grand Master govern in the particular case in which they are rendered until set aside by the Grand Lodge. They do not become law merely by force of being rendered. They are of value beyond the particular case only to the extent of their conformity to existing laws.
- B. The Master of a lodge or the secretary by direction of the Master of the lodge, under seal, may inquire of the Grand Master as to the law for the government of his lodge in particular cases. An opinion in regard thereto is official and shall govern the lodge. Answers to letters from other members of the lodge, by the Grand Master, giving his opinion are not official in the sense that they must control or govern either the lodge or others.

SECTION 204. APPOINTMENTS: The Grand Master, after his election and before he is installed, shall appoint a Senior Grand Deacon, Junior Grand Deacon, Senior Grand Steward, Junior Grand Steward, Grand Marshal, Grand Chaplain, Grand Bible Bearer, Grand Pursuivant, Grand Sword Bearer, Grand Flag Bearer, Grand Musician, Grand Tyler and a District Deputy Grand Master from each Masonic District, who shall be installed with the other Grand Officers and shall serve one (1) year unless removed by the Grand Master. The Grand Master shall also appoint such committees necessary to properly conduct the business of the Grand Lodge who shall serve their respective terms as provided by law or authorized by the Grand Lodge.

SECTION 205. DEPUTY GRAND MASTER: The Deputy Grand Master shall assist the Grand Master in his duties at all communications of the Grand Lodge and at all other times when requested to do so by the Grand Master. In the absence or inability of the Grand Master he shall preside and succeed to all powers and duties of the Grand Master.

SECTION 206. GRAND WARDENS: It shall be the duty of the Grand Wardens to assist the Grand Master at all communications of the Grand Lodge and at all other times when requested to do so by the Grand Master. In the absence or inability of the Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master, they shall preside and succeed to the powers and duties of the Grand Master in the order of their rank and perform the duties assigned to them in their installation charge.

SECTION 207. GRAND TREASURER: It shall be the duty of the Grand Treasurer:

## **Constitution and Laws - Officers**

- A. To receive from the Grand Secretary, through the central accounting system, all securities and funds for investment belonging to the Grand Lodge, giving his receipt therefore.
- B. To keep a complete and correct record of all securities and funds received and investments made and to make a monthly report of the same to the Grand Lodge Trustees.
- C. To make all investments of Grand Lodge funds with the approval of the Grand Lodge Trustees and countersign the necessary vouchers for such investments.
- D. To present an annual report of all pertinent transactions to the Grand Lodge at its annual communication.
- E. To countersign all checks issued by the Grand Lodge.
- F. To have all records, books and papers available for inspection by the auditor and any other proper person.
- G. To deliver to his successor in office all books, papers, records and securities pertaining to his office.

**SECTION 208. GRAND SECRETARY:** The Grand Secretary shall receive such compensation for his services as the Grand Lodge may authorize and direct. It shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary:

- A. To collect all monies due the Grand Lodge in accordance with procedures established by law and the Grand Lodge Trustees and turn them over to the Grand Treasurer, through the central accounting system, taking his receipt therefore.
- B. To maintain a central accounting system in conformity with good business practice.
- C. To issue vouchers for and to pay all proper bills against appropriated funds in accordance with procedures established by law and the Grand Lodge Trustees.
- D. To insure that all vouchers are countersigned by the Grand Master, or a duly designated officer or employee approved by the Grand Lodge Trustees.
- E. To record all proceedings of the Grand Lodge proper to be written and supervise the publication and distribution of the same as soon as practical thereafter, and perform such other duties as pertain to his office.
- F. To submit in writing at each meeting of the Grand Lodge

## **Constitution and Laws - Officers**

Trustees and at each annual communication of the Grand Lodge a detailed report of all monies received, how expended and the balance available in each fund.

- G. To conduct the correspondence of the Grand Lodge pertaining to his office and submit copies of such correspondence when required.
- H. To receive, file and safely keep all papers, books and records belonging to the Grand Lodge and exhibit the same when required by the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge Trustees.
- I. To provide a Schedule Bond in some reputable Surety or Casualty Company in a minimum amount of \$2500 (twenty five hundred dollars) and a maximum amount sufficient to cover the maximum amount of negotiable assets handled each year by each bonded officer or employee covering:

The Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary and all other officers and employees of the Grand Lodge who are responsible for the handling of monies belonging to the Grand Lodge.

- J. To report, at each annual communication of the Grand Lodge, all lodges which have failed to submit all funds due to the Grand Lodge, to make an annual report, or have failed or refused to comply with any provision of the law or regulations of the Grand Lodge.
- K. To keep the seal of the Grand Lodge and affix it, with his signature, in attesting all instruments in writing executed by the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge Trustees as may be deemed necessary.
- L. To have all records, books and papers available for inspection by the auditor and any other proper person.
- M. To have charge of the jewels and other paraphernalia of the Grand Lodge and have them present at all proper occasions.

**SECTION 209. GRAND LECTURER:** The Grand Lecturer shall receive such compensation for his services as the Grand Lodge may authorize and direct. It shall be the duty of the Grand Lecturer:

- A. To direct the teaching of the adopted work of this Grand Jurisdiction.
- B. To see that the adopted work of this Grand Jurisdiction is used by all of its constituent lodges.



## **Constitution and Laws - Officers**

- C. To hold a Grand School of Instruction at such time and place as may be directed by the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master.
- D. To exercise general supervision over all schools of instruction held in the constituent lodges.
- E. To serve as chairman of and preside over all meetings of the Board of Grand Lecturers.

**SECTION 210. GRAND LODGE TRUSTEES:** The Trustees of the Grand Lodge shall be the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary and Grand Lecturer.

**A. THE GRAND LODGE TRUSTEES SHALL:**

- 1. Hold regular meetings quarterly with special meetings at the discretion of the Grand Master, keep an accurate record of the transactions and make an annual report to the Grand Lodge at its annual communication.
- 2. Have custody and control of all Grand Lodge properties, real and personal, and shall be responsible for the proper maintenance and repair of all buildings and equipment.
- 3. Have authority to dispose of or transfer all properties coming to the Grand Lodge, and to invest and reinvest Grand Lodge funds, as deemed wise and proper.

Any conveyance of real property in BLOCK 52, East Guthrie addition to the City of Guthrie, Oklahoma must be ratified by a vote of Grand Lodge in Annual or Special Communication.

- 4. Have the responsibility to oversee, examine, approve and authorize the expenditure of all funds appropriated by the Grand Lodge pursuant to Section 103 B or Section 301 B. Such authorization shall require an affirmative majority vote by the Trustees.

If the total appropriation is insufficient to conduct the business of the Grand Lodge until the next annual communication, a supplemental appropriation of funds may be made by following one (1) of the following procedures:

- a.** The Finance and Appropriations Committee must unanimously recommend a supplemental appropriation

## **Constitution and Laws - Officers**

to the Committee on Jurisprudence. The Committee on Jurisprudence must approve such supplemental appropriation by a two-thirds majority of its members.

b. Convene a special communication of the Grand Lodge pursuant to Section 301 C.

5. It shall be a Masonic offense for any Trustee to authorize expenditure of Grand Lodge funds in excess of the total appropriation approved pursuant to the above sections.

**SECTION 211. APPOINTIVE GRAND OFFICERS:** The appointive Grand Officers shall perform the duties specified for their respective offices as follows:

- A. **GRAND DEACONS:** The Senior and Junior Grand Deacons shall attend the Grand Master and Grand Wardens and perform the duties assigned to them in their installation charge and in the ritual in ceremonial observances.
- B. **GRAND STEWARDS:** The Senior and Junior Grand Stewards shall assist the Grand Deacons and perform the duties assigned to them in their installation charge and in the ritual in ceremonial observances.
- C. **GRAND MARSHAL:** The Grand Marshal shall execute the commands of the Grand Master, proclaim the Grand Officers at their installation, introduce the representatives of foreign Grand Lodges and distinguished visiting brethren, superintend and conduct public processions of the Grand Lodge and see that no irregularities occur during the same, and collect petitions and communications in the Grand Lodge and place them before the Grand Secretary.
- D. **GRAND CHAPLAIN:** The Grand Chaplain shall perform the customary religious services at the annual communication of the Grand Lodge, at Masonic funerals conducted by the Grand Lodge and at all other appropriate occasions and shall serve as the Committee on Necrology.
- E. **GRAND BIBLE BEARER:** The Grand Bible Bearer shall bear the Great Lights in all processions of the Grand Lodge.
- F. **GRAND PURSUIVANT:** The Grand Pursuivant shall attend the admission of all other officers, members and visitors to see that they enter the Grand Lodge properly clothed and with their appropriate jewels and direct the members to their seats.

## **Constitution and Laws - Officers**

- G. GRAND SWORD BEARER:** The Grand Sword Bearer shall carry the sword in processions, attend the Grand Master on public occasions and act as assistant to the Grand Marshal.
- H. GRAND FLAG BEARER:** The Grand Flag Bearer shall execute the commands of the Grand Master in displaying the Flag at all Grand Lodge ceremonies and pay tribute to the Flag at the annual communications of the Grand Lodge.
- I. GRAND MUSICIAN:** The Grand Musician shall provide appropriate music during the annual communication as well as all other functions and ceremonies of the Grand Lodge.
- J. GRAND TYLER:** The Grand Tyler shall take charge of the property of the Grand Lodge not otherwise provided for, keep a correct list of the same and, at the expiration of his term of office, deliver the same to his successor. He shall see that the lodge room is in proper order for the use of the Grand Lodge and perform such other services as the Grand Lodge may require. He shall receive such compensation for his services as the Grand Lodge may annually direct.
- K. DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS:** The duties of a District Deputy Grand Master shall be:
1. To make an official visit to each lodge in his district during the year.
  2. To examine the lodge records and see that the same are properly kept and are in a business like condition.
  3. To see that the accounts of the treasurer and secretary have been balanced and audited at the end of each fiscal year and approved by the lodge.
  4. To see that all Grand Lodge dues are paid on time.
  5. To see that the annual and monthly reports to Grand Lodge are correctly made and transmitted to the Grand Secretary.
  6. To preserve peace and harmony among the Craft throughout his district.
  7. To perform any and all other duties which the Grand Master may assign him.
  8. To make prompt report to the Grand Master, on blanks furnished for such purpose, giving the condition of the lodge at the time of his official visit.

## Constitution and Laws - Officers

9. To observe the degree work of the lodge, report its proficiency therein and recommend a visit of the Grand Lecturer to hold a school of instruction when he deems it necessary.

10. To attend all communications of the Grand Lodge, annual and special, when possible.

L. **GRAND REPRESENTATIVES:** Grand Representatives shall, immediately after the annual communication, prepare a written report delineating the principal events of the communication, the important legislation of general interest had therein and transmit such report to the Grand Lodge represented by him, through the representative of that Grand Lodge.

**SECTION 212. GRAND LODGE COMMITTEES:** The Grand Master shall appoint committees to serve according to their respective terms and to perform their respective duties as follows:

A. **APPEALS AND GRIEVANCES:** A committee of three (3) on Appeals and Grievances to whom shall be referred all appeals and grievances that have been filed with the Grand Secretary.

B. **AUDITING:** The Grand Master, from year to year, is hereby authorized and instructed to designate and employ a certified public accountant to audit the books and accounts of all departments of the Grand Lodge and to report such audit in detail at the next annual communication of the Grand Lodge. The Auditor's report shall be printed in the Grand Lodge proceedings together with the reports of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary.

C. **CHARTERS AND DISPENSATIONS:** A committee of three (3) on Charters and Dispensations to whom shall be referred the records and proceedings of lodges under dispensation and petitions for new lodges.

Upon receipt of information that any lodge is not functioning properly, the Grand Master shall cause due investigation to be made and the information thus obtained shall be referred to the committee on Charters and Dispensations for recommendation to the Grand Lodge at its next session.

D. **CONSTITUTION AND CODE:** A committee of three (3) Past Grand Masters who shall serve for three (3) years, with one (1) to be appointed each year. The member serving his last year shall be chairman. The Constitution and Code committee is to direct adopted resolutions to proper placement in the Constitution and Code, clarifying the

## **Constitution and Laws - Officers**

same when appropriate and index each adopted resolution under proper and convenient headings.

- E. CREDENTIALS:** A committee of six (6) to examine the credentials of representatives and members of the Grand Lodge to determine their eligibility to a vote therein.
- F. DEPUTY GRAND LECTURERS:** The Grand Master shall appoint a maximum of twelve (12) brethren of known capability and fully competent to retain and teach the work without change as Deputy Grand Lecturers who, with the Grand Lecturer, shall compose the Board of Grand Lecturers.
- G. FINANCE AND APPROPRIATIONS:** A committee of three (3) who shall serve for three (3) years, with one (1) to be appointed each year. The member serving his last year shall be chairman. This committee shall examine and report all matters touching the finances of the Grand Lodge. No appropriation shall be made without it being referred to this committee and a report made thereon. In constructing the Grand Lodge budget, the committee shall not recommend a budget with a total appropriation that exceeds ninety-five percent (95%) of anticipated income as defined by Section 103 B.

Such report shall be made by this committee to the Grand Lodge Session and shall clearly indicate the total appropriation to be made pursuant to Section 103 B. Such report shall also indicate the budget line items that make up the total appropriation.
- H. FRATERNAL CORRESPONDENCE AND RELATIONS:** A committee of four (4), one (1) of whom shall be the Grand Secretary, who shall report on the general condition and the actions of the Grand Jurisdictions with which this Grand Lodge is in fraternal relationship and make such other reports and investigations as shall be required. The chairman of the committee shall be responsible for all matters pertaining to fraternal relations and the Grand Secretary shall be responsible for all matters pertaining to fraternal correspondence.
- I. GRAND MASTERS ADDRESS:** A committee of three (3) Past Grand Masters who shall examine and distribute the various portions of the annual address of the Grand Master to the appropriate committee for its study and report.
- J. MARKING OF GRAVES:** A committee of three (3) who shall serve for three (3) years, with one (1) to be appointed each year. The member serving his last year shall be chairman. This committee shall locate and properly mark

## Constitution and Laws - Officers

the graves of all Past Grand Masters, after having secured permission from such descendants as may be found.

- K. **MASONIC EDUCATION:** A committee of five (5) to formulate and present Masonic Education relative to the ideals and concepts of Freemasonry to the Constituent Lodges in the State of Oklahoma.
- L. **MASONIC HOSPITAL SERVICE:** A committee of five (5) to promote and supervise the Masonic service of disabled veterans at our government hospitals.
- M. **NECROLOGY:** A committee composed of the Grand Chaplain to prepare and present at the annual communication of the Grand Lodge a proper tribute of respect for the deceased members of this Grand Jurisdiction.
- N. **PUBLIC SCHOOLS:** A committee of seven (7) members, one (1) of which shall be the chairman. The committee shall be responsible to develop and maintain a Grand Lodge Public School program to: 1) advance the awareness of Lodge brethren in the role that Freemasonry had in the origins of the Public School System; 2) champion the continuing support Freemasonry provides to Public Education, and 3) reinforce the credibility of the Masonic belief in the value of Public Education as a system to educate its citizenry.
- O. **PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS:** A committee of five (5) to develop and promote publicity and public relations programs to promulgate the ideals and concepts of Freemasonry in Oklahoma.
- P. **PUBLICATIONS:** A committee of five (5) to supervise the publication of the Oklahoma Mason.
- Q. **TRANSPORTATION:** A committee consisting of as many members as needed for any one Grand Lodge Communication. The Grand Master shall appoint a chairman and said chairman shall appoint the remainder of the committee with the approval of the Grand Master.

It shall be the duty of the committee to attend to the needs of out-of-state guests as required, such as transportation, information and other courtesies. The members shall be reimbursed for any mileage expenses incurred at a rate determined by the Grand Master.

- R. **YOUTH ACTIVITIES:** A committee of three (3) who shall serve for three (3) years, with one (1) to be appointed each year. The member serving his last year shall be chairman. This committee shall establish and maintain a coordinated

## Constitution and Laws - Officers

and unified youth program in cooperation with the representatives of Affiliated Masonic Bodies.

- S. **GRAND TYLER'S:** A committee of four (4) with the Grand Tyler as chairman. They shall serve for four (4) years, with one (1) to be appointed each year. This committee shall insure that the Grand Lodge is properly tyled when convened at various locations during the year, perform registration of members for the annual Grand School of Instruction, and to see that the annual Grand Lodge Session is properly tyled.

**SECTION 213. COMMITTEE ON JURISPRUDENCE:** The Committee on Jurisprudence shall consist of all Past Grand Masters. The Junior Past Grand Master shall be Vice-Chairman of this committee and shall serve in that capacity for one (1) year when he shall become chairman of the committee.

To the Committee on Jurisprudence shall be referred all decisions of the Grand Master touching the ancient usages, customs and Landmarks of the Fraternity, and the Constitution and Uniform Code of the Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma. The Committee on Jurisprudence shall also receive all proposals to amend the Constitution and Code of the Grand Lodge. A majority of Past Grand Masters present shall govern.

If any elected Grand Lodge Officer becomes disabled or violates the Constitution and Laws or Uniform Code of this Grand Lodge or the civil or moral laws of the land, the determination of such disability or misconduct shall be made by a two-thirds majority of the members of the Committee on Jurisprudence. Once affirmatively determined, the affected officer shall be immediately suspended from his office and relieved of his duties. Succession and vacancies thus created shall follow Sections 216 and 217 of the Constitution and Laws. Such suspension shall remain in effect until a final determination is made by an annual or special communication of the Grand Lodge. If the suspension occurs more than ninety (90) days prior to the next annual communication, a special communication will be convened within sixty (60) days of the suspension if the suspended officer so requests in order that his case may be heard.

The Committee on Jurisprudence shall meet at least one hundred ten (110) days before the opening of the annual communication of the Grand Lodge to consider any resolutions submitted under the provisions of Section 901 of the Constitution and Laws or Section U 901 of the Uniform Code of this Constitution and Code to determine if the resolutions are legal and in proper form. The chairman of the Committee on Jurisprudence shall make a written report to the Grand Master, within not more than five (5) days of said meeting, of the committee's findings on said resolutions. The Committee on Jurisprudence shall meet at the call of the chairman

## **Constitution and Laws - Officers**

not more than seven (7) days preceding the opening day of the annual communication of the Grand Lodge to consider the decisions and recommendations of the Grand Master, any resolution resubmitted under the provisions of Sections 901 and U 901, and such other matters as may properly come before the committee.

In addition to the meetings dealing with resolutions, the Committee on Jurisprudence shall meet at the call of the chairman; or on the written request to the Chairmen by five (5) members of the committee; or at the request of the Grand Master.

**SECTION 214. EDITING COMMITTEE OF GRAND LODGE PROCEEDINGS:** The Grand Lodge shall annually produce and print bound volumes of its annual proceedings for distribution to its constituent lodges and others. Such distribution to the lodges shall be prior to the next annual communication.

A committee composed of the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and the Junior Past Grand Master shall constitute the Grand Lodge Editing Committee. It shall be their duty to review, edit and clarify the proceedings of each annual communication of the Grand Lodge by editing the original, typewritten copy from the Grand Secretary and by proofreading the revised camera ready version prior to its release to the printer for printing and distribution. The Junior Past Grand Master shall serve as chairman of said committee.

The above committee shall complete its work within forty-five (45) days, or less days if required to meet printing schedule for pre-Grand Lodge distribution. If the above schedule is not met, the Grand Master shall appoint other qualified editing brethren to meet the pre-Grand Lodge distribution schedule.

**SECTION 215. TITLES AND RANK:** The Grand Master and all Past Grand Masters shall be addressed as Most Worshipful; all other elective Grand Officers shall be addressed as Right Worshipful and the appointed Grand Officers and all past and present Masters shall be addressed as Worshipful. Past elected Grand Lodge officers, below the office of the Grand Master, shall be addressed with the designation of Past before their former elected office. (Example: Past Grand Secretary.) They shall not retain the prefix of Right Worshipful.

Those elected Emeritus by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge will carry the name of the position so honored with word "Emeritus" following. (Example: Grand Lecturer Emeritus.) They shall not retain the prefix of Right Worshipful, if previously.

Past appointed Grand Lodge Officers (to include any honorary or unofficial appointments beyond the Constitution) shall not carry any title such as Past Grand Pursuivant.

Past appointed Lodge officers and past elected Lodge officers, below the office of Master, (to include any honorary or unofficial appointment beyond the Uniform Code) shall not carry any title, such as Past Junior Steward.

No Oklahoma Mason shall himself out to represent Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, unless specifically authorized to do so by the Grand Master or Grand Lodge delegates.

**SECTION 216. SUCCESSION:** In the event of the death, absence, refusal or inability of the Grand Master to serve, all his powers and duties shall devolve upon the other officers in the following order: first, the Deputy Grand Master; second, the Senior Grand Warden; third, the Junior Grand Warden; and finally upon the Junior Past Grand Master not otherwise an officer of the Grand Lodge.

**SECTION 217. VACANCIES:** All vacancies in the offices of the Grand Lodge, except the line officers, shall be filled by appointment by the Grand Master.



## Constitution and Laws- Grand Lodge Communications

### ARTICLE III - GRAND LODGE COMMUNICATIONS

#### SECTION 301. GRAND LODGE COMMUNICATIONS:

- A. ANNUAL:** An annual communication of this Grand Lodge shall be held each year, beginning at 8:30 a.m. on the second Saturday of November and closing that day. The Grand Master may call an open meeting in the afternoon on the Friday preceding Grand Lodge, where he may hold education programs, present recognitions to individual or lodges, receive guests, speeches, make remarks or other ceremonial activities. All voting on officers, resolutions, budgets, changes in the esoteric work and any other binding issue shall be conducted on Saturday.
- B. ANNUAL COMMUNICATION IN CASE OF EMERGENCY:** Whenever the existence of a state or national emergency shall render it impossible or impractical to hold the annual communication of this Grand Lodge as prescribed by our laws, the Grand Master, by and with the advice and consent of the other elective Grand Lodge Officers, shall order by resolution that such annual communication be cancelled and stating in such resolution the reasons therefore. A separate resolution, with the reasons therefore, shall be passed with respect to each annual communication so cancelled.

During the year or years for which it is necessary to omit the regular annual communication, all duties and powers exercised by the Grand Master, the other elective Grand Lodge Officers, the committee on Finance and Appropriations and the Committee on Jurisprudence shall be of like force and effect as if done by the members in regular communication.

The above named officers and committees shall have the power and authority to adopt an annual budget and make appropriations in such sums as may be necessary to meet the current expenses of the Grand Lodge for the ensuing year. All such sums so budgeted for such expenses are hereby appropriated; however, no budget shall be adopted as herein provided for unless it shall first be submitted to the committee on Finance and Appropriations.

The above named officers and committees shall have power and authority to elect all Grand Lodge Officers for a period of one year except the Junior Grand Warden. The office of Junior Grand Warden shall remain vacant until the next regular annual communication when it shall be filled as now provided by our laws. In the event the power to elect officers, as above provided, is exercised for more than one year, an additional office at the end of the regular line shall be left vacant for each year the regular annual communication is cancelled. Such offices are to be filled by regular election at the next annual communication.

In addition to the foregoing, the above named officers, in

## Constitution and Laws- Grand Lodge Communications

the circumstances above stated, shall have and exercise the power and authority to do all things necessary or desirable to carry on the affairs of the Grand Lodge and properly protect and conserve its property and fraternal interest in any and all respects.

- C. **SPECIAL:** Special communications of the Grand Lodge may be ordered by the Grand Master whenever, in his judgment, the welfare of the fraternity may require. A written notice shall be mailed to all constituent lodges, at least 30 (thirty) days previous to any such special meeting, notifying them of the time and place of the holding thereof and its purposes.
- D. **EMERGENT:** Emergent communications of the Grand Lodge may be convened by the Grand Master or his duly authorized deputy at such times and places as the Grand Master may desire.
- E. **WHO SHALL PRESIDE:** The Grand Master, or in his absence the Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden or Junior Grand Warden, in the order named, shall preside over all communications. In the absence of all of the above named officers, the Junior Past Grand Master present shall preside.
- F. **PLACE OF MEETING:** The Grand Lodge shall choose by vote the place for holding its annual communications. When a place has been selected, all annual communications shall continue to be held at such place until another one is selected. In case of an epidemic or other cause dangerous to the health or comfort of the members of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master may change such place of meeting.
- G. **QUORUM:** To constitute a quorum to legally transact business at an annual or special communication of the Grand Lodge there must be present representatives of a majority of the constituted lodges of the Grand Jurisdiction. On occasions of ceremony only, the Grand Master or his duly authorized representative, with a sufficient number of brethren to fill the stations and places, may open the Grand Lodge and perform the ceremonies for which it was convened.
- H. **DELEGATES:** The delegates of the Grand Lodge shall be those members as specified in Section 104 of this Constitution and Laws.
- I. **PROXIES:** The Master and Wardens of the duly chartered lodges, may be represented in Grand Lodge by proxy. The proxy must be a member of the same lodge as the Master or Warden giving it. Such proxies must be provided with

## Constitution and Laws- Grand Lodge Communications

credentials, on forms issued by the Grand Lodge, under the seal of the constituent lodge.

**J. REPRESENTATIVE OTHER THAN MASTER AND WARDENS:** When the Master and Wardens or their proxies cannot be present at the annual or a special communication of the Grand Lodge, each chartered lodge may select a member of that lodge as its Grand Lodge Representative and duly provide him with proper credentials under seal of the lodge.

**K. DELEGATES FROM NEW LODGES:** No lodge, until chartered and duly constituted, shall be entitled to representation in the Grand Lodge. A lodge under dispensation may send a member thereof, preferably its Master, as a representative to the annual communication of Grand Lodge. Such representative shall be entitled to sit in the Grand Lodge and speak therein but shall not have a vote.

**SECTION 302. REGISTRATION OF DELEGATES AND BALLOTS:** A delegate to the annual communication of the Grand Lodge shall register his credentials with the Credentials Committee, at which time he shall receive a badge which shall be so distinguished as to indicate the number of votes he is entitled to cast. The Credentials Committee shall carefully make a record of the number of votes registered. No member shall be entitled to vote until his name has been registered with the Credentials Committee.

When voting by ballot, each lodge shall be entitled to three (3) votes through its representatives present in Grand Lodge. Other delegates to Grand Lodge present at the time of balloting are each entitled to one (1) vote. If a delegate, by reason of his past rank, is entitled to a vote and is also representing his lodge with proper credentials, he may vote in each capacity.

The election ballots issued at the annual communication shall be imprinted with the date of that communication and the names of the candidates for each office. All voted ballots shall be carefully preserved and placed in the vault in the Grand Secretary's office and be kept there for a period of one (1) year. The ballots may be reviewed by any member of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma when accompanied by an elected Grand Lodge Officer.

**SECTION 303. RULES OF ORDER:** The following rules are for the government of the Grand Lodge at its communications:

- A.** At the stroke of the Grand Master's gavel there shall be a general silence.
- B.** A member shall not speak more than once on the same question, except by permission of the Grand Master; however, the member presenting any motion, resolution or measure shall be entitled to make the closing address thereon.

## Constitution and Laws- Grand Lodge Communications

- C. A member who is twice called to order at any one communication for transgressing these rules and is guilty of the third offense of the same nature may be ordered to leave the lodge room for that day by the then presiding officer.
- D. All motions are to be decided by a majority vote except as otherwise provided by law.
- E. Any member who desires to speak shall rise, address himself to the presiding officer, and remain standing. No member shall interrupt him except to call him to order; but, after he has been set right he may proceed, if he observes due order and decorum.
- F. Every proposition offered for consideration shall be in writing.

The parliamentary law of civil deliberative bodies is not recognized in Masonry except insofar as it does not conflict with our established customs and the time honored powers of the Grand Master. The parliamentary usage of Masonry is something peculiar to itself. Its outlines are to be found in the Ancient Constitution, Rules of Order and the Laws of the Grand Lodge. The sole object of all debate in Grand or Subordinate Lodge is to elicit decisions which shall be for the good of the Craft. Hence, all questions under discussion must be positively determined at the time or final action be postponed to a stated period when the question must be resumed and finally decided. The formation of "Committees of the Whole", the call of the "previous question" and all obstructive motions are strictly forbidden.

**SECTION 304. BALLOTING AND VOTING:** The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior and Junior Grand Wardens shall each appoint an equal number of tellers to manage the election and resolution balloting process. The Grand Master shall also appoint a chairman of the tellers. It shall be the duty of the tellers to insure that no campaigning occurs within or in close proximity to the election balloting area; to receive, count and report the results of all balloting; and to see that the provisions of this section are obeyed.

- A. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** On Saturday of the annual communication of the Grand Lodge, an area shall be designated for delegates to ballot on the candidates for elected offices. The balloting area shall be opened at such time to correspond with the registration of delegates and shall remain open until 10:00 A.M. at which time balloting shall cease and the votes counted.

A delegate who has registered with the Credentials

## Constitution and Laws- Grand Lodge Communications

Committee may enter the balloting area. Each delegate must sign a register and indicate the number of votes he is casting. He will then receive a ballot which shall be so distinguished as to indicate the number of votes he is entitled to cast.

After marking the ballot and before leaving the balloting area, all delegates must deposit their ballots in a box which shall be constructed as to keep each ballot secret and so that one brother cannot observe how another voted.

In the event that any officer is not elected by a majority vote on a ballot, a subsequent ballot shall be taken in the same manner. All names for the unfilled office shall be dropped except the two (2) having the highest number of votes on the first ballot. All other names on the second and subsequent ballots shall be declared mutilated and shall not be counted.

- B. RESOLUTIONS TO AMEND :** A delegate having entered the Grand Lodge at the time designated for balloting on the resolution changes shall be given a ballot on which he may vote either for or against each resolution presented. The ballot shall be so distinguished as to indicate the number of votes he is entitled to cast and his badge shall be punched.

Once a delegate has entered the Grand Lodge, he shall not be permitted to leave the room unless excused by the Grand Master or Grand Lodge. Once excused, the delegate shall deposit his ballot in the ballot box at the Grand Tyler's station. All such ballots shall be delivered to the chairman of the tellers at the close of balloting to be counted.

- C. MOTIONS:** All other items of business requiring a vote of the Grand Lodge shall require a majority of the votes cast to pass.

## Constitution and Laws - Grand Lodge Revenues

### ARTICLE IV - WORK OF THE GRAND JURISDICTION

**SECTION 401. ESOTERIC WORK:** The esoteric work of this Grand Jurisdiction shall be that adopted by this Grand Lodge and shall be used by all its lodges and their members in giving the work and lectures. It shall be in charge of the Board of Grand Lecturers.

The Grand Lodge shall publish a two or three letter maximum cipher of all esoteric work of this Grand Jurisdiction.

Such cipher shall be used only for teaching. It shall not be consulted in any lodge while at labor. Violation of this section shall be deemed a Masonic offense.

Ciphers shall be available to Master Masons through the office of the Grand Secretary.

**SECTION 402. GRAND SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION:** The Board of Grand Lecturers shall hold a Grand School of Instruction each year commencing at 9:00 A.M. on the Wednesday preceding the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, continuing for two and one-half (2 1/2) days, closing by noon on Friday. The school shall be held in the Grand Lodge Building at Guthrie, Oklahoma. The Board may call to its assistance a committee of nine (9) who are known by it to be competent to teach, to aid in holding such school, and may call a sufficient number of additional brethren where necessary, provided that not more than one (1) instructor or examiner shall be called for each 15 (fifteen) attendees at such Grand School. The members of the Board and their assistants shall receive such compensation for their services as the Grand Lodge may determine.

**SECTION 403. DISTRICT SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION:** The Grand Lecturer or any Deputy Grand Lecturer may hold a District School of Instruction at such time and place as may be requested and mutually agreed upon by the District and the Grand Lecturer or the Deputy Grand Lecturer requested to hold the school.

Each District shall be required to hold at least one (1) District School annually, such school to be conducted by a Deputy Grand Lecturer.

**SECTION 404. LOCAL LODGE SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION:** The Grand Lecturer, any Deputy Grand Lecturer or any Class "A" Certificate Lecturer approved by the Grand Lecturer, may hold a Local Lodge School of Instruction at such time and place as may be requested and mutually agreed upon by the lodge and instructor requested to hold the school.

**SECTION 405. CERTIFICATE LECTURERS:** The Board of Grand Lecturers may, during the Grand School, District Schools or at any place and time mutually agreed upon by the examiner and the examinee, hold examinations for proficiency in the Esoteric Work. Those taking the examinations and found to be proficient in the work and lectures shall be reported to the Grand Master who shall issue them a certificate of proficiency which shall be good for one (1) year from Grand School to Grand School. Certificate Lecturers shall be required to pass an examination annually as to their proficiency in the work before a certificate shall be issued. A Class "A" or "C" Certificate Lecturer who has held a valid certificate in the Grand Jurisdiction of Oklahoma for 25 (twenty-five) continuous years shall be issued a lifetime certificate and shall be exempt from any further examination.

## Constitution and Laws - Grand Lodge Revenues

The two (2) grades of certificates are as follows:

CLASS "A" - To the Brethren who can pass the examination required and are qualified to correctly teach all the adopted esoteric work of this Grand Jurisdiction.

CLASS "C" - To the Brethren who can pass the examination required and are qualified to correctly teach the categorical lectures, questions and answers, of all three (3) degrees of this Grand Jurisdiction.

**SECTION 406. DEPUTY GRAND LECTURER SCHOOLS:** The Grand Lecturer shall hold quarterly state and/or regional meetings with the Deputy Grand Lecturers to practice the adopted work and receive reports from the Deputy Grand Lecturers on the quality of the adopted work that has been observed through the District Schools of Instruction and Local Lodge Schools of Instruction.

**Constitution and Laws - Grand Lodge Revenues**

**ARTICLE V - REVENUES OF THE GRAND LODGE**

**SECTION 501. HOW PROVIDED:** The Grand Lodge may provide by law for the collection of revenues for the support of itself, its institutions and constituent lodges by:

- a. per capita upon the members in its Jurisdiction,
- b. by annual dues,
- c. fees for charters and dispensations,
- d. assessments for each Entered Apprentice.
- e. for other services of its officers.

No assessment shall be made by the Grand Lodge upon the membership of the lodges except for per capita.

**SECTION 502. REVENUE OF THE GRAND LODGE:** The revenue of the Grand Lodge shall be derived from annual dues, fees and assessments, as follows:

- A. **PER CAPITA** For each Master Mason on the roll January 1:  
.....\$10.

Unless superseded by Section U 420 D.4. and D.5.  
\$2.00 of the above figure shall be permanently endowed and placed in a Grand Lodge Office Facilities Endowment Fund. The total amount of income derived annually from said fund, not to exceed 5% of the corpus, shall be used for maintenance or capital improvements in an owned office building or lease payments in a leased office facility.

- B. **ANNUAL DUES** For each Master Mason not belonging to a constituent lodge  
.....\$100.

C. **FEES:** The following fees shall be charged for all dispensations, charters, etc. issued by the Grand Master viz:

- 1. For dispensation to form a new Lodge.....\$50.
- 2. For charter for a new Lodge.....\$25.
- 3. To confer degrees out of time, for each degree.....\$10.
- 4. For dispensation for any other purpose.....\$20.

The fee for dispensation to confer degrees out of time shall be paid by the petitioner and not by the lodge requesting it. All fees for dispensations shall be paid before they are issued by the Grand Master and Grand Secretary.

D. **ASSESSMENTS:** The following assessments shall be charged against the Constituent Lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction:

- 1. For each candidate initiated.....\$15.
- 2. Each EA Degree conferred.....\$2.

No fee or assessment shall be charged for affiliations.

The assessment provided for in Section 502 D 1 shall be a distinct contribution by the petitioner to Masonic Charity and shall be deposited in a separate account known as "The Entered Apprentice Fund." This assessment shall be in addition to the fee for the three (3) degrees.

The assessments provided for in Section 502 D 1 and 502 D 2 shall be remitted to the Grand Secretary with the first monthly report following initiation.



## **Constitution and Laws - Grand Lodge Revenues**

The per capita provided for in Section 502 A for the preceding year shall be due on the 1st day of April of each year or 45 (forty-five) days from the date of the mailing of the recapitulation form from the Grand Secretary's office which ever date is later in the amount specified on the Recapitulation form received from his office.

Each Lodge under the authority of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma failing to comply with this requirement shall be assessed a five (5) percent penalty of the gross amount and an additional five (5) percent each month thereafter on the unpaid balance until such sums are paid.

No per capita provided for in Section 502 A shall be charged against any lodge for a member whose dues have been remitted because of inability to pay.

**E. Grand Lodge Trial Revolving Fund:** The Grand Lodge shall maintain a Lodge Trials Revolving Fund, which shall not be subject to annual appropriation.

Said fund shall receive payments from Lodges pursuant to Section T-201.

Said fund shall pay all expenses of Lodge trials approved by the Grand Master, and conducted through a Grand Lodge Commission (T-201).

**SECTION 503. LODGES RESPONSIBLE:** Each constituent lodge shall be responsible to the Grand Lodge for all assessments for Grand Lodge purposes and shall collect per capita from its membership for the Grand Lodge.

**SECTION 504. DUES OF MEMBERS OF DEFUNCT LODGES:** When a lodge has ceased to exist, either by having voluntarily surrendered or forfeited its charter or when the arrest of its charter has been confirmed by the Grand Lodge and the charter revoked, each member thereof is required to pay all dues owing to the lodge at the time it ceased to exist, including the current year, to the Grand Lodge and shall thereafter pay dues to the Grand Lodge at the rate established in Section 502. Said dues shall be credited to the general fund of the Grand Lodge.

Upon payment of the dues in arrears and of such annual dues, the Grand Secretary shall issue to such member a Certificate of Good Standing upon which such member shall have the right to apply to a constituent lodge for affiliation.

## Constitution and Laws - Constituent Lodges

### ARTICLE VI - CONSTITUENT LODGES

**SECTION 601. DISPENSATIONS:** A new lodge may be formed by authority of a dispensation from the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge or a charter from the Grand Lodge. No lodge shall be chartered until it shall have exhibited to the Grand Lodge satisfactory evidence of its Masonic capability.

**A. HOW OBTAINED:** Fifteen (15) or more Master Masons from this or recognized jurisdictions may petition the Grand Master to form a new lodge. The petition must name the brethren who are proposed to be the Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden of the Lodge. The petition must be accompanied by:

1. A certificate of good standing for each member signing the petition.
2. A fee of \$50 (fifty dollars).
3. A certificate from the Grand Lecturer, or his duly appointed Deputy, or one of the Deputy Grand Lecturers, stating that a suitable and properly secured lodge room has been provided for the lodge and that the proposed Master and Wardens are qualified and competent to properly confer the three degrees of Masonry and to deliver the lectures pertaining thereto in accordance with the authorized work of this Jurisdiction.

On such petition being presented, the Grand Master may grant the brethren a dispensation, naming the Master and Wardens therein, to open and hold a lodge at the place named in the dispensation with power to confer the Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason degrees.

At any time prior to the limitation of the dispensation, the lodge holding it may receive, by unanimous consent to be expressed by ball ballot, demits from non-affiliates or certificates of good standing and forward the same to the Grand Secretary. The Grand Secretary shall examine them and if they are found to be correct, he shall direct the lodge to enter the name or names on the dispensation. The brother, or brethren, whose names are so entered upon the petition and dispensation shall enjoy all the prerogatives of the original petitioners. No brother shall become a charter member of any new lodge whose demit or certificate of good standing is not filed with the Grand Secretary, unless he is made a Master Mason in that lodge while it is under dispensation.

## **Constitution and Laws - Constituent Lodges**

**B. WHEN TERMINATED:** The dispensation shall terminate on the day preceding the first day of the annual communication of this Grand Lodge following its issuance and shall at that time (unless called for sooner by the Grand Master) be promptly returned to the Grand Secretary, together with the books, returns of the Lodge, and all other papers and records thereof to date.

**C. RECORDS TO COMMITTEE:** The Grand Secretary shall place all of the documents and records mentioned in the preceding paragraph, together with the petition for dispensation, in the hands of the chairman of the committee on Charters and Dispensations. This committee shall examine the same and report their findings and recommendations to the Grand Lodge at its next annual communication.

**D. ACTION ON COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

1. If the examination shall prove satisfactory and the committee so recommends, the Grand Lodge may order the issuance of a charter to the lodge and therein assign to it such name and number as may be deemed proper.
2. If the examination shall prove unsatisfactory and the committee so recommends, the Grand Lodge may refuse the charter and order the dispensation to be continued or not as it may deem best.

**E. LODGE CONSTITUTED:** As soon as practical after the Grand Lodge orders the issuance of a charter, the lodge shall be duly constituted and set to work by the Grand Master, or by his representative under his direction.

**SECTION 602. MUST HAVE CHARTER:** Each constituent lodge in this jurisdiction shall work under a charter issued by this Grand Lodge or under a dispensation issued by it or by the Grand Master. No chartered lodge shall proceed to work until it shall have been regularly constituted and its officers installed.

**SECTION 603. DUPLICATE CHARTERS:** When the charter of any lodge is destroyed, or becomes defaced or illegible, the Grand Master may order a duplicate to be issued containing the names of the original officers and date of issuance. The names of the Grand Officers at the time the original charter was issued must be affixed to the charter, attested by the Grand Secretary, under the seal of the Grand Lodge. The charter so furnished must show on the margin the reason for the issuance.

**SECTION 604. MEMBERSHIP:** Constituent lodges shall be composed of those named in their charters, all who are members at the date of granting the same, and such as they shall admit by regular

## **Constitution and Laws - Constituent Lodges**

affiliation or shall raise to the sublime degree of Master Mason, and retaining membership therein. The charter members of a lodge are all who were members on the date the charter was granted.

**SECTION 605. CHARTER ARRESTED:** When the charter of a lodge has been arrested by the Grand Master on one of the grounds listed in Section 606, the rights and privileges of the lodge are not destroyed; but, remain in abeyance until the Grand Lodge passes upon the arrest. No Certificates of Good Standing may be granted to members of the lodge, until the arrest has been confirmed by the Grand Lodge.

**SECTION 606. CHARTER FORFEITED:** The charter of a lodge may be forfeited:

- A. For disobedience of any of the provisions of the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge.
- B. For disregard of the authority of the Grand Master.
- C. For a violation or neglect of the ancient and recognized usages of the Craft.
- D. For receiving applications or petitions of persons known to be unworthy, or refusing to discipline unworthy members.
- E. For failure to meet during a period of three (3) months.

No charter shall be forfeited except by action of the Grand Lodge. Before any charter shall be forfeited the charges against the Lodge shall be duly investigated. The Lodge accused shall have due notice of the investigation.

The forfeiture of the charter of a lodge, when so declared by the Grand Lodge, shall be conclusive upon the lodge and all its members.

**SECTION 607. LODGE DISSOLVED:**

- A. **DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY:** When a lodge has voluntarily surrendered or has forfeited its charter or where the arrest of its charter has been confirmed by the Grand Lodge and the charter revoked, title to all its property of every kind and nature and all its funds, dues, jewels and paraphernalia shall become the property of the Grand Lodge. It is hereby made the duty of the Master, Treasurer and Secretary of the lodge to at once or at such time and place as the Grand Master may direct, deliver to such officer of the Grand Lodge as the Grand Master may direct all the books, papers, jewels, working tools, columns,

## Constitution and Laws - Constituent Lodges

charts and other Masonic paraphernalia incident to proper lodge work.

When the arrest of a charter has been confirmed by the Grand Lodge and the charter revoked, and when the assets of such lodge shall be in excess of \$1,000 (one thousand dollars), then such assets shall be held in trust by the Grand Lodge for a period of five (5) years from the date the Grand Lodge confirmed the arrest. If within this five (5) year period a new lodge is chartered in the general area of the lodge whose charter was arrested, then the assets being held in trust shall be paid over by the Grand Lodge to the newly chartered lodge.

- B. REPORTS:** Immediately upon notice that a lodge has voluntarily surrendered its charter or in any of the events mentioned in the preceding paragraph whereby a lodge has ceased to exist, the Grand Master shall in person or by a representative duly appointed by him, examine the books, papers and property of the lodge, in conjunction with its Master, Treasurer and Secretary, and make a list of all its property, its members and the amount of dues owing by each in duplicate and forward one copy to the Grand Master and one copy to the Grand Secretary.
- C. SALE OF PROPERTY AND PAYMENT OF DEBTS:** Subject to the trust provisions of Section 607 A, the Board of Trustees of the Grand Lodge shall take final charge of all property of dissolved lodges, dispose of the same to the best advantage, and after paying the indebtedness of the lodge, place the balance in the Grand Lodge Treasury to the credit of the general fund. The Grand Lodge is not, nor shall it be made, liable for any indebtedness of such lodge in excess of the proceeds of its property so obtained after first deducting the amount of dues and other obligations to the Grand Lodge.
- D. RETURN OF PROPERTY:** If an arrested charter is returned without revocation, all property and effects received by the Grand Lodge and not expended for or on behalf of the constituent lodge, shall be returned with the charter, less the expenses incurred by the Grand Lodge. If the arrest is adjudged by the Grand Lodge as wrong, the restoration shall be without expense to the constituent lodge.

### SECTION 608. REPORTS:

## Constitution and Laws - Constituent Lodges

- A. ANNUAL:** Each constituent lodge shall make an annual report, on suitable forms furnished by the Grand Lodge, giving a recapitulation of its activities for the preceding year and forward it to the Grand Secretary on or before the 31st day of January each year. An audit certificate may accompany the annual report but must be filed with the Grand Secretary on or before the 31st day of January of each year.
- B. MONTHLY:** Each constituent lodge shall make a quarterly (March, June, September, December) report, plus any other month in which there is membership activity, on suitable forms furnished or approved by the Grand Lodge, and forward it to the Grand Secretary on or before the 10th day of the following month. Any lodge failing to make a quarterly report may, at the discretion of the Grand Master, have its charter arrested. The Grand Master may restore the charter after all delinquent reports are received.

**SECTION 609. RIGHT TO CONFER DEGREES:** Each chartered lodge and lodge under dispensation shall have the right to confer the degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason, subject to such rules and regulations in regard thereto as may be prescribed by the Grand Lodge and the ancient usages and customs of the Fraternity.

**SECTION 610. RENTING LODGE BUILDING:** A lodge is permitted to rent, or make available at no charge, its facilities to others so long as the intended use of the facility or the reputation of the organization to whom it is rented is not such as will compromise the dignity and honor of the fraternity, nor in opposition to the teachings of the fraternity.

**SECTION 611. LODGE SUPPLIES:** The Grand Lodge shall keep available or provide upon order, printed forms, dues cards, books, pamphlets and other material necessary for the use of its constituent lodges. Such supplies are to be prepared by or under the direction of the Grand Secretary, approved by the Grand Master, and may be ordered from the Grand Secretary.

Dues cards shall be uniform in size, shape, color and printing. Each card shall bear the signature of the Grand Secretary and the official seal of the Grand Lodge.

All supplies shall be sold at reasonable prices and, to insure uniformity, all constituent lodges are hereby directed to use the approved materials.

Annual election and dues notices, as provided for in Section U 201, shall be on forms prepared and distributed by the Grand Lodge.

**Constitution and Laws - Constituent Lodges**

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## Constitution and Laws - Miscellaneous Provisions

### ARTICLE VII - MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

**SECTION 701. LAYING CORNERSTONES:** The ceremony of laying a cornerstone shall be conducted by the Grand Master, or a Past Master acting for him, assisted by the Grand Officers or brethren appointed pro tem.

When an application is made for laying the cornerstone of a building, it should be accompanied by a statement of the purpose for which the building is to be used and such further information as the Grand Master shall call for, to enable him to determine whether the building to be constructed will meet the requirements of our ancient laws and usages relating to this ceremony.

No cornerstone shall be laid with Masonic ceremonies except those of acknowledged public structures, such as churches, monuments, courthouses, school buildings, city halls, state buildings and buildings which are to be used for Masonic purposes, and then only upon special request of those in authority.

When practical, the stone should be laid in the northeast corner of the building. It shall be engraved with the Grand Lodge Emblem, the name of the Grand Lodge, the year of Masonry, the name of the Grand Master and the date it was laid.

The Grand Lodge shall be convened in emergent communication at the appointed time in some convenient and suitable place and opened on the Entered Apprentice Degree. All Master Masons, Fellow Crafts and Entered Apprentices are entitled to a place in the procession.

**SECTION 702. MASONIC OCCASIONS:** Masonic occasions are hereby declared to be public installations of lodge officers, Masonic funerals and the celebration of Saints John Days.

**SECTION 703. PUBLIC PROCESSIONS:** No lodge shall appear in public procession, without a dispensation for that purpose from the Grand Master, except for Masonic occasions and for participating in a local parade in celebration of national, state and community events.

**SECTION 704. RETIREMENT OF GRAND LODGE EMPLOYEES:** Any full time salaried officer or employee of the Grand Lodge shall be included in a retirement plan which shall be in compliance with the United States Government Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended.

**SECTION 705. MEMBERSHIP ROSTER DISTRIBUTION:** It shall be unlawful to distribute all or part of the roster of members of this Grand Jurisdiction to be used for any purpose other than those considered to be official purposes of this Grand Lodge or its member lodges, such purposes to be approved by the Grand Lodge Trustees.



## Constitution and Laws - Miscellaneous Provisions

Such distribution shall only be to the designated official mailing agent of this Grand Lodge, to constituent lodges or to their members for such approved purposes. Any action contrary to the provisions of this section shall be considered unmasonic conduct.

**SECTION 706. MASONIC CHARITY FOUNDATION:** Eligible members of the fraternity may indicate their availability for election to the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma by completing and filing a form provided by the Grand Lodge with the Grand Secretary. The filing period shall commence after the closing of the annual communication and close on the last day of March preceding the opening day of the next annual communication of this Grand Lodge. A filing fee of \$100 (one hundred dollars) must accompany the form before it can be accepted, the entire amount shall be returned to the candidate if he receives at least 10% (ten percent) of the votes cast, otherwise the fee shall be credited to the general fund of the Grand Lodge.

Only the eligible brethren who have complied with these provisions shall be considered during the election of the members to the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma. Votes for any other brother shall be declared mutilated and will not be counted, except in the event that where less than three brothers have filed for office, or due to death, physical injury or ineligibility less than the required number remain on the ballot, then write-in ballots, by nomination from the floor, shall be accepted. If more than three (3) members are to be elected, due to any reason, the members receiving the greater number of votes will receive the longer terms of office.

The Grand Lodge Trustees will review each submission to insure that the information provided is appropriate and conforms to the Constitution and Laws. All submissions will include the brother's Masonic history with dates of suspension, reinstatements and or expulsion listed. If changes are necessary, they shall be returned to the brother filing the form for modification or the changes may be made with the consent of the brother. The final modifications must be returned to the Grand Secretary no later than the last day of March. The Grand Lodge shall publish and distribute the information on each such candidate.

**Constitution and Laws - Concordant, Androgynous and Appendant Bodies**

**ARTICLE VIII - CONCORDANT, ANDROGYNOUS AND APPENDANT BODIES**

**SECTION 801. RECOGNIZED CONCORDANT BODIES:** The Grand Lodge of Oklahoma recognizes as Concordant Bodies of the Grand Lodge the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons; a Grand Council of Cryptic Masons; a Grand Commandery of Knights Templar; Consistories of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America; and Temples of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. All of which bodies are lawfully constituted and established with our State, and all of which are duly recognized by Masonic Bodies throughout the world. All of these rest upon our Blue Lodge and the three (3) degrees therein conferred.

**SECTION 802. RECOGNIZED ANDROGYNOUS BODIES:** The Grand Lodge of Oklahoma recognizes as Androgynous Bodies Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star; a Grand Court of the Order of the Amaranth; and subordinate Shrines of the Supreme White Shrine of Jerusalem. All of which require their female members to be certain specified relatives of Master Masons in good standing at the time of initiation and their male members continuously to be Master Masons in good standing.

**SECTION 803. RECOGNIZED APPENDANT BODIES:** The Grand Lodge of Oklahoma recognizes as Appendant Bodies of the Grand Lodge the Oklahoma DeMolay Association, Inc., as the governing body for all DeMolay Chapters in Oklahoma; the Grand Assembly of Oklahoma, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, as the governing body for all Rainbow Assemblies in Oklahoma; and the Grand Guardian Council of Oklahoma, International Order of Job's Daughters, as the governing body for all Job's daughters Bethels in Oklahoma.

**SECTION 804. EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION OF CONCORDANT, ANDROGYNOUS OR APPENDANT BODIES:** The Grand Lodge of Oklahoma recognizes the above named bodies as having obtained exclusive jurisdiction in the State of Oklahoma over their several degrees, by virtue of the foregoing and hereby declares all bodies not named above to be spurious and clandestine, and so instructs all Masons and constituent lodges within this Grand Jurisdiction.

**SECTION 805. PETITIONING OTHER CONCORDANT OR ANDROGYNOUS BODIES:** It shall be a Masonic offense to solicit an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft to petition for the degrees of such other Concordant or Androgynous Bodies. A Master Mason shall not petition for the degrees of such other Concordant or Androgynous Bodies until six (6) months after the date of his becoming a Master Mason or he shall have passed his proficiency in the Master Mason degree. It shall also be a Masonic offense for an Entered Apprentice or

**Constitution and Laws - Concordant, Androgynous and Appendant Bodies**

Fellow Craft to attend a closed meeting of a recognized Appendant Body, unless he is otherwise permitted to attend the closed meeting pursuant to the rules of the Appendant Body.

**SECTION 806. OTHER RECOGNIZED MASONIC ORGANIZATIONS:**

- A. A Masonic organization may formally request recognition from the Grand Lodge Trustees by giving evidence in writing that its rules require its members to maintain good standing in a recognized lodge and that its purposes are promotive of the good image of Masonry. Approval of the request shall confer permanent recognition subject to acceptance of the report of the Grand Lodge Trustees at the next annual communication. Recognition may be withdrawn by the Grand Master at any time for good and sufficient reason appearing unto him.
  
- B. A current list of recognized Masonic organizations shall be maintained by the Grand Secretary.

## Constitution and Laws - Amendments

### ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENTS

**SECTION 901. AMENDMENTS:** All propositions to amend or repeal any section or sections of this Constitution and Laws, or add any section or sections to this Constitution and Laws must be submitted by resolution. The resolution must have a preamble that states the reason and justification for the resolution, and the section number of any section or sections affected, in total or any part thereof, by the resolution. Any resolution submitted under the provisions of this section must not conflict with or attempt to amend any recognized Landmark of this Grand Jurisdiction or propose an amendment to more than one (1) section of this Constitution and Laws within the same resolution. Further, any resolution to amend any section of this Constitution and Laws, which contains any provision which would conflict with any provision of any section or sections of this Constitution and Code other than the section proposed to be amended must be accompanied by a separate resolution to amend the section or sections with which it would conflict. In each instance where any section is to be amended, the entire sentence in which the amendment is to be effected must first be quoted as it now reads and designated by the line on which it begins and the paragraph (if more than one) of the section in which it is located and secondly must be quoted as it will read after the amendment is effected with the proposed amendment in bold type and underlined.

All resolutions submitted under the provisions of this section shall be submitted by a voting member of the Grand Lodge to the Grand Master in writing at least 120 (one hundred and twenty) days before the opening of the annual communication of the Grand Lodge; printed and mailed to each member of the Committee on Jurisprudence for their information and study. The Committee on Jurisprudence shall meet as specified in Section 213 of this Constitution and Laws to consider all resolutions submitted under the provisions of this section. Any resolutions declared to be illegal or not in proper form, by the Committee on Jurisprudence, shall be returned to the first signer of the resolution, with an explanation of the reasons for its decision, at least 100 (one hundred) days before the opening of the annual communication of the Grand Lodge, to be rewritten and resubmitted to the Grand Master at least 60 (sixty) days before the opening of the annual communication of the Grand Lodge or withdrawn at the discretion of the signers.

All resolutions in the possession of the Grand Master, 60 (sixty) days before the opening of the annual communication of the Grand Lodge, shall be printed and mailed to each constituent lodge, each Grand Lodge Officer and each member of the Committee on Jurisprudence for their information and study. Said resolutions

## **Constitution and Laws - Amendments**

shall be read or caused to be read by the Grand Master, and by him referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence. The Committee on Jurisprudence shall report thereon and the resolutions shall be balloted on in accordance with the provisions of Section 304 of the Constitution and Laws. If the resolution is adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes cast, it shall be in full force and effect immediately upon final announcement of the vote.

The provisions of this section shall not prevent the presentation of a resolution when recommended by the Grand Master.

**SECTION 902. RESOLUTION ENTRIES TO THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS:** All resolutions presented to Grand Lodge shall be referred to the proper committee for study and then referred to the Constitution and Code Committee for proper placement in the Constitution and Code after adoption.

No edict, recommendation or motion will be considered to be placed in the printed copy of the Constitution and Code, but only resolutions properly introduced and passed by the Grand Lodge will be considered.

**Uniform Code - Lodges**  
**OF THE GRAND LODGE**  
**OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS**  
**OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA**

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**ARTICLE I - LODGES**

**SECTION U 101. NAMES AND NUMBERS OF CONSTITUENT LODGES:**

- A. NAMES:** Each lodge may select its own name subject to the approval of the Grand Master. No lodge shall be named for a living person.
- B. NUMBERS:** Each lodge will have its number assigned to it by the Grand Lodge.

**SECTION U 102. TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION OF CONSTITUENT LODGES:**

- A. CONCURRENT JURISDICTION:** All Lodges shall have and exercise concurrent jurisdiction over candidates within this Grand Jurisdiction.
- B. WAIVER OF JURISDICTION:** In no case may a waiver of jurisdiction be granted for a petitioner for the degrees to petition a lodge outside this Grand Jurisdiction or a petitioner for the degrees from outside this Grand Jurisdiction to petition a lodge within this Grand Jurisdiction.

**SECTION U 103. AUTHORITY OF CONSTITUENT LODGES:** Constituent lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction have such powers and duties as are prescribed by their dispensations or charters and the Constitution and Laws and the Uniform Code of this Grand Lodge.

- A. EXECUTIVE:** In the direction and performance of its powers, duties, work and business, a lodge has full power to carry into execution the Constitution of the Grand Lodge and this Uniform Code and its duties in general, under the control of its Master who is executive authority of the lodge.
- B. JUDICIAL:** A lodge has judicial power to exercise discipline over its own members wherever dispersed and over all Masons, affiliated or non-affiliated, committing offenses within its jurisdiction, except its Master or the Grand Master. It has full power and authority to settle all Masonic controversies between them, subject always to the decision of the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge or a revision of its action by the Grand Lodge on appeal.

## Uniform Code - Lodges

**SECTION U 104. MASONIC YEAR:** The Masonic year in this jurisdiction shall begin on the first (1) day of January and end on the 31 (thirty-first) day of December of each year.

**SECTION U 105. SEAL:** Each chartered lodge shall have a seal. All dues cards, documents and papers of every kind emanating from the lodge, or from its Master or Secretary, in their official capacity, shall bear the impress of such seal. Each chartered lodge shall, within 60 (sixty) days from the date of the granting of its charter, provide itself with a seal bearing such device in the center as the lodge may deem proper. The seal shall bear the name and number of the lodge, the date of its charter, and the location of the lodge. If the lodge changes its name or its place of meeting, it shall have a new seal made to show the true name and location. An impress of such seal shall be filed in the office of the Grand Secretary within 60 (sixty) days from the date of making of said seal.

**SECTION U 106. CONSOLIDATION OF LODGES:** When two (2) or more lodges shall desire to consolidate and form one (1) lodge under the name and charter of one (1) of said lodges, it may be consummated in the following manner.

The Master of each lodge shall at a stated meeting appoint a committee of three (3) members of his lodge to meet with a like committee of the other lodge or lodges. Said committee shall form what shall be known as a general committee on consolidation. The general committee shall arrange a report to the lodges desiring to consolidate. This report shall show the financial condition of each of such lodges, its property (real and personal), its debts and obligations, its membership and all matters in any way affecting such lodges. The general committee shall make its report to the lodges at their next stated meeting.

When the general committee has made its report, the Master shall, at the stated meeting at which such report is made, direct that action will be taken thereon at the next stated meeting. It shall be the duty of the secretary to notify each member of the lodge of the question and the date when action will be taken. Such notice shall be by personal service or by mail to the last known post office address of each member.

The Master of each of said lodges, at the stated meeting mentioned in the notice, shall submit the question to the lodge as follows: "Shall this lodge consolidate with \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_?" Should two-thirds (2/3) of the members vote yes the proposition shall be declared adopted. Otherwise, the Master shall declare the same rejected and order the secretary to record and report the vote to the other lodge or lodges.

Should such proposition be adopted by the lodges, the charter of the lodge or lodges agreeing to surrender their name and charter

## **Uniform Code - Lodges**

shall be forwarded to the Grand Secretary to be cancelled. The members of such lodge or lodges shall become and be members of the lodge whose name and charter are assumed as fully as though they had petitioned and been elected members thereof.

The books, property and furniture, money on hand and due or to become due to the lodge or lodges so surrendering its charter, shall become and be the property of the lodge, the name and charter of which have been assumed. Said last mentioned lodge shall become liable for all debts of said lodge or lodges so consolidated with it.

**SECTION U 107. SURRENDERING OF CHARTER:** A lodge may voluntarily surrender its charter. A proposition to surrender the charter of a lodge shall be made at a stated meeting and the consideration of the same shall lie over until the next stated meeting. All members shall be notified by the secretary of the proposed action. If upon submission of the question a majority of those present vote to surrender, and if there is a less number than 15 (fifteen) negative votes, the charter shall be surrendered. If there are 15 (fifteen) members who vote not to surrender the charter, though they are in the minority, the charter shall not be surrendered. When a charter is surrendered or has been arrested by the Grand Master and his action approved by the Grand Lodge, the members of such lodge shall thereafter hold membership in the Grand Lodge. Such members on written application therefore, shall receive a Certificate of Good Standing from the Grand Secretary. After the Charter is surrendered, the Grand Secretary shall notify each member of the surrendered lodge of the status of his membership and the necessary procedure to become an affiliated Mason. Said notification shall be based upon the knowledge of the member's post office address.

Such member shall pay dues to the Grand Lodge at the rate of \$100 (one hundred dollars) per annum, until such certificate is obtained and he has affiliated with a constituent lodge.

When such members are owing one (1) years dues or more to the Grand Lodge they shall be automatically suspended on the 31 (thirty-first) day of December without notice of such suspension.

**SECTION U 108. CLANDESTINE LODGE AND MASONS:** A clandestine lodge is one not working under a warrant or charter from a recognized Grand Lodge. None are Masons unless made so in a lodge authorized to work by a recognized Grand Lodge.

**SECTION U 109. LODGES NOT CLANDESTINE - HEALING:** A lodge with a proper charter or warrant, though not legally constituted for a particular meeting (as if seven (7) members are not present or other illegality) is not a clandestine lodge. Masons made therein are not clandestine. In such cases the irregularity or error should be cured by "healing", that is, by re-obligating the



## Uniform Code - Lodges

candidate in a regularly constituted lodge, so that no excuse may be left him of the binding force or effect of his obligation.

### SECTION U 110. LODGE OF RESEARCH:

- A. The Oklahoma Lodge of Research (OLR) established by Grand Lodge July 2, 1966 and Chartered February 15, 1967, shall promote, encourage, conduct, and foster Masonic research.. Members will quest for, study, and record Masonic history, philosophy and related subjects for the purpose of spreading Masonic Light and Knowledge.
- B. The Master shall render an annual report of its activities and accomplishments for the year, an account of its finances and membership and such other information as may be required by the Grand Lodge in a timely manner in order to be included in the Grand Lodge communications and Proceedings each year.
- C. The OLR is authorized to participate in the Endowed Memberships and will follow the requirements spelled out in Section U 420 of this Uniform Code.
- D. The Oklahoma Lodge of Research will have its bylaws approved by the Grand Lodge Board of Trustees as required of constituent Lodges.
- E. The Master and Wardens of the Oklahoma Lodge of Research are not entitled to a vote in Grand Lodge in that capacity.

**Uniform Code - Officers**

**ARTICLE II - OFFICERS, ELECTION, INSTALLATION AND DUTIES**

**SECTION U 201. NOTICE OF ANNUAL ELECTION:** The secretary shall mail written notices to all members of the lodge at their last known post office address at least 10 (ten) days before the annual election stating the date thereof and the amount of unpaid dues.

**SECTION U 202. OFFICERS:**

- A. ELECTED:** The elected officers of each constituent lodge shall be a Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer and Secretary. These five (5) officers shall be elected at the first stated meeting in December of each year. The election will be by paper ballot and without nomination. Under no circumstances may a constituent lodge suspend the rules and elect any officer other than by paper ballot as above stated. A majority of the votes cast shall be necessary to elect. A constituent lodge which fails to hold its election of officers at the first stated meeting in December may hold its election on December 27th, the Festival of St. John the Evangelist, by giving 10 (ten) days written notice to all its members of the day on which election will be held. If it fails to elect officers on or before December 27th it must have a special dispensation from the Grand Master to hold an election.
  
- B. APPOINTED:** The Master elect, after his election and before he is installed, shall appoint a Chaplain, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Senior Steward, Junior Steward and Tyler who shall be installed with the other officers and shall serve one (1) Masonic year unless removed by the Master.

**SECTION U 203. JEWELS OF OFFICERS:** The jewels of the officers of the lodge shall be, silver or white metal, as follows:

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Master.....        | Square                                 |
| Senior Warden..... | Level                                  |
| Junior Warden..... | Plumb                                  |
| Treasurer.....     | Crossed Keys                           |
| Secretary.....     | Crossed Pens                           |
| Chaplain.....      | Scroll                                 |
| Senior Deacon..... | Square & Compasses with Sun in Center  |
| Junior Deacon..... | Square & Compasses with Moon in Center |
| Stewards.....      | Cornucopia                             |
| Tyler.....         | Sword                                  |

**SECTION U 204. ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE:** Any member of the lodge in good standing, who is a citizen of the United States, and has passed his examination for proficiency in the Master Mason Degree of the Oklahoma work is eligible to any office in the lodge except

## Uniform Code - Officers

the office of Worshipful Master. To be eligible to the office of Worshipful Master, he must have been previously elected and served as a Warden of a regular Oklahoma lodge; provided, that the Master of a lodge under dispensation and the first Master of a lodge under charter need not have served as a Warden of a lodge.

**SECTION U 205. ELECTIONEERING FOR OFFICE:** Electioneering for office in any constituent lodge is hereby declared to be unmasonic and is prohibited. Any Mason found guilty of electioneering for office shall be disciplined.

**SECTION U 206. INSTALLATION:** All officers shall be installed on or before St. John's day, December 27th. At the time of installation each officer shall be in possession of a valid dues card for the ensuing year for which he has been elected/appointed. Should the lodge fail to install its officers on or before that date, a special dispensation must be obtained from the Grand Master for such purpose. If the officers are elected and the Master has been installed by that date he may himself, or have some Past Master acting for him, afterwards install the other officers without such dispensation.

**SECTION U 207. REPORT OF INSTALLATION:** Each lodge shall within ten (10) days after the annual installation of its officers transmit to the Grand Master and Grand Secretary a duly certified list of the names of the newly installed officers, the date of their election and installation, and the name and title of the installing officer.

**SECTION U 208. DUTIES OF OFFICERS:** In addition to those duties which appertain to every individual Mason and those which are purely traditional and therefore unwritten, the duties of the officers of a lodge are as outlined in Sections U 209 through U 217.

**SECTION U 209. MASTER:** The duties of the Master of the lodge are:

- A. To open and preside over the lodge.
- B. In a Tiled meeting the Worshipful Master must wear a hat, as it represents the crown of King Solomon and also the tradition of covering the head as a symbol of reverence for the Deity. Therefore, in an attitude of formality and respect, the Worshipful Master should choose a hat in the shape of a Crown, (usually purchased from a Masonic supply house) or a hat which shows respect - usually constructed with a brim. Religious or academic head coverings are also appropriate. Hats or caps associated with sports or leisure are not appropriate, because they do not suggest respect or formality.
- C. To preserve the Charter of the lodge and to deliver it to his successor in office.
- D. To see that the Constitution and Laws, the Uniform Code and the Trial Code of the Grand Lodge and the Ancient Charges and Landmarks of Freemasonry are duly understood, respected and obeyed by its members.
- E. To supervise the officers and to claim of them at any time advice and assistance on any business relative to the Craft.
- F. To represent the lodge at the annual communications of the Grand Lodge.

## Uniform Code - Officers

- G. To see that the proper officers collect and keep a proper accounting of the monies of the lodge.
- H. To see that the furniture and other valuables are not wasted, damaged or lost, and in the event the charter of the lodge should be forfeited or surrendered to preserve such property subject to the order of the Grand Lodge.
- I. To sign all orders drawn upon the Treasurer, but not without the consent of the lodge except as provided in Section U 223 C of this code.
- J. To appoint all committees except as otherwise provided.
- K. To see that all unmasonic conduct that comes to his knowledge be faithfully dealt with according to the laws of the jurisdiction.
- L. To guarantee any brother charged with unmasonic conduct a fair trial and an appeal to the Grand Lodge if demanded.
- M. To preside at the burial services of deceased Master Masons in his jurisdiction, provided that he may call upon any Master Mason to preside.
- N. To fill vacant offices by pro tempore appointment.
- O. To convene the lodge in special and emergent meetings, whenever there shall appear to him a necessity therefore.
- P. To install or cause to be installed all officers of the lodge.
- Q. To serve as a member of all committees.
- R. To cause all communications from the Grand Master or Grand Secretary to be read in open lodge at the next stated meeting after their receipt.
- S. To cast only one (1) vote, even in case of a tie.
- T. To decide all questions of order.
- U. To see that the annual returns to the Grand Lodge are properly prepared and forwarded to the Grand Secretary within the time required by the Grand Lodge.
- V. To perform all other duties pertaining to his office.
- W. To exclude from the lodge any Mason who by his perverseness or contumacy may interfere with the proper working of

## Uniform Code - Officers

the lodge or disturb its harmony.

**SECTION U 210. SENIOR WARDEN:** It shall be the duty of the Senior Warden:

- A. To succeed to and exercise all the powers, duties and responsibilities of the Master in the event of the absence, death, removal from the jurisdiction of the lodge, or inability from any other cause of the Master.
- B. To represent the lodge at the annual communications of the Grand Lodge.

**SECTION U 211. JUNIOR WARDEN:** It shall be the duty of the Junior Warden:

- A. To succeed to and exercise all the powers, duties and responsibilities of the Master in the event of the absence, death, removal from the jurisdiction of the lodge, or inability from any other cause of the Master and Senior Warden.
- B. To represent the lodge at the annual communications of the Grand Lodge.
- C. To take charge of the craft during the hours of refreshment.
- D. To perform all duties as specified in the Trial Code.

**SECTION U 212. THE TREASURER:** It shall be the duty of the Treasurer:

- A. To receive all monies from the secretary giving him an official receipt therefore. Keep a correct account of the same and pay them out on the order of the Master with the consent of the lodge except as provided in Section U 223 C of this code.
- B. To prepare annually an official statement of his accounts with the lodge and deliver it to the Master at the close of his term.
- C. **To file all local, state or federal governmental financial reports.**
- D. To promptly deliver to his successor in office all funds of the lodge, together with all books, vouchers, etc. having reference to the financial condition of the lodge.

**SECTION U 213. THE SECRETARY:** It shall be the duty of the secretary:

- A. To observe the proceedings of the lodge and keep a correct

## Uniform Code - Officers

record of all things proper to be written.

- B. To collect all monies due the lodge and pay them over to the Treasurer, taking his receipt therefore.
- C. To attend trials and meetings for the purpose of documenting evidence.
- D. To furnish copies of all evidence presented at trials when an appeal to the Grand Lodge is demanded.
- E. To furnish certificates of good standing duly signed and sealed as required by law.
- F. To keep a record of all suspensions and expulsions by the lodge and promptly notify the Grand Secretary. In the case of suspension for unmasonic conduct or expulsion, the secretary will send to Grand Lodge the "Transcript of Record" (T310) or the "Record of the Court" (T109) used to expel or suspend the brother for unmasonic conduct for validation.
- G. To keep a register of members and record therein all important facts relative to the Masonic history of each member of the lodge.
- H. To keep a visitors book.
- I. To keep an account with each member and promptly collect all dues.
- J. To promptly deliver to his successor in office the seal of the lodge, all books, papers, vouchers, etc. having any reference to the business of his office.
- K. To promptly enter into the records of the lodge the amount of money received and on what account.
- L. To label, file, preserve and keep in a safe and secure place all petitions and documents of every kind and character having to do with the lodge or its members.
- M. To make proper returns to the Grand Lodge upon the forms furnished or approved by the Grand Lodge, duly certified and forwarded to the Grand Secretary as required by law.

**SECTION U 214. THE SENIOR DEACON:** It shall be the duty of the Senior Deacon:

- A. To convey orders of the Master in the active duties of the lodge.
- B. To give fraternal attention to visiting brethren.
- C. To receive and conduct candidates in the several degrees of Masonry.

## Uniform Code - Officers

**SECTION U 215. THE JUNIOR DEACON:** It shall be the duty of the Junior Deacon:

- A. To convey messages of the Senior Warden in the active duties of the lodge.
- B. To have special care as to the security of the lodge.

**SECTION U 216. THE STEWARDS:** It shall be the duty of the Stewards:

- A. To have charge, subject to the direct order of the Master, of the furniture, jewels and other paraphernalia of the lodge.
- B. To give special care to the cleanliness of the hall and anterooms.

**SECTION U 217. THE TYLER:** It shall be the duty of the Tyler:

- A. To tyle the lodge, subject to the direct order of the Master.
- B. To serve notices, summons, citations, etc. issued under the authority of the Master and the lodge.

**SECTION U 218. OFFICERS RESPONSIBLE TO THE MASTER:** Each officer of the lodge shall be held personally responsible to the Master and, through him, to the lodge and the Grand Lodge.

**SECTION U 219. MASTER'S DECISION:** An appeal does not lie within a lodge from the decisions of the Master. His decision can be reviewed only by the Grand Master during the recess of the Grand Lodge or by appeal directly to the Grand Lodge.

**SECTION U 220. TRIAL OF MASTER:** A Master cannot be tried by his lodge after his term of office has expired for an official offense committed while in office. He should be tried while in office pursuant to Section T 108.

**SECTION U 221. SUCCESSION:** In case of the death, removal from the jurisdiction or any other cause the Master becomes incapable of performing the duties of his office, notwithstanding the provisions of U418D, the Senior Warden succeeds to all powers, duties and responsibilities of the Master. The Senior Warden's place in the West must be filled by pro-tempore appointment from time to time. If from any of the like causes the Master and Senior Warden should both be rendered incapable of performing the duties of Master, notwithstanding the provisions of U418D the Junior Warden succeeds to all the powers, duties and responsibilities of the Master and the South and West must be filled from time to time by pro-tempore

## Uniform Code - Officers

appointment. In the case of both the Senior and Junior Warden being ineligible for advancement, the most recent immediate Past Worshipful Master available will preside.

**SECTION U 222. RESIGNATIONS:** No elected officer except the Treasurer, Secretary and elected Trustee can resign or transfer his membership during his term of office. The Treasurer, Secretary, elected Trustee and all appointive officers may resign by submitting a resignation to the lodge. The vacancy thus caused or otherwise caused may be filled by the Master by appointment. That appointee shall serve until the next annual election of officers.

### **SECTION U 223. COMMITTEES:**

- A. BOARD OF TRUSTEES:** The Master, Senior and Junior Wardens of the lodge shall be the Board of Trustees of a Constituent Lodge except that the lodge may at its option elect a Board of Trustees of not less than three (3) and not more than five (5) members who shall be nominated from the floor of the lodge and elected, by secret ballot, by a majority vote. One member shall be elected each year to fill the office held by the senior member of the Board.

The duty of the Board of Trustees shall be to hold the title to all real estate and other property not including monetary funds of the lodge and to have general care and supervision thereof.

This board shall have the power to convey any property upon resolution duly adopted by the lodge.

- B. FINANCE COMMITTEE:** The Master, Senior and Junior Wardens of the lodge shall be the committee on finance.
- C. CHARITY COMMITTEE:** The Master, Senior and Junior Wardens of the lodge shall be the committee on charity.

This committee shall be authorized to expend a sum not to exceed the amount provided in the lodge's Bylaws for emergency relief without a vote of the lodge.



## Uniform Code - Lodge Operation

### ARTICLE III - OPERATION OF LODGES

**SECTION U 301. BYLAWS OF CONSTITUENT LODGES:** All constituent lodges will have a set of bylaws. Such bylaws must specify the name, place of meeting, days and time of stated meetings, fees for each degree and annual dues.

Should any lodge desire to amend its bylaws, a resolution to that effect must be submitted in writing at a stated meeting, read in open lodge by the secretary and lie over until the next stated meeting when it shall again be read in open lodge by the secretary and submitted to a vote. If a majority of the members present vote in favor of the adoption of said resolution the amendment shall be declared carried and so recorded.

If the adopted amendment changes the lodge's fees for the degrees, its annual dues or time of meeting, only, the secretary shall immediately notify the Grand Secretary of the change and, with the exception of an annual dues change, it shall be in effect upon acceptance by the lodge. The amended annual dues shall not become effective until January 1 of the year printed on the lodge's dues notice, as prepared by the Grand Lodge. Otherwise, after an amendment has been adopted by the lodge, it must be presented to the Grand Lodge Trustees in writing and approved by them before the amendment is effective.

#### **SECTION U 302. COMMUNICATIONS AND OBSERVANCES OF CONSTITUENT LODGES:**

##### **A. GENERAL:**

1. Lodges are not required to open in all of the degrees, but only in those in which the lodge is to work. When working in more than one degree, the lodge must first be opened on the highest degree in which work is to be done and then proceed to open on the next highest degree in which the lodge is to work. When labor has been resumed on a higher degree, the lodge cannot return to a lower degree. The lodge must be closed in the highest degree in which it was opened.
2. No lodge shall hold its meetings, stated or special, beyond midnight of Saturday and not open on Sunday except for the purpose of conducting Masonic Funerals.
3. No lodge in the Grand Jurisdiction of Oklahoma shall hold any out of door meeting except by special dispensation granted by the Grand Master.

- ##### **B. WHERE HELD:**
- Except in case of a formal notice to vacate or in compliance with Section U 701, no lodge shall hold its tyled communications at any place other than that named in its dispensation or charter, or amended bylaws.

## Uniform Code - Lodge Operation

### C. Lodge Communications consist of three types:

1. **STATED:** Each constituent lodge, whether under dispensation or charter, shall have at least one (1) and not more than two (2) stated, tyled meetings each month. It has the right to fix the time of holding such stated meetings.
2. **SPECIAL:** Each constituent lodge may hold special, tyled meetings when called by its Master or provided for at a stated meeting. At said special meetings it may:
  - a. examine candidates for the degrees and pass on their proficiency,
  - b. confer degrees on candidates (if elected at a stated meeting),
  - c. install its officers,
  - d. bury deceased brethren (**see below**),
  - e. hold Lodges of Sorrow,
  - f. try a brother charged with a Masonic offense as provided in the Trial Code, but shall transact no other business.

In order to avoid opening a Special Communication each time a lodge conducts Masonic Funeral rights, a constituent lodge may open an emergent lodge for the sole purpose of conducting Masonic funeral rites for deceased Master Masons at the beginning of the term of a Master and closing at the end of the term of that same Master. The minutes of the meetings of these emergent lodges shall be kept, read and approved at the next Stated meeting after the funeral rites are conducted or before the lodge is closed at the end of the Masters term of office.

3. **OPEN:** Each constituent lodge may hold open, untyled meetings where members of the public may be invited.  
The below special communication items may also be conducted in an open meeting.
  - a. install its officers
  - b. hold Lodges of Sorrow

### D. **OBSERVANCES:** The following observances may be conducted at either a stated, special or open communication.

1. **LODGE OF SORROW:** In the event a brother has been buried without appropriate Masonic ceremony and his lodge desires to commemorate his virtues and his memory the only proper course is to hold a Lodge of Sorrow in such place as may be convenient. The family and friends of the deceased may be present.
2. **ST. JOHN'S:** Each constituent lodge shall have a required meeting, which may be held on a stated, special, or open meeting to the public, on or about June 24th, the Festival of St. John the Baptist, and on or about December 27th, the Festival of St. John the Evangelist.

**SECTION U 303. ENGLISH LANGUAGE FOR LODGES:** All constituent lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction shall use only the English language in their rituals and work.

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**SECTION U 304. UNITED STATES FLAG:** This Grand Lodge and each of its constituent lodges shall have a United States Flag of convenient size which shall be displayed on a staff in the lodge room.

**SECTION U 305. RULES OF ORDER:** The following rules are for the government of lodges at their respective meetings:

- A. The lodge shall meet at the time specified in these laws or provided by it. After it has been duly opened, the minutes of its last stated and all intervening special meetings shall be read, approved and signed by the presiding officer and secretary.
- B. When a brother rises to speak, he shall respectfully address the Master as Worshipful Master. If he transgresses the rules of the lodge in speaking or otherwise, the Master shall call him to order. He shall immediately sit down unless permitted to explain.
- C. No brother shall be permitted to speak more than twice on any question without permission, and not more than once until every brother wishing to speak has spoken. When two (2) or more rise at the same time to speak the Master shall name the brother who shall speak first.
- D. While the Master is addressing the lodge or putting a question, or a brother is speaking, no brother shall engage in any private discussion or discourse, or pass between the speaker and the chair.
- E. There shall be no debate after the Master has put the question.
- F. Every brother present, when a question is put, shall be required to vote unless excused by the Master.
- G. When a motion is made and seconded it shall be stated by the Master, or if in writing shall be read aloud by the secretary, before being debated.
- H. Every motion shall be reduced to writing if any member desires it.
- I. After a motion is stated by the Master or read aloud by the secretary it shall be considered in possession of the lodge and cannot be withdrawn except by permission of the lodge.
- J. When a motion is under debate no motion shall be entertained except to amend it, to commit it or to postpone final decision until a further meeting.
- K. The debate shall cease at the will and pleasure of the Master.
- L. Any member may call for a division of the question where the sense will permit it.
- M. Motions and reports may be referred to committees at the discretion of the Master.
- N. A motion for amendments, until decided, shall preclude all other amendments of the main question.
- O. No new motion which totally changes the subject matter on which the original motion was intended to operate shall be submitted, under color

## Uniform Code - Lodge Operation

of amendment, as a substitute for the motion under debate.

- P. No member except one of the majority which decided a question shall be permitted to move for a reconsideration of such question.

**SECTION U 306. QUORUM** The number required to open any lodge of Entered Apprentices, Fellow Crafts or Master Masons, whether stated, special or emergent, is as follows:

A. Seven (7) Master Masons if the lodge membership is 100 or more. One (1) of whom must be the Master or Warden of that lodge.

B. Five (5) Master Masons if the lodge membership is 50 to 99, one (1) of whom must be the Master or Warden of that lodge.

C. Four (4) Master Masons if the lodge membership is less than (50) one (1) of whom must be the Master or Warden of that lodge.

**SECTION U 307. WHO MAY OPEN AND PRESIDE:** When a quorum is present an Entered Apprentice may act as an officer in a meeting opened for work in that degree and a Fellow Craft may act as an officer in a meeting opened for work in that degree or the previous degree.

It is the duty of the Master, or in his absence, the Senior Warden, the Junior Warden or the Junior Past Master present who is a member of that lodge, in the order named, to open and preside at all meetings of the lodge.

The presiding officer may call any Past Master, Master or Brother of this or any other recognized Grand Jurisdiction to the East to preside.

**SECTION U 308. ORDER OF BUSINESS:** The order of business at stated meetings shall be as follows:

- A. Reading of the minutes of the previous meetings and approving all unapproved minutes.
- B. Consideration of unfinished business.
- C. Receiving, reading, and referring petitions for degrees and applications for affiliation.
- D. Receiving and acting upon reports of committees.
- E. Reading of the Constitution and Laws, Uniform Code and Trial Code
- F. Balloting upon petitions for degrees and applications for affiliation.
- G. Considering miscellaneous business.
- H. Conferring degrees and giving lectures.

The lodge may be opened and business conducted in a lodge of Entered Apprentices, Fellowcrafts, or Master Masons, at the discretion of the Worshipful Master. Except that the conferring of a degree, the examination of candidates, voting on their proficiency, and the trial of an Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft or Master Mason shall be done in a lodge open on the appropriate degree. Only Master Masons may vote on matters coming before the lodge.

**SECTION U 309. READING OF MINUTES:** The object of reading the minutes is to

## Uniform Code - Lodge Operation

correct any errors the secretary may have made, to supply omissions and to see that the minutes speak the truth. The question of reading them is not whether the lodge approves of all that was done at the meeting but to see that the minutes are a fair and correct account of what was done. After the minutes are regularly approved and signed by the presiding officer and secretary, they cannot be altered. If they are in error, the only remedy is an entry of amendment or correction by the Master or under his direction or by vote of the lodge.

**SECTION U 310. CONSTITUTION AND LAWS TO BE READ IN LODGE:** Each constituent lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction shall be provided with a copy of the Constitution and Laws and Uniform Code of this Grand Lodge for inspection by its members. The Master of each lodge shall cause said Constitution and Laws and Uniform Code to be frequently read in open lodge and as much time devoted to its study as time will permit.

**SECTION U 311. ADJOURNMENT:** There can be no adjournment of a lodge to another day, nor can it be called off beyond the same day or evening it was opened. The lodge must be regularly closed before the brethren disperse except when done in accordance with and solely for the purpose of compliance with Section U 302 C.

**SECTION U 312. CLOSING:** Neither the Grand Master nor the Master of a lodge should ever entertain a motion to close, as that is a matter over which the presiding officer has exclusive control. A lodge regularly closed cannot be reopened at the same meeting.

**SECTION U 313. VISITORS, AVOUCHMENT OR DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE REQUIRED:** Any person desiring to visit a lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction shall exhibit to the examining committee documentary evidence under seal, showing him to be a member in good standing of a lawfully constituted lodge of this or a Grand Jurisdiction in fraternal relationship with it. No lodge shall admit any visitor without avouchment or documentary evidence and due examination.

No Master shall allow any brother to vouch for another as a Mason whose knowledge of his being a Mason is not derived from having sat in open lodge with him, and from having knowledge of the brother's good and regular standing in his respective lodge, which means that he must have seen his dues card or a certificate of good standing during the current year, or from having examined him by authority and direction of the Master.

**SECTION U 314. VISITORS:** Secretaries should record upon the minutes the names of all officers, members, and visitors in attendance at any stated or called meeting, unless the same shall be kept upon a Tyler's register.

**SECTION U 315. PROOF OF MASONIC STANDING:** Constituent lodges shall require all persons living or residing in their jurisdiction and asking recognition by such lodges as Master Masons to prove to the satisfaction of said lodges once in every 12 (twelve) months that they are Master Masons in good standing.

**SECTION U 316. RECORD BOOKS:** Each lodge shall keep a register of its members with their names in alphabetical order. The register must show date of birth, election, initiation, passing, raising, proficiencies, reinstatement, dismissal,

## Uniform Code - Lodge Operation

suspension, expulsion, withdrawal and death of each member. Each lodge shall also keep the names of those rejected and the date of such rejection. These records may be kept electronically.

Each lodge shall also keep a secretary's cash book, a ledger, and a Treasurer's cash book which shall show a full and complete account of all lodge funds. These accounts may be kept electronically. Each lodge shall also keep a copy of the Constitution and Laws, Uniform Code, and Trial Code of the Grand Lodge and each member of the lodge shall be required to sign the bylaws when made a member, either by raising or affiliation.

**SECTION U 317. PROCEEDINGS OF GRAND LODGE:** Each constituent lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction shall be provided with a copy of the proceedings of the Grand Lodge and its minutes for inspection by its members. The published proceedings of the Grand Lodge shall be conclusive evidence of all matters contained therein.

**SECTION U 318. SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION:** Any lodge may hold a school of instruction. When it determines to do so it shall apply to the Grand Lecturer, who shall hold the same himself or direct one of his Deputy Grand Lecturers or a Certificate Lecturer to do so for him. Immediately after the close of such school the secretary of the lodge holding the school shall certify to the Grand Lecturer the number of days such school was held and the total cost of the same. The Grand Lecturer will certify the same to the Grand Secretary. Each lodge should hold a school of instruction at least once a year. The Grand Lecturer or Deputy Grand Lecturers or Certificate Lecturers shall receive such compensation and be paid in such way as shall be determined by the Grand Lodge.

**SECTION U 319. SUMMONS:** The Master or the lodge may, for any purpose within the scope and business of Masonry, summon any Mason within its jurisdiction. Such summons must be written or printed and under the seal of the lodge. Every Mason is bound to obey such summons unless unavoidably prevented from attending. If a satisfactory excuse be not rendered, charges may be preferred against him and, upon trial, he may be punished as the lodge may determine.

A summons may be served by any Master Mason designated for that purpose by the Master by delivering a copy thereof in person to the party named in the summons or by being placed in the United States mail, duly certified with a return card requested, addressed to the last known post office address of the person named in the summons.

**SECTION U 320. BUILDING ASSOCIATIONS:** Any Masonic Building Association, Foundation or other form of organization under whatever name or title it may operate, formed or organized to manage, purchase, build or otherwise acquire property for the use and benefit of any constituent lodge or lodges, shall submit the proposed articles of incorporation, constitution and Bylaws for the approval

## Uniform Code - Lodge Operation

of the Grand Lodge Trustees before filing with the Secretary of State or becoming effective.

Financial statements, showing the interest of each such lodge or other organization, shall be filed by each and every Masonic Building Association with their respective lodges and the Grand Secretary not later than January 31 of each year.

### **SECTION U 321. CONTRACTING OF DEBTS:**

- A. Except as hereafter provided, a lodge shall not be permitted to contract debts for any purpose until sufficient available assets are on hand to meet the payment thereof.
- B. No lodge shall be permitted to erect, invest in, use or occupy a building or temple until the plans for the purchase, construction, and financing thereof shall first have been submitted to and approved by the Grand Lodge Trustees. Nothing herein set forth shall apply to any Masonic Temple already erected or purchased, or to any case in which a lodge is making a bona fide lease of quarters privately owned by a person or corporation acting for or connected with the lodge or its members.
- C. Neither the Grand Lodge nor any officer or member thereof, as such, nor the Grand Lodge Board of Trustees shall be liable for any indebtedness hitherto, now, or hereafter incurred by any lodge or temple association.
- D. A lodge may be permitted to contract a debt for the purpose of purchasing a cemetery, provided the written consent of the Grand Lodge Trustees shall be previously secured. Any lodge obtaining permission to contract a debt for the purchase of a cemetery shall at once notify the Grand Lodge Trustees of the amount of debt incurred, the security given and the date of maturity of the debt.
- E. When any debt contracted for a building or cemetery shall have been paid, the lodge shall notify the Grand Lodge Trustees of such payment. A record of all such debts shall be furnished to the Grand Secretary by the respective lodges and such records, together with the record of payment thereof, shall be kept in the office of the Grand Secretary.

**SECTION U 322. LIABILITY FOR AID TO MEMBERS:** Any lodge requesting another lodge to aid one of its members shall be liable for all proper and necessary expenses made by the lodge on such request, unless the requesting lodge limits the amount to be expended in the request. In that event it shall only be liable for the amount authorized.

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**SECTION U 323. ITINERANT RELIEF:** No lodge or officer or member of a lodge shall, under any circumstances, give a certificate of recommendation to enable a Mason to go from lodge to lodge as a pauper or, in an itinerant manner, apply to lodges for relief.

**SECTION U 324. INTER-JURISDICTION CORRESPONDENCE:** Any lodge or member correspondence with lodges or Grand Lodges of other jurisdictions of an official nature (by mail or electronic) must be sent via the Oklahoma Grand Lodge to the receiving Grand Lodge as a matter of Masonic protocol.



## Uniform Code - Membership

### ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

**SECTION U 401. PETITION FOR DEGREES:** All petitions for the degrees shall be in writing upon the form prescribed by the Grand Lodge and signed by the candidate's own hand using his full name. It must be recommended by at least two (2) members of the lodge. It shall be read in open lodge, referred to a committee for investigation and must lie over at least until the next stated meeting before any vote may be had on it.

**SECTION U 402. QUALIFICATION OF PETITIONER:** The qualifications of a petitioner for the mysteries of Masonry in the Grand Jurisdiction of Oklahoma are: He must not be an alien enemy of the United States. He must have an unfeigned belief in God, in the universal brotherhood of man, hope of immortality and have charity toward all mankind. He must have attained the full age of 18 (eighteen) years, be free born, be of good moral character and be capable of making all signs with natural or artificial limbs or to verbally describe the same, and to properly learn the art. He must have been a resident of the Grand Jurisdiction for a period of 30 (thirty) days preceding the filing of his petition in the lodge; provided, that members of the United States Armed Forces may petition with no waiting period.

**SECTION U 403. OFFICIAL OKLAHOMA PETITION FOR DEGREES:** The petition for the degrees of Masonry, as adopted by this Grand Lodge, shall be used in all lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction.

**SECTION U 404. WHEN RECEIVED:** No lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction shall receive a petition for the degrees or for admission to membership except at a stated meeting. No petition for the degrees shall be received except for that of: Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft or Master Mason.

**SECTION U 405. DUTIES OF INVESTIGATING COMMITTEES:** Committees on petitions for the degrees or applications for affiliation shall make strict inquiry into the moral, mental, physical and other proper qualifications of the petitioner or applicant and make their report orally in open lodge within 28 (twenty-eight) days for the petitioner, unless granted further time. No 28 day waiting period shall be required\_for applicants for affiliation. No lodge shall ballot upon said petitioner or applicant until a majority of said committee shall have reported.

**SECTION U 406. WITHDRAWAL OF PETITION:** No petition for the degrees or application for affiliation shall be withdrawn after it is referred to a committee unless upon the report of the committee the petitioner or applicant is found to be disqualified on account of age, residence, mental or physical disability. Should the committee so report, the Master shall direct the return of the petition or application without a ballot being had thereon.

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**SECTION U 407. ONE BALLOT TO ELECT:** No ballot shall be taken on a petition except at a stated meeting. One (1) clear ballot shall elect to all three (3) degrees and when elected, advancement shall not be stayed except for cause and in the manner provided by law.

**SECTION U 408. OBJECTIONS:** No candidate shall be elected and initiated on the same day.

Before Initiation, Passing or Raising, any member of the lodge or member of any lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction may make secret objection to the Master to the advancement of such elected candidate, Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft. On such objection being made, the Master shall immediately call in his Wardens to consider the reasons therefore. This hearing shall be in secret. The objector shall present to these three (3) the reasons for his objections, stating fully his facts. If the Master and Wardens consider said reasons sufficient, the brother shall not be permitted to advance.

When objection is made and the Master and Wardens deem the objection good, the Master shall, at the next meeting, announce to the lodge that an objection has been made against the candidate or brother (naming him) and order the secretary to make a record of the fact. The fee for the degree or degrees not yet received shall be returned. The candidate or brother shall not be initiated or advanced until after the expiration of 12 (twelve) months from the date of said record. At that time the candidate may re-petition or the brother may petition for advancement. Said petition shall take the same course as an original petition.

The Master and Wardens shall in no event reveal the identity of the objector and the objector shall not reveal his identity.

**SECTION U 409. BALLOT BOX:** The ballot box should be so constructed that the casting of a ballot will be secret and so that one brother cannot observe how another voted. In preparing the ballot, a sufficient number of balls must be in the preparation compartment of the box to accommodate the members present, but in no case less than 15 (fifteen) balls, at least five (5) of which must be black and the others white. In all balloting at least seven (7) balls, except when opened under the provisions of Section U 306 five (5) balls or when lodge membership is under 50 (fifty) four (4) balls, must be deposited in the voting compartment of the box or the ballot will not be legal.

**SECTION U 410. SECRECY:** The secrecy of the ballot and all transactions of the lodge room shall be held inviolate among the members of the craft. It shall be a Masonic offense to violate the secrecy of the ballot, or the secrecy of the tyled lodge room or any transaction had therein.

**SECTION U 411. BALLOTING:** Upon the report of the committee on

## Uniform Code - Membership

Investigation, whether it be favorable or unfavorable, a ballot shall be had. No member present shall be excused from voting. In no case after the ballot has been ordered shall there be any discussion thereof. As secrecy of the ballot is inviolate and each member is the sole judge of what his vote should be, no brother shall ever disclose how he voted nor how the ballot stood. No brother shall attempt to discover how any other brother voted. It shall require an unanimous ballot to elect to the degrees or for affiliation. The Master may order the ballot taken upon all or any number at one time and if no black ball appears all shall be duly elected. If one (1) or more black balls are cast, a separate ballot shall be taken on each petition and application voted upon at that time. When balloting separately, if only one (1) black ball appears, the second ballot shall be taken as provided in the next section.

**SECTION U 412. SECOND BALLOT:** In all balloting for the degrees, affiliation, reinstatement or advancement, if only one (1) black ball appears, the Master shall immediately and without inquiry or discussion, order a ballot prepared for the purpose of correcting a possible error. Said ballot shall be the last and under no circumstances shall it be reconsidered nor can it be set aside by the lodge, the Master, the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge, but shall be final.

**SECTION U 413 RENEWAL OF PETITION:** Rejected petitioners for the degrees of Masonry may, after one (1) year, petition any lodge in Oklahoma. No lodge shall accept the petition for the degrees of any person who within the previous 12 (twelve) months has been rejected by it or any other lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction. The petition of a person who has been rejected in another Grand Jurisdiction claiming jurisdiction for more than one (1) year may not be accepted unless a waiver has been secured through the Grand Secretary's office.

**SECTION U 414. TIME GOVERNING ADVANCEMENT:** No lodge shall advance an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft until the Brother has passed his proficiency. No lodge shall confer more than one (1) degree upon a candidate at a time except by special dispensation from the Grand Master. Pursuant to Landmark Eighth, the Grand Master cannot issue dispensations permitting a constituent lodge to confer more than two degrees upon the same candidate in one calendar day.

**SECTION U 415. NEW BALLOTS:** When a candidate has been elected to take any of the degrees and fails to present himself to receive the degree for a period of six (6) months after his election, initiation or passing and notifies the lodge of his desire to advance, the lodge shall again spread the ballot without requiring a new petition. If a period of one (1) year or more shall have elapsed from the time of election, initiation or passing the application for advancement shall be in writing on a form furnished by the Grand Lodge and shall be signed by the applicant's own hand using his full name and shall be subject to

## Uniform Code - Membership

the same procedure as a petition for the degrees.

An Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft must pass the examination in open lodge as to his proficiency before the new ballot is spread. After the brother is declared proficient, the Lodge may receive and read an Application for Advancement. An investigating committee will be appointed and the Application will lay over at least until the next stated meeting. The report of the committee will then be received and the new ballot will be spread.

### **SECTION U 416. ENTERED APPRENTICES OR FELLOWCRAFTS DENIED ADVANCEMENT BY BALLOT**

**BOX:** An Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft who has been denied advancement by the ballot box may, after one (1) year, petition any lodge in Oklahoma. No lodge shall accept the petition for advancement of any person who within the last 12 (twelve) months has been rejected for advancement by it or any other lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction.

The petition of a member who has been denied advancement in another Grand Jurisdiction claiming jurisdiction for more than one (1) year may not be accepted unless a waiver has been secured through the Grand Secretary's office.

**SECTION U 417. AFFILIATION:** All applications for affiliation shall be in writing upon forms prescribed by the Grand Lodge and shall be signed by the applicant's own hand using his full name. He shall be recommended by at least two (2) members of the lodge. It shall be referred to a committee for investigation and action may be taken without regard to time. Such application shall be accompanied by a certificate of good standing from the lodge of which he is a member showing the applicant to be entitled to affiliation. No ballot shall be had upon the application for affiliation until the brother has visited the lodge or been properly vouched for. A brother may petition for affiliation with any lodge where he can make himself known as a Master Mason, or be properly vouched for, without regard to time or residence. A demit from another Grand Jurisdiction shall be considered a Certificate of Good Standing. Should the brother be rejected for affiliation, he may not apply to the lodge that rejected him for affiliation for a period of one (1) year after the rejection date.

### **SECTION U 418. PLURAL MEMBERSHIP:**

- A. OKLAHOMA PLURAL MEMBERSHIP:** A Master Mason within or without this Grand Jurisdiction may become a plural member of this jurisdiction by conforming to the regulations governing plural membership in this Grand Jurisdiction. He may have plural membership in any constituent lodge within this state, and may become a dual or plural member in another Grand Jurisdiction with whom we are in fraternal relations, subject to the laws in that Grand Jurisdiction.
- B. APPLICATION FOR PLURAL MEMBERSHIP:** Application for affiliation as a plural member must be made on an approved form accompanied by a certificate of good standing from an Oklahoma constituent lodge or by satisfactory document from any recognized Grand Jurisdiction and be subject to exactly the same procedure as outlined in Section U 417 of

## Uniform Code - Membership

this Uniform Code.

- C. CHARGES AND DUES:** Plural members shall pay dues to each lodge in which he is a member, the same as any other member of each lodge and each lodge shall pay per capita to the Grand Lodge on that member.
- D. ELIGIBILITY TO OFFICE:** A plural member shall have all the rights and privileges and shall be subject to all duties and responsibilities of other members. He shall have the right to vote and hold office in any lodge of which he is a member, but he cannot hold the office of Master in more than one (1) lodge during the same year.
- E. REPRESENTATION TO GRAND LODGE:** A plural member can represent only one (1) lodge as a delegate to Grand Lodge and may carry voting credentials only from the same lodge which he represents as a delegate.
- F. SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION:** When a plural member is suspended for non-payment of dues in any lodge, it will not affect his standing in the other lodges.

When a plural member is expelled or suspended for any reason other than for non-payment of dues, he shall be automatically expelled or suspended in his other lodges.

- G. WITHDRAWAL:** A plural member, against whom no charges are pending and whose dues and indebtedness to the lodge in which he intends to withdraw have been fully paid, may terminate his membership in that lodge by presenting a written application therefore at a stated meeting. The lodge shall thereupon grant the request of the brother by order of the Master and drop his name from the rolls. The withdrawal of membership in one lodge shall not affect his membership in any other lodge.
- H. REINSTATEMENT OF PLURAL MEMBER:** Any plural member whose membership has been terminated under the provisions of Section U 418 F or U 418 G must follow the provisions of Section U 602, U 604 or the Trial Code, whichever is appropriate to his termination, in each lodge in which his membership has been terminated.
- I. REFUSAL FOR PLURAL MEMBERSHIP:** Refusal of affiliation for plural membership by any lodge in no way affects a Master Mason's standing in any other lodge.

**SECTION U 419. FEES AND DUES:** Each constituent lodge shall fix the fees to be charged for the degrees. The fees for the three (3)degrees shall not be less than \$60 (sixty dollars) in addition

## Uniform Code - Membership

to the Entered Apprentice contribution of \$15 (fifteen dollars}; but it may, at its discretion, charge more. It may also fix the amount of annual dues to be charged its members, but said annual dues shall not be less than \$20 (twenty dollars).

The fee for initiation shall accompany the petition, otherwise it shall not be received by the lodge. The fee for passing shall be paid before initiation and the fee for raising shall be paid before the candidate is passed.

No fee shall be charged for affiliation.

The dues of a brother who has been raised or affiliated shall commence on the first day of the month of his membership.

Lodge dues shall be paid annually in advance on or before the first day of January.

A lodge shall not impose penalties upon its members for non-attendance at its meetings.

**SECTION U 420. ENDOWED MEMBERSHIPS:** Endowed Memberships are authorized in all lodges under the authority of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, subject to the following terms and conditions:

**A. CLASSIFICATION AND ELIGIBILITY:** The following requirements of eligibility for each classification of endowed memberships shall be strictly adhered to:

**1. PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP:** A living Master Mason may become a Perpetual Member in each lodge within the authority of this Grand Lodge in which he is a member. Such member must be in good standing and possess a current dues card from the lodge where the perpetual membership is being purchased. The obtaining of a Perpetual Membership in one lodge by a plural member shall have no effect on his membership in any other lodge to which he may belong.

**2. MEMORIAL PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP:** A Memorial Perpetual Membership may be purchased in any lodge within this Grand Jurisdiction for a deceased Master Mason of any lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma as long as such member was in good standing at the time of his death.

**B. FEES:**

**1. PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP:** The fee for a Perpetual Membership shall be a minimum sum of 15 (fifteen) times the annual dues of the lodge in which it is purchased at the time of application

## Uniform Code - Membership

**2. MEMORIAL PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP:** The fee for a Memorial Perpetual Membership shall be a minimum of \$150 (one hundred fifty dollars).

**3. SUPPLEMENTARY:** Any person may add an additional amount to an endowed membership through the secretary of the lodge where such membership is in effect.

### C. APPLICATION:

**1. FORMS:** Application forms for endowed memberships and any other forms required to fulfill the requirements of this section shall be prescribed and supplied by the Grand Lodge.

The application form shall contain the computations upon which the fee is predicated and in the case of a Memorial Perpetual Membership, the name, number, city and state of the lodge to which the member belonged.

### 2. PROCESS:

**A. LODGE:** All applications for endowed memberships shall be first submitted to the lodge secretary in which the membership is purchased; the lodge secretary shall complete his part of the application, certify and forward it, with the appropriate fee, to the Grand Secretary. If the application is received in the Grand Secretary's office first, the Grand Secretary must contact the lodge secretary for certification and note such on the application form.

**B. GRAND LODGE:** The Grand Secretary shall examine such application to certify the information thereon and the amount of the fee tendered. If the fee is determined to be insufficient, the application and fee shall be returned to the lodge for correction and resubmission

After the application has been certified by the Grand Secretary, the endowed membership will become effective and a copy of the accepted application and a Perpetual Membership Certificate shall be furnished to the applicant and the lodge. Once certified by the Grand Secretary, the fee shall not be refundable.

### D. ADMINISTRATION:

**1. ACCOUNTING:** After certification of the application by the Grand Secretary, the fee shall be paid over to the Grand Treasurer as required by the Constitution and Laws.

## Uniform Code - Membership

The funds shall be placed collectively in an Endowed Perpetual Account. These funds shall be accounted for on an individual lodge basis, listing the amount a person paid into the fund by each perpetual member. The Endowed Perpetual account shall be separated from all other Grand Lodge funds and shall be audited annually as required by the Constitution and Laws.

The fee shall be considered principal and shall never be spent.

**2. COSTS:** There shall be no cost to the lodges for administration of this program by the Grand Lodge.

**3. DUES CARDS:** A Perpetual Member shall owe no further dues to the lodge or which he is a Perpetual Member. An annual dues card, denoting on it a perpetual membership status, shall be issued by the lodge secretary to each Perpetual Member, unless such member is under a sentence of suspension or expulsion from the fraternity.

**4. ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION:** The total amount of interest derived from each endowed membership account shall be computed annually and lodge share paid to the lodges for each member at the time of per capita billing. The per capita billing statement shall list each members' account showing the principal balance, the per capita and Grand Lodge charges in effect at the time the Perpetual Membership was certified (except for Memorial Perpetual Members) the amount of interest earned and the division being paid to the lodge and Grand Lodge.

**5. CALCULATION:** The following appropriate method shall be used to compute the division of the interest earned between the lodge and Grand Lodge for each type of endowed membership.

**a. PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP:** The division of interest shall be a proportionate share of the earned interest, based on the lodges' dues and Grand Lodge per capita plus any Grand Lodge charges, all of which were in effect at the time the application was certified.

**b. MEMORIAL PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP:** Sixty-seven percent (67%) of the interest earned shall be paid to the lodge and 33% (thirty-three percent) to the Grand Lodge.

**c. LODGE OF RESEARCH PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP:** A division of 67% (sixty-seven percent) of the interest earned shall be paid to the lodge and 33% (thirty-three percent) to the Grand Lodge.



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**6. LODGE OBLIGATION:** After an endowed membership application has been certified by the Grand Secretary, the lodge shall forever thereafter be obligated to pay to the Grand Lodge the amount designated on each annual per capita statement.

### **E. TRANSFER:**

**1. MEMBERSHIP:** A Perpetual Member may affiliate with another lodge subject to the provisions of the Uniform Code.

**a. AFFILIATION:** When a Perpetual Member affiliates with another lodge within this Grand Jurisdiction, the entire balance of his perpetual membership account shall be transferred to the account of the lodge with which he affiliates. If the affiliation is outside this Grand Jurisdiction the entire perpetual membership fee shall remain with the lodge of which he was a Perpetual Member.

A Certificate of Good Standing issued under the provisions of the Uniform Code to a Perpetual Member shall have endorsed thereon the fact that the holder is a Perpetual Member and the amount of the perpetual membership fee shall be transferred to the Oklahoma lodge with which he affiliates.

**b. PLURAL AFFILIATION:** When a Perpetual Member affiliates with another lodge within this Grand Jurisdiction, as a plural member, his perpetual membership shall not be automatically transferred.

**2. LOSS OF CHARTER:** If a lodge consolidates, surrenders its charter or has its charter arrested, the perpetual membership funds credited to that lodge shall follow the members according to the relevant sections of the Constitution and Laws and Uniform Code.

**a. LODGE OF RESEARCH:** In the event that the Oklahoma Lodge of Research should go defunct, 100% (one-hundred percent) of the interest earned shall be paid to the Grand Lodge.

### **3. REQUEST FOR TRANSFER:**

**a. AUTHORITY:** A plural member possessing a perpetual membership in one lodge, or the original purchaser of a Memorial Perpetual Membership, may transfer such perpetual account to another lodge according to the provisions of this section, provided that the plural member is a member of the receiving lodge.

## Uniform Code - Membership

- b. FORMS:** All requests for transferring any type of perpetual membership shall be, on forms prescribed and supplied by the Grand Lodge for that purpose. The form must be completed in full and signed by the Perpetual Member, or in the case of a Memorial Perpetual Membership, the original purchaser.
- c. SUBMITTAL:** After the request form has been completed, it shall be submitted to the lodge to which the perpetual account would be transferred. The application shall be read at a stated communication and shall lie over until the next stated meeting at which time it shall be submitted to a vote of the lodge. A majority of the votes cast shall be required for the request to be granted.
- d. NOTIFICATION:** If the request for a transfer is approved, the secretary of the lodge granting the request shall complete the applicable section of the application for transfer and submit it to the Grand Secretary. The Grand Secretary shall notify the lodge from which the perpetual membership is being transferred.

### **F. LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP AND REINSTATEMENT:**

- 1. SUSPENSION, EXPULSION, WITHDRAWAL:** A Perpetual Member who has been sentenced to suspension or expulsion, or who has voluntarily withdrawn his membership shall not be issued a dues card. The Lodge and the Grand Lodge shall continue to receive their proportionate share of the earned interest.
- 2. REINSTATEMENT, RE-AFFILIATION:** If a Perpetual Member who has been suspended, expelled or withdrawn is subsequently restored to good standing, or re-affiliates from out-of-state, his perpetual membership shall be deemed to be restored.
- 3. UNABLE TO LOCATE:** After an endowed member has not been heard from for 5 years, the secretary shall report him as deceased on the monthly report. If he contacts the lodge he shall be reinstated with a notation on the monthly report so that he may be reinstated without any loss of time.

**SECTION U 421. REFUNDING FEES:** In no case where a lodge has received fees for the degrees and the petitioner is elected thereto shall the lodge be required to refund the same, or any part thereof, or pay the same to any lodge that shall advance the petitioner.

**SECTION U 422. DUTY OF MASTER MASON TO MAINTAIN GOOD STANDING:** It is the duty of every Master Mason to assist in the support of Masonry by paying such dues as may be chargeable against him and to maintain his good standing as a Master Mason. Any Master Mason who fails to maintain such good standing and who shall pay dues into or retain his good standing in any Masonic Concordant,

## Uniform Code - Membership

Androgynous, or Appendant body recognized as such by this Grand Lodge is declared to have committed a Masonic offense. It shall be the duty of the Master of the lodge in which such an offense is reported, to investigate and if warranted, to report such findings to the affected organization.

**SECTION U 423. FAILURE TO SUPPORT DEPENDENTS IS UNMASONIC:** It shall be the duty of every Master Mason to provide his minor children, his father and his mother with the necessities of life to the extent that they will not become a charge of the lodge or Grand Lodge. Any Master Mason able to perform this duty who fails or refuses to comply herewith shall be guilty of a Masonic offense.

**SECTION U 424. MEMBERS UNABLE TO PAY:** On notice of a members financial hardship, the Master shall appoint a committee to ascertain the members ability to pay. Upon report of the committee, the Master will put the question to the lodge for a vote to remit the dues of the brother in hardship. This remission of dues shall be valid for one (1) Masonic year and this process may be repeated on an annual basis, if required. All Master Masons in a long-term nursing care facility shall be exempt from all dues, and Grand Lodge per capita.

No member shall be exempt from dues for any other purpose unless the lodge pays the Grand Lodge per capita.

**SECTION U 425. CERTIFICATES OF GOOD STANDING:** When a Master Mason desires to affiliate with any lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction or any other Grand Jurisdiction, he shall apply to the secretary of his lodge for a certificate of good standing. If no charges are pending and unless otherwise prohibited by any provision of law, the secretary shall immediately issue such certificate of good standing to the member for the purpose of making application in the lodge of his choice. The secretary shall report the action at the next stated meeting. The certificate of good standing shall be valid for a period of 90 (ninety) days or until the last day of the current year of which the member has paid dues, whichever shall come first.

When the brother has been elected to membership in a lodge, the lodge so electing him shall notify his former lodge and the Grand Secretary and request that his name be dropped from the membership of the former lodge. The lodge of which he ceases to be a member must refund to him all unearned dues.

Certificates of good standing shall be upon forms prescribed by the Grand Lodge under the seal and signed by the Master and Secretary of the lodge and shall be uniform throughout the Grand Jurisdiction. Blank certificates of good standing shall be supplied by the Grand Secretary to all constituent lodges.

## Uniform Code - Membership

Demits issued by lodges of other Grand Jurisdictions shall bear the certificate of the Grand Secretary of the jurisdiction where they originated before they will be recognized in this Grand Jurisdiction.

**SECTION U 426. LETTERS OF DISMISSAL:** Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts of constituent lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction cannot be issued certificates of good standing but may be issued letters of dismissal without payment of dues. Letters of dismissal are not applicable to constituent lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction, but shall apply only to requests from other Grand Jurisdictions.

Letters of dismissal shall be upon forms prescribed by the Grand Lodge under the seal and signed by the Master and Secretary of the lodge and shall be uniform throughout the Grand Jurisdiction. Blank letters of Dismissal shall be supplied by the Grand Secretary to all constituent lodges.

## Uniform Code - Degrees and Advancement

### ARTICLE V - DEGREES AND ADVANCEMENT

**SECTION U 501. CONFERRAL OF DEGREES:** It is the duty of the Master, Senior and Junior Wardens to prepare themselves for and confer the degrees of Masonry.

**SECTION U 502. FULL DEGREES MUST BE GIVEN:** Lodges are forbidden to omit any part of the lectures and explanations when conferring any of the degrees upon a candidate. It is the duty of the Master to give, or cause to be given, the full lectures pertaining to the degree. Failure to do so shall render the Master and the lodge subject to discipline. The explanatory lectures may be deferred for not more than 60 (sixty) days.

**SECTION U 503. LECTURES:** No lodge shall permit the lectures on the degrees of Masonry to be given by any one except the Grand Lecturer, a Deputy Grand Lecturer or a Certificate Lecturer without a duly verified commission from the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master. This applies to itinerant lecturers and not to members of particular lodges.

**SECTION U 504. DEGREE OUT OF TIME:** All cases of emergency warranting the granting of a special dispensation to confer degrees out of time must be real and not imaginary. There must be a necessity for immediate action based on an imperative and good reason against delay. No case of personal favor, whether to the lodge or to the applicant, shall ever be deemed an emergency. The Grand Master shall be the sole judge of the exigencies of each application for such dispensations.

**SECTION U 505. PROFICIENCY REQUIRED:** Each Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft shall be required to pass an examination in open lodge as to his proficiency in the work lecture of the degree. The work lecture is the categorical lecture. Only the Grand Master may dispense with this requirement. Such proficiency shall be determined by a majority vote of the lodge before he is given the next degree. A Master Mason shall be required to pass such an examination for proficiency in the Master Mason degree and shall not be elected or appointed to any office until such proficiency in Oklahoma work is shown.

**SECTION U 506. REQUEST TO CONFER DEGREES:** An Entered Apprentice, a Fellow Craft or any person who has been elected to receive the degrees while residing in this Grand Jurisdiction may request the degrees to which he has been elected conferred upon him in a lodge other than his own. Such other lodge may confer the degrees upon him with the consent or by the request of the lodge electing him but not otherwise. All such work shall be done as a matter of courtesy and without fee. The candidate shall pay all fees to the

## Uniform Code - Degrees and Advancement

lodge electing him.

**SECTION U 507. CONFERRING DEGREES FOR LODGE OF FOREIGN JURISDICTION:** An Entered Apprentice, a Fellow Craft or any person who has been elected to receive the degrees from a lodge in a foreign Grand Jurisdiction with which the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma is in fraternal relationship may have such degree or degrees conferred upon him by a lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction as a courtesy, and for which no fee shall be charged. Before such degree or degrees can be conferred, the parent lodge of such candidate or brother must request the same through the Grand Master (or Grand Secretary of such foreign jurisdiction) who will transmit the same through the Grand Master (or Grand Secretary) of this jurisdiction.

When such request is so made, the Grand Master (or Grand Secretary) of Oklahoma will direct the lodge to confer the degree or degrees.

**SECTION U 508. ENTERED APPRENTICES OR FELLOW CRAFTS OF DEFUNCT LODGES:** An Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft in good standing whose lodge is defunct, may petition any Oklahoma lodge for the remaining degree or degrees. The petition must state the name, number and location of his lodge when in existence. The petition shall be accompanied by a certificate from the Grand Secretary stating the petitioner's status. The petition shall be referred to a committee as in the case of a petition by a profane. This committee shall report and a ballot shall be had as in the case of a petition for the degrees. If elected, his status in the lodge is that of a Mason of like advancement who was initiated therein.

**SECTION U 509. EXPELLED OR SUSPENDED ENTERED APPRENTICE OR FELLOW CRAFT:** An Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft who has been expelled or suspended cannot be advanced in any lodge in this jurisdiction until he has been reinstated by the lodge in which he was expelled or suspended or by the Grand Lodge in cases provided therefor.

**SECTION U 510. LAMBSKIN APRON:** Every lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction is required to provide a lambskin or white leather apron to present to the candidate at his initiation which shall be his for preservation.

**SECTION U 511. PUBLISHING PROCEEDINGS:** No lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction shall publish the fact that it has or will confer any Masonic degree upon anyone, naming him or them in any publication other than the published lodge rolls or membership directories without his or their written permission.

**SECTION U 512. MULTIPLE CANDIDATES:**

### **Uniform Code - Degrees and Advancement**

No lodge shall ever confer any degree upon more than one (1) candidate at a time.

## Uniform Code - Suspension, Expulsion and Withdrawals

### ARTICLE VI - SUSPENSION, EXPULSION AND WITHDRAWALS

**SECTION U 601. SUSPENSION FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES:** When a brother owes a year or more dues and the same has remained unpaid for 12 (twelve) months, he shall be subject to suspension for non-payment of dues. It shall be the duty of the secretary to inform the lodge of such delinquency. If the lodge wishes to suspend the brother for non-payment of dues, the Master must first appoint a committee of three (3) members to properly investigate and ascertain the financial condition of the brother. After such investigation, if the lodge is of the opinion that the brother should pay his dues or be suspended, the Master shall order the secretary to so inform the brother and give him proper notice that if his dues are not paid on or before a stated meeting designated (the date of which shall be given) his name will be presented to the lodge for action. Such notice shall be mailed to his last known post office address at least 10 (ten) days before the stated meeting at which the member's name is to be presented for suspension.

The secretary shall make a report to the lodge, on the stated meeting designated, of all members to whom he mailed such notice, who are still delinquent a year or more dues, giving the amount owing by each. The Master shall, without motion, submit the name of each member so reported to the lodge with the question, "shall the brother (naming him) be suspended for non-payment of dues?" If a majority present vote in the affirmative, the Master shall declare the member suspended and order the secretary to so record it. The secretary shall, as soon as practical thereafter, notify the suspended member at his last known post office address of such suspension and the procedure necessary for his reinstatement.

**SECTION U 602. REINSTATEMENT AFTER SUSPENSION FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES:** When a member has been suspended for non-payment of dues he must make written request for reinstatement. The request shall be read in open lodge at its next stated meeting. The Master shall thereupon appoint an investigating committee as in the case of a petition for the degrees. The investigating committee shall investigate said applicant for reinstatement the same as in the case of a petitioner for the degrees, and shall report to the lodge within 28 (twenty-eight) days unless the Master extends the period of investigation. The application must lay over at least until the next stated meeting before any vote is taken on it. The Master may extend the period of investigation. It shall require a clear ballot of the members present to reinstate. In case of rejection, he may reapply to his lodge for reinstatement at a stated meeting not earlier than one (1) year from the date of rejection.

The lodge may, upon majority vote, remit any or all dues owing at the date of suspension.



## Uniform Code - Suspension, Expulsion and Withdrawals

**SECTION U 603. WITHDRAWAL:** Any member of a lodge against whom no charges are pending and whose dues and indebtedness to the lodge have been fully paid may withdraw from membership by presenting a written application therefore at a stated meeting. The lodge shall thereupon grant the request of the brother by order of the Master and drop his name from the rolls. His membership terminated, he shall be subject to the disabilities of an unaffiliated Master Mason as defined in this code.

**SECTION U 604. REINSTATEMENT AFTER WITHDRAWAL FROM MEMBERSHIP:** In the event a Master Mason has resigned from Masonry under the provisions of Section U 603 and desires to resume his affiliation with the fraternity, he may do so by filing his petition with the lodge from which he withdrew, not less than 12 (twelve) months after withdrawal. The petition shall be referred to a committee, as in the case of a petition for the degrees, and take the regular course as in such cases. Upon a clear ballot and the payment of a fee of not less than \$20 (twenty dollars) and the current year's dues, he shall be restored to membership in the lodge. If rejected, the petitioner must wait 12 (twelve) months before re-petitioning.

**SECTION U 605. UNAFFILIATES:** An unaffiliate is one whose membership in a recognized lodge has been severed on account of a sentence for offense, or who has withdrawn from membership in the manner provided therefor in this Code. An unaffiliate has the right of petitioning for reinstatement, if eligible; but shall not be entitled to Masonic aid, nor permitted to visit lodges, nor walk in Masonic processions, nor receive Masonic burial; but shall be subject to Masonic discipline, and remain under those obligations which can never be repudiated or laid aside.

Demits which were issued by constituent lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction are invalid. Any member holding such a demit shall be classified as a withdrawn member.

**SECTION U 606. SUSPENDED OR EXPELLED IN OTHER GRAND JURISDICTIONS:** Any Master Mason who has been lawfully suspended or expelled in another Grand Jurisdiction, under the U.S. constitutional provisions of due process of law, must be reinstated under the law of such Grand Jurisdiction before he can petition for membership in this Grand Jurisdiction.

## Uniform Code - Death of Members

### ARTICLE VII - DEATH OF MEMBERS

**SECTION U 701. MASONIC BURIALS - WHO ENTITLED:** One of the rewards of faithful Masonic life is the honor of a Masonic burial, at the request of a member, by his lodge. Except when requested of a lodge by a member thereof in good standing (or by his family) a Masonic burial shall only be at the discretion of the Master of the lodge at whose hands the honor is sought, having in view the customs of the fraternity and the welfare of the craft.

Only Master Masons in good standing may receive Masonic burial.

All Masonic burials must be by a lodge of Master Masons. No Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft can be admitted to the procession.

A deceased non-affiliated Master Mason in good standing may receive Masonic burial at the discretion of the Master of the lodge applied to therefore.

A sojourning Mason is one who is within the territorial jurisdiction of the lodge, but whose residence and lodge, if any, are elsewhere. A sojourning Master Mason in good standing may receive Masonic burial at the discretion of the Master of the lodge applied to therefore.

A Master may take the charter of his lodge to any other place within this Grand Jurisdiction and open an emergent lodge there for the purpose of a Masonic burial or he may request any other lodge to perform the burial ceremony for his lodge.

**SECTION U 702. MASONIC CLOTHING:** The proper Masonic clothing for a funeral procession is a white apron (the lambskin preferable) with white gloves. For other Masonic occasions and processions it may be the white apron, with or without the blue edging, gold or silver fringe, and proper Masonic emblems at the pleasure of the wearer.

**SECTION U 703. GRAND HONORS:** The grand honors of the Grand Jurisdiction of the State of Oklahoma shall be of three (3) kinds, the private, the public and the funeral. The private grand honors are the D. G. & S. and shall be given at closed meetings when a Master is installed, a Masonic hall consecrated, or when a Past Grand Master or the Grand Master visits a lodge.

The public grand honors are the three (3) times three (3) given by striking the palms of the hands together, first the right hand upon the left three (3) times; second, the left hand upon the right three (3) times; third, the right hand upon the left three (3) times, making nine (9) concussions in all.

## Uniform Code - Death of Members

The funeral grand honors shall be given by crossing the arms upon the breast, the left uppermost, and the open palms sharply striking the shoulders, then raising them above the head, the palms striking each other, and then made to fall to the sides, the palms striking the thighs, this to be repeated three (3) times; with the third time the following shall be audibly repeated by the brethren, when the arms are crossed upon the breast; "We cherish his memory here"; when the hands are extended above the head, "We commend his spirit to God who gave it", and when the hands are upon the thighs, "And consign his body to the earth whence it came."

**SECTION U 704. DRAPING OF CHARTER:** After the death of a member the charter of the lodge shall be draped and shall remain draped for a period of not less than 28 (twenty eight) days.

**SECTION U 705. WIDOW AND ORPHAN CERTIFICATE:** Upon the death of any member of the lodge in good standing, it is the duty of the Master and Secretary to furnish without charge to the widow and orphan of such deceased member a certificate under their hands and the seal of the lodge showing the brother's membership, standing, death and their relation to him and recommending them as such.

**SECTION U 706. WIDOWS MARRYING PROFANE:** The widow of a Master Mason, by marrying a profane, forfeits her claim upon the fraternity as a Master Mason's widow. A subsequent decree of divorce does not make her a Master Mason's widow or restore her to Masonic privileges.

**Uniform Code - Prohibitions and Offenses**

**ARTICLE VIII - PROHIBITIONS AND OFFENSES**

**SECTION U 801. SOLICITING CANDIDATES:** It is unmasonic to solicit membership from the profane.

**SECTION U 802. SOLICITATION BY LODGES OR MEMBERS:** No lodge or Mason shall send out solicitation letters or circulars.

No lodge shall enter into an agreement with any person or persons, excluding Concordant Bodies, to solicit by any means without the approval of the Grand Master.

No Lodge shall solicit other lodges without the prior, written approval of the Grand Master.

A lodge may solicit its own members only.

**SECTION U 803. ADVERTISING:** No publication, the subscription list of which is predicated upon Masonry, or the name or the title of which includes a Masonic designation, shall be permitted to carry advertisements concerning beverages of alcoholic content.

**SECTION U 804. USE OF TOBACCO IN LODGE ROOM:** The use of tobacco products or tobacco substitutes shall never be permitted in any lodge room while the lodge is in session.

**SECTION U 805. LIQUORS WITH ALCOHOLIC CONTENT:** It shall be a Masonic offense to introduce any intoxicating liquors into any lodge room or other rooms connected therewith, for any Mason to appear in a public place in an intoxicated condition, for any Mason to purchase for illegal resale, illegal transport or be in any way interested in the illegal sale or illegal purchase for resale or illegal transportation of intoxicating liquors. If any Mason shall be guilty of doing so, it shall be the duty of the Master of the lodge in whose jurisdiction the offense may occur to order charges to be preferred against the offender and a trial to proceed thereon as in other cases. If any Master shall refuse to perform his duty under this section or if any lodge shall fail to do its duty upon proper charges preferred, the Grand Master shall suspend the Master or arrest the charter of the lodge (as his judgment may deem best) and report his action to the next annual communication of the Grand Lodge. A brother employed by a common carrier who transports intoxicating liquor is not violating this section.

**SECTION U 806. USE OF 3.2 BEER RESTRICTED:** It shall be a Masonic offense to introduce 3.2 beer into any lodge room or other room connected therewith or at any Masonic function or festivity. No publication the subscription list of which is predicated upon Masonry or the name or the title of which includes a Masonic designation shall be permitted to carry advertisements concerning 3.2 beer.

It shall be the duty of the Master of the lodge in which such

## Uniform Code - Prohibitions and Offenses

offense occurred to order charges preferred against the offender and a trial to proceed thereon as in other cases.

**SECTION U 807. GAMBLING, PROFANITY AND OBSCENITY:** Any kind of illegal gambling, the use of profane language or any obscene talk and acts are hereby declared to be a Masonic offense and a bar to initiation, passing, raising and affiliation and shall subject the offender to suspension or expulsion.

**SECTION U 808. SUBVERSIVE ORGANIZATIONS:** It shall be a Masonic offense for any Mason to belong to any party or organization advocating the overthrow of the government of the United States by force or violence or which has been declared by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to be a subversive organization. Belonging to or adhering to the principles of any such organization shall disqualify any applicant from being made a member of or admitted to any Masonic lodge and shall constitute sufficient grounds for the expulsion of any member.

**SECTION U 809. OFFENSES COMMITTED BEFORE PETITIONING:** A Mason cannot be tried for an offense committed before he petitioned for the degrees of Masonry. If, however, he purposely withheld from the lodge or the committee of investigation matters that would have resulted in his rejection, if known at the time of his election, or if he has received the degree through fraud and imposition, he may be subjected to Masonic discipline.

**SECTION U 810. EMBLEMS:** No Mason shall exhibit any emblems of the fraternity as a sign to attract attention to his business. The use of the word "Masonic" or other words to imply Masonic connection with any organization, association, partnership, corporation or private enterprise is forbidden until such enterprise shall have obtained authority from the Grand Lodge.

**SECTION U 811. FUNDS:** No lodge can distribute its funds among its members or contribute the same to buildings of any nature, except for buildings used for Masonic or charitable purposes.

**SECTION U 812. POLITICAL SIGNS AND ACTIVITIES:** No lodge shall display any type of political sign or allow any political function any place in or on its property.

Nothing herein prohibits a lodge facility from being used as an official government polling location.

## Uniform Code - Resolutions and Amendments

### ARTICLE IX - RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

**SECTION U 901. AMENDMENTS:** All propositions to amend or repeal any section or sections of this Uniform Code, or add any section or sections to this Uniform Code must be submitted by resolution. The resolution must have a preamble that states the reason and justification for the resolution, and the section number of any section or sections affected, in total or any part thereof, by the resolution. Any resolution submitted under the provisions of this section must not conflict with or attempt to amend any recognized Landmark of this Grand Jurisdiction or any section of the Constitution and Laws of this Constitution and Code, or propose an amendment to more than one (1) section of this Uniform Code within the same resolution. Any resolution to amend any section of this Uniform Code, which contains any provision which would conflict with any provision of any section or sections of this Constitution and Code other than the section proposed to be amended, must be accompanied by a separate resolution to amend the section or sections with which it would conflict. In each instance where any section is to be amended, the entire sentence in which the amendment is to be effected must first be quoted as it now reads and designated by the line on which it begins and the paragraph (if more than one (1)) of the section in which it is located and secondly must be quoted as it will read after the amendment is effected with the proposed amendment in bold type and underlined.

All resolutions submitted under the provisions of this section shall be submitted by a voting member of the Grand Lodge to the Grand Master in writing at least 120 (one hundred and Twenty) days before the opening of the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, printed and mailed to each member of the Committee on Jurisprudence for its information and study. The Committee on Jurisprudence shall meet as specified in Section 213 of the Constitution and Laws to consider all resolutions submitted under the provisions of this section. Any resolutions declared to be illegal or not in proper form, by the Committee on Jurisprudence, shall be returned to the first signer of the resolution, with an explanation of the reasons for its decision, at least 100 (one hundred) days before the opening of the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, to be rewritten and resubmitted to the Grand Master at least 60 (Sixty) days before the opening of the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge or withdrawn at the discretion of the signers.

All resolutions in the possession of the Grand Master, 60 (sixty) days before the opening of the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, shall be printed and mailed to each constituent lodge, each Grand Lodge Officer and each member of the Committee on Jurisprudence for their information and study. Said resolutions shall be read or caused to be read by the Grand Master and by him

## Uniform Code - Resolutions and Amendments

referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence. The Committee on Jurisprudence shall report thereon and the resolutions shall be balloted on in accordance with the provisions of Section 304 of the Constitution and Laws. If the resolution is adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes cast, it shall be in full force and effect immediately upon final announcement of the vote.

The provisions of this section shall not prevent the presentation of a resolution when recommended by the Grand Master.

**SECTION U 902. RESOLUTION ENTRIES TO THE UNIFORM CODE:** All resolutions presented to Grand Lodge shall be referred to the proper committee for study and referred to the Constitution and Code Committee for proper placement in the Constitution and Code should the final vote taken in Grand Lodge grant adoption.

No edict, recommendation or motion will be considered to be placed in the printed copy of the Constitution and Code, but only resolutions properly introduced and passed by the Grand Lodge will be considered.

**Trial Code - Jurisdiction and Substantive Provisions**

**TRIAL CODE**

**OF THE GRAND LODGE**

**OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS**

**OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA**

**ARTICLE I - JURISDICTION AND SUBSTANTIVE PROVISIONS**

**SECTION T 101. TRIAL CODE GOVERNS:** This code shall govern as to the procedure and practice in all Masonic trials. Its form and directions shall be carefully observed.

**SECTION T 102. OFFENSES DEFINED:** Offenses defined as being against Masonry which may be the subject of Masonic trial and punishment are as follows:

- A. Any violation of the provisions of the Constitution and Laws or the Uniform Code of the Grand Lodge or any of its edicts.
- B. Any violation of the obligations of the three (3) degrees of Masonry.
- C. Any violation of the Charges of a Freemason.
- D. The casting off of the responsibilities assumed as an officer in either a constituent lodge or the Grand Lodge.
- E. The commission of any felony or of any other criminal offense involving fraud or moral turpitude.

**SECTION T 103. JURISDICTION:**

- A. **CONSTITUENT LODGES:** Each constituent lodge has jurisdiction over Masonic offenses committed:
  - 1. By its members, its Fellow Crafts, or its Entered Apprentices without regard to their residence or place where the offense was committed, except in such cases where, by provisions of this code, the Grand Lodge has exclusive jurisdiction.
  - 2. By unaffiliated Masons living within its territorial jurisdiction, without regard to where the offense was



## **Trial Code - Jurisdiction and Substantive Provisions**

committed.

3. By any Mason living within its territorial jurisdiction, without regard to where the offense was committed.

### **B. GRAND LODGE:** The Grand Lodge has jurisdiction over:

1. All its constituent lodges and their members, Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts.
2. All Masons within its territorial jurisdiction.
3. The Grand Master and all Masters of its constituent lodges. A constituent lodge has no jurisdiction to try the Grand Master or a Master.
4. Offenses of which constituent lodges have jurisdiction but fail, through neglect or otherwise, to exercise it.

**SECTION T 104. CHARGES AGAINST MEMBERS OF OTHER LODGES:** If charges are preferred against a Mason who belongs to another lodge, either within or without this Grand Jurisdiction, it shall be optional with the lodge within which the charges are preferred to try them itself or, as a matter of Masonic courtesy, to refer the subject matter to the lodge of which the offending brother is a member with the request that he be put on trial in his own lodge. In case of such reference, the home lodge of the accused shall be notified of such charges and furnished with a copy thereof. If the home lodge shall neglect or refuse to prosecute such charges and try the offender for a period of 90 (ninety) days, then the lodge within whose jurisdiction the offense was committed shall proceed to prosecute. Notice in all cases must be given to the home lodge of any proceedings actually taken.

**SECTION T 105. TRIAL AUTHORITY:** In all Masonic trials, it is the responsibility of the constituent lodge in which the charges are filed to be the prosecutor during the trial proceedings. There are three (3) types of Masonic trials, each of which have their own body or group of Masons acting as the governing body during such trial and are as follows:

- A. LODGE TRIAL:** The constituent lodge hears the evidence and testimony of all witnesses and makes the determination of innocence or guilt and the punishment to be imposed, if any. The Master shall be the presiding officer unless otherwise disqualified as provided in Section T 402.
- B. LODGE COMMISSION:** A commission may be appointed, as herein

## **Trial Code - Jurisdiction and Substantive Provisions**

provided, to hear the evidence and testimony of all witnesses. The chairman of the commission is the presiding officer. After all testimony has been presented and transcribed, the commission reports to the lodge its findings and recommendations after which the lodge makes the determination of innocence or guilt and the type of punishment to be imposed, if any.

- C. GRAND LODGE COMMISSION:** A Grand Lodge Commission may be formed, as herein provided, to hear the evidence and testimony of all witnesses. The chairman of the Grand Lodge Commission is the presiding officer. After all testimony has been presented and transcribed, the Grand Lodge Commission reports to the Grand Master its findings and recommendations after which the Grand Master acts on such recommendations.

**SECTION T 106. CHARGES DEFINED:** A charge as used in this Trial Code means a word or short sentence, giving the general nature of any violation of the moral or Masonic law, such as larceny, adultery, embezzlement, slander, habitual profanity, murder, drunkenness, perjury, etc. When the offense is a neglect of Masonic duty or a violation of a purely Masonic obligation the charge may be stated as "unmasonic conduct" or "gross unmasonic conduct."

**SECTION T 107. SPECIFICATION DEFINED:** A specification as used in this Trial Code consists of an elaboration of the charge by giving a statement of the time, place and circumstances, as near as may be, under which the offense is alleged to have been committed and the words or acts constituting the offense, together with the name of the person or persons, if any, against whom the offense was committed.

**SECTION T 108. CHARGES AGAINST MASTER:** Any five (5) members of a lodge or the District Deputy Grand Master of the district may prefer charges against a Master and file them with the Grand Master who shall follow the procedures specified in Section T 604 and subsequent sections in Article VI. If the Grand Master determines that the acts charged constitute an offense against the laws of Masonry, it shall be his duty to suspend the brother from office until the trial proceedings have concluded.

**SECTION T 109. INDEFINITE SUSPENSION AFTER COURT SENTENCE:** When a brother pleads guilty or no contest or when a court of final resort has ruled upon a case involving a violation of the Felony Criminal Statutes of the State or of the United States, such plea or conviction shall automatically impose a sentence of indefinite suspension.

## **Trial Code - Jurisdiction and Substantive Provisions**

When a brother is sentenced to and is serving a term of imprisonment after a finding of guilt in a case involving a violation of the Felony Criminal Statutes of the State or the United States, even though a court of final resort has not yet issued its final rule, such imprisonment shall automatically impose a sentence of indefinite suspension. If the court of final resort finds the brother innocent, he shall be automatically reinstated with no loss of time or privileges.

It shall be the duty of the Master of the lodge to ascertain the facts of such sentence from the record of the court where such conviction was had and make the announcement at the next stated communication of the lodge and have it recorded in the minutes. However, this section shall not operate to prevent trial by the lodge of any member against whom charges may be pending or have been concluded in the courts.

**SECTION T 110. RIGHT TO COUNSEL:** In any Masonic trial in whatever form as provided herein, both the defendant and the prosecution are entitled to be represented by counsel.

**SECTION T 111. SECRETARY:** The term "Secretary", as used in this Trial Code, refers to the elected secretary or to any brother appointed by the Master.

## **Trial Code - Procedures Before Trial**

### **ARTICLE II - PROCEDURES BEFORE TRIAL**

**SECTION T 201. CONSULTATION AND ASSISTANCE:** When the tranquility of Masonry has been disturbed and the preference of charges is imminent, assistance is available to any concerned party in accordance with Section T 701.

If the Pre-Trial Advisor and Lodge determine a trial should be held, and the Lodge chooses to use a Grand Lodge Commission, and the Grand Master determines the complaint constitutes an offense against the Laws of Masonry and it is in the best interest of Masonry to have a trial, then after payment by the lodge of \$400.00 into the Grand Lodge: Lodge Trials Revolving Fund, all expenses for that trial shall be borne by the Grand Lodge.

**SECTION T 202. WHO MAY PREFER CHARGES:** Any affiliated Mason who believes, or has reasonable ground to believe, a brother of any degree has committed an offense against the laws of Masonry may upon his Masonic honor make a statement, either orally or in writing, to the Master who shall call in his two Wardens and consider such complaint.

If, after due investigation and consideration, a majority of them consider the act complained of to be of sufficient gravity to require a trial, the Master shall order the Junior Warden to prepare and present to the lodge charges and specifications against the Mason complained of, in writing, in accordance with this Trial Code. However, the Master may appoint another brother who is a member of that lodge to prepare the charges and specifications and to assist in the presentation and the trial of the cause. If not already done, the Master shall then notify the Grand Master that such charges are being prepared and whether or not a Pre-trial Advisor is desired to assist.

If the Master and Wardens decide that the complaint is not of sufficient gravity to require a trial and the brother presenting the same is not satisfied with the decision, he may present his complaint to the Grand Master who shall follow the procedures specified in Section T 604 and subsequent sections in Article VI.

**SECTION T 203. FORM FOR CHARGES AND SPECIFICATIONS:** When a charge or charges are preferred against any Mason, as herein provided, the prescribed form as found within this Trial Code will be used.

**SECTION T 204. CONTENTS OF CHARGES AND SPECIFICATIONS:** The accused should be described by his given name, his surname and the highest degree he has attained together with his place of residence. The name, number and location of the lodge to which he belongs must be given if known. If the accused be an unaffiliate that fact should be stated. In cases where a necessary ingredient of the offense is that it was committed against a brother Mason or against one to whom the accused owes a duty, a like degree of particularity must be used in describing the person against whom the offense is alleged to have been committed. The time and place, names of persons and a general statement of the facts constituting the offense should be stated with sufficient certainty to enable the

## **Trial Code - Procedures Before Trial**

accused to know what he is required to answer and to be prepared to meet the charges with evidence at the trial. A substantial compliance, for the purposes stated, with these provisions is required but technical objections shall not be entertained.

**SECTION T 205. WRITTEN INSTRUMENTS:** Where they form a part of the gist of the offense charged, written instruments need not be copied verbatim in the specifications but may be referred to by the words "in substance as follows:" and the substance of the instrument may be set out in the specifications.

**SECTION T 206. PROFANE OR OBSCENE LANGUAGE:** Where language is profane or obscene it need not be quoted but its nature and general meaning shall be stated in becoming terms. If any words or matters improper to be written are involved they should be stated to the accused when the charges are served upon him, or repeated to him when called upon to plead, and the fact noted in the record as fully as the nature of the case will permit.

**SECTION T 207. STATEMENT OF INTENT:** In cases where the intent of the accused at the time of committing the alleged offense is a necessary ingredient it shall be stated in the specifications just as any fact or circumstance which goes to make up the offense.

**SECTION T 208. NUMBER AND CHARACTER OF SPECIFICATIONS TO CHARGE:** Specifications should be expressed as briefly as possible, consistent with the circumstances. No specification shall set out more than one offense, but several specifications may be separately made under any charge.

**SECTION T 209. JOINDER OR UNITING OF CHARGES:** Various charges may be joined in the same complaint but if joined, each charge, together with specifications thereunder, shall be separately stated. That is, there may be two or more charges, each of which shall have its own specifications thereunder.

**SECTION T 210. FILING OF CHARGES:** When charges and specifications have been prepared as herein provided, they shall be presented and read at a stated communication of the lodge and filed by the secretary.

**SECTION T 211. NOTICE TO ACCUSED:** Immediately upon the reading of the charges and specifications, the lodge shall fix a date for the accused to enter his plea or objections to the specifications. The secretary shall forthwith serve the accused with a copy of the charges and specifications and a notice, using the form as found in this Trial Code, of the time and place the accused is to plead or make his objections. Such notice shall be given at least 20 (twenty) days prior to the date which was set by the lodge. Notice may be served either personally or by registered mail to the last

## **Trial Code - Procedures Before Trial**

known post office address of the accused. When notice is given by registered mail the secretary shall demand a return receipt card therefore.

**SECTION T 212. NOTICE OF SERVICE:** The secretary shall make his report in writing to the lodge showing either service of notice or what has been done to obtain service. If actual notice has been given as herein required, or if the lodge finds that the secretary has complied with the foregoing provisions to obtain service by mail, such service shall be deemed complete.

**SECTION T 213. TIME OF PLEADING:** The accused may plead or make his objections to the specifications at any time prior to the date designated by the lodge to hear such plea. All objections filed shall be decided before the accused shall be required to enter his plea.

If the accused pleads guilty no evidence shall be introduced. The lodge shall then proceed to vote on punishment.

If the plea is not guilty, a trial date shall then be set unless the lodge elects to empower a Lodge Commission or if the Grand Master is petitioned for a Grand Lodge Commission, in which case the trial date shall be set by the selected commission. Regardless of the type of trial to be had, the constituent lodge shall be responsible for prosecuting and presenting the case to the trial authority during the trial proceedings.

**SECTION T 214. FAILURE TO PLEAD:** If the accused appears in person, or by counsel, at the time designated for him to plead and fails to plead or object in any manner provided, such failure shall be considered a plea of not guilty and the presiding officer shall enter such plea for the accused noting the fact upon the record. The lodge shall then proceed as if the accused had entered the plea.

**SECTION T 215. EVASION OF NOTICE:** Should the accused evade notice, or the secretary be unable after diligent inquiry to ascertain the residence of the accused so that notice may be served upon him, said cause shall be continued from one stated communication to the next for a period of time not to exceed three (3) months. At the expiration of three (3) months from the time said cause was first set for hearing the plea of the accused, he shall be conclusively presumed to have had legal and sufficient notice. The said cause shall then be set down for trial and the trial had as if notice had been regularly served. A plea of not guilty shall be entered for the accused and the Master shall appoint a brother to act in defense of the accused.

## **Trial Code - Procedures Before Trial**

**SECTION T 216. NOTIFICATION OF MEMBERS:** When the date and time for a trial has been set by the trial authority, the secretary shall then notify every member of the lodge of the time and place of trial, except when the trial is to be conducted by a Grand Lodge Commission. Sending a notice through the United States mail, the postage paid, directed to a brother at his last known address shall be deemed sufficient and legal notice.

**SECTION T 217. NOTIFICATION OF GRAND MASTER:** In all cases when the date and time for a trial has been set by the trial authority, the presiding officer shall notify the Grand Master of the same. The Grand Master shall then appoint a Trial Counselor to attend all the trial proceedings to perform those duties assigned to him by this Trial Code.

**SECTION T 218. PROCESS FOR SUMMONING WITNESSES:** At any time after the time for trial has been set, the prosecution, the defendant or his counsel may request the secretary, whose duty it shall be, to issue summons for all witnesses who are Masons residing within the territorial jurisdiction of the lodge requiring such witnesses to be present and testify in the trial. Such summons shall show upon its face in whose behalf it is issued and shall be served at least three (3) days before the time for trial by delivering a copy of same to the witness in person or leaving such copy at the residence of such witness with a member of his family above the age of 15 (fifteen) years. Upon such service being had it shall be the duty of the witness to appear and testify.

## Trial Code - Trial Procedures

### ARTICLE III - TRIAL PROCEDURES

**SECTION T 301. ATTENDANCE OF ACCUSED:** An accused brother shall have the right to be present in the trial lodge while his case is under consideration. If the accused is under a previous sentence of suspension, he shall not be allowed to be present at any other time.

**SECTION T 302. TESTIMONY BEFORE REFEREE:** If it shall be necessary to take the testimony of witnesses who are not Masons or of Masons who cannot attend in person, the presiding officer may appoint a Master Mason who is a member of a lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction in good standing, to take such testimony. The referee so appointed shall give written notice of the time and place of taking testimony at least five (5) days prior thereto, both to the prosecutor and the accused or his counsel. Such testimony so taken before a referee shall be reduced to writing and subscribed by the witness, certified by the referee and returned to the lodge and filed with the secretary by the referee.

**SECTION T 303. DEPOSITIONS:** Where the attendance of a witness can not be had, either before the lodge or the referee, his deposition may be given as required by the Statutes of Oklahoma in taking depositions in civil cases. The laws of the state shall apply and govern the taking, certification and return of such depositions. The officer taking the deposition shall return the same to the secretary of the lodge in which the case is pending.

**SECTION T 304. CONTINUANCE:** Neither the prosecution nor the defense shall be entitled to a continuance except for good and sufficient cause and upon a majority vote of the trial authority.

**SECTION T 305. TRIAL:** When testimony taken by the referee, if any, has been filed with the secretary the trial shall proceed. The charges and specifications, the notice of trial and the answer or written plea of the accused shall then be read. The prosecuting lodge shall then introduce its testimony, after which the accused or his counsel shall introduce his testimony. All testimony of Master Masons shall be taken upon their honor, but testimony of all others shall be taken under oath.

**SECTION T 306. EVIDENCE TAKEN IN COURT:** Any evidence taken by deposition or in shorthand and transcribed in any cause in any State or Federal Court wherein the accused brother was a party, or so much thereof as the prosecutor or the accused or his counsel shall deem competent, and tending either to support the charges or to disprove same may, when properly authenticated by an officer of the court or by an affidavit of the stenographer taking the same, be introduced in evidence and considered as other evidence.



## Trial Code - Trial Procedures

**SECTION T 307. GENERAL RULES OF EVIDENCE:** The laws of evidence recognized in judicial proceedings in this State, unless modified by this Code, shall govern in all examinations and shall be applied for the purpose and with the object of attaining justice and without technicality.

**SECTION T 308. OBJECTIONS TO EVIDENCE:** All objections to the introduction of evidence shall be made to the presiding officer when the same is offered and he shall overrule or sustain the objection after consultation with the Trial Counselor. Either party may have the action of the presiding officer, in admitting or excluding evidence, shown upon the record so that the same may be reviewed on appeal. If objections to a question be made and sustained, the party asking the question may state upon the record the question together with what he expects to prove by the witness, in order that same may be reviewed upon appeal.

**SECTION T 309. COMMENTS UPON EVIDENCE:** When the testimony is all in, the prosecutor and the accused may make their arguments upon the evidence. The prosecutor shall open the argument and shall fully present his case. The accused or his counsel may then present his defense, after which the argument shall be closed by the prosecution.

**SECTION T 310. TRANSCRIPT OF RECORD:** At the conclusion of any Masonic trial, three (3) copies of the transcript of the trial shall be prepared which shall contain:

- A. A copy of the charges and specifications.
- B. All notices served upon the accused and returns thereof made by the secretary.
- C. A copy of all pleas and objections to charges.
- D. Objections to testimony with the ruling of the presiding officer thereon.
- E. All evidence and testimony introduced or offered.
- F. Copies of all notations made by the secretary upon his record.

The transcript shall be certified by the Trial Counselor and attested by the secretary showing the record to be a true transcript of the charges, specifications, notices, testimony, pleas, objections to and rulings upon admissibility of evidence, and the result of such trial. One copy of the transcript shall be filed with the lodge, one given to the accused and the original shall be filed in the office of the Grand Secretary.

## **Trial Code - Trial By Lodge**

### **ARTICLE IV - TRIAL BY LODGE**

**SECTION T 401. TRIAL AT STATED OR SPECIAL MEETING:** All lodge trials shall be held at a meeting of the lodge held with due notice, opened on the highest degree to which the accused has attained. All balloting on the question of guilty or not guilty and punishment to be inflicted shall be done in a lodge of Master Masons. Only Master Masons in good standing who are members of the lodge holding such trial shall be permitted to vote.

**SECTION T 402. WHO MAY PRESIDE:** It is the duty of the Master of the lodge to preside at all trials conducted by his lodge. If the Master, by reason of relationship to the accused or interest in the subject matter of the charges, disqualifies himself, it shall be his duty to certify such fact upon the record and the District Deputy Grand Master of the District shall be notified thereof. It shall be the duty then of the District Deputy Grand Master of the District to preside and in his absence the lodge may select some Past Master of the lodge to preside at the trial.

**SECTION T 403. BALLOT BOX:** The ballot box shall be so constructed that the casting of a ballot will be secret. In preparing the ballot box, a sufficient number of both black and white balls must be in the preparation compartment of the box to accommodate the members present. In no case shall there be less than seven (7) white and seven (7) black balls in the preparation compartment. In all balloting at least seven (7) balls must be deposited in the voting compartment of the box or the ballot will not be legal.

**SECTION T 404. VOTE ON SPECIFICATIONS:** At the close of the arguments upon the evidence, the accused shall be required to withdraw from the lodge room after which no further argument may be had. All members present shall be required to vote upon the question of guilt. A vote by ball ballot shall be taken upon each specification under each charge in their order. Black balls shall be cast to sustain the specification and it shall take a majority vote to convict. If the accused is found guilty on any of the specifications, the presiding officer shall declare the accused guilty of the charge. No vote shall be taken upon any specification to which the accused pleads guilty.

If the accused is found not guilty on all specifications, it shall be so noted on the record and no further discussion shall be had. The lodge shall then be closed and the accused informed of his acquittal.

**SECTION T 405. VOTE ON PENALTY:** Once the determination of guilt has been established, the lodge shall forthwith proceed to vote

### **Trial Code - Trial By Lodge**

upon the punishment to be imposed. Such punishment shall be commensurate with the offense committed as shown by the evidence. All members present shall be required to vote. The vote will be taken by ball ballot on each punishment, black balls to sustain the punishment and white balls against, in the order as listed. The balloting shall continue until a punishment is sustained by a majority vote or the list is exhausted.

- A. Expulsion.
- B. Indefinite Suspension.
- C. Definite Suspension for three (3) years.
- D. Definite Suspension for two (2) years.
- E. Definite Suspension for one (1) year.
- F. Definite Suspension for six (6) months.
- G. Definite Suspension for three (3) months.

If none of the above punishments are sustained, no further balloting shall be had and the Master shall declare the punishment to be a reprimand.

**SECTION T 406. JUDGMENT AND SENTENCE:** When the result is obtained, the accused shall be admitted to the lodge and informed thereof and the sentence shall go into immediate effect. If the punishment is that of a reprimand then the presiding officer, or some brother appointed by him, shall at once administer the reprimand in open lodge.

**SECTION T 407. NOTIFICATION TO OTHER LODGES:** If the accused be a member of another Oklahoma lodge, and the Grand Lodge validates the expulsion or suspension for unmasonic conduct, the same punishment shall be binding upon such lodge. Grand Lodge will communicate such results to all other lodges of which the brother is a member, as well as any other recognized bodies listed in Article VIII of the Constitution and Laws. When a brother is known to be a member of another jurisdiction, that jurisdiction will also be informed.

**Trial Code - Trial By Lodge Commission**

**ARTICLE V - TRIAL BY LODGE COMMISSION**

**SECTION T 501. TRIAL BEFORE COMMISSION:** The lodge, by majority vote, may determine that the trial shall be had before a commission. Upon such determination being had it shall be the duty of the Master to appoint a commission consisting of three (3) fair minded, discreet and experienced Master Masons who are members of that lodge who shall constitute such commission, one of whom the Master shall designate as its chairman.

**SECTION T 502. QUALIFICATIONS OF COMMITTEEMEN:** No brother shall be required or permitted to serve upon such commission if he is related to the accused by blood or by marriage, or has any personal or pecuniary interest in the subject matter of the charges.

**SECTION T 503. POWERS OF COMMISSION:** Such commission shall fix the time and place of taking the testimony. Notice thereof shall be given the accused as if the trial were to be held in open lodge. Summons shall be issued for witnesses and their attendance be required before such commission the same as if the trial were had in open lodge. Depositions taken and record evidence shall be introduced before such commission and shall be attached to and become a part of the transcript. The commission may adjourn the time for taking testimony from time to time as may be required. When all testimony has been taken, the commission shall prepare its findings of fact, conclusions of law and its recommendation as to the innocence or guilt of the accused and present the same to the lodge.

**SECTION T 504. TRIAL ON COMMISSION REPORT:** At a stated or special meeting of the lodge which has been designated for the purpose, and notice of which has been given to the accused, the report returned by the Commission shall be read in open lodge.

**SECTION T 505. COMMENTS UPON EVIDENCE:** After the report of the Commission is read, the prosecutor and the accused may make their arguments upon the evidence. The prosecutor shall open the argument and shall fully present his case. The accused or his counsel may then present his defense, after which the argument shall be closed by the prosecution. The lodge shall then follow the procedures specified in Section T 403 and subsequent sections in Article IV.

**Trial Code - Trial By Grand Lodge Commission**

**ARTICLE VI - TRIAL BY GRAND LODGE COMMISSION**

**SECTION T 601. PURPOSES OF COMMISSION:** The purpose of the Grand Lodge Commission is to preserve harmony and tranquility within the lodge which is often disturbed by a lodge trial, and to insure the accused of a fair and impartial trial at all times. However, the operation of the powers and jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge Commission form of trial herein specified shall not be construed to affect or limit in any manner the rights and privileges of a constituent lodge to exercise all of its powers in the trial of its members.

**SECTION T 602. PROCEDURE IN FILING CHARGES:** The procedure for bringing charges against a brother shall be precisely the same as if the trial were to be held in the constituent lodge and the form and directions in preparing, filing and presenting charges against a brother shall be carefully observed as precisely related in this Trial Code for holding a constituent lodge trial.

**SECTION T 603. SECURING GRAND LODGE COMMISSION:** After the accused has pleaded to the charge or charges against him, the lodge by a majority vote of those present, the accused, the Master and one Warden, the District Deputy Grand Master of the District, or any five members of said lodge wherein charges are filed may petition the Grand Master to appoint a Grand Lodge Commission to hear the evidence and take the testimony in the case.

**SECTION T 604. APPOINTMENT OF GRAND LODGE COMMISSION:** When the Grand Master is petitioned to appoint a Grand Lodge Commission, a copy of the charges and specifications shall accompany the petition, certified by the secretary of the lodge filing the charges, unless the action of the Grand Master is invoked by a brother under the provisions of section T 201. It shall be the duty of the Grand Master to carefully examine the charges and specifications, and if they constitute an offense against the laws of Freemasonry and he determines that it is for the best interest of Masonry he shall appoint a commission to hear the testimony and take the evidence in the case.

The Grand Lodge Commission shall consist of three (3) fair minded, discreet and experienced Master Masons, one of whom shall be designated by the Grand Master to serve as chairman of the commission.

**SECTION T 605. QUALIFICATIONS OF COMMISSIONERS:** No brother shall be appointed or permitted to serve upon such a commission if he is related to the accused by blood or by marriage, or who has any personal or pecuniary interest in the subject matter of the charges.

**SECTION T 606. POWERS OF THE COMMISSION:** After the Grand Master has appointed the members of the commission, the chairman of said commission shall hold a preliminary meeting, if needed, with the other members of

## **Trial Code - Trial By Grand Lodge Commission**

the commission, the prosecutor, the defendant and the Pre-trial Advisor as soon as practical. The Grand Lodge Commission shall then notify the lodge filing the charges of the time and place where the trial shall be had. It will be the duty of the lodge to serve notice on the accused. Said notice shall be served not less than 20 (twenty) days prior to the date of trial, together with a copy of the charges and specifications, stating the date and place of the trial.

It will also be the duty of the lodge to summon all witnesses. Persons not members of the Masonic fraternity may be summoned as witnesses before the Grand Lodge Commission. Where it is necessary to take depositions, the lodge shall secure the same in the manner specified in this Trial Code.

**SECTION T 607. DEPOSITIONS AND RECORD EVIDENCE:** Depositions taken and record evidence may be introduced before the commission and shall be attached to and become a part of the transcript. The commission may continue the time for taking testimony from time to time as may be required.

**SECTION T 608. RECORD AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO GRAND MASTER:** After the testimony and evidence have been presented in full to the commission, it shall prepare and submit its findings of fact and conclusions of law, to the Grand Master, together with its recommendation as to the innocence or guilt of the accused; and if guilty, its recommendation as to the punishment which, in their judgment, should be imposed upon the accused.

**SECTION T 609. ACTION BY GRAND MASTER:** The Grand Master shall carefully examine the transcript and recommendations of the Grand Lodge Commission. If in his judgment, its recommendations as to the guilt or innocence of the accused is sustained by the record the same shall be affirmed by him. If, in the judgment of the Grand Master, the recommendations of the Grand Lodge Commission are not just and proper, he is hereby empowered to set aside their recommendation and to render such judgment as he may deem proper.

The Grand Master shall enter his final judgment in the case and mail the same to the accused at his last known post office address by registered mail, and a copy of the same shall be mailed to the lodge, with notice to the lodge to enter the proper record on its books in accordance with said final decree of the Grand Master.

## **Trial Code - Trial Assistance**

### **ARTICLE VII - TRIAL ASSISTANCE**

**SECTION T 701. PRE-TRIAL ADVISOR:** The Master or an aggrieved brother may call upon the Grand Master to appoint a Pre-trial Advisor as an advisor in any matter which may lead to a Masonic trial. The Grand Master shall also appoint a Pre-trial Advisor to all Grand Lodge Commissions to assist and advise them in all pre-trial procedures. It shall be the duty of the Pre-trial Advisor:

- A. To guide and advise the lodge and/or an aggrieved brother in Masonic law and trial procedures.
- B. To ensure compliance with Masonic law.
- C. To safeguard the rights of the accused and the accuser.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the power of the Grand Master to appoint any brother by whatever title to investigate and assist in any matter in which the harmony and tranquility of the Masonic fraternity has been disturbed.

**SECTION T 702. TRIAL COUNSELOR:** When the Grand Master is notified that a trial is in progress, it shall be his duty to appoint a Trial Counselor who must be versed on Masonic law, trial procedures and the Oklahoma Rules of Evidence. The Trial Counselor cannot be the brother who served as the Pre-trial Advisor in the same case. It shall be the duty of the Trial Counselor:

- A. To attend all trial proceedings to which he has been assigned.
- B. To observe the trial to ensure compliance with Masonic law.
- C. To advise the presiding officer concerning issues of Masonic law and the admissibility of evidence.
- D. To secure adequate personnel to take and transcribe the testimony and evidence in the case.
- E. To prepare and disseminate the transcript of the trial as outlined in Section T 310.

The Trial Counselor shall not have a vote nor shall he attempt to influence the members of the trial authority in determining guilt or innocence of the accused or the punishment imposed in the event the accused is found guilty.

Trial Code - Objections, Pleas and Defenses

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## Trial Code - Objections, Pleas and Defenses

### ARTICLE VIII - OBJECTIONS, PLEAS AND DEFENSES

**SECTION T 801. OBJECTION TO SPECIFICATION:** An objection to a specification is a statement in writing signed by the accused or by his counsel which has been filed with the secretary, or stated by them to the trial authority. The objection shall be entered into the record stating that the accused objects to the specification on the ground of one of the following reasons:

- A. That he has never been a member of the Fraternity.
- B. That he is now under sentence of expulsion.
- C. That he has previously been convicted or acquitted in a lodge having jurisdiction upon a charge based upon the same facts set out in the specifications. The only proof of such conviction or acquittal sufficient shall be an original record or certified transcript of the proceedings in which such conviction or acquittal was had, if the record is in existence and obtainable. If such record is not obtainable, then other proof thereof may be given.
- D. That the specification does not state a Masonic offense.
- E. That the specifications are not sufficiently definite to apprise the accused of what he is charged so that he may properly defend himself.

All objections shall be stated by the presiding officer by asking: "Brethren, do you sustain the objection to the specification?" The objection may be debated but must be decided by the lodge members by a show of hands and a majority vote. If the objection is not sustained, the accused must plead to the specifications at once unless for good reasons the time is extended. If the objection is sustained, the specification shall be dismissed by order of the presiding officer; provided, that if the objection is to the sufficiency of the specification or that the specification does not state a Masonic offense then the prosecution may be required to amend the specifications so as to properly satisfy the objection.

**SECTION T 802. PLEA:** Any specification to which there is not an objection or to which an objection is not sustained must be answered by the plea of the accused. A plea is a statement by the accused or his counsel in writing and filed with the secretary or stated to the trial authority and entered upon the record. The plea must be either "not guilty" or "guilty." Counsel appointed to defend an absent brother shall not be permitted to enter a plea of guilty unless authorized to do so by the defendant in writing.

**SECTION T 803. PLEA OF LIMITATION:** There is no limit as to the time in which a trial may be had for a Masonic offense; hence no plea of limitation can be permitted.

## **Trial Code - Appeals**

### **ARTICLE IX - APPEALS**

**SECTION T 901. INTERIM ACTION BEFORE APPEAL:** In all cases of conviction and punishment, and an appeal is made to the Grand Lodge, the judgment shall be held in abeyance until acted upon by the Grand Lodge.

**SECTION T 902. WHO MAY APPEAL:** When a Mason has been subjected to Masonic discipline, the accused, the lodge of which he was a member or any five (5) members of the lodge concurring may appeal from the decision and judgment of the lodge or Grand Master to the Grand Lodge. In the event of an appeal, the party appealing shall so notify the opposite party at the time of filing the appeal.

**SECTION T 903. HOW TO APPEAL:** In order to appeal, a notice in writing shall be filed with the Grand Secretary clearly stating the action complained of, the name and number of the lodge in which the charge was filed, and the punishment inflicted. Such notice must be filed within 60 (sixty) days from the date of the judgment on which the appeal is based. The appeal, with a copy of the transcript of the original trial, shall be referred to the committee on Appeals and Grievances for consideration at the next session of the Grand Lodge. In order for an appeal to be considered at the ensuing meeting of the Grand Lodge the notice of appeal must be filed with the Grand Secretary at least 30 (thirty) days before the meeting of the Grand Lodge. Otherwise, the appeal may lie over until the next annual communication of the Grand Lodge.

**SECTION T 904. REPORT OF APPEALS COMMITTEE:** The committee on Appeals and Grievances shall prepare and present a report concerning such appeal to the Grand Lodge at its next annual communication. The report must include the following:

- A. The full name(s) of the appellant(s).
- B. The name(s) and number(s) of the lodge(s) of which the appellant is a member.
- C. The name and number of the lodge in which the charges were filed.
- D. Each charge, and the specifications thereunder, that are related to the appeal.
- E. The manner of trial, whether by constituent lodge trial or Grand Lodge Commission.
- F. The punishment inflicted.

## Trial Code - Appeals

- G. The recommendations of the committee together with the facts upon which their recommendations are based.

**SECTION T 905. DECISION BY GRAND LODGE:** A vote shall be had on each separate appeal, if more than one (1), and it shall require a majority vote of the Grand Lodge delegates to either accept or reject the recommendations of the committee on Appeals and Grievances.

In all cases of appeals, the Grand Lodge may dismiss, affirm, reverse, acquit, reform the judgment or penalty, or both, or it may order a new trial.

## **Trial Code - Restoration**

### **ARTICLE X - RESTORATION**

**SECTION T 1001. RESTORATION FROM DEFINITE SUSPENSION:** A brother who is under a sentence of definite suspension is restored to all his former rights and privileges as a Mason at the completion of his sentence only after he has complied with Section T 1006.

**SECTION T 1002. RESTORATION AFTER COURT SENTENCE:** A Mason who has been suspended under the provisions of Section T 109 will not be eligible to apply for restoration until 12 (twelve) months have expired after the termination of his penal sentence. After that time he may apply for restoration to his lodge according to the provisions of Section T 1003.

**SECTION T 1003. RESTORATION AFTER JUDGMENT BY CONSTITUENT LODGE:** A Mason who has been subjected to Masonic discipline by a constituent lodge may apply to the lodge inflicting the penalty for restoration. An application in writing, clearly stating the offense for which he is serving sentence and other matters pertaining to his having his rights and privileges as a Mason restored to him, shall be filed with the secretary of the lodge who shall read it at the next stated communication. The Master shall appoint a committee of three (3) Master Masons to make investigation into the matter. The committee shall report at the next stated communication after the reading of the application unless granted further time. Upon the report of the committee at the stated meeting set, the lodge shall vote by ball ballot upon such application for restoration. If the ballot is clear then after the brother has complied with Section T 1006, the brother shall at once be restored to all his former rights and privileges.

If the application is rejected, he may again apply for restoration at the end of three (3) years.

**SECTION T 1004. RESTORATION AFTER JUDGMENT BY GRAND LODGE:** A Mason who has been subjected to Masonic discipline through a Grand Lodge Commission may apply to the Grand Lodge for restoration. An application in writing, clearly stating the offense for which he is serving sentence and other matters pertaining to his having his rights and privileges as a Mason restored to him, shall be filed with the Grand Secretary, who shall notify the lodge filing the original charges. If the application for restoration is filed with the Grand Secretary less than 30 (thirty) days prior to the annual communication of the Grand Lodge, action on said application may lie over until the next annual communication of the Grand Lodge.

## **Trial Code - Restoration**

The Grand Master shall refer the application of the one under discipline to the committee on Appeals and Grievances and this committee shall report to the Grand Lodge with their recommendations. Whereupon, the Grand Lodge shall take action and vote, by a show of hands, on such application for restoration.

If the applicant is under a sentence of definite suspension, it shall take a majority vote of the Grand Lodge to restore his rights and privileges as a Mason.

If he is under sentence of indefinite suspension, it shall take a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Grand Lodge to restore.

If he is under sentence of expulsion, it shall take an unanimous vote of the Grand Lodge to restore.

If the brother is restored, he must comply with Section T 1006 before the restoration is effective. If the brother is rejected, he may again apply for restoration at the end of three (3) years, unless the brother is under a sentence of definite suspension in which case he may apply again in one (1) year.

**SECTION T 1005. RESTORATION BY GRAND LODGE:** No action taken by the Grand Lodge shall restore the applicant to membership in the constituent lodge of which he was a member at the time of his sentence.

**SECTION T 1006. RESTORATION FEES:** After a brother has been restored to membership under any of the provisions of Article X of this Trial Code, he shall be required to comply with this section before his restoration is effective.

If the original sentence was imposed by a constituent lodge, he shall pay \$100 (one hundred dollars) and the current year's dues of his lodge to the secretary of his lodge. Upon such payment the brother shall be restored to all his former rights and privileges as a Mason without further action of the lodge.

If the original sentence was imposed by a Grand Lodge Commission, he shall pay to the Grand Secretary a fee of \$100 (one hundred dollars) and the current year's dues as stated in Section 504 of the Constitution and Laws, the same as a member of a defunct lodge. Such funds shall be credited to the General Fund of the Grand Lodge. The Grand Secretary shall then issue a certificate of good standing to the brother which will enable him to apply for affiliation with a constituent lodge.

**Sample Trial Forms**

**CHARGES AND SPECIFICATIONS**

Charge No. \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_

Be it known that having reasonable ground to believe a Masonic offense has been committed, \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_, A.F. and A.M., does herein accuse the Brother identified below with the charge of \_\_\_\_\_.

THE ACCUSED:

Brother: \_\_\_\_\_ Degree: \_\_\_\_\_  
                    First                                      Middle                                      Last

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Business)

Lodge: \_\_\_\_\_  
                    Name                                      No.                                      City                                      State

SPECIFICATIONS: The following specifications are offered in support of the above charge. Additional commentary and/or specifications may be prepared in the same format and attached hereto.

SPECIFICATION NO. 1:

Date of Occurrence: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation of Occurrence: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SPECIFICATION NO. 2:

Date of Occurrence: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation of Occurrence: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sample Trial Forms**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
WITNESSES: The following witnesses can attest to the validity and substance of the above Specification(s):

| Name  | Address | Phone | Degree/Profane |
|-------|---------|-------|----------------|
| _____ | _____   | _____ | _____          |
| _____ | _____   | _____ | _____          |
| _____ | _____   | _____ | _____          |
| _____ | _____   | _____ | _____          |
| _____ | _____   | _____ | _____          |

Charges Prepared By: \_\_\_\_\_

CERTIFICATION: This is to certify that the foregoing charges have been properly filed and read at a stated meeting of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_ A.F. and A.M., held at \_\_\_\_\_, Oklahoma, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ and the same so recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Lodge this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

Lodge Seal \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary \_\_\_\_\_  
Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_

Sample Trial Forms

NOTIFICATION OF TRIAL

To Brother \_\_\_\_\_:

You are hereby notified that a stated communication of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_ A.F. and A.M. of Oklahoma, held at \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, charges were filed against you for un-Masonic conduct, a true copy of which is attached hereto and that you are required to answer thereto on or before the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ (a full twenty days after the service of this notice), by placing on file with the secretary of said Lodge any objections you may have to the specification(s). And if you have no such objections, then in the same time you must plead to each specification with one of the following pleas: 1st, that you are not guilty of the offense; or, 2nd, that you are guilty of the offense. And you are further notified that at such time after you have entered your plea, a date shall be set for the trial on such specifications. And you are further notified to appear at said time in person or by counsel, or by your written communication, and make defense to said specification(s) if you so desire.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Lodge this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

Lodge Seal

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary  
\_\_\_\_\_Lodge No.\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip



**Sample Trial Forms**

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# Masonic Charity Foundation

## MASONIC CHARITY FOUNDATION

### of Oklahoma

**1. ORGANIZATION:** The Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma was created and authorized by action of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M., of the State of Oklahoma February 12, 1930, and was incorporated July 9, 1930.

**2. PURPOSES:** The Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma was created, incorporated and organized as a holding company for the particular purpose of receiving, segregating and securing proper and efficient management, control and use of such donations, gifts and bequests as are properly intended for the financial support of our Masonic Homes and Masonic relief, and for the further purpose of encouraging charity, benevolence, education and philanthropy; and of securing greater uniformity of purpose, powers and duties of administration in the management and control of property given, devised, or bequeathed for charitable, benevolent, educational or philanthropic purposes.

**3. MEMBERSHIP:** The membership of the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma shall be composed of twenty one Master Masons who are members in good standing in Oklahoma Lodges of the State of Oklahoma, and one woman who shall be a member in good standing in an Oklahoma Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star; all of whom shall serve said Corporation without compensation, except necessary traveling expenses when upon official business of the Foundation, as follows:

- A. Fifteen qualified Master Masons shall be elected to represent the Grand Lodge, three each for terms of one, two, three, four and five years, respectively, and at each succeeding Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, there shall be elected three members of said corporation for terms of five years each.
- B. And the following shall be elected by their respective Grand Bodies for terms of three years each:
  - (a) One member to represent the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma.
  - (b) One member to represent the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Oklahoma.
  - (c) One member to represent the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar, of Oklahoma.
  - (d) One member to represent the Oklahoma Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star.
  - (e) One member of the Guthrie Lodge of Perfection, to represent the A. & A.S.R. of Freemasonry of the Valley of Guthrie, Orient of Oklahoma.
  - (f) One member of McAlester Lodge of Perfection, to represent the A. & A.S.R. of Freemasonry of the Valley of South McAlester, Orient of Oklahoma

## Masonic Charity Foundation

- (g) One member of Tulsa Lodge of Perfection, to represent the A. & A.S.R. of Freemasonry of the Valley of Tulsa, Orient of Oklahoma.

**4. ADVISORY MEMBERS:** The following shall by virtue of their respective offices, be Advisory Members of this Corporation, but without the right to vote or hold any office therein:

- A. The Grand Master of Oklahoma.
- B. The Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Oklahoma.
- C. The Thrice Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Oklahoma.
- D. The Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Oklahoma.
- E. The Worthy Grand Matron of the Oklahoma Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star.
- F. The Sovereign Grand Inspector General of the A. & A.S.R. of Oklahoma.

**5. BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** The members of the Corporation shall constitute the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors shall make and adopt suitable Bylaws for the government of said corporation; elect, and, for cause, remove the officers, fill official vacancies, and conduct the business and other affairs of the corporation.

**6. OFFICERS:** The Officers shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer, a Secretary and such subordinate officers as may be provided from time to time by the Board of Directors. The terms of office shall be for one year unless a different term be specified in the adopted Bylaws. Any officer may be removed for cause by the Board of Directors, said cause to be determined by a majority vote of the directors. Vacancy in any office shall be filled by the Board of Directors.

**7. OBJECTS:** The objects of said corporation shall be to encourage charity, benevolence, education and philanthropy; to secure greater uniformity of purposes, power and duties of administration in the management and control of property given, devised or bequeathed for charitable, benevolent, educational or philanthropic purposes; to accept any lawful trust created by will, insurance or otherwise, for any special or general purpose within the objects of said corporation; to receive donations, annuities and endowments of real and personal property, and to hold and use the same, both as to principal, and income, and to invest and reinvest the same, or any parts thereof, for the furtherance of the objects, interests or purposes of this corporation; to borrow money when necessary for the purposes of the corporation and issue the corporation's notes or obligations therefore, and secure the payment therefore in accordance with law; to act as guardian of the persons and estates of minor or incompetent inmates of any Masonic Institution, and as Executor or Administrator of Estates of deceased inmates of such Masonic Institutions; to exercise such power and control and perform all such acts as may seem proper and necessary to carry out the full purpose and intent of this corporation.

## **Masonic Charity Foundation**

From the time of the receipt of any property available for the uses of such Charity Foundation, the principal or income, or both, less proper charges and expenses, shall be devoted to such Masonic charitable, benevolent, educational or philanthropic purposes as may be respectively designated by the donors; otherwise as the directors or their successors may determine and direct as herein provided.

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