

ACTS OF INCORPORATION

Acts of Incorporation

AN ACT

To incorporate the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Alabama, and the Subordinate Lodges under its jurisdiction.

Section 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Alabama, in General Assembly convened*, That R. H. Ervin, S. F. Hale, H. S. Shelton and J. A. Whitaker, and their successors in office, be, and they are hereby incorporated by the name of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Alabama; and by that name shall have capacity to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, in any and all of the courts of this State, to contract and be contracted with, to have a common seal and to alter the same at pleasure; and the said Grand Lodge, through its four principal officers, shall have perpetual succession, and may grant dispensations and charters to Subordinate Lodges, to be subject to and under its Masonic Jurisdiction and make, ordain and establish its Constitution, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations, not inconsistent with the Constitution or laws of this State, or of the United States, and may acquire, hold and enjoy so much real estate as may be necessary for the erection of proper buildings and offices, not to exceed ten acres, for carrying on and conducting its business, and the erection of its lodge rooms may erect store rooms or offices in the lower stories thereof, and rent out the same and collect rent, and hold or loan the same out as the said Grand Lodge may desire, subject to the regulations hereinafter prescribed.

Sec. 2. *Be it further enacted*, That said Grand Lodge shall have power to collect its revenue, and to apply the same according to

the ancient customs of the Order, or may loan out the same for the purpose of aiding in benevolent enterprises, or for the purpose of accumulation; Provided, that the funds in money or choses in action shall not exceed in available assets the sum of fifty thousand dollars at any time, and shall not be loaned upon usurious interest, nor shall the funds or accretions thereof be used otherwise than for the payment of the expenses of said Grand Lodge and for charitable purposes; and being thus set apart, the same shall not be liable to taxation.

Sec. 3. *Be it further enacted*, That all contracts made, or obligations assumed heretofore, which are not inconsistent with the laws of the land, by said Grand Lodge, under the former Act of Incorporation of said Grand Lodge, passed June the 16th, 1821, or Acts amendatory hereof, be and the same are hereby made valid and binding upon said Grand Lodge as organized under this charter and the acceptance of this charter by resolution of said Grand Lodge shall be all that is required to complete its organization under the same.

Sec. 4. *Be it further enacted*, That the principal officers of each Subordinate Lodge, under the jurisdiction of the said Grand Lodge, and their successors in office, be and the same are hereby created a body politic and corporate, so far as to enable them, for each of their respective Lodges, to receive, hold and enjoy, possess and retain property, both real and personal, not exceeding in value the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars, and to sell, alien or lease the same in any manner deemed advisable by said Subordinate Lodges, and which said Subordinate Lodges shall be and hereby are incorporated by the name specified in the charter or dispensation granted by the said Grand Lodge to each of them respectively. which said charters or dispensations, whether granted heretofore or hereafter by said Grand Lodge, shall be evidence of the fact of incorporation under this act in any court of this State without further proof, and by such name said Subordinate Lodges may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, and do all things enjoined by the said Grand Lodge, not inconsistent with the Constitution or laws of the land, and with the scope and purview

of the powers hereby conferred upon said Grand Lodge; and the said Subordinate Lodges respectively shall retain their said corporate powers so long as the said Grand Lodge shall continue their respective charters or dispensations, but shall cease to possess any corporate existence when the charter or dispensation shall have been revoked or taken away by said Grand Lodge; and all the effects of such Subordinate Lodge as may forfeit its charter or dispensation shall belong to the said Grand Lodge, and each Subordinate Lodge shall have the same powers with respect to its assets as are conferred by the second section of this Act upon the Grand Lodge.

Sec. 5. *Be it further enacted*, That the said Grand Lodge, and each Subordinate Lodge under its jurisdiction shall have respectively power to receive by gift, grant, contract, devise or donation by will, subscription or otherwise, any personal or real estate, not exceeding in value the sum hereinabove mentioned as the maximum of their assets respectively; and shall have the power to sell, alien, or dispose of the same; and that no such gift, grant, contract or devise or donation by will, subscription or otherwise, shall fail by reason of any misconception in the name of such corporation, and that all contracts or agreements which may have been lawfully entered into by said Subordinate Lodges under their organization heretofore shall be binding upon them in their several corporate capacities under this Act; and the same may be enforced by them respectively, and the property and effects owned by them, being dedicated to charitable purposes only, shall be exempt from taxation.

Sec. 6. *Be it further enacted*, That this Act shall be deemed and taken as a public Act, and notice thereof shall be taken in all the courts of justice and elsewhere in this State, and shall be given in evidence on any trial of any issue or cause, without special pleading.

Sec. 7. *Be it further enacted*, That all laws and parts of laws contravening the provisions of this Act be and the same are hereby repealed.

JOHN D. RATHER,
President of the Senate.
A. B. MEEK,
Speaker.
Approved December 9, 1859.
A. B. Moore
See Acts 1859-60 p. 458

At the Annual Communication in 1859, this Act of incorporation was formally accepted by Grand Lodge. See Proceedings of Grand Lodge 1859, page 88.

On March 15, 1875, sections 1, 2 and 5 of this Act were amended by the Legislature so as to read as follows:

Section 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Alabama,* That R. H. Ervin, S. F. Hale, H. S. Shelton and J. A. Whitaker and their successors in office be and they are hereby incorporated by the name of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Alabama, and by that name shall have capacity to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded in any and all of the courts of this State, to contract and be contracted with, to have a common seal, and to alter the same at pleasure, and the said Grand Lodge, through its four principals shall have perpetual succession, and may grant dispensations and charters to Subordinate Lodges, to be subject to and under its Masonic jurisdiction, and make, ordain and establish its Constitution, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations not inconsistent with the Constitution or laws of this State or of the United States, and may acquire, purchase, hold and enjoy real estate, not to exceed ten acres in quantity and two hundred thousand dollars in value, for carrying on and conducting its business; may rent out any store rooms or offices in the lower stories of the buildings which may have been erected on such real estate, or which the said Grand Lodge may erect thereon, and collect the rent; and for the purpose of purchasing such real estate and buildings the said Grand Lodge shall have power to borrow money; issue bonds therefor, and execute a mortgage on any property it may own to

secure the same, and may hold or loan out any money derived from the renting of its store rooms and offices or otherwise, as the said Grand Lodge may desire, subject to the regulations hereinafter prescribed.

Sec. 2. *Be it further enacted*, That said Grand Lodge shall have power to collect its revenue and apply the same according to the ancient customs of the Order; or may loan out the same for the purpose of aiding in benevolent enterprises or for the purpose of accumulation: Provided, That the money of said Grand Lodge shall not be loaned upon usurious interest, nor shall the funds or accretions thereof be used otherwise than for the payment of the expenses of said Grand Lodge and for charitable purposes, and being thus set apart, the same shall not be liable to taxation.

Sec. 5. *Be it further enacted*, That the said Grand Lodge and each Subordinate Lodge under its jurisdiction shall have, respectively, power to receive by gift, grant, contract, devise or donation, by will or otherwise, any personal or real estate not exceeding in value the sum of two hundred thousand dollars, as the maximum of their assets respectively, and shall have power to sell, alien or dispose of the same, and that no such gift, grant, contract or devise or donations by will, subscription or otherwise shall fail by reason of any misconception in the name of such corporation, and that all contracts or agreements which may have been lawfully entered into by said Subordinate Lodges under their organization heretofore shall be binding upon them in their several corporate capacities under this Act, and that the same may be enforced by them respectively, and the property and effects owned by them being dedicated to charitable purposes only shall be exempt from taxation.

Sec. 2. *Be it further enacted*, That all laws and parts of laws of a general or special character conflicting with the provisions of this Act be and the same are hereby repealed.

Approved March 17, 1875

“Act amended in 1911 to increase real estate to 500 acres and \$500,000.00 in value and personal property of \$50,000.00 value.” Amendment filed with Secretary of State November 25, 1911 and recorded in Corporation Record, Volume H, Page 579.

Each Probate Judge, Sheriff, and the Clerk and Register of the Circuit Court is required by law to preserve this slip or pamphlet in a book kept in his office until the Act is published in permanent form.

ALABAMA LAW

(Fourth Special Session, 1950)

Act No. 2H. 2 Beck Martin

AN ACT

To amend sections 1, 2 and 5 of Act No. 317, approved December 9, 1859, entitled “An Act To Incorporate the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Alabama and the subordinate Lodges under its jurisdiction”, as amended.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Alabama:

Section 1. Sections 1, 2 and 5 of Act 317, approved December 9, 1859, entitled “An Act To Incorporate the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Alabama and the subordinate Lodges under its jurisdiction”, as amended, are amended to read:

Section 1. R. H. Ervin, S. F. Hales, H. S. Shelton and J. A. Whitaker, and their successors in office, are hereby incorporated by the name of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Alabama, and by that name

shall have capacity to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, in any and all of the courts of this State, to contract and be contracted with, to have a common seal, and to alter the same at pleasure, and the said Grand Lodge, through its four principal officers, shall have perpetual succession, and may grant dispensations and charters to subordinate Lodges, to be subject to and under its masonic jurisdiction and make, ordain and establish its constitution, by-laws, rules and regulations, not inconsistent with the constitution or laws of this State or of the United States, and may acquire, purchase, hold and enjoy so much real estate as may be necessary for the erection of proper buildings and offices for the carrying on and conducting its business, may rent out any store, rooms or offices in the lower stories of the buildings which may have been erected on such real estate, or which the said Grand lodge may erect thereon, and collect the rent, and for the purpose of purchasing such real estate and buildings, the said Grand lodge shall have power to borrow money, issue its bond therefor and execute a mortgage on any property it may own to secure the same, and may hold or loan out any money derived from the renting of its store rooms and offices or otherwise as the said Grand Lodge may desire, subject to the regulations hereinafter prescribed.

Section 2. That said Grand Lodge shall have power to collect its revenue, and to apply the same according to the ancient customs of the Order, or may loan out the same for the purpose of aiding in benevolent enterprises, or for the purpose of accumulation; provided the fund in money or choses in action shall not be loaned upon usurious interest, nor shall the funds or accretions thereof be used otherwise than for the payment of the expenses of said Grand Lodge and for charitable purposes and being thus set apart, the same shall not be liable to taxation.

Section 5. The said Grand Lodge and each subordinate Lodge under its jurisdiction, shall have, respectively, power to receive by gift, grant, contract, devise or donation by will, or otherwise, any personal or real estate and shall have power to sell, alien or dispose of the same, and no such gift, grant, contract or devise, or

donation by will, subscription, or otherwise shall fail by reason of any misconception in the name of such corporation, and all contracts or agreements which may have been lawfully entered into by said subordinate Lodges under their organization heretofore shall be binding upon them in their several corporate capacities under this Act, and the same may be enforced by them respectively, and the property and effects owned by them, when dedicated to charitable purposes; shall be exempt from taxation.

Section 2. All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

Section 3. This Act shall become effective immediately upon its passage and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.

Approved August 10, 1950.

Time: 11:27 A.M.

I hereby certify that the foregoing copy of an Act of the Legislature of Alabama has been compared with the enrolled Act and it is a true and correct copy thereof.

Given under my hand this 14th day of August, 1950.

R. T. GOODWYN, JR.

Clerk of the House

CONSTITUTION**of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of
F. & A. M. of Alabama**

ARTICLE I**THE GRAND LODGE**

SECTION 1. This Grand Lodge shall be styled “THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE STATE OF ALABAMA”. [before 1933]

SEC. 2. The Grand Lodge shall consist and be composed of a Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, Grand Chaplain, Grand Orator, Grand Marshal, Grand Historian, Senior Grand Deacon, Junior Grand Deacon, Grand Stewards, Grand Tiler and Deputy Grand Tiler, together with the Masters, Wardens or their proxies duly constituted and Secretaries of the Chartered Lodges under its jurisdiction and such Past Grand Masters, Past Deputy Grand Masters, Past Grand Wardens, Past Grand Treasurers and Past Grand Secretaries as shall be present and are members of a subordinate chartered Lodge.

SEC. 3. Whenever the Worshipful Master or Wardens of any Lodge, or either of them, shall be unable to attend the Communication of the Grand Lodge, they, or either of them, who cannot attend, may depute any member of their own Lodge as a proxy to represent their Lodge in the Grand Lodge, and the proxy so deputed shall be entitled to the same privileges and perform the same duties of him or them deputing him; such deputation shall be in writing, signed by the person deputing him, attested by the Secretary, sealed with the Seal of the Lodge, and shall be after the form prescribed by law and hereto appended. [before 1933]

SEC. 4. The Grand Lodge shall be holden on Tuesday after the third Monday in November at (9) a.m. annually at The City of Montgomery, but Special Communications may be ordered by the Grand Master or in his absence or disability to act, by the Deputy Grand Master with the concurrence of the Grand Wardens, at such time and place as in their opinion the good of Masonry may require, provided that except for the conduct of funerals, Lodge dedications and the laying of cornerstones, every Lodge under the jurisdiction shall be notified at least thirty days previously of the time and place of holding such communication.

SEC. 5. Representatives from one-third of all subordinate Lodges under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; should the requisite number fail to attend for three days, then those in attendance shall meet on the evening of the third day at the place designated for the meeting of the Grand Lodge and shall adjourn to some day within two months next thereafter; and the Grand Master, or some person duly authorized by those in attendance, shall immediately cause notice to be given in writing to every Subordinate Lodge in his jurisdiction, requiring their attendance at the time specified by the order of adjournment, and so soon as the requisite number to constitute a quorum are in attendance, the Grand Lodge shall be opened and proceed to transact any business that may legitimately come before it. [before 1933]

SEC. 6. The Grand Lodge has original and exclusive jurisdiction over all subjects of Masonic legislation, and appellate jurisdiction only from the decisions of the subordinate Lodges; and its enactments and decisions upon all questions shall be the supreme Masonic law of the State. It shall prescribe such rules and regulations for the government of subordinate Lodges as will, in its judgment, conduce to the welfare, prosperity and happiness of the craft; and may grant dispensations and charters for the establishment of new Lodges, and may revoke and annul the same for such causes as it may deem sufficient; shall prescribe the manner, and shall require a uniform mode of working, but in no case to alter, remove, or displace the ancient and established landmarks of Ma-

sonry; and may require from them such reasonable dues and fees as will at all times discharge the engagements of the Grand Lodge. [before 1933]

SEC. 7. No dispensation or charter shall be granted for the organization of a new Lodge but upon the petition of seven known and approved Master Masons, in which their first Master and Wardens shall be nominated, which petition shall be accompanied by a recommendation from the Lodge nearest the petitioner, together with a certificate vouching for the character and standing of the applicants generally and stating explicitly that the Master and Wardens have appeared in open Lodge and, after due examination, are found well qualified to confer the first three degrees of Masonry, and no such dispensation or charter shall be legal unless signed by the Grand or Deputy Grand Master, attested by the Grand Secretary and sealed with the seal of the Grand Lodge. Provided, that no new Lodge shall be established within ten miles of another Lodge unless it be in a city or town. [before 1933]

SEC. 8. For every dispensation granted for the formation of a new Lodge, there shall be paid to the Grand Secretary for the use of the Grand Lodge thirty-five dollars, and for every charter there shall be paid, in like manner, thirty-five dollars, and no dispensation or charter shall be delivered until the foregoing fees are paid. [before 1933]

SEC. 9. A Majority of the members present and voting at the Grand Lodge shall determine all questions submitted for their decision and in all cases of a tie the Grand Master or presiding officer shall have the deciding vote. [2000]

SEC. 10. Every charge brought before the Grand Lodge against any member thereof shall be made in writing and the member so charged shall be furnished with a copy thereof by the Grand Secretary; and any brother suspended or expelled shall be entirely excluded from all the benefits and privileges of Masonry while under such sentence. [before 1933]

ARTICLE II.

RANK AND TITLE

SECTION 1. The officers of the Grand Lodge shall be styled and take rank as follows:

Most Worshipful Grand Master
Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master
Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden
Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden
Right Worshipful Grand Treasurer
Right Worshipful Grand Secretary
Right Worshipful and Reverend Grand Chaplain
Right Worshipful Grand Orator
Right Worshipful Grand Marshal
Right Worshipful Grand Historian
Worshipful Senior Grand Deacon
Worshipful Junior Grand Deacon
Grand Stewards
Grand Tiler
Deputy Grand Tiler

SEC. 2. All officers and members of the Grand Lodge and proxies appointed by the Masters or Wardens of subordinate Lodges, must be Master Masons and regular members of some Lodge under its jurisdiction. [before 1933]

SEC. 3. No person shall act as the proxy of any other Lodge than the one of which he is a member. [before 1933]

ARTICLE III.

ELECTION OF GRAND OFFICERS

SECTION 1. No brother shall be eligible to the office of Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master or Grand Warden who has not been duly elected, installed and presided over a subordinate

Lodge. None except such as are at the time of their election or appointment, members of some Lodge, shall be eligible to office in the Grand Lodge, and no one shall be eligible to the office of Grand Master for more than one year.

SEC. 2. The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Wardens, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary and Grand Tiler shall be elected by ballot at the Annual Communication on or before the first Thursday of its meeting of every year and shall hold their offices respectively until their successors shall be duly elected and installed. [before 1933]

SEC. 3. All Grand Officers whose election or appointment is not otherwise provided for, shall be appointed annually by the Grand Master, and when duly installed shall hold their offices until their successors are duly appointed and installed. [before 1933]

SEC. 4. In the election of Grand Officers and in the decision of all questions on this Grand Lodge, each and every Master and Warden or his duly accredited proxy, and secretary, of every chartered subordinate Lodge shall have one vote. Each and every present Grand Officer, Past Grand Master, and Past Deputy Grand Master, Past Grand Warden, Past Grand Treasurer, and Past Grand Secretary of this Grand Lodge shall have one vote and one vote only regardless of the number of positions, offices or appointments he now holds or has held in either or both the Grand Lodge or one or more of the subordinate Lodges, except such proxy votes as may have been assigned to him by the Lodge of his membership. A majority of all the votes cast shall be necessary for a choice.

SEC. 5. When a number of brethren are voted for the same office in the Grand Lodge, and no choice can be made after the second ballot, the one receiving the lowest number of votes shall be dropped at each succeeding ballot until a choice is effected. [before 1933]

SEC. 6. No Lodge shall be entitled to vote in the election of officers, nor shall its Master, Wardens, or either of their proxies, be

eligible to any of the Grand offices until its dues to the Grand Lodge are paid. [before 1933]

ARTICLE IV.

DUTIES AND POWERS OF GRAND OFFICERS

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the Grand Officers to attend punctually in person the annual and special Communications of the Grand Lodge. [before 1933]

SEC. 2. The Most Worshipful Grand Master shall preside at the Communications of the Grand Lodge, see that the rules and usages of the Craft are strictly observed and that officers faithfully perform their respective duties and an appeal from his decision may be had at any time, if the call therefor is seconded. He may grant dispensations for the establishment of new Lodges during the recess of the Grand Lodge, according to the seventh section of the first article of this Constitution, and not otherwise; he shall install the officers of all newly chartered Lodges, or appoint some discreet and well qualified Past Master to do so when inconvenient for him to attend in person; he may visit subordinate Lodges at his pleasure and preside therein, inspect their records and proceedings and instruct them in the correct mode of working and in general shall exercise a supervising control of the Craft throughout the State, conforming in all things to the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge and ancient landmarks of the fraternity. [before 1933]

SEC. 3. The Deputy Grand Master shall, in the absence of the Grand Master, fill the chair during the Communications of the Grand Lodge. He may grant dispensations for the establishment of a new Lodge, under the restrictions and provisions referred to in the preceding section for the government of the Grand Master in like cases, and shall be vested with similar powers, subject, however, at all times, to his control and direction. Upon the death or inability of the Grand Master to perform his duties the Deputy

Grand Master is hereby vested with all the rights, powers and duties of the Grand Master.

SEC. 4. In the absence of both the Grand Master and the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden, or in his absence, the Junior Grand Warden, or in his absence the next preceding Past Grand Master or Deputy Grand Master then present shall preside with the powers of the Grand Master. If none of such officers shall be present, then the brethren shall nominate some suitable person to fill the chair.

SEC. 5. After the Grand Lodge is opened, and before any business is proceeded upon, the Grand Chaplain shall invoke a blessing from Deity. [2000]

SEC. 6. The Grand Treasurer, before entering upon the duties of his office shall give a security bond in a recognized security bonding company, a minimum of thirty thousand dollars, conditioned for the faithful performance of his official duties. He shall account to the Grand Lodge for all money received and disbursed by him by virtue of his office, and on the first day of every Annual Communication exhibit a full and accurate statement of his accounts to the Grand Lodge. He shall pay out no money without the written order of the Grand Master or presiding officer, given by direction of the Grand Lodge, and countersigned by the Grand Secretary; and such vouchers only shall be received as authentic in the settlement of his accounts, and for these services he shall receive such an amount as may be fixed by the Grand Lodge. And further, in all distribution of funds of the Grand Lodge, it shall be done by the chartered subordinate Lodges only which have paid their dues. And further, it shall require a majority of all such Lodges to concur therein, otherwise no donation, distribution or application of the funds of the Grand Lodge shall be made for any purpose whatever, except the appropriation for the ordinary expenses of the Grand Lodge. The premium on bond required shall be paid out of the General Fund of this Grand Lodge.

SEC. 7. The Grand Secretary shall record neatly and correctly, in a substantial book kept for that purpose, all the proceedings of the Grand Lodge proper to be written; he shall keep a regular set of books, in which he shall open and keep all necessary and proper accounts, charge the subordinate Lodges regularly with their annual dues, fees, etc., and give them credit for all monies when paid; he shall collect all monies due the Grand Lodge, make proper entries of the same, pay them over to the Grand Treasurer as soon as collected and take his receipt therefor; he shall charge the Grand Treasurer with all monies paid him and credit him with all orders or drafts drawn on him, and on the first day of every Annual Communication he shall lay before the Grand Lodge a full and accurate statement of all monies received by him by virtue of his office since the date of his last report; he shall communicate to the several Grand Lodges within the United States and to all Lodges within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge such matters as may from time to time be required to be so communicated; he shall submit for the inspection of the Grand Lodge all communications received by him during the recess, attest and affix the seal of the Grand Lodge to all instruments of writing necessary to be executed; report the number of dispensations granted since the last Annual Communication with the recommendation upon which they were founded; and for these services he shall receive such an amount as may be fixed by the Grand Lodge. Before entering upon the duties of his office he shall give a security bond, a minimum of thirty thousand dollars in a recognized surety bonding company conditioned for the faithful discharge of his official duties. The premium on bond required shall be paid out of the general fund of this Grand Lodge.

SEC. 8. All other Grand Officers shall perform the duties respectively assigned to them in the charges given in their installation, and the Grand Tiler shall receive for his services such sum as shall be recommended by the Finance Committee and approved by the Grand Lodge.

SEC. 9. A Masonic Home Endowment Fund be and is hereby created as a permanent fund of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge

F. & A. M. of Alabama, and that all funds now on hand deposited to the present Masonic Home Endowment Fund be transferred to the permanent Masonic Home Endowment Fund on the adoption of this amendment and neither principal nor interest, or any other income from said fund, be expended for any purpose until said fund reaches the sum of \$1,000,000. And then interest only from such fund can be used.

SEC. 10. A perpetual Dues Membership Endowment Fund is hereby created as a permanent fund of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of F. & A. M. of Alabama, and that all funds now on hand in the Perpetual Dues Membership Endowment Fund be transferred to the permanent Perpetual Dues Membership Endowment Fund on adoption of this amendment and the Perpetual Dues Membership Fee, less any amount required to supplement earned interest to pay the constituent Lodge the first year's dues and Grand Lodge dues, shall be considered principal and shall never be spent. The total amount of interest derived therefrom shall be paid annually to each constituent Lodge for each Perpetual Dues Member at the time of Grand Lodge Perpetual Dues Membership dues billing.

SEC. 11. An Endowment Trust is hereby created as a permanent trust for the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama. The Trustees of the Endowment shall consist of the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary and Immediate Past Grand Master. The moneys received by the Trust shall be invested as directed by a majority of the Trustees following prudent business practices and complete records will be kept of all business conducted by the Trustees. Only the interest and earnings received by the Trust will be expended to support the operation of the Grand Lodge or for any other purpose approved by the Members of the Grand Lodge. A full accounting and report of the decisions of the Trustees shall be included in the annual audit of the financial accounts of the Trustees shall be included in the annual audit of the financial accounts of the Grand Lodge and will be presented to the members at each Annual Communication. [2000]

ARTICLE V.**COMMITTEE ON WORK.**

SECTION 1. There shall be a Committee on Work, consisting of six (6) members to be appointed by the Grand Master, and said committee to hold office for a period of one year unless removed therefrom for cause, by the Grand Master. It shall be the duty of the chairman of this committee to report the work of the Grand Lodge at each Annual Communication, and the work and lectures so reported to and established by the Grand Lodge shall be the only work and lectures recognized by this Grand Lodge, and every subordinate Lodge under its jurisdiction is hereby required to conform to said work and lectures in conferring the degrees.

The Committee on Work shall meet annually at the Grand Lodge Hall on Monday preceding the meeting of the Annual Communication, to perfect themselves in the work and lectures of the first three degrees of Masonry as determined upon and established by this Grand Lodge. Said meeting shall begin at nine o'clock on Monday morning, and regular sessions shall be held until the Grand Lodge Session shall open, and Master Masons are invited to be present at these meetings. [amended 1999]

SEC. 2. When any vacancy shall occur in the Committee on Work, by death, removal or otherwise, it shall be the duty of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, or, in the event of his disability to act, of the Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, forthwith to fill said vacancy. [before 1933]

SEC. 3. The members of the Committee on Work, the District Lecturers and Assistant District Lecturers, provided they are members of a subordinate Lodge, shall be members of the Grand Lodge; and on all questions, whether to be decided viva voce or by ballot, except in appropriations of funds of the Grand Lodge, shall have one vote, and no more.

SEC. 4. The Committee on Work shall be paid their necessary expenses in coming to, remaining at, and returning from the Grand

Lodge, provided they shall have complied with the requirements of this article. [before 1933]

SEC. 5. Each member of the Committee On Work except the chairman, shall be required to stand an examination before the chairman of said committee, on his proficiency in opening and closing the three Lodges, conferring the degrees and lectures. The method of computing the proficiency shall be one-tenth of one per centum for each error, and the proficiency shall not be less than ninety-eight per cent. No one shall be eligible for appointment on the Committee on Work unless he holds a certificate from the chairman of the committee, showing such examination and proficiency as above provided. [before 1933]

ARTICLE VI.

SUBORDINATE LODGES.

SECTION 1. All Lodges under this jurisdiction shall have the right to convene as “FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS”, receive and enter Apprentices, pass Fellow Crafts and raise Master Masons; also to assess and collect such fees and dues as they may find reasonable and proper; to establish funds for charitable purposes and transact all business appertaining to Masonry, conformable to their Charters, the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge and the ancient usages of the Fraternity.

SEC. 2. Every Lodge under this jurisdiction shall consist of a Master, Senior and Junior Warden, Treasurer, Secretary, Senior and Junior Deacon, and a Tiler, and such other officers as the Lodge may from time to time think proper to appoint, who shall each perform the duties assigned to them in the charge given at their installation, together with as many members as may be found convenient for working to advantage, and every Lodge thus organized shall meet at least once a month to transact such business as may come before it, and more especially to instruct and improve its members in Masonic knowledge. [2000]

SEC. 3. Every subordinate Lodge must have a Charter from the Grand Lodge, or a dispensation or warrant from the Grand or Deputy Grand Master, attested by the Grand Secretary and sealed with the seal of the Grand Lodge; and no Lodge shall be deemed legal or regular without such charter, dispensation or warrant, and all Masonic communications, either public or private, are hereby interdicted and forbidden between any Lodge under the jurisdiction or any member of any of them, and any Lodge that may be illegally formed, opened or holden, or any or either of their members, or any person initiated, passed or raised in such illegal Lodge. [before 1933]

SEC. 4. Dispensation granted by the Grand or Deputy Grand Master for the establishment of new Lodges shall continue and be in force only until the succeeding Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge after the date of such dispensation, at which time the original record of all the proceedings of every such Lodge, together with the by-laws which have been adopted for its government, shall be submitted to the Grand Lodge for examination, and, if approved, a charter may be issued for the permanent establishment of said Lodge, or the Dispensation renewed for twelve months longer by an endorsement thereon by the Grand or Deputy Grand Master, attested by the Grand Secretary, at the expiration of which time a copy of the original record of the proceedings of every such Lodge, during the preceding twelve months, must be submitted to the Grand Lodge for inspection and examination, when if approved, a charter must be issued or the Lodge be discontinued, and no Lodge working under dispensation shall pay to the Grand Lodge any contributions or dues until it obtains a charter. [before 1933]

SEC. 5. Every chartered Lodge shall have a seal with the name and number of the Lodge engraved thereon, with such other devices as a majority of the members of the Lodge may think proper to adopt, and no document from any Lodge shall be received or deemed authentic without such seal being affixed thereto; provided however, that in all cases where Lodges have not seals already, they shall be allowed twelve months to procure them; and all Lodges hereafter established shall be allowed the same time from the date

of their respective charters, and no longer. [before 1933]

SEC. 6. In all cases of the absence of the Worshipful Master, from any regular or special communication of any Lodge, the WARDEN present highest in rank shall preside, unless through courtesy said officer shall decline in favor of a past superior officer; provided, no special communication shall be held without sufficient notice being first given as far as practicable of the time and object of the meeting and it shall not be lawful for the Lodge to transact any business other than that for which the Lodge was specifically convened.

Provided, further, that for the purpose of conducting a funeral any Past Master of the Lodge may open the Lodge and conduct the funeral in the absence of the three principle officers of the Lodge.

SEC. 7. No subordinate Lodge shall proceed to confer any or either of the degrees of Masonry upon any person who is not a man, free-born, of the age of twenty-one years or upward, of good reputation, of sufficient natural and intellectual endowment, with an estate, office, trade or occupation, or some other obvious source of honest subsistence from which he may be able to spare something for works of charity and for maintaining the ancient dignity and ability of the Masonic Institution.

If the petitioner be physically defective by reason of deformity or being maimed, his eligibility shall be determined by the Lodge to which he has applied, and if determined favorably to the petitioner, he shall be eligible to receive the degrees of Masonry when the action of the Lodge has been approved by the District Lecturer or Assistant Lecturer of that district in writing.

The authorization will be reported to the Grand Secretary using a Dispensation form supplied by the Grand Lodge. [2000]

SEC. 8. All petitions for affiliation or initiation shall be recommended and vouched for by two Master Masons who shall be members of the Lodge and shall be placed in the hands of a committee consisting of three Master Masons, members of the Lodge, to be appointed by the Master, whose duty it shall be to investigate into the character and standing of the petitioner and make due

report thereon in writing to the Lodge within thirty days thereafter, nor shall such petition be acted upon by the Lodge until satisfactory evidence be obtained of the applicant's worthiness or unworthiness. [before 1933]

SEC. 9. No petition for membership or initiation shall be received by any Lodge except at a regular communication and no person shall be admitted a member or initiated at the same communication at which his petition is received, nor raised at the same communication at which he is passed; nor shall a candidate be passed to the second degree until by examination in open Lodge, he is found to have made the necessary proficiency in the first degree, nor raised to the third degree until, by examination in open Lodge, he is found to have made the necessary proficiency in the second degree. [2000]

SEC. 10. No person shall be initiated, passed or raised in any Lodge, or admitted to membership therein without the unanimous consent of the members present, nor shall any Lodge require any of its members to assign his or their reasons for voting against any person who may apply for membership or initiation therein. [before 1933]

SEC. 11. No applicant for initiation whose petition may have been rejected or objected to by any Lodge shall be initiated in any other Lodge until the consent of a majority of the members present and voting at a regular communication of the Lodge to which the applicant first petitioned is obtained for that purpose.

If any Mason knowingly assists, or recommends for initiation, any applicant to any Lodge whatever in violation of the provisions of this section, he shall be expelled from all the privileges of the Fraternity.

All edicts which hold that it requires the consent of a majority of the Lodge to which the applicant applied for affiliation must be obtained before the applicant for affiliation may apply to some other Lodge are repealed. [amended 1999]

SEC. 12. No Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft initiated or

passed in any Lodge within the United States shall be passed in any Lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, other than that in which he was initiated, without procuring dismissal from such Lodge, with a certificate of good standing, and that he had paid all dues to such Lodge, nor shall any brother be admitted a member of any Lodge but upon like conditions; provided however, the said Lodge is still in existence and capable of granting such certificate and recommendation as aforesaid. [before 1933]

SEC. 13. When a person petitions to be made a Mason who resides nearer any regular Lodge than that in which he is proposed, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Lodge to write to such other Lodge to know if they have ever refused him admission, and if they know of any just and sufficient reason why he ought not to be made a Mason, and without inquiry and answer thereto, no such petition shall be acted on. [before 1933]

SEC. 14. The fee for the degrees of Masonry shall in no case be less than \$50.00 payable in advance as follows: For the first degree, \$25.00; for the second degree, \$10.00; for the third degree, \$15.00.

Of the fee for the first degree, \$10.00 shall inure to and become the property of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge F.&A.M. of the State of Alabama for the use and benefit of the Alabama Masonic Home and shall be remitted to the Grand Secretary as the Grand Lodge may direct.

Provided however, that except for the \$10.00 of the fee for the first degree for the benefit of the Alabama Masonic Home, which must be collected from every candidate without exception and remitted to the Grand Secretary, any Lodge may confer any or all of the Blue Lodge degrees gratuitously upon any minister of the gospel actively engaged in the work of the ministry, of whatever sect or denomination.

SEC. 15. No Lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge shall take notes of hand for initiation, passing or raising fees, or grant any time or credit therefor; at least the Entered Apprentice fee shall accompany the petition, and shall be returned if the peti-

tioner is rejected. [before 1933]

SEC. 16. Every Lodge shall elect its officers at the regular communication immediately preceding June 24th, the Festival in June, and make due return thereof to the Grand Secretary as soon as the officers-elect are installed which shall take place within forty-five days following their election, said installation to be made at either a regular or special communication on or after the Festival in June. [2000]

SEC. 17. Every Lodge has an inherent right to make by-laws and regulations for its government; provided, always, that such laws and regulations are conformable to the principles of the Fraternity and usages of Masons, and the Constitution and regulations of the Grand Lodge. [before 1933]

SEC. 18. Any member of a subordinate Lodge who shall be informed, or who shall know, of his own knowledge, that a brother has been guilty of conduct unbecoming a Mason, and who shall fail to report same to the Lodge at its next regular communication, is hereby declared to be guilty of a shameful neglect of duty and shall forthwith by such Lodge be suspended at its pleasure. [before 1933]

SEC. 19. Every Lodge has power, and it shall be its bounden duty to take cognizance of any unmasonic conduct of a sojourning or resident brother although not one of its members, and the Lodge in which jurisdiction he may be accused of such unmasonic conduct shall proceed against him as though he were a member thereof, and reprimand, suspend or expel the offender, as the nature of the case may require; provided, that in all cases of suspension or expulsion two-thirds of the Master Masons present concur in the sentence; provided he is not tried by his membership Lodge. A subordinate Lodge has jurisdiction to try its own members regardless of where the alleged offense was committed.

SEC. 20. Every Lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge shall communicate to the Grand Secretary all rejections,

suspensions and expulsions as they severally occur, and the Grand Secretary shall, as soon as may be, notify the subordinate Lodges thereof; but if such suspended or expelled person shall have appealed from the decision of such Lodge within sixty days, it shall then be the duty of the Secretary to forward a copy of the proceedings thereon to the Grand Secretary who shall lay the same before the Grand Lodge for its adjudication at the next regular Communication thereof, and no notice of such suspension or expulsion shall be given by the Grand Secretary until the decision thereon be confirmed. [before 1933]

SEC. 21. Every Lodge shall, on the fourteenth day of July; make to the Grand Secretary a report in writing showing who are its Officers and Members, the date of admission to membership, initiations, passings and raisings, the names of those persons rejected, suspended, expelled, reinstated, withdrawn and dead, with the dates annexed since the last return, and for each and every Officer and Member returned, excepting those who are residents of the Alabama Masonic Home, excepting those ministers who are actively engaged in their calling; and such quarterly reports and reinstatements as may be directed by the Grand Lodge; shall pay to the Grand Secretary the sum of eight dollars (\$8.00). for each member of the subordinate Lodge, of which three dollars (\$3.00) for each member shall be set apart for the operation of the Masonic Home; of which sum ten cents (\$.10) for each such member shall be set apart as an Emergency Fund, which fund shall be expended under the direction of the Grand Lodge for the relief of such persons under the rules and regulations which may be adopted by the Grand Lodge The balance of such dues, namely five dollars (\$5.00) shall be expended by the Grand Lodge for ordinary expenses and for such other purposes as the Grand Lodge may determine. [amended 1997 & 1999]

SEC. 22. It shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary to lay before the Grand Lodge on the second day of every Annual Communication, a list of all delinquent Lodges; and every Lodge that shall neglect to make returns to the Grand Lodge for two successive years, or which shall fail to assemble for work for a space of

six months, shall be stricken from the books of the Grand Lodge, be deprived of the benefits of Masonry and its charter declared forfeited; but upon proper application to the Grand Lodge at its next regular communication, making due return and paying its dues, together with what interest may have accrued thereon, such Lodge may be restored to its former rank and privileges; and upon the revocation or forfeiture of the charter of any Lodge, it shall be the duty of the last Treasurer and Secretary thereof to surrender to the Grand Secretary the books, papers, jewels, furniture, funds and charter of said Lodge within six months of the time of such revocation or forfeiture, to be disposed of as the Grand Lodge may think proper; should the Treasurer and Secretary fail to do so within the time specified above, the Grand or Deputy Grand Master shall appoint some suitable person to take possession of the same and deliver them up in the manner and for the purposes before directed. [before 1933]

SEC. 23. No Lodge shall be removed from the place where it is located except by the consent of the Grand Lodge, upon petition by a majority of the members of such Lodge present at a meeting called especially for that purpose by due notice to the members of the purpose of the meeting, or in cases of emergency, upon like petition during the recess of the Grand Lodge, by the Grand or Deputy Grand Master; nor can a Lodge voluntarily surrender its charter. [before 1933]

SEC. 24. The Master of every Lodge has it in special charge, and it is hereby made his bounden duty as appertaining to his office and dignity to see that the By-laws of the Lodge, as well as the Constitution, Laws and Edicts of the Grand Lodge are strictly enforced and observed, that all other officers of the Lodge perform the duties of their respective offices faithfully, and are examples of diligence and industry to the brethren, that true and exact accounts be kept by the Secretary with all the members of the Lodge, and that the proceedings of the Lodge be neatly and correctly recorded in a substantial book; that the Treasurer keep and render a correct and just account of moneys belonging to the Lodge; that regular returns be made annually to the Grand Lodge according to the

twenty-first section of this article.

He has the right and authority of convening the Lodge at pleasure on any emergency or occurrence which, in his judgment, may require its meeting, giving always proper notice. He shall not permit any Mason, who is not a member of the Grand Lodge or a subordinate under its jurisdiction to preside over or give the work or lectures to the Lodge over which he presides.

He shall at the regular communication of his Lodge preceding the Festival in June cause the Secretary to write opposite the name of each member of his Lodge the word "suspended," where the dues of such member shall remain unpaid for two years as at midnight June 23rd, or for one year if so provided in the by-laws of his Lodge; said sentence to remain in force until all dues are paid.

It is likewise his duty to attend punctually in person or by proxy all communications of the Grand Lodge. This duty he shall in no wise omit.

SEC. 25. A subordinate Lodge has no right to try the Master, but any five members of his Lodge may impeach the Master before the Grand Master who shall order three Masters of Lodges or Past Masters, nearest his Lodge, to investigate into the nature of the charges and report to the Grand Master and if in his opinion they are well founded and of a character to justify the proceedings, he shall suspend the delinquent and summon him to appear at the ensuing Communication of the Grand Lodge for such impeachment proceedings. [before 1933]

ARTICLE VII

TRIALS AND APPEALS

SECTION 1. For the purpose of selecting a Trial Commission, the State shall be divided into five areas as follows: Each area shall encompass the same area as the existing Groups I through V. The Grand Master shall appoint two men (Preferably Past Masters) from each area to serve as Trial Commissioners, one of which to serve as the Chairman. [amended 1999]

SECTION 2. Whenever a brother shall be accused of an offense the Lodge shall vote either to conduct the trial as specified in the Constitution and Edicts of the Grand Lodge or request the Grand Lodge Trial Commission to conduct the trial in the following Manner, to wit:

Rule 1. The charges and specifications shall be made in writing over the signature of the Mason preferring them or if preferred by the Lodge, by the Junior Warden or some member designated by the Lodge.

Rule 2. Charges need not comply with any technical rules, but must specify the offense the accused is charged with and state the facts constituting the offense in ordinary and concise language and in such a manner as to enable a man of common understanding to know what is intended. Multiple offenses may be charged at the same time, but their separate nature must clearly appear.

Rule 3. When charges are preferred, the Lodge Secretary shall send a copy of the charges to the Grand Master, who shall forward them to the Trial Commission Chairman.

Rule 4. On receipt of the charges the Trial Commission Chairman shall select six members of the Trial Commission to conduct the trial of the accused. He shall select one of them to act as Chairman or Judge, one to conduct the prosecution, one to conduct the defense and the other three to act as the jury. The Chairman of the Trial Commission shall notify the accused and the complainant by certified mail with receipt requested of the Commissioners selected for said trial and either or both parties may challenge any selected member for said trial for bias, actual or implied, consanguinity, affinity, association in business or otherwise. This challenge must be made within 10 days of receipt of notice from the Chairman of the Trial Commission, in writing stating the reasons and facts upon which the allegation is made. Upon receipt of the challenge the Chairman of the Trial Commission shall forward a copy of the challenge to the challenged Commissioner who shall thereupon make his reply to the Commission Chairman who will then overrule or sustain the challenge. If he sustains the challenge another Commissioner shall be selected for the trial. In the event six members of the Trial

Commission are not available at the time of conducting the trial, the Grand Master is authorized to appoint a temporary member or members to fill the required number to conduct that trial. [amended 1993]

Rule 5. The Chairman of the Trial Commission in consultation with the Master or Secretary shall select a date for the trial at a time and place most convenient to all concerned. A Lodge Building would be the most acceptable place. [amended 1993]

Rule 6. The Lodge Secretary shall make a true copy of the charges and specifications and attest the same, and deliver it so attested or cause the same to be done at least ten days before the trial. If delivery is made by the Post Office it will be by Certified Mail with a receipt requested. [amended 1993]

Rule 7. If the residence of the accused be not within ten miles of the Lodge, an attested copy of the charges and specifications enclosed by certified mail with a receipt requested to the post office nearest to the residence of the accused thirty days before the trial shall be deemed good notice. [amended 1993]

Rule 8. If the accused resides out of state, and his residence be known, the Secretary of the Lodge shall send him by certified mail with receipt requested, an attested copy of the charges at least sixty days before the trial. [amended 1993]

Rule 9. If the residence of the accused be unknown to all the members of the Lodge the trial may be held ex parte.

Rule 10. If the accused has not selected a Master Mason in good standing as his counsel, the Trial Commission will furnish one of its members to act as his counsel, or assist his counsel and cross examine any witness against him. [amended 1993]

Rule 11. It will be the duty of the Lodge to secure the services of someone to record the proceedings of the trial either in shorthand or electronically and/or commit to print all that is proper to do so.

Rule 11-A. Only those who are directly required in the proceedings, namely, the parties, the accused counsel, witnesses, Trial Commissioners, and recorder shall be admitted to a trial held by the Trial Commission. Witnesses may be admitted only while testifying. [amended 1993]

Rule 12. When the Trial Commission has assembled at the

appointed time and place to conduct the trial, the member acting as chairman will declare the Commission is session and when the proceedings are finished he will announce the session concluded.

Rule 12-A. The Trial Commissioners shall first hear the charges and specifications read and the evidence presented by the prosecution to sustain them. The burden of proof is on the prosecution and guilt must be established by competent and satisfactory evidence. [amended 1993]

Rule 13. The defense then presents the case for the accused and after both sides have rested their cases each may make a closing statement to the Commissioners, the prosecution to be last.

Rule 14. During the presentation of evidence either side may object. In which case the Chairman or Judge shall rule to sustain or overrule the objection. Witnesses may be called by either side and depositions may be presented if secured in the manner prescribed by existing Grand Lodge Edicts.

Rule 15. After all the evidence has been presented the three Commissioners acting as the Jury shall render a decision of either guilty or not guilty as charged. Should the verdict be guilty, the Jury shall also assess the Punishment due the offense. The Jury shall report their decision to the Lodge and the Chairman of the Trial Commission in writing within seven (7) days.

Rule 16. Any Brother feeling aggrieved by the decision of the Trial Commission may within sixty days of the trial file an appeal with the Lodge Secretary who shall immediately record the appeal and transmit it to the Grand Secretary. The Grand Secretary shall secure a copy of the trial proceedings for the Committee on Appeals and Grievances to study prior to Grand Lodge. The Commission selected to conduct the trial will be allowed the prevailing per diem and mileage to be paid by the Grand Lodge. Any other expense such as rent, stenographer fee etc., will be the responsibility of the Lodge.

SECTION 3. Whenever a Brother shall be accused of any offense and the Lodge votes to conduct the trial the proceedings shall be conducted in the following manner, to wit:

RULE 1. The charges and specifications shall be made in writing, under the signature of a Master Mason, or the committee

of the Lodge, and delivered to the Secretary of the Lodge.

RULE 2. The Secretary shall make out a true copy of the charges and specifications and attest the same, and deliver it so attested or cause the same to be done to the accused at least ten days before the time of trial.

RULE 3. If the residence of the accused be not within ten miles of the place of meeting of the Lodge, an attested copy of the charges and specifications inclosed by mail to the post office nearest to the residence of the accused thirty days before the trial shall be deemed good notice.

RULE 4. If the residence of the accused be unknown to all the members of the Lodge, the trial may be had ex parte.

RULE 5. If the accused resides out of the State, and his residence be known, the Secretary of the Lodge shall send him, by mail, an attested copy of the charges at least sixty days before the day of the trial.

RULE 6. The examination of the charges shall be in a Lodge especially notified for that purpose, at which no visitors shall be admitted except witnesses, counsel and a court reporter; provided they are all Master Masons.

RULE 6a. When requested by the Master of a subordinate Lodge, the Most Worshipful Grand Master must appoint some well qualified brother to assist in the proceedings of a trial; also, the Most Worshipful Grand Master may assist in the proceedings of a trial in any subordinate Lodge, or appoint some qualified brother to do so.

RULE 7. It shall be the duty of the Lodge to hear any evidence relevant to the charge, and commit the same to writing, if proper to do so, when it shall be heard in open Lodge. Evidence of persons not Masons may be taken out of the Lodge before a committee appointed by the Master to take the testimony, which evidence must be sworn to by the witness before any person authorized by the laws of the State to administer oaths to witnesses. Proper notice having been given by either party and written notice left with the Master or Secretary shall be sufficient to authorize the taking of testimony by either party.

RULE 7a. The Junior Warden or a brother appointed by the Master to act as counsel for the Lodge must appear for the Lodge

and he may cross examine any witness for the accused.

RULE 7b. If the accused brother has not selected counsel, the Master must appoint some brother to act as his counsel, who must appear for the accused and may cross examine any witness against him.

RULE 8. Any deposition taken shall be made known and be made available to counsel for the accused and counsel for the Lodge. Written depositions shall be delivered by the committee to the Secretary of the Lodge, who shall provide a true and correct copy to each party.

RULE 9. Upon every trial the Acting Secretary shall record the whole of the evidence proper to be written.

RULE 10. When the testimony is closed the question upon each specification shall be distinctly put by the Master to every member present, according to register. "Is the accused guilty or not guilty?" The answer shall be given standing and in an audible manner, and the Secretary shall record the answer.

RULE 11. If the accused be found guilty, the Lodge shall by vote assess the punishment due the offense. [before 1933]

RULE 12. In all cases of suspension or expulsion of any member from the privileges of Masonry, except in trials by the trial Commission and automatic suspension or expulsion as called for in other parts of this Constitution or Edicts, the vote of two thirds of all members present in favor thereof shall be required.

RULE 13. Any Brother feeling aggrieved by the decision of the Lodge, upon the trial of any brother, may take an appeal to the Grand Lodge.

RULE 14. The appeal shall be made in writing and in the following form, to wit:

I....., a Master Mason, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Alabama, do declare that I feel materially aggrieved by the decision of Lodge, No., in the case of; and for a rehearing of the case, and to the end that justice may be done in the matter, do take my appeal to said Grand Lodge.

The above form shall be signed by the appellant, attested by the Secretary under the seal of the Lodge.

RULE 15. The appeal must be taken within sixty days after

the trial and judgment, and not afterwards.

RULE 16. The Secretary of the Lodge shall immediately record the appeal and as soon as possible transmit to the Grand Secretary a true copy of the evidence in the case, together with the appeal, certified under his name and the seal of the Lodge. The Grand Secretary will immediately send a true copy of the transcript to the Committee on Appeals and Grievances for their study prior to Grand Lodge.

RULE 17. The Grand Lodge, on receipt of the appeal and evidence, shall be possessed of the cause, and shall proceed to examine and try the cause upon the evidence so transmitted, without any other testimony, and decide the matter finally or order a new trial.

RULE 18. The appellant shall give to the other party at least ten days' notice of the taking of the appeal, a copy of which notice shall be forwarded to the Grand Lodge, with the evidence of its service. [before 1933]

RULE 19. The Grand Lodge may reverse the decision of a subordinate Lodge, whereby a brother is suspended or expelled, but such reversal shall in no case restore the accused to membership in the Lodge from which he was suspended or expelled without unanimous consent of the members present at a regular communication. [before 1933]

RULE 20. The Rules and Edicts pertaining to trials shall prevail, so far as the same are applicable, on appeals and impeachment proceedings in the Grand Lodge; provided that in all cases of impeachment of a Master of a subordinate Lodge the vote of the majority of all the Grand Lodge members in favor thereof shall be required.

RULE 21. At least seven days before the day set for the trial, the Secretary shall send by mail to each member of the Lodge at his last known address a written notice giving the day and hour of such meeting, its purpose and the name of the brother to be tried and urging every member to attend. No trial shall be legal without notice as prescribed and it shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master to see that the Secretary gives notice as required. [before 1933]

RULE 22. No brother shall be compelled to give evidence

against himself.

RULE 23. No brother shall be tried twice for the same offense, except a Master may be tried by a subordinate Lodge after he has been impeached by the Grand Lodge.

ARTICLE VIII.

PROPOSITIONS TO AMEND

Every proposition to revise, alter or amend this Constitution shall be submitted in writing to the Grand Secretary at least sixty days before the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge at which time it is to be presented, and if certified by the Jurisprudence Committee as being in proper form, a copy of the proposal shall be sent to all Past Grand Masters, Officers of the Grand Lodge and to the Worshipful Master of each subordinate Lodge at least thirty days before the Annual Communication. It shall then be distinctly read and if approved by one third of the members of the Grand Lodge present, shall be entered upon the minutes and be thereafter submitted to the several chartered subordinate Lodges for their approval or rejection; and if two thirds of the chartered subordinate Lodges approve thereof by certificate over their respective seals, to the next succeeding Grand Lodge, the Grand Master shall so declare it, and from thenceforth it shall be considered a part and parcel of this Constitution.

No other proposition to alter, revise or amend this Constitution shall be received by the Grand Lodge for its action without the foregoing provisions being complied with, except the Grand Lodge may by two thirds vote of the members present agree to waive the requirements of previous notice to the Grand Secretary and the Lodges.

Digest of Edicts, Decisions and Resolutions**CHAPTER I.****THE GRAND LODGE**

1.1. SOVEREIGNTY Each Grand Lodge is sovereign and independent. [before 1933]

1.2. JURISDICTION — This Grand Lodge has exclusive jurisdiction throughout the State of Alabama and concurrent jurisdiction with other Grand Lodges over states and territories where there is no Grand Lodge.

1.3. NOT TO CONFER DEGREES It is not within the province of the Grand Lodge to initiate, pass or raise candidates; its powers being appellate and legislative only. [before 1933]

1.4. NO TAXES—BALANCE BUDGET — The Grand Lodge has no right to tax its subordinate Lodges for any sum beyond the amount provided for in the Constitution; provided, however, that, to the extent the approved budget of the Alabama Masonic Home for any fiscal year requires expenditures in excess of projected revenue for said fiscal year, then the amount of said insufficiency shall be assessed against the subordinate lodges on a per capita basis to be paid by said respective subordinate lodges with the filing of the next following annual report; provided further, however, that the maximum amount assessed against a subordinate lodge shall not exceed \$5.00 per Master Mason member of said lodge. [amended 1997]

1.5. PROXY AT GRAND LODGE, — the proxy of a Master or Warden attending the Communication of the Grand Lodge is not vested with any powers of such Master or Warden so far as regards his official relations to the Subordinate Lodge.

1.6. LEAVE OF ABSENCE — A voting member who finds it necessary to leave Grand Lodge before the election of officers

should return his unused ballot or ballots to the Committee of Credentials. [amended 1998]

1.7. MEMBER OF GRAND LODGE OR VISITOR THERETO DRUNK — Any member of the Grand Lodge or visitor thereto who, during any Grand Communication, appears in the Grand Lodge building where it is in Communication in a state of intoxication, shall be brought before that Communication, shall be reprimanded in open Grand Lodge by the Grand Master and shall be arraigned and tried by the member's lodge after notice has been received by that lodge from the Grand Secretary whose duty it shall be to notify the member's lodge of the occurrence. [amended 1998]

1.8. FISCAL YEAR — The fiscal year of this Grand Lodge shall begin with October 1st annually and end on September 30th of the following calendar year and the Grand Secretary shall close his books, accounts, records and reports as of September 30th annually.

1.9. GRAND LODGE BONDS The owner of any bond or other obligation of Grand Lodge which has been lost or destroyed may receive a duplicate thereof signed by the Grand Master, and countersigned by the Grand Secretary upon such owner furnishing to the Grand Lodge such indemnity against loss as these officials may require.

CHAPTER II**RULES AND ORDER OF BUSINESS IN GRAND LODGE**

2.1. OFFICERS TO BE CLOTHED — Every officer of the Grand Lodge, before he takes his seat as such at any communication shall clothe himself with the regalia appertaining to his station.

2.2. PROPER DECORUM — After the Grand Lodge is opened the members and visitors shall conduct themselves with the order and propriety which the dignity of the institution requires; they shall pay due respect to the presiding officer for the time being to whose commands they shall be attentive and obedient, and they shall not leave the hall without his permission. [before 1933]

2.3. ORDER OF BUSINESS — The business of the Grand Lodge shall be disposed of in the following order:

FIRST SESSION

1. Call to Order.
2. Roll Call.
3. Opening of Grand Lodge.
4. Reception of Distinguished Visitors.
5. Address of Grand Master and its Reference.
6. Recognition of Grand Representatives.
7. Reports of Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary and their reference if necessary.
8. Report on Correspondence.
9. Motions and Resolutions and their Reference.
10. Receiving and Dispatching Communications.
11. Filling Vacancies.
12. Reports of Committees.
13. Miscellaneous Business.
14. Calling Off.
15. Refreshment.

SECOND SESSION

1. Calling On.
2. Report of Committee on Grand Master's Address.
3. Motions and Resolutions and their Reference.
4. Miscellaneous Business.
5. Report of Committees.
6. Calling Off.

THIRD SESSION

1. Calling On.
2. Motions and Resolutions and their reference if necessary.
3. Reports on Masonic Home and their reference if necessary.
4. Miscellaneous Business.
5. Reports of Committees.
6. Election of Officers.
7. Installation of Officers.
8. Closing of Grand Lodge.

2.4. UNANIMOUS CONSENT — When any departure, without timely objection, is made from this order of business, it shall be deemed that unanimous consent was given. On objection, departure may be granted by majority-vote.

2.5. RESOLUTIONS — All resolutions shall be submitted in writing. A member proposing a resolution shall read it in place and present it to the presiding officer to be submitted to the consideration of the Grand Lodge or for reference to an appropriate committee, except all Resolutions pertaining to the expenditure of money, shall be referred to the Committee on Finance before action of the Grand Lodge.

2.6. RIGHTS OF PAST OFFICERS — Past Masters of subordinate Lodges under this jurisdiction and all Past Grand Officers while they remain regular members of some subordinate Lodge and who are not members of the Grand Lodge according to the provisions of the Constitution and the Masters and Wardens of Lodges working under dispensation, shall be entitled to seats and may submit propositions and resolutions and offer their views

thereon but shall not be permitted to vote on any question or in the election of Grand Officers; all other visitors can be admitted only by unanimous consent of the members present. [before 1933]

2.7. RIGHT TO SPEAK — No member shall speak more than twice upon the same subject without permission from the presiding officer and that permission shall be given only once. [before 1933]

2.8. DECORUM IN DEBATE — Every brother who speaks shall rise and in a respectful manner address the presiding officer and while speaking no one shall interrupt him unless he be out of order or wanders from the subject or question under consideration, when he shall be called to order and shall sit down, but he may again proceed if he and the presiding officer shall think proper after being corrected.

2.9. PRESIDING OFFICER'S DUTIES — The presiding officer shall decide all questions of order; he shall appoint all committees, fill vacancies which may occur by the absence of any regular officer by appointments pro tem, and shall publicly reprimand any brother who shall be guilty of any indecorous or disorderly conduct during the working of the Grand Lodge.

2.10. CHARTERS, GRANTING OR RESTORATION — No proposition involving the granting or restoration of a charter of any subordinate Lodge shall be considered by the Grand Lodge until the same has been referred to and reported upon by an appropriate committee.

2.11. STANDING COMMITTEES — The following only, shall constitute the Standing Committees of the Grand Lodge. Unless provision is made for appointment of committee members by the Constitution or a specific Edict of this Masonic Code, the Grand Master shall appoint from Master Masons, members of subordinate Lodges in this grand jurisdiction, the number of members to each committee as follows:

1. Committee on Finance, five members.

2. Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, five members.
3. Committee on By-Laws, five members.
4. Committee on Appeals and Grievances, three members.
5. Committee on Work, six members.
6. Committee on Credentials, eight members.
7. Committee on Expense Accounts, one member.
8. Committee on Youth Organizations, five members.
9. Committee on Masonic Education and Public Relations, five members.
10. Committee on Entertainment and Arrangements, all Past Grand Masters not assigned to other committees and two additional members at the discretion of the Grand Master.
11. Pennies Program and Special Gifts to the Masonic Home, three members.
12. Committee on Internet and Information Systems Management, five members.
13. Trial Commission, ten members
14. Legal Advisory Committee, five members
[amended 1997, 1999, 2000 & 2001]

2.12. SPECIAL COMMITTEES — The Grand Master may appoint such special committees as he may deem proper or as the Grand Lodge may direct. Such committees are not entitled to per diem and/or mileage unless so directed by the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master.

2.13. COMMITTEE REPORTS — All communications, reports, petitions and documents shall be referred to appropriate committees, who shall report thereon; and all reports must be in writing, signed by the committee making the report, except the Committee on Work. [before 1933]

2.14. REPORTS READ ALOUD — When a report is made it shall be read aloud by the chairman and handed to the presiding officer before being debated.

2.15. MOTIONS MUST BE SECONDED; WITHDRAWAL — No motion shall be stated or debated until it

is seconded, and when stated it shall be considered as in the possession of the Grand Lodge; but the mover of it may withdraw it with the consent of his second at any time before a decision, or before an amendment to it is to allow it to be withdrawn.

2.16. DIVISION OF A QUESTION — Any member may call for a division of a question if the sense will admit of it. [before 1933]

2.17. PREVIOUS QUESTION — The previous question shall not be called for, nor a motion to adjourn be entertained by the Grand Lodge. [before 1933]

2.18. AMENDMENTS TO MOTIONS — No amendment of an amendment to an amendment shall be entertained, and the question on the proposition to amend last made shall be first put; a motion to amend an amendment shall preclude all further propositions to amend, until it shall be decided. [before 1933]

2.19. PUTTING QUESTION — All questions shall be put in the reverse order in which they were moved, and in filling up the blanks, the largest sum or quantity, or longer time shall be first put.

2.20. DEBATE — A proposition to amend the constitution of the Grand Lodge is debatable.

2.21. RULES OF ORDER — Where not otherwise provided Robert's Rules of Order shall govern so far as applicable to Masonic bodies but a majority vote of the members present shall decide all questions.

2.22. SUSPENSION OF RULES — Rules of procedure and order of business, where not otherwise provided may be temporarily suspended by unanimous consent informally taken or by majority vote of the Grand Lodge.

2.23. BOARDS AND COMMITTEES — All boards and

committees of this Grand Lodge shall be governed in their deliberations, actions and reports by the standard works on parliamentary law and practice.

2.24. TIE-VOTE — In the decision of all questions arising in any board or committee of this Grand Lodge, the chairman shall have one vote and no more and in case of a tie-vote the question shall be declared lost.

CHAPTER III.**COMMITTEES DUTIES****3.1. COMMITTEE ON MASONIC JURISPRUDENCE**

— The committee on Masonic Jurisprudence shall serve the Grand Master in an advisory capacity, when requested, during the recess of Grand Lodge on questions concerning Masonic law or jurisprudence. During the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge this committee shall receive all resolutions referred to it by the Grand Master or Grand Lodge and give careful consideration as to the form, legality and benefits to the fraternity of each resolution and report to the Grand Lodge their opinion on the need to approve, disapprove or alter each resolution. This committee also shall perform the duties formerly performed by the Committee on Lodges under Dispensation.

3.2. COMMITTEE ON WORK —

The Districts shall be divided into 5 groups, as herein provided. The Grand Master shall assign to each group a member of the Committee on Work. The Chairman of the Committee on Work shall not be assigned to any group of District Lecturers, but shall have general supervision over the Committee on Work. He shall reside within this Grand Jurisdiction. The members of the Committee on Work shall assist the District Lecturers in their respective groups and shall perform such other duties therein as the Grand Master may, from time to time direct. The last day of the session of the Committee on Work preceding the meeting of the Grand Lodge shall be devoted by said Committee to instructing such of the Master Masons as may attend in the work and lectures of the Grand Lodge. [amended 1998 & 1999]

3.3. COMMITTEE ON APPEALS AND GRIEVANCES

— This is a combination of the former Committee on Suspensions, Expulsions and Appeals and the Committee on Propositions and Grievances and will have the combined duties of both these committees. In their reports they shall make a statement of all the material facts in each case, and such report shall be kept by the

Grand Secretary; provided, however, that such facts shall not be printed in the published proceedings of the Grand Lodge, provided further, that the published proceedings of the Grand Lodge shall contain the caption of the case as shown by the transcript, the recommendation of the committee and the final disposition of the case by the Grand Lodge.

3.4. COMMITTEE ON BY-LAWS — It will be the duty of this committee to study the by-laws revisions from the subordinate Lodges, suggest necessary changes before submitting them to the Grand Lodge for approval or disapproval. If occasion demands the committee may give tentative approval of a by-laws change during the recess of the Grand Lodge subject to the approval or disapproval of the Grand Lodge at its next annual communication.

3.5. COMMITTEE ON YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS — It shall be the duty of this committee to represent and advise the Grand Lodge in promoting youth organizations, to screen applications for establishment of additional organizations, such as Job's Daughters, etc., and to serve as liaison between the Grand Lodge and such youth organizations as may exist in our jurisdiction.

This committee shall submit a plan to the Grand Master as soon as possible after appointment as to how they intend to promote Youth Organizations with emphasis on development of a mission statement, goals and objectives to include planning ways for our fraternity to become more involved with Youth Organizations and programs to aid youth. Child ID video program, Masonic Youth Foundation, scholarships, etc. [amended 1999]

3.6. COMMITTEE ON MASONIC EDUCATION AND PUBLIC RELATION — It is the duty of this committee to formulate a plan and place in operation a program of Masonic Education which will have as the final objective the enlightenment of the members of the Lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction on all matters pertaining to Freemasonry, which is not contrary to our Landmarks, Laws and Customs; and to report at each Grand Lodge session its activities for the past year and make recommendations for the ensuing year. It is also the duty of this

committee to disseminate to the public and the news media any information they or the Grand Master may deem proper.

3.7. COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS — It is the duty of this committee to register the officers, members and visitors to each annual communication seeing that proper credentials are presented by each member. This committee shall distribute and receive expense vouchers to those entitled and turn them over to the Committee on Expense Accounts. [amended 1988]

3.8. COMMITTEE ON EXPENSE ACCOUNTS — It is the duty of this committee to examine the expense vouchers of those in attendance at Grand Lodge who are entitled to per diem and/or mileage and verify the same to the Grand Treasurer for payment and distribute the checks on Wednesday at a place designated other than the Grand Lodge room.

3.9. COMMITTEE ON FINANCE — The members of the Committee on Finance shall number five members, consisting of one member, who shall be designated as the Chairman of the Committee, and four regular members. The five members shall be appointed in the following manner:

- (a) Each Committee member shall be a member of a subordinate Lodge of this grand jurisdiction at all times during which he shall serve on the Committee on Finance.
- (b) Each Committee member shall be designated for one of five positions on the Committee on Finance being designated as Seat 1, Seat 2, Seat 3, Seat 4 and Seat 5. A Committee member may only serve in a single Seat at the same time.
- (c) The initial set of members of the Committee on Finance to serve under this appointment edict shall be appointed by the incoming Grand Master to hold and serve in the five positions designated as Seats 1 through 5.
- (d) Beginning with the Grand Lodge of the first year following the enactment of the Edict, Members of the Committee for Seats 1 through 5 shall be appointed by the then incoming Grand Master for the following initial

terms:

- (i) Seat 1: Three Years
 - (ii) Seat 2: Three Years
 - (iii) Seat 3: Two Years
 - (iv) Seat 4: Two Years
 - (v) Seat 5: One Year, Chairman
- (e) From and after the initial term of each Seat's tenure, the member appointed to serve in the position designated as Seats 1 through 5, respectively, shall serve a term of three years. No person shall serve on the Committee on Finance in any of the five Seats for more than three consecutive terms; provided, however, that a person who has served on the Committee on Finance may return to service as a member upon an absence from such service of no less than one year and by subsequent appointment as set out herein.
- (f) Any member of the Committee on Finance may be removed from such office upon the affirmative vote of all of the members of the Coporate Board.
- (g) In the event of a vacancy in a Seat of the Committee on Finance before the expiration of such member's term, the Grand Master shall appoint a qualified person to serve in such Seat until the next General Assembly, at which time the incoming Grand Master shall appoint a member to serve the remainder of the unexpired term of said Seat; thereafter the Seat shall be filled in the manner set out herein for such appointments. [amended 2001]

(1) It shall be the duty of this committee to review the proposed budget of the Grand Lodge and to suggest any changes deemed advisable before submitting them to the Grand Lodge for approval or disapproval; to examine the expenditures, transfer of funds, and the disbursements of the Grand Lodge, including charitable activities of the Grand Lodge and the Alabama Masonic Home Endowment Fund, and to report to the Grand Lodge each year.

(2) A copy of the proposed budget along with a copy of last year's budget will be made available to the members of Grand

lodge prior to the approval of said budget.

(3) The Committee on Finance together with the Corporate Board, may hold over until the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge any expenditures, transfers of funds, and disbursements of the above funds they may deem advisable.

(4) The Committee on Finance shall keep the minutes of each meeting, a copy of which will be furnished the Corporate Board, the Grand Secretary's Office, and each member of the Committee on Finance.

(5) The Committee on Finance shall meet as often as the Corporate Board and/or the Chairman of the Committee on Finance deem necessary.

(6) The Committee on Finance shall examine and recommend for approval or disapproval all resolutions or motions presented to the Grand Lodge involving the expenditure of monies in accordance with Edict No. 2.5.

(7) No expenditures of funds not budgeted by the Grand Lodge shall be made prior to approval by the Corporate Board and the Committee on Finance.

(8) In addition to the duties provided for the Committee on Finance elsewhere in these Edicts, the Committee on Finance shall examine and recommend for approval or disapproval all insurance coverages of the Grand Lodge F&AM of Alabama, including bonds of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary and report its recommendation at each Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge.

3.10. COMMITTEE ON ENTERTAINMENT AND ARRANGEMENT — It is the duty of this committee to work with the Grand Master and his officers in making the necessary preparations for the comfort and convenience of the brethren and visitors at the annual communication.

3.11. PENNIES PROGRAM AND SPECIAL GIFTS TO THE MASONIC HOME — It will be the duty of this committee to inform the Lodges of the plans they have for increasing contributions to the Masonic Home Endowment Fund and General Fund and to urge cooperation of all in this endeavor.

3.12. COMMITTEE ON ALABAMA MASONIC INTERNET WEB SITE — The Chairman of this committee shall be titled “Webmaster”. It will be the duty of this committee to maintain and control The Alabama Masonic Internet Web Site. To upload and remove information on the Internet or World Wide Web by Alabama lodges or individuals under to jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Alabama. To assist and advise subordinate lodges concerning electronic technology and online internet services of the Grand Lodge. To keep the Grand Lodge abreast of the latest electronic technology and potential application to the Masonic order in Alabama. [amended 1997]

3.13. TRIAL COMMISSION — The trial commission shall conduct all Masonic trials referred to the commission by the Grand Master, in accordance with Article VII of the Constitution. The Trial Commission shall serve the Grand Master in an advisory capacity, when requested, on questions concerning Masonic Trials. Subordinate Lodges may request the Trial Commission to consult on matters that may result in a trial, either by the Lodge or the Commission. [amended 2001]

CHAPTER IV.**MASONIC DISTRICTS AND LECTURERS**

4.1. MASONIC DISTRICTS — The State of Alabama hereby divided into forty-six districts. Said districts shall be composed of Counties as follows:

1st District,	Jackson
2nd District,	Limestone and Madison
3rd District,	Lauderdale and Colbert
4th District,	Lawrence and Franklin
5th District,	Marshall and Morgan
6th District,	Winston and Cullman
7th District,	Lamar and Marion
8th District,	Cherokee
9th District,	St. Clair
10th District,	Calhoun
11th District,	DeKalb
12th District,	Shelby
13th District,	Etowah
14th District,	Blount
15th District,	Talladega and Clay
16th District,	Cleburne and Randolph
17th Thru 25th	Jefferson
26th District,	Walker and Fayette
27th District,	Pickens and North Tuscaloosa
28th District,	Greene, Hale, Sumter and South Tuscaloosa
29th District,	Bibb, Perry and Chilton
30th District,	Tallapoosa and Chambers
31st District,	Lee, Macon and Russell
32nd District,	Elmore and Coosa
33rd District,	Lowndes, Montgomery and Autauga
34th District,	Barbour, Bullock and Pike
35th District,	Coffee and Crenshaw
36th District,	Dale
37th District,	Houston and Henry
38th District,	Geneva

39th District,	Covington
40th District,	Monroe and Escambia
41st District,	Butler and Conecuh
42nd District,	Dallas and Wilcox
43rd District,	Marengo and Choctaw
44th District,	Clarke and Washington
45th District,	Mobile
46th District,	Baldwin [amended 1994 & 1999]

4.2. GROUPS — The several Groups shall be composed of the Districts as follows:

Group 1, Districts 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16

Group 2, Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

Group 3, Districts 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27
28, 29

Group 4, Districts 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38

Group 5, Districts 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46

[amended 1994 and 1999]

4.3. DISTRICT LECTURERS APPOINTMENT — The Grand Master shall appoint from each district one District Lecturer and the number of such Assistant Lecturers as have been approved by the Grand Lodge who shall reside in such district or be a member of a subordinate Lodge in such district. Provided, however, if after diligent search the M. W. Grand Master is unable to find a suitable person to fill the position within the district, he may appoint some brother from without the district. No one shall be appointed District Lecturer or Assistant Lecturer until he shall have procured a certificate from the Chairman of the Committee on Work or some member thereof that he is qualified to teach the work and lectures of the three degrees as adopted by the Grand Lodge.

4.4. LECTURER-ELIGIBILITY — No person is eligible to appointment as a District Lecturer or Assistant Lecturer who has not served as Master or Warden of a subordinate Lodge in this State.

4.5. LECTURER-DUTIES — It shall be the duty of such District Lecturer or Assistant Lecturer to visit each Lodge in his district once in each year, and to require such Lodge to exemplify the work and lectures of the three degrees, or to examine the officers thereof as to their proficiency therein. The District Lecturer shall exercise a general supervision over the Lodges in his district and report to the Grand Master before each Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge the number of Lodges visited, the proficiency of the officers thereof and any irregularity or improper proceedings in such Lodges.

Each Assistant Lecturer shall render to the District Lecturer a full and complete report of the work done by him each year. Any action or dispensation granted during the preceding year by the District Lecturer, Assistant Lecturer or Committee on Work Member shall be reported to the Grand Secretary using a dispensation form provided by the Grand Lodge. [amended 1999]

4.6. LECTURER-COMPENSATION — On all visits to a Lodge for inspection and examination the District Lecturer shall be paid his necessary expenses by the Lodge, and when visiting a Lodge for inspection or instruction at its request, he shall be paid his expenses and such per diem compensation as is reasonable.

4.7. SHALL NOT HOLD OUT OF DISTRICT — A District Lecturer or any other brother shall not hold a conference in a district other than his own, unless requested to do so by the Lecturer in the district in which the conference is held or the Lodge located or by the Grand Master.

4.8. CONFERENCE — A Masonic Conference as such and in its name, cannot confer the degrees, but the officers thereof as pro tem officers of a regular Lodge regularly opened, may confer such degrees on any candidate, provided all the Constitutional requirements in reference thereto are complied with. [before 1933]

4.9. MUST ATTEND GRAND LODGE — It is the duty of each District Lecturer and Assistant Lecturer to attend the annual communication of the Grand Lodge and the regular sessions of the

Committee on Work thereat.

4.10. OFFICIAL VISITS — A District Lecturer or Assistant Lecturer has the right and it is his duty to visit every Lodge in his district if reasonably able to do so. Hence he cannot be excluded from a Lodge in his district on the objection of a member of the Lodge present, that is to say, when he is visiting as District Lecturer or Assistant Lecturer. If he is attending merely as a brother, then he is subject to restrictions like any visitor.

4.11. VACANCIES — A vacancy occurs in any Masonic District or Division in the State, or upon any Board or Committee of the Grand Lodge appointed with reference to a particular District or Division, when the person holding the appointment removes his actual residence from the District or Division with reference to which the person was so appointed, to another District or Division, or removes out of the State, and upon learning of such removal, the Grand Master shall declare a vacancy to exist and shall forthwith appoint some competent Master Mason residing in said District or Division to fill such vacancy. Until such vacancy is filled the Committee on Work Member of that Group shall perform the duties of the District Lecturer or Assistant Lecturer. [amended 1999]

CHAPTER V.**GRAND OFFICERS, POWERS AND DUTIES**

5.1. GENERAL — By custom, tradition and past precedents, the Grand Master does possess and may exercise powers and prerogatives outside those given by the written Constitution. In recess of the Grand Lodge, he possesses all the powers of the Grand Lodge duly convened. In determining whether he may exercise such powers, he is to be guided and controlled by the Ancient Landmarks of the Order as they appear in the Ritual, and if consistent with them, he may exercise such powers, unless the same is expressly or by necessary implication prohibited by the written Constitution or Edicts.

5.2. SUSPENSION OF MASTER — The Grand Master may, and it is his duty, when informed that a subordinate Lodge has violated Article VI, Sections 9 and 24, of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge, forthwith to suspend the Master or Warden presiding at the communication at which it was done. [before 1933]

5.3. LODGE PROPERTY — The Grand Master is authorized to take such steps as he may deem necessary to preserve the property rights of the subordinate Lodges and to that end he shall call into service the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, who shall serve when called, and pay the traveling expenses incurred, if any, by said committee out of the General Fund of the Grand Lodge.

5.4 Any property such as tables, chairs, dining room and kitchen equipment, etc., placed in a lodge building for use of the tenants therein shall become part of said lodge building and cannot be removed except by consent of the lodge. This does not include ritualistic paraphernalia used by other than the masonic tenants of the building, or personal property loaned to the Lodge for display purposes. [amended 1991]

5.5. CONVEYANCE OR MORTGAGE — The Grand Lodge has the reversionary interest to all property of a subordinate Lodge; therefore, a subordinate Lodge cannot make a conveyance or a lease for more than twenty years, nor execute a mortgage on its property,

without permission of the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master. This permission may be expressed either by resolution of the Grand Lodge, or by a special dispensation from the Grand Master. Such resolution or dispensation to be attested by the Grand Secretary under the Seal of the Grand Lodge and attached to or endorsed on the conveyance. The foregoing applies to real property, but an active Lodge may transfer, sell, exchange or encumber its personal property as seems to the best interest of said Lodge, without obtaining such consent.

5.6. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY — Each subordinate Lodge must file, with the Grand Secretary, a correct legal description of all real property owned by the Lodge.

5.7. DISPENSATIONS PROHIBITED — The Grand Master has no power to authorize by special dispensation or otherwise, any Mason to affiliate with another Lodge without a demit, or some certificate in lieu thereof, or to change jurisdiction for any purpose. [before 1933]

5.8. ANNUAL ADDRESS — The M. W. Grand Master, or in his absence, the R. W. Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, shall submit a communication to the same on the first day of its convening each and every year after its organization, bringing to the knowledge of its members all the subjects which he may deem of importance to the Craft and proper to come before them for their action. He shall also furnish annually to the Grand Lodge a synopsis of the questions of Masonic Jurisprudence which have been regularly propounded to him during the year with his decisions thereon.

5.9. BONDS OF GRAND TREASURER AND GRAND SECRETARY — The Bonds of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary shall be submitted, by the Grand Master, to the Finance Committee for their examination and recommendation to the Grand Lodge Annual Communication. The Grand Lodge may increase the bond coverage in excess of that required in Article IV, Sections 6 and 7 of the Constitution, provided however, that the increased premium shall be paid from the Grand Lodge General Fund.

5.10. POWER TO “HEAL” — The Grand Master has the power to “heal” illegally made Masons. “Healing” is the imposition of any terms, conditions, or penalties, as the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge may see proper in each instance, and may be against either an individual, a Lodge, or both, and the Grand Master may refer any individual case to the Grand Lodge.

5.11. BOOKS OF GRAND SECRETARY AND GRAND TREASURER — The books of the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer shall be audited every year by a Certified Public Accountant to be appointed by the M. W. Grand Master. The report of the auditor shall be made to the Grand Master, who shall communicate it to the Grand Lodge at each Annual Communication, and it shall become a part of the records, and shall be printed in the Annual Proceedings of the Grand Lodge. [amended 1999]

5.12. DUES AND FEES — The Grand Secretary is directed to credit no payment of dues and fees by any Lodge to the payment of current years’ dues and fees until all dues and fees for former years are paid in full.

5.13. REFUND OF DUES — The Grand Secretary is authorized to refund to the Lodges the amount of dues shown by records of the Grand Lodge as overpaid, without any special order for that purpose.

5.14. MEMBERSHIP CARDS — The Grand Secretary shall provide and furnish at cost, certificates of membership in proper form, to be issued by the subordinate Lodges to their members entitled to same. [before 1933]

5.15. ASSISTANT GRAND SECRETARY — The Grand Secretary is authorized to appoint an Assistant Grand Secretary during the Communication of the Grand Lodge, who shall receive such compensation as may be determined by the Grand Lodge. [before 1933]

5.16. GRAND TILER — During the session of the Grand Lodge it shall be the duty of the Grand Tiler to be first at the door of

the Grand Lodge Hall, and to admit no person unless he is properly vouched for. [before 1933]

5.17. A GRAND LODGE OFFICER ELIGIBLE TO OFFICE IN SUBORDINATE LODGE — An elected Grand Lodge Officer is eligible to hold any office in a subordinate Lodge except that of Master or Warden. An appointed Grand Lodge Officer is eligible to hold any office in a subordinate Lodge to which he is chosen.

5.18. MASTER AND WARDENS ELIGIBLE TO GRAND LODGE OFFICE — The first three officers of a subordinate Lodge are eligible to election as Grand Lodge officers. However, if elected as Grand lodge officers they become ineligible for re-election to office in the subordinate Lodge while holding the Grand Lodge office. This does not apply to membership on committees in the Grand Lodge.

5.19. OFFICIAL VISIT — If any official or representative of the Grand Lodge or of the Grand Master when on official visit demands admission to the Lodge, any brother present who objects to sitting with such official or representative should himself retire from the Lodge if he cannot reconcile his conscience to sitting with the visitor.

5.20. EXPENSES OF OFFICERS ATTENDING GRAND LODGE — All Grand Lodge officers, except the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Wardens, the Grand Treasurer, and the Grand Secretary; all past elected Grand Lodge Officers, members of standing committees, District Lecturers and Assistant Lecturers shall be paid not more than twenty cents per mile each way for their travel from and returning to their homes when attending any Grand Lodge Communication they are authorized to attend. In addition, they are entitled to receive their expenses while attending of not more than twenty-five (\$25.00) per day for each day they are authorized and do attend.

5.21. GOVERNANCE OF THE COPORATE BUSINESS OF THE GRAND LODGE — Notwithstanding any other provision of these Edicts and consistent with the provisions of the Constitution

of the Grand Lodge, the corporate business of the corporation shall be governed by the four directors, who shall compose the Corporate Board of the Grand Lodge F&AM of Alabama. The qualifications, selection, rights and duties of the Directors of the Corporate Board shall be as follows:

a. The Directors of the Corporate Board shall be the then serving Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden and Junior Grand Warden.

b. The Grand Master shall serve as a director and as the Chairman of the Corporate Board. In his capacity as a Director of the Corporate Board, he shall have those rights, duties and responsibilities as set out for a director under the Alabama Nonprofit Corporation Act, as limited by the provisions set out in the Constitution and Edicts of the Grand Lodge.

c. The Deputy Grand Master shall serve as a Director and as the Vice-Chairman of the Corporate Board. In his capacity as a Director of the Corporate Board, he shall have those rights, duties and responsibilities as set out for a director under the Alabama Nonprofit Corporation Act, as limited by the provisions set out in the Constitution and Edicts of the Grand Lodge.

d. The Senior Grand Warden shall serve as a Director of the Corporate Board. In his capacity as a Director of the Corporate Board, he shall have those rights, duties and responsibilities as set out for a director under the Alabama Nonprofit Corporation Act, as limited by the provisions set out in the Constitution and Edicts of the Grand Lodge.

e. The Junior Grand Warden shall serve as a Director of the Corporate Board. In his capacity as a Director of the Corporate Board, he shall have those rights, duties and responsibilities as set out for a director under the Alabama Nonprofit Corporation Act, as limited by the provisions set out in the Constitution and Edicts of the Grand Lodge.

f. The rights, duties and responsibilities of the Corporate Board, as a body, to rule and govern the corporate affairs of the Grand Lodge shall be as set out for a corporate board of directors, acting collectively as such, under the Alabama Nonprofit Corporation Act, as limited by the provisions set out in the Constitution and Edicts of the Grand Lodge.

g. The rights, duties and responsibilities of the Directors, individually, and as the Corporate Board, when acting collectively, shall be separate and apart from the respective rights, duties and responsibilities of the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden and Junior Grand Warden when exercising the fraternal powers and duties of their respective offices.

h. If directed by the Chairman of the Corporate Board, the Corporate Board and Finance Committee may meet in joint session for the purpose of considering such matters as may require a decision to be made by the Corporate Board, in consideration of Finance Committee's recommendation. At any joint session of the Corporate Board, with the Finance Committee, the Chairman of the Corporate Board shall act as the Chairman of the meeting, however, the existence of a quorum of each the Corporate Board and Finance Committee, respectively, and the decision(s) of each entity shall be determined separately.

i. Each reference in Chapter XX, Edicts 20.3(d) and 20.7, to "Corporate Officers" shall be and hereby is amended to read "Corporate Board."

j. Each reference in Chapter XVIII, Edict 18.5 to "Grand Officers" or to "The Masonic Home Board of Trustees" shall be and hereby is amended to read "Corporate Board." [amended 2001]

CHAPTER VI.**E.A.'s and F.C.'S, RIGHTS AND DUTIES**

6.1. E. A.'s and F. C.'s are not members of the Lodge and are not required to pay dues, nor permitted to participate in the business of the Lodge. They have the right, however, to be present when the Lodge is convened in those degrees, even though their advancement has been stopped by vote or objection. They are also amenable to Masonic law, and charges may be preferred against them and trial had, as provided in this Code. [before 1933]

6.2. CERTIFICATE FOR ADVANCEMENT — No Lodge in this jurisdiction can pass or raise a candidate who has been initiated or passed under another jurisdiction, unless he produces a certificate of good standing and dismissal from the Lodge in which he was initiated or passed, if such Lodge is still in existence. However, when there is no record of the fact, or when the Lodge initiating, or initiating and passing him, has ceased to exist, and the records are lost or destroyed, the Lodge to which he makes application may, upon satisfactory proof thereof, receive his petition for advancement. [before 1933]

6.3. CONSENT: WHEN NOT REQUIRED — When one has been initiated, or initiated and passed in another State, and receives his dismissal certificate and removes to this State, he may apply to any Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction to be advanced therein. In such case he may be elected by unanimous secret ballot to and receive the degrees without the consent of the Lodge which granted him the dismissal certificate.

6.4. EXAMINATION ON DEGREE — An applicant for advancement must be examined as to his proficiency in the preceding degree before advancement. The examination of the candidate should be to the extent of demonstrating that he understands the ceremonial work of the degree, but not necessarily to the extent of qualifying him to confer the degree.

6.5. PROFICIENCY IN DEGREE — Proficiency in a degree is determined by viva voce vote in a lodge of a higher degree held the same day the examination on proficiency was had. A majority of the members present may declare the candidate proficient. Provided however, that the W. M. may, in his discretion, refuse to pass him on his proficiency and grant further time. The Lodge may refuse to pass a candidate on his proficiency when it sees proper, which refusal automatically grants the candidate further time to become proficient. Proficiency has nothing to do with election for the degrees. [amended 1998]

6.6. OBJECTION — Any member may, in his Lodge, at any time before the obligation, stop the advancement of a candidate for the F. C. or M. M. degree, which objection is in force and effect for thirty days during which the objector must prefer charges against the candidate in accordance with the prescribed rules set forth in the Constitution and Edicts. The failure of the objector to bring charges against the candidate during the prescribed thirty days will be construed as the objection being withdrawn, and if no other objection is made the Lodge may proceed to advance the candidate. The objection may be made in open Lodge or privately to the Master. In no case shall the objector be required to state his reasons for objection during the thirty day period but if charges were preferred they must be specific and in accordance with the Constitution and Edicts; neither shall the Master divulge the name of the member making the objection during the thirty day period. However, if charges are brought by the objector his identity must be revealed and he must follow the rules set forth in the Constitution and Edicts concerning trials. An E. A. or F. C. is entitled to a Dismissal Certificate when he has not been stopped for advancement by objection, when he removes from the territorial jurisdiction of the Lodge granting it, which Certificate is in the nature of a Demit. A majority of the members present may grant such a Dismissal Certificate. If, in case of the removal of an objection for any reason more than a year has elapsed since the last degree was received he shall not thereafter be advanced until an investigating committee appointed by the Master of the Lodge shall have rendered a favorable report to the Lodge at a subsequent

regular communication and the Lodge by majority vote of the members present approve the favorable committee report. A Dismissal Certificate or transfer cannot be granted while an objection is in force. [amended 1998]

6.7. If one is objected to before initiation, his status is that of one rejected and all fees must be returned to him.

6.8. OBJECTION TO E. A. or F. C. — A Master Mason cannot object to an Entered Apprentice sitting in an Entered Apprentice Lodge of which both are members. Same applies to a F. C. in a F. C. Lodge.

6.9. FORBIDDEN TO WEAR PIN — The wearing of Masonic pins or other Masonic emblems is the prerogative of Master Masons only.

6.10. CHARGES — E. A.'s and F. C.'s are amenable to Masonic law and charges may be made against them in the manner prescribed by the Constitution; but the trial shall be had in that Lodge or degree of which the accused is a member. The statements made by the accused in his trial shall be accepted in the same manner as though he were a Master Mason. In such trial, after the evidence is closed and argument had, a Master Mason Lodge is opened and a verdict rendered and punishment assessed if found guilty as in the trial of a Master Mason.

6.11. RESTORATION — An expelled E. A. or F. C. may be restored to rights and privileges as such.

6.12. LOSS OF LIMB — An E. A. or F. C. who suffers the loss of a leg, foot, arm or hand, or who in any way becomes physically defective, is not necessarily rendered ineligible thereby. His eligibility shall be determined by the Lodge with the approval of the District Lecturer or Assistant Lecturer of that District in writing as provided in the case of applicants for the degree. [amended 2001]

6.13. ELECTION FOR THE DEGREES — Only one ballot is required on a petition for the degrees. When one has been elected on his petition, he may be initiated, passed and raised without further ballot provided he has not been stopped by objection; however, when one has been elected to receive the degrees, and fails to present himself for initiation, or having received one or two of the degrees, yet fails to advance for a period of one year from the date of receiving the degree, he shall not thereafter be initiated or advanced until an investigating committee appointed by the Master of the Lodge shall have rendered a favorable report to the Lodge at a subsequent regular communication and the Lodge by majority vote of the members present approve the favorable committee report. Any member of the Lodge may prevent his advancement by objecting in accordance with Edict 6.6. Should the report of the committee be unfavorable, charges may be made against the brother if the gravity of his conduct justifies.

6.14. ADVANCEMENT—When an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft affiliates with a lodge on transfer or Dismissal Certificate the one year allowed for advancement shall begin with the date of his affiliation. [amended 1998]

6.15. DEGREES CONFERRED THROUGH ERROR — If for any reason an applicant has received the E. A. or F. C. Degree in a Lodge other than that of his residence without the required questions being asked and answered, and such fact is ascertained before he is passed or raised, the questions required in the first instance must be asked and the same procedure had as hereinbefore provided, before the candidate can be advanced.

CHAPTER VII.**LODGES AND THEIR CREATION**

7.1. EXAMINATION OF OFFICERS — When a proper number of Master Masons present a petition in the required form and apply for examination and recommendation for a new Lodge, it is the duty of the nearest Lodge to the proposed location of the new Lodge to examine the brethren proposed for officers as to their competency to confer the degrees, and to certify to the same, also to inquire as to the character of the petitioners as required by the Constitution. This examination may be held at a regular communication or at a special one called for that purpose. [before 1933]

7.2. RECOMMENDATION — When a Lodge recommends a dispensation for a new Lodge, it must state whether said proposed new Lodge is more than ten miles from the nearest Lodge, or whether it is to be located in a city or town, and said recommendation shall not be considered complete unless such fact is stated. Only a majority vote of the members present is required to make this recommendation. [before 1933]

7.3. TOWN — A town, within the meaning of Section 7, Article 1, of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge, is a “Collection of houses occupied by a number of inhabitants” sufficiently numerous to build up and sustain one or more Lodges; such houses being in close proximity to each other as to constitute a city or town in the common acceptance of these terms and in contradistinction to what is called a thickly settled neighborhood. [before 1933]

7.4. BY WHOM ORGANIZED — All new Lodges shall be organized by some officer of the Grand Lodge, or some competent brother, to be appointed by the Grand Master or Deputy Grand Master for that purpose. [before 1933]

7.5. NAMES — In selecting names for Lodges, those as a rule should be chosen having ethical, moral, poetical, historical or Masonic signification.

CHAPTER VIII.**LODGES: THEIR POWERS AND DUTIES**

8.1. BY-LAWS — A chartered lodge has the right to make, alter or amend its by-laws provided, the same are consistent with the Constitution and edicts of the Grand Lodge and the Ancient Landmarks of the Order. The by-laws of a Lodge cannot be suspended, even by unanimous consent. Neither has the Grand Master a right to issue a dispensation to do any act violative of such by-laws.

During the recess of the Grand Lodge new or revised by-laws shall be submitted to the Committee on By-Laws who may give tentative approval subject to final disposition by the Grand Lodge at the next Annual Communication.

8.2. LIFE MEMBERSHIP — A lodge may provide in its by-laws for life membership in the Lodge after a specified age or after a specified number of years membership in the Lodge without the payment of Lodge dues, but such life membership does not relieve the Lodge of the payment of the Grand Lodge Dues to the Grand Lodge for such member nor does it entitle him to membership in any other Lodge without payment of dues. [amended 1999]

8.3. FIFTY YEAR AWARD — Any Brother having completed fifty years membership in the Fraternity and now retaining membership in Alabama shall be appropriately recognized by the Grand Lodge. He shall be presented with an appropriate gold Emblem designed and approved by the Grand Lodge. When a Lodge has a member eligible for this award the Secretary of that Lodge shall make application to the Grand Secretary. The award shall be made by the Grand Master or other distinguished Mason appointed by him for that purpose. [1999]

8.4. ASSESSMENT — When a brother holds a life membership and under the by-laws of the Lodge is exempt from dues, he is not exempt from paying any assessment the Lodge

may legally levy, unless this exemption was specifically stated in the terms on which the life membership was granted.

8.5. SEAL — A seal is to authenticate documents from the Lodge and no one has authority to affix it to any paper or document unless it is a document from the Lodge and issued by its authority. [before 1933]

8.6. SEAL REQUIREMENTS FOR — A Lodge seal is not required to bear the letters “F. and A. M.” The law requires only that the name and number of the Lodge be engraved thereon. Whether more is placed on it rests in the discretion of the Lodge.

8.7. SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS — A Lodge cannot make a special assessment upon its members except by amendment to its by-laws in the same manner that dues are assessed.

8.8. MEETING PLACE — A Lodge cannot have two meeting places at the same time, even in the same building.

8.9. HALL — A Lodge may join with one or more orders in the purchase of real estate, and the erection thereon of a hall to be used jointly for their several lodge purposes, and in such case it must reserve the right to the undisturbed use of the hall for its regular communications as well as the right to its use when not occupied and used by its co-owners, but such hall cannot be dedicated by the Grand Master for Masonic purposes. A Lodge may rent its hall to another order, or it may rent a hall jointly with such other order, or it may rent a hall from another order, firm or individual, but in all cases it must provide for the use of such hall for Masonic purposes. A Lodge may rent its hall to other people for various purposes, but should use sound discretion and mature judgment as to the use of it. It is preferable and advisable that Masonic halls or lodge rooms be not jointly owned, controlled, occupied or used by other than Masons. [amended 1999]

8.10. HALL — A Lodge should not rent its hall to a labor union; if any member of the Lodge objects to such rental or if

there are members of the Lodge affiliated with rival labor unions; to do so may possibly lead to unpleasant relations between members of the Lodge. The dignity and honor of the Fraternity demands that the sanctity of the Lodge and respect for its members be the constant care of the brethren.

8.11. LODGE ROOM — The room containing the altar and three stations is the Lodge room. While the banquet hall, preparation and reception rooms are a part of the Masonic building, neither of them can be denominated the Lodge room.

8.12. UNDER DISPENSATION — A new Lodge working under dispensation cannot elect its officers; they must be appointed by the Grand Master. But it has its right and duty to do so as soon as practicable after it receives its charter. The officers so elected hold office until the officers elected at the last regular communication preceding the 24th day of June are installed. A Lodge working under dispensation has the right to issue demits; also the right to try its members. it is not required to have a seal, but may adopt and use one. The foregoing applies only to new Lodges, and does not apply to a Lodge which has lost its charter by fire or other cause and is working under a temporary dispensation, such Lodge must pay dues and elect officers.

8.13. REPORTS — The reports from the subordinate Lodges required by Section 21, Article VI of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge shall be made up to midnight the 14th day of July in each year and said reports shall be forwarded to the office of the Grand Secretary on or before the fourteenth day of August.

In addition to said Annual Report, quarterly reports shall be made up to midnight the 14th day of the months of October, January and April respectively and said reports shall be forwarded to the office of the Grand Secretary within thirty days thereafter. Each and all fees for the first degrees as specified in Section 14 of Article VI of the Constitution, and each and every reinstatement for the quarter covered by the report shall be remitted to the Grand Secretary with said report.

At the close of business on August 31 any Lodge or Lodges

then past due filing with the Grand Secretary the July 14 report shall be reported by the Grand Secretary forthwith to the Grand Master that he may take steps to effect the incoming of those reports then 45 days delinquent as he may be advised.

8.14. WHO INCLUDED — All Master Masons who are members of the Lodge at midnight on July 14th shall be included in the report.

8.15. CHARITY — It is the duty of each Lodge to give special attention to the education of orphans of deceased and indigent worthy Master Masons within its jurisdiction, and to report at each Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge the extent of the charity thus dispensed.

All property, both real and personal, and the income derived therefrom is dedicated for charitable purposes as prescribed by law.

8.16. CERTIFICATE AT DEATH — Upon the death of any Master Mason in good standing, and who is a member of a Lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, it shall be the duty of such subordinate Lodge to furnish to the widow or orphans of such deceased member a certificate, under the seal of the Lodge, showing his membership, standing and death, without any application or charge therefor. [before 1933]

8.17. WIDOW AND CHILDREN — When the widow of a Master Mason marries a profane, she thereby forfeits her rights to aid and assistance from the fraternity; but his children are not thereby cut off. The death of the second husband restores such widow to all her rights. The widow and children of a non-affiliate who was entitled to Masonic burial, are entitled to Masonic relief and assistance. The widow and children of a Master Mason who died while under sentence of suspension are deprived of their rights to Masonic relief. The marriage of a Master Mason's daughter to a profane does not necessarily deprive her of her rights as the daughter of a Master Mason. This is a matter for determination under the facts in each particular case.

8.18. AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION — The Master or presiding officer of each Lodge shall cause a vote to be taken on amendments proposed to the Constitution of the Grand Lodge at the Communication for the election of officers, and immediately after such action shall see that the action of the Lodge is sent up to the Grand Secretary, certified to as required by Article VIII of the Constitution; and if more than one amendment is to be acted on, the Lodge shall take a separate vote on each proposition.

8.19. SAME FAILURE TO REPORT — In all cases where Lodges fail to report action upon proposed amendments, when properly sent to them, as required by the Constitution, the Masters of such Lodges shall be summoned to appear before the Grand Lodge at its next Annual Communication, to give their reasons for failing to report their action or non-action on the proposed amendments.

8.20. APRON — Every subordinate Lodge must give to every E. A. at the time of his initiation a Lambskin or White Leather Apron which shall be his personal property. [1950]

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CHAPTER IX.**LODGES: REMOVAL; CONSOLIDATION**

9.1. REMOVAL — For the purpose of removal of a Lodge from its regular place of meeting in a city or town to another place in the same city or town, the W. M. shall cause notice to be given to each member of the Lodge and to appear at a specified regular communication of the Lodge for the purpose of consideration of removal, and, should a majority of the members present vote for removal, they may do so upon consent of the Grand Master. Without each requirement herein set out being complied with, the Grand Master cannot issue a dispensation for a Lodge to hold even a single regular or special communication at any place other than the regular place of meeting. However, in case of destruction of a Lodge rendering it unsafe or insecure for meeting therein, the Lodge may meet temporarily in another suitable building until the above provisions can be carried out. [1950]

9.2. CONSOLIDATION — Two or more Lodges, all being clear on the books of Grand Lodge, may be allowed to consolidate and form one Lodge upon petition to the Grand Lodge or Grand Master; such petition must be signed by a majority of the members of each Lodge present at a meeting especially called for that purpose. The consolidation of two Lodges confers all the rights and powers that the two former Lodges had on the new Lodge and preserves intact all the rights privileges of membership of the two Lodges and members of either of the old Lodges who have been suspended for non-payment of dues may be reinstated in the regular manner by application to the new Lodge.

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CHAPTER X.**LODGES: FORFEITURE AND RESTORATION OF CHARTERS**

10.1. REPORT — When the charter of a Lodge is subject to forfeiture for any cause, the same shall be reported to the Grand Lodge at any regular communication by the Grand Secretary or any other member, and the Grand Lodge shall take such action thereon as may be proper.

10.2. MAY BE CONTINUED — When in any case the cause for forfeiture has been fully removed, the Grand Master may in his discretion, upon petition of not less than eight members of said Lodge, who were in good standing when the charter was forfeited, and who have not obtained certificates from the Grand Secretary, issue a dispensation to continue work until the convening of the next regular communication of the Grand Lodge, at which time the Grand Lodge shall take such action as it deems proper.

10.3. FAILURE TO PAY FOR CHARTER — A Lodge working under a Dispensation, which has been granted a charter, but fails to pay for and obtain the charter, becomes at once defunct. Members of such defunct Lodge can obtain a certificate from the Grand Secretary in the manner provided for members of other defunct Lodges. [before 1933]

10.4. MEMBERSHIP — When the charter of a Lodge is arrested the standing of the membership thereof is not affected.

10.5. DISPENSATION SURRENDERED — A Lodge under Dispensation which cannot secure a quorum owing to the death or removal of some of its members must surrender its dispensation. [before 1933]

10.6. RESTORATION OF CHARTER — In order to restore the charter of a defunct Lodge the petition therefor must be signed by eight members who were in good standing when the charter

was forfeited and have not affiliated with another Lodge.

10.7. RESTORATION — EFFECT — The restoration of the charter of a subordinate Lodge revives the charter of such dormant Lodge, restores all its property and rights of property, both real and personal, unless previously disposed of by the Grand Master. It also reinstates the membership to all their rights and privileges as well as disabilities, existing at the time of forfeiture, except as to such members as during the dormancy of the Lodge have paid their dues to the Grand Secretary and received their certificates when the charter is restored. The Lodge may proceed to elect its officers as soon as convenient and report the same forthwith to the Grand Secretary.

10.8. AFFILIATE FROM LODGE DEFUNCT — When a Mason whose Lodge is defunct, and there is no record of his standing in the records of the Grand Lodge having jurisdiction, desires to affiliate with a Lodge under this jurisdiction, he may make application setting forth the facts above mentioned, and upon the proof of such statements that he was in good standing at the time his Lodge became defunct, be received into membership by application, and the Lodge shall send to the Grand Lodge a report of the proof of membership, and the action of the Lodge thereon for record of the Grand Lodge. Such application shall be received and acted on in the same manner as a petition for affiliation by demit.

10.9. DEGREES AFTER FORFEIT — Where degrees are conferred by a Lodge whose charter has been forfeited, the parties thus receiving the degrees must be regularly “healed” by the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge. [before 1933]

10.10. CERTIFICATE IN LIEU OF DEMIT — When a Lodge forfeits its charter, any member thereof who was in the last annual report of such Lodge before such forfeiture shall be provided with a certificate in the nature of a demit from the Grand Secretary, upon the payment to the Grand Secretary of the amount of Grand Lodge Dues due by the Lodge on the brother. A brother who

stood suspended for nonpayment of dues at the time of such forfeiture of charter is entitled to the foregoing certificate upon the payment of the amount for which he was suspended. No dues accrue while charter is forfeited. Members of defunct Lodges who were in good standing at the time of forfeiture of charter are not suspended Masons. The certificate from the Grand Secretary is not a demit from the Grand Lodge but from the defunct Lodge.

10.11. DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY — When a Lodge forfeits its charter, all its property both real and personal, becomes the property of the Grand Lodge, and a new Lodge afterwards formed at the same place by the same membership has no right to the property of the former Lodge. However, the Grand Secretary may by resolution of the Grand Lodge turn over or donate such property to the said new Lodge, and in such a case it is the duty of the new Lodge to pay such debts as the former Lodge may have owed at least to the extent of the value of the property so acquired. The above does not apply to the restoration of charter of old or former Lodge. The restoration of charter in this case restores its property and its liabilities. It is the duty of the first three officers of a Lodge having forfeited its charter to turn over to the Grand Secretary all the personal property and the deeds to the real property of said Lodge. The Grand Lodge does not assume the liabilities of a subordinate Lodge, but in cases where the said defunct Lodge owes all or in part for any item of its property whether it had executed a mortgage or lien on it or not, the Grand Master, with the assistance of the Grand Secretary, shall take up the matter with the mortgagee, lienee or creditor and fairly adjust such claims, as justice to all concerned would demand, and report their actions at the next annual communication of the Grand Lodge.

10.12. EXPENSES OF PROXY - DEFUNCT LODGE — The proxy of a Master or Warden of a defunct Lodge is not entitled to be paid his expenses for attending Grand Lodge out of the funds of the Lodge unless the by-laws of the Lodge contain a provision to that effect.

10.13. REORGANIZATION — When the charter of any

Lodge has been forfeited, and no steps have been taken looking to a restoration of its charter, not less than eight of those who were members of said Lodge in good standing at the time of forfeiture, and who have not accepted certificates from the Grand Secretary, may petition the Grand Master for a reorganization of said Lodge, and he may in his discretion issue to such a Lodge a dispensation to work till the next regular communication of the Grand Lodge, at which time such action shall be taken as Grand Lodge deems proper. The effect of such reorganization shall be that the reorganized Lodge shall be entitled to the name, number and property of the old Lodge, but only those shall be restored to membership in the Lodge as were in good standing at the time of forfeiture and who have not accepted certificates from the Grand Secretary, and shall successfully pass a unanimous ballot at a meeting of the members of said Lodge to be held at a time and place of which reasonable notice has been given, said ballot to be conducted under the supervision of a special deputy of the Grand Master.

CHAPTER XI.**JURISDICTION OVER MATERIAL**

11.1. RESIDENT — A resident is one who has a fixed permanent home in this State to which he has the intention of returning when absent. When one actually leaves the State with the intention of remaining away, and changes his residence, and returns, he must live in the State, upon his return, six months before being eligible for membership, no matter how short a time he may have remained away. On the other hand, no matter how long he may have remained away, if such absence was with the intention of returning, he is eligible for membership in this State. Residence is largely a question of intention. Hence, one may have his residence within the jurisdiction of a Lodge, although away from his residence a greater part of the time. [amended 1999]

11.2. RESIDENT OF THE STATE SIX MONTHS — No subordinate Lodge shall initiate any person who has not been a resident within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge for six months. Provided, this prohibition does not apply to Military men if stationed within this Grand Jurisdiction at the time the petition is received and acted upon in the Lodge. The above requirement does not apply to ministers actively engaged in their calling and corresponding leaders in other monotheistic religions, a demitted Mason, or an E. A. or F. C. with a dismissal certificate.

The six month requirement may be waived by the Grand Master in writing and further if the applicant is a resident of another Grand Jurisdiction recognized by this Grand Lodge, written consent from that Grand Lodge must be obtained before he is eligible for membership. Also any waivers granted shall be reported by the Grand Master at the next succeeding Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge. [amended 1998 & 1999]

11.3. CHANGE OF RESIDENCE — When a person moves from another State into this State with the intention of acquiring permanent residence here, he immediately falls under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, even though he may not be

eligible to membership here until the expiration of six months. The Grand Jurisdiction from which he removed has no jurisdiction over him and he cannot be initiated here by obtaining consent from that Grand Jurisdiction. He must reside in this State six months before he can be initiated. Conversely, where a profane removes from this State, this Grand Lodge at once loses jurisdiction over him and no consent can be given to his initiation in another State. [amended 1999]

11.4. MILITARY — Officers and enlisted men of the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard, residents of other states, in order to come within the exceptions of the provisions of the edicts of the Grand Lodge as to residence, must be men whose profession is that of arms. Provisions of this edict shall apply to active duty personnel only and not to members of the National Guard or Reserve component of any of the aforementioned military services.

11.5. MASONS MADE IN WRONG STATE — A resident of another State, made a Mason in this State, or a resident of this State made a Mason in another State, are illegally made Masons, and until they are restored to rights and privileges by being healed, a petition for affiliation accompanied by a demit obtained through such procedure cannot be received.

11.6. PETITION BEFORE SIX MONTHS — Should a profane make application for initiation before he has been a resident of the State for six months, his application may be continued beyond six months, or may be returned, together with the fee and such fact and reason therefor noted on the minutes. [amended 1998 & 1999]

11.7. A man desiring to be made a Mason may petition the Lodge of his choice. [Deleted 1999]

11.8. CONSENT WHEN REJECTED — One rejected on petition for initiation may without waiting any specified time apply to another Lodge, but before presenting his petition to the

other Lodge either he or the Lodge must obtain the rejecting Lodge's consent for the other Lodge to receive his petition, and if he has been rejected by more than one Lodge, the consent of the Lodge holding release is required. No action shall be taken on the petition until consent has been received from the Lodge of Rejection.

11.9. HOW EVIDENCED — Consent shall be in writing and under the seal of the Lodge. Consent thus given is a release of jurisdiction to that and all other Lodges, and no future request for consent is required.

11.10. DUTY OF LODGE RECEIVING REQUEST — Lodge receiving request for consent, cannot act on same at that meeting, but it must lie over until the next regular communication, at which time it must be acted on, and Lodge failing to act then, or as soon thereafter as practicable, is guilty of a discourtesy, and subject to charges by the Lodge making the request. A majority of the members present may give consent. A Lodge cannot be required to give its reason for refusing consent.

11.11. PENALTIES — The fact of having been rejected, when and by what Lodge, must be stated in any petition and failure to do so subjects the candidate to charges. Any Lodge violating the provisions of the Constitution and this edict relative to this consent is guilty of unmasonic conduct and subjects itself to discipline by the Grand Lodge, and the loss of its charter. Any brother assisting in conferring the degrees on one whom he knows to have been rejected by another Lodge, and the provisions as to consent have not been complied with, renders himself liable to expulsion.

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CHAPTER XII.**TIME AND PLACE OF MEETINGS**

12.1. REGULAR COMMUNICATION — A Lodge cannot hold a regular communication at any time except on the day and hour provided in the by-laws, and that can be changed only by amending the by-laws.

12.2. FESTIVAL DAYS — The anniversaries of St. John the Evangelist and St. John the Baptist are days for festivals, installations and celebrations. Subordinate Lodges ought not to confer degrees or transact Lodge business on those days. It is not prohibited that degrees be conferred on those days, but it is better not to do so. But if the regular communications fall on those days, degrees may be conferred, and any other business transacted. [before 1933]

12.3. NOT CALLED OFF BEYOND THE DAY — A regular communication cannot be called off or continued to a day beyond the day on which it is held, but it may be done to any subsequent hour of the same day. While a communication cannot be called off from one day to another, this does not mean it may not have a continuous session until after midnight. [before 1933]

12.4. SUNDAY — It is unmasonic for a Lodge to hold a communication, regular or special, on Sunday for the transaction of any business except conducting a funeral or holding a Lodge of Sorrow. And no Lodge should let or lease its Hall on that day except for divine worship.

12.5. SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS — The W. M. may call a special communication at a regular communication, or at any time he may deem it advisable; but in all cases the object of the call must be stated, and due and sufficient notice be given as to the time. No business shall be transacted at a special communication except that specified in the call. Degrees may be conferred at a special communication called for that purpose, providing the

candidate had been elected at a regular communication. Trials shall be held in a special communication called for that purpose, and may be had on the same day as the regular communications. A candidate may be examined on his proficiency in the preceding degree when degrees are to be conferred. Lodge to be opened in the degree in which work is to be done. Lodge may hold special communication on Sunday for the burial of a brother. The W. M. cannot at a special communication, call another at a later hour same day except for burial of a brother or some important special ceremony. The minutes must show the call and object of a special communication.

12.6. PLACE — The Masonic tradition of “High hills and low vales” does not apply to modern conditions, therefore, Lodges need not hold their meetings in the cellars or upper floors of building. It is sufficient if the place of meeting can be properly and securely guarded against outside observation, hearing or intrusion. [before 1933]

12.7. MAY HOLD DURING GRAND LODGE — Notwithstanding the Master and Wardens of a Lodge may be represented by proxies in the Grand Lodge, they may legally and constitutionally open the Lodge, transact business and confer degrees during the Communications of the Grand Lodge. This, however does not apply to Lodges working under dispensation.

CHAPTER XIII.**CONDUCT OF MEETINGS**

13.1. SEVEN MEMBERS PRESENT — To open a Lodge and transact any business there must be ne less than seven Master Masons, who are members of the Lodge, and the Master or one of the Wardens must be included in the number. The District Lecturer or Assistant Lecturer may count in the quorum for opening the Lodge he is visiting if within the Lecturer/Assistant Lecturers assigned District. The Lecturer or Assistant Lecturer will have no right to vote on any regular business. [amended 1998]

13.2. OPENED IN M.M. DEGREE — A Master Mason Lodge may be opened without opening either the E. A. or F. C. Degree.

13.3. MASTER OR WARDEN PRESENT — A Lodge cannot be opened in the absence of the Master and both Wardens. One of these officers must not only be present to congregate the Lodge, but must remain during its entire session. If one of the Wardens be present to congregate the Lodge, he may, however, by courtesy call on a Past Master or Present Master, or Warden of another Lodge to preside, provided he remains in the Lodge room during the meeting of the Lodge. Provided, further, that for the purpose of conducting a funeral, any Past Master of the Lodge may open the Lodge and conduct the funeral in the absence of the three principal officers of the Lodge.

13.4. MASTER NOT DESIGNATED — A Lodge has no right to elect or designate any person to act as W. M. for a special purpose or a special meeting. The regularly elected and installed Master always has the right to preside if present, and in case of his absence or disability the S. W. or J. W. must perform his duties. [before 1933]

13.5. DEMITTED CANNOT PRESIDE — A Past Master who has demitted for six months or longer cannot confer degrees,

open a Lodge, preside, or install officers, even though requested to do so by the W. M. or presiding Warden. This holds true even though his petition for affiliation may be pending in that or another Lodge. [before 1933]

13.6. PRAYER — No Lodge should ever be opened or closed without prayer, which should be before declaring the first Lodge opened and before closing. [amended 1928]

13.7. MASONRY AND RELIGION — Freemasonry is a Fraternity and not a Religion. Freemasonry has no plan for salvation, by works or otherwise. Salvation is between man and his God, according to the dictates of his religion. The term “religion” used here does not refer to any denomination, sect or creed. Masonry has no religious dogma other than that it requires a belief in Deity. Any man, good and true, whether he be Christian, Jew, Mohammedan, Parsee, Buddhist, Brahman or Deist may be admitted to Masonry because all these religions require a belief in Deity. [2000]

13.8. SECTARIANISM — A Mason offering prayer in the Lodge may pray to his God observing his own conception of Deity. It is therefore proper and in accordance with Masonic law and tenets for a Mason who believes in the Christ or Jesus to offer prayer in the Lodge in His Name. None should take umbrage because he addresses his prayer to his own conception of Deity. He must use prayer in the Ritual in all ritualistic ceremonies. Any other prayer is out of order in such ceremonies.

13.9. OBEDIENCE TO GAVEL — If members refuse to obey the gavel of the Master he has the right, in order to stop further confusion and disorder, to declare the Lodge closed and take himself and the charter out of the Lodge, even while at labor. [before 1933]

13.10. CONSTITUTION AND PROCEEDINGS — It shall be the duty of the Secretary of each subordinate Lodge under this jurisdiction to keep constantly in his Lodge a copy of the latest

edition of the Constitution, Edicts, Decisions and Resolutions of the Grand Lodge and also a copy of the last printed proceedings of the Grand Lodge and the latest abridged report. [amended 1998 & 1999]

13.11. SUMMONS — A summons to attend a Communication of the Lodge may be given in either one or more of the following ways:

1st. By the Worshipful Master in open Lodge to all present.

2nd. By the Secretary in writing by order of the Lodge or Master.

3rd. By a member, verbally, when authorized by the Lodge or Master in writing.

4th. By the Tiler, verbally, when ordered by the Master.

A summons or notice to the members of the Lodge for a meeting to be held for the trial of a brother should state the purpose of such meeting. [before 1933]

13.12. FAILURE TO OBEY SUMMONS — There is no fixed distance of travel which would excuse a member of a Lodge from obeying a summons. Each individual case must be judged by the circumstances.

13.13. DISOBEDIENCE OF SUMMONS — That the brother has a grievance against the Master or any other brother in the Lodge is no excuse for the willful failure to obey a summons to attend a communication of the Lodge. [before 1933]

13.14. PROXIES NOT PERMITTED — One brother cannot act as proxy for an absent brother. In order to participate in the deliberations of a subordinate Lodge a member must be present.

13.15. EDICTS READ IN OPEN LODGE — All edicts and decisions adopted by the Grand Lodge shall be read in open Lodge as soon after receipt of the printed proceedings as practicable.

13.16. LODGE MAY RECONSIDER — A Lodge has the right to reconsider its action on any business, except petitions for

initiation, transfer or affiliation, upon motion of a brother voting in the majority, at the same or communication succeeding the one at which such action was taken, if there is no by-law to the contrary.

13.17. DISBURSEMENTS — All disbursements of the Lodge funds must be made by the Treasurer, by order of the W. M., and the consent of the Lodge, and such consent must be by a majority vote at a regular Communication.

13.18. CONSENT OF LODGE — When a Lodge has voted at a regular communication to do a thing which requires the expenditure of money, this of itself constitutes the “consent of the Lodge” and will authorize the W. M. to order a warrant drawn for the amount required. However, the W. M. should not order such warrant until that “consent” is given. [before 1933]

13.19. ONE CANDIDATE AT A TIME — It is improper to confer the degrees or any part of any one of them on two or more candidates at one and the same time, except the Lectures, Charges, and Proficiency Examination on the Lessons. [amended 1993]

13.20. DEGREES CLOSED SEPARATELY — When a Lodge has been opened in different degrees, each degree must be closed separately, except that the Worshipful Master, when recognizing the lateness of the hour and fatigue of the brethren, and in his sound judgment the interest of the Craft should warrant it, may close by one declaration all the lodges opened at that communication.

13.21. WHO MAY INSTRUCT — The Master may appoint a qualified brother or brothers to teach and lecture candidates and the Lodge and also confer degrees, regardless if whether such brother has held office in the Lodge or not.

13.22. ONLY ALABAMA WORK — No other work than that adopted by the Grand Lodge of Alabama shall be practiced in this grand jurisdiction, except as hereinafter expressly provided,

and no person, not even a member of the Committee on Work shall teach or practice any change therein until adopted by the Grand Lodge; nor can any monitor other than the Masonic Ritual of Alabama be used, and any Lodge using or permitting the use of any Ritual or other book of instruction on Masonic work, published and sent out by any other Grand Jurisdiction, or by any individual, subjects its charter to arrest and discipline by the Grand Lodge. Any brother violating the spirit of either of the foregoing provisions is guilty of unmasonic conduct.

13.23. FOREIGN WORK — A degree team from another jurisdiction may visit a Lodge in this jurisdiction and exemplify the conferring of degrees on their own candidate, using their ritual, but only the ritual approved in this jurisdiction shall be used under the auspices of a Lodge in this jurisdiction.

13.24. MUST HAVE CERTIFICATES — No one shall be permitted to visit a subordinate Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, unless he shall present a properly accredited receipt from a regularly constituted Lodge of this jurisdiction or of a jurisdiction with which this Grand Jurisdiction is in fraternal relations, or a certificate of membership properly issued under the seal of the Grand Lodge; provided, the Master may waive such requirements, if he is satisfied such person is a regularly made Mason and entitled to the privilege of visitation. [before 1933]

13.25. LEGAL INFORMATION — No visiting brother can be allowed to sit in the Lodge excepting upon legal information derived in one of two ways:

1st. From personal knowledge that such an one is a M. M., which knowledge can only be acquired after due trial and strict examination, or having sat in regular Lodge of M. M. with the party.

2nd. From the oral declaration of a known M. M. that such an one is a M. M., such declaration being made as an avouchment and in the presence of the party vouched for; provided, that the voucher has personal knowledge acquired as above that the one vouched for is a M. M. [before 1933]

13.26. LETTER OR DEMIT — A letter of recommendation under the seal of the Lodge or a demit, is not sufficient evidence that the possessor thereof is a Mason. Before admission in the Lodge he must be vouched for or pass a satisfactory examination. [before 1933]

13.27. SITTING IN OTHER BODIES — The fact of having sat in Chapter, Council, Commandery or Scottish Rite with another is not of itself sufficient evidence to vouch for the latter as a Master Mason. [before 1933]

13.28. EXAMINATION — Strict trial and due examination are difficult terms to define, but means such a trial on the grips, proceedings, etc., and examination as to the secret work which will satisfy the examining brother or committee that the person being examined is a Master Mason. [before 1933]

13.29. NEED NOT BE BY DIRECTION — The trial and examination need not be in the ante-room or by order of the Lodge, nor for admission to the Lodge, but may be at any time and place, so long as they are conducted in a proper Masonic manner. [before 1933]

13.30. OBJECTION TO A VISITOR — A member of a Lodge who is not present at the communication cannot object to a Master Mason in good standing in another Lodge being received as a visitor. Any member of the Lodge present at the communication can object to a visitor from another Lodge being admitted unless such visiting brother is an officer or representative of the Grand Lodge of Alabama or of the Grand Master whose duty it is to make such visit.

13.31. VISITATION BY NON-AFFILIATE — Visitation by a non-affiliate is a privilege subordinate to the rights of the Lodge. He cannot visit a Lodge or join in a Masonic procession except by courtesy of the Lodge. The by-laws of a Lodge may prohibit a non-affiliate from revisiting it. It is the duty of the W.

M. to exclude any visitor when his presence mars the peace and harmony of the Lodge.

13.32. MINUTES; BY WHOM SIGNED — It is not necessary that the minutes of a Lodge be signed by the Master unless so required by the by-laws of the Lodge; the signature of the Secretary is sufficient. [before 1933]

13.33. MINUTES READ — The minutes of a meeting are to be read at the succeeding regular communication, at which time they may be amended and adopted. [before 1933]

13.34. MINUTES AMENDMENTS OF — The minutes can be amended by a majority vote of the Lodge present at the communication at which they were read. [before 1933]

13.35. MINUTES EXPUNGED — The Lodge may, for sufficient reason, expunge any report from its minutes, but the fact that a brother against whom charges were preferred was not convicted is not sufficient reason for so doing. While it is in the power of a Lodge to expunge a part of its minutes, the report of a committee on investigation should not be expunged arbitrarily or without the best of reasons therefor. [before 1933]

13.36. MINUTES - OMISSION SUPPLIED — If on the trial of a brother, the Secretary fails to take down the evidence of a witness, the Lodge may, at its next regular communication, amend its minutes and supply such omission. [before 1933]

13.37. MINUTES INCLUDE REPORT — The report of a committee appointed to investigate charges against a brother should be spread in full on the minutes. [before 1933]

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CHAPTER XIV.**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

14.1. MASTER - ELIGIBILITY — Any one is eligible for election as Worshipful Master who is a member of that Lodge at the time of his election, and who has served as a duly elected and installed Warden of a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, and provided that if in the forming of a new Lodge none of its members have previously served as Master or Warden, as above defined, the Grand Master may appoint such member to be W. M. as he may deem proper. A Master or Warden under charges but not tried, is eligible for W. M. Loss of arm or other limb does not disqualify one for election as W. M. Inability to read or write does not disqualify one for election as W. M. Not being a naturalized citizen does not disqualify one for election as W. M. One who was appointed by the Grand Master and served as Master or Warden of a Lodge under Dispensation is eligible for election as Worshipful Master.

14.2. PAST MASTER DEGREE — The degree of P. M. has nothing to do with the qualifications for office in a M. M. Lodge, and whenever the word Past Master is used in this Code it refers to a Past W. M., and not to one who has taken the P. M. Degree. [before 1933]

14.3. REQUIRING PROFICIENCY — A Lodge cannot enact a by-law requiring a proficiency test in conferring the degrees, in order to be eligible to election as Master or Warden.

14.4. TILER - ELIGIBILITY — The Tiler, as well as other officers, must be a member of the Lodge at the time of his election or appointment. [before 1933]

14.5. A blind brother shall not be elected or installed as Tiler of a Lodge.

14.6. CONDUCT OF ELECTION — While it is not improper for brethren to confer in a fraternal spirit as to the election of officers of the Lodge, it is improper and unmasonic for them to prepare

ballots and distribute them with the request that they be voted. [before 1933]

14.7. DISQUALIFIED VOTE — The mere fact that one who has been suspended or demitted voted at an election of officers does not invalidate the election, unless this vote was necessary to and did secure the election of one of the officers chosen. [before 1933]

14.8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS — Is unmasonic to nominate any candidate for office in Masonry, but a subordinate Lodge may by unanimous consent delegate a brother to cast the entire vote of the Lodge for a certain office, but a motion that he cast it for a certain person for such office would be unmasonic.

14.9. INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS — Any officer-elect may refuse to be installed and has the right to demit. No one is a legal officer of a Lodge until he has been installed. The installation of subordinate Lodge officers shall be as soon as practicable after their election, or appointment, but in no case longer than forty-five days after such election or appointment. In no case shall they be installed prior to the 24th day of June. That day, by Masonic custom is installation day, and if officers are not installed on that day, they should be installed thereafter as soon as practicable. The retiring W. M. has the prerogative of installing the officers-elect of his Lodge, but any present or Past Master is eligible to install except that a demitted Past Master cannot, neither can a Warden. The W. M. elect after his own, may install the other officers. Public installations are permissible and any number of Lodges may join in a public or private installation, and the officers of each Lodge be installed at the same time and under the same ceremonies. In case of a joint installation, all the Lodges whose officers are to be so installed may meet with one of the Lodges, and that Lodge shall be opened and remain open in the M. M. Degree until after the installation, when it shall be closed. When a joint public installation is had, the brethren may form a procession, and have a general celebration without a dispensation. At the first regular communication of each Lodge after the joint installation of their officers, the W. M. shall report same in open Lodge and order the Secretary to show same in detail on the minutes. No officer can be installed by proxy. Any officer when reelected need not be installed.

Officer installed with those of another Lodge is legally installed.

14.10. VACANCIES IN FIRST THREE OFFICES — The government of the Lodge is vested in the Master and Wardens, and their respective powers and duties are in force and effect until their successors are elected and installed. They can neither resign nor demit after being installed and neither of their offices can be vacated except by death, expulsion, suspension to a term beyond that for which they were elected, or removal so far away that they are unable to attend Lodge. Should a vacancy occur in the S. W. or J. W. station, the G. M. may issue a dispensation to fill such vacancy by election. Should a vacancy occur in the W. M. station while the S. W. station is filled by a regularly elected and installed officer, no dispensation can be issued to fill such vacancy, as the powers and duties of the W. M. survive in the S. W., he then is the S. W. and Acting Master. Should the office of S. W. be vacant at the time of the vacancy in W. M. station, the J. W. succeeds to powers and duties of W. M. and shall so hold until the vacancy in S. W. station is filled. When neither the W. M. or either of the Wardens have been installed, and any one of them dies, removes in the manner above set out, or refuses to be installed, the G. M. may issue dispensation to elect another brother to fill such office. A Lodge cannot be opened except by the Master or one of the Wardens, but in case of absence of the first three officers, or in case of vacancy in all three stations, the G. M. cannot issue dispensation for other members to open the Lodge; but he, or the Deputy Grand Master may do so, or he may deputize some Past Master to open and preside over the Lodge.

14.11. VACANCY IN OFFICE OF W. M. — In case of a vacancy in the office of W. M., all the rights, powers and duties of the office survive in the S. W. or J. W. as the case may be. This, however, does not create a vacancy in the Warden's office. He is still Warden and "Acting Master". [before 1933]

14.12. J. W. DOES NOT SUCCEED S. W. — When the office of the S. W. becomes vacant the J. W. does not succeed to his station, nor has he the right to be elected to such station in case of vacancy therein, as he cannot resign his office of J. W. [before 1933]

14.13. FAILURE TO BE INSTALLED — A Warden who refuses to be installed, creates a vacancy in that office, which should be filled by appointment, pro tem., or by election after Dispensation granted therefor by the Grand Master.

14.14. DEFINITE SUSPENSION — When a Warden is suspended for a definite period his office is not thereby vacated, and when his sentence of suspension has expired he is thereby reinstated to membership and is still Warden, and must assume his duties as such, provided his term of office has not expired. [before 1933]

14.15. FILLING VACANCY — Vacancy occurring in a minor office may be filled by appointment or election at any time without dispensation. Vacancies in either of the first three offices can only be filled after dispensation from the Grand Master. [before 1933]

14.16. BY-LAW - FILLING VACANCY — A Lodge may enact a by-law providing for filling any vacancy that may occur in any office in the Lodge except the first three, by election, or appointment by the Worshipful Master. In the absence of such by-laws the W. M. may fill such vacancy by appointment.

14.17. VACANCY — When any officer of the Lodge, except the first three, removes from the jurisdiction of the Lodge or is unable to attend to the duties of the office, the Lodge may, by resolution, declare the office vacant and proceed to elect a successor thereto. [before 1933]

14.18. MINOR OFFICER SUSPENDED — When any duly elected or appointed officer, other than the Master or Wardens is definitely suspended by due Masonic trial, it is the duty of the Worshipful Master to appoint some member to act as and for such officer until the expiration of his sentence. If such officer has been expelled or indefinitely suspended, or definitely suspended, beyond the term for which he was elected, then the W. M. shall declare a vacancy and the Lodge shall proceed to fill such vacancy in the manner provided in the by-laws.

CHAPTER XV.**POWERS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

15.1. MASTER'S RIGHT TO VOTE — The Master has the right to vote on any proposition before the Lodge, including a change in the by-laws.

15.2. INDUCEMENTS—The laws and ancient landmarks of Freemasonry prohibit the offering of inducements of any nature to obtain members. Masons under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Alabama may properly inquire of a worthy, qualified person 'if he has ever considered petitioning for membership in Freemasonry?' This, or a similarly phrased question, is a proper question to determine intent. In addition, the said person shall be advised that 'he must petition of his own initiative and that he will not be asked to petition.' Further, he may be told that Masonic literature is available and will be furnished upon request.

15.3. MASTER'S AUTHORITY — No appeal lies from his decision to the Lodge, and he is amenable only to the Grand Lodge, but subject to suspension by the Grand Master, under certain restrictions. It is his privilege to decide all points of order, all questions as to ceremonial work and Masonic law, subject only to the Constitution, Rules and Edicts of the Grand Lodge, the by-laws of his own Lodge, and the ancient landmarks and usages of the Order.

15.4. WARDENS SUCCEED — In case of the absence or disability of the Master, the S. W. first and then the J. W. succeed to all his powers, duties, prerogatives and privileges and must preside unless through courtesy he calls on someone in his stead, and he must sign warrants on the Treasurer for appropriations made by the Lodge while he was presiding.

15.5. ATTENDING GRAND LODGE — Each of the principal officers of the Lodge have the right to attend the Grand Lodge and they possess equal powers and privileges. The payment

of the expenses of each is a matter for the regulation of the Subordinate Lodge. [amended 1998]

15.6. MINUTE BOOK — The minute book, records and papers are in the Secretary's possession and he should hold them until a new Secretary is elected and installed, or they are demanded by the Worshipful Master or the Lodge. It is also his duty to preserve and safeguard the property that passes into his possession and he should see that the minutes or all papers in his possession necessary for the conduct of the business of the Lodge are present when the Lodge is open.

15.7. SECRETARY'S BOOKS — It is improper for the Secretary of a Lodge to have any person not a Mason to keep his books or to conduct his correspondence. If he is unable or unwilling to do this work, he should resign.

15.8. SECRETARY — It is the duty of the Secretary to collect all money due the Lodge, and he is liable to the Lodge for all money so collected, and is entitled to such credits as the Lodge may have authorized.

15.9. SECRETARY — It is the duty of the Secretary to forward a notice of all dues and assessments to each member of his Lodge prior to June 24th of each year and in advance as to allow ample time for said member to respond prior to June 24th of each year. It is the duty of the Secretary to report the full names and mailing addresses of the Master and Secretary of his Lodge immediately after their election to the Grand Secretary. Such addresses shall show street number, post office box number, R. F. D. route and box number and delivery zone where applicable of the city or town in which each resides.

15.10. CANNOT EXCHANGE PLACES — Officers cannot exchange places except pro tem.

CHAPTER XVI.**LODGE MEMBERSHIP: RECEIVING DEGREES**

16.1. **ELIGIBILITY** — A foreign-born citizen and not naturalized is eligible. Illegitimate birth does not disqualify a man. The fact of being separated from one's wife does not disqualify. One who can neither read or write is eligible for the degrees. No religious test is required of a candidate, other than that he shall believe in God, the Creator and Governor of the Universe. Neither the indictment by a Grand Jury, nor the conviction for crime in the courts, does not of itself render one ineligible for the degrees; it is a matter for the investigating committee to consider in making its report, and members in balloting. One who is engaged in or participates in any manner in the illegal selling or disposing of intoxicating liquor is disqualified from taking the degrees. A Communist is not qualified to receive the degrees of Masonry.

16.2. **DOTAGE** — As used Masonically the word “dotage” means feebleness or imbecility of understanding or mind, or physical senility. One possessed of his physical and mental faculties may be made a Mason although old in point of years. [before 1933]

16.3. **MADMAN** — A non compos mentis is a “madman” within the meaning of Masonic law. Such a person is ineligible to be made a Mason and should he present a petition it should be returned to him as soon as his mental condition is discovered, and if anything concerning the matter has gotten into the minutes they should be made to show clearly why it was returned.

16.4. **BLIND** — A blind man is eligible to be made a Mason provided he complies with Article VI, Section 7 of the Constitution.

16.5. **PETITIONS** — A petition for affiliation or initiation must be signed by the applicant, and a petition for initiation must state whether he had ever applied to another Lodge, and if so, to what Lodge, and if he had ever been rejected.

16.6. RECEIVED ONLY AT REGULAR COMMUNICATION — The Grand Master cannot grant a dispensation for a petition to be received at other than a regular communication.

16.7. RECOMMENDATION A Master Mason should not recommend or vouch for a petitioner unless he can conscientiously do so, as far as he then knows of the character of the petitioner, and is willing that he should be made a Mason. Should he voluntarily recommend an applicant, and then attempt to have him rejected on account of facts known to him at the time, and not upon subsequent events or after acquired knowledge, he is guilty of unmasonic conduct.

16.8. MADE UNDER MISAPPREHENSION —When through misapprehension or ignorance a brother recommends one who has been rejected by another Lodge he may withdraw his recommendation along with the petition.

16.9. PETITION CANNOT BE REFUSED —When the petition is properly presented and accompanied with money for the fee, no brother has the right to object to its being received; nor can a Lodge by a motion refuse to receive it provided it is not barred by other provisions of law.

16.10. PETITIONS RETURNED — A brother recommending the applicant cannot demand that the petition be returned to him. If after receiving a petition and before it is balloted on, the Lodge finds that for any legal reason it is barred from taking further action on such petition, for instance, lack of jurisdiction, physical disqualifications, the lack of six months' residence in the State by the applicant, or that the applicant was under the age of 21 years at the time of signing the petition, or was in his dotage or of unsound mind, or that the petition was received by mistake, it being intended for another Lodge, in either of such events the petition together with the fee shall be returned and the facts noted on the minutes.

16.11. DEATH; REMOVAL — In case of the death of the

applicant while his petition is pending, or after having been elected, but not having received a degree, the fee shall be returned to the proper person and all the facts pertaining thereto shown on the minutes. When before his petition has been balloted on, the applicant removes permanently to another State, upon his request his petition and the fee may be returned and the reason therefor noted on the minutes.

16.12. INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE — When the petition is received, the W. M. shall refer it to a committee of three Master Masons, who are members of that Lodge, announcing their names in open Lodge. All of which procedure to be shown on the Minutes. The duty of such committee shall be to carefully investigate the character and standing of the applicant and report in writing either favorably or unfavorably within thirty days. The by-laws of a Lodge cannot provide for further time than that, but the Lodge may by a motion, grant the committee further time to make report. Should a member of the committee be unable to agree with the other two, he may submit a minority report. No member can report and sign for another member of the committee. A majority of the committee may report if the other member is absent, which report authorizes the Lodge to proceed with the ballot. When only two of the committee are present and ready to report, but do not agree on the report, the W. M. may appoint another brother as a substitute for the third member of the committee, but such substitute cannot make a report at that meeting, and the report of the committee is thereby postponed until the next regular communication. The committee may by consent of the Lodge withdraw its report, before the ballot is taken, and further time be granted them.

16.13. PETITION DISPOSITION — A petition cannot be withdrawn or disposed of, except by ballot, excepting when it is discovered to be barred by another legal requirement, or the applicant withdraws for conscientious reasons, in which case the Lodge should return all the fees paid except for such degrees as he has received. An unfavorable report does not obviate the necessity for a ballot. The report may be re-referred to the same, or to another committee for further investigation. The W. M. may appoint a standing committee

to procure information and otherwise assist the committees on petitions, also with the prerogative of interviewing the petitioner.

16.14. DEATH OF AVOUCHER — A brother dying or demitting while petition is pending which he recommended, does not affect the validity of the petition.

16.15. FEES FOR DEGREES — The Grand Master cannot issue a dispensation authorizing a subordinate Lodge to confer any one or all the degrees on any person or number of persons for smaller fees than those prescribed in Sec. 14, Art. VI of the Constitution. Fees must be paid by an instrument upon which cash can be immediately obtained, and at least the E. A. fee must accompany the petition. The F. C. and M. M. fees may be paid to the Secretary at any time before advancement. A Lodge cannot loan the amount of the fees back to the candidate after receiving the degrees, if such is done for the purpose of extending him credit, or giving him time to pay for the degrees. A member may loan money to the applicant to pay for the degrees as an individual, but the Lodge is in no way responsible for the payment of such loan.

16.16. MINISTERS — The degrees may, in the discretion of the Lodge, be conferred on ministers, without the payment of fees for the degrees, but every person before taking the first degree must pay the sum of ten dollars for the use and benefit of the maintenance fund of the Alabama Masonic Home; this sum shall be remitted by the Secretary of the subordinate Lodge to the Grand Secretary as may be required by Grand Lodge. A minister in this sense is any person ordained or set apart for the ministry, and who pursues, or has retired from, that profession as his chief vocation. It does not apply to one whose chief business is something else, or who only preaches occasionally. [amended 2001]

16.17. BALLOT SECRECY — It is unmasonic for a brother to disclose how he voted on a petition for affiliation or initiation, or to declare how he will vote on same, and when a candidate is rejected on his petition for either, no brother has the right to demand the name of the brother who balloted against the candidate; nor has any brother

the right to criticize in open Lodge or elsewhere a brother or brethren who cast an adverse ballot, and the minutes must show the rejection of the candidate. [before 1933]

16.18. CHARACTER DISCUSSED — A brother may disclose to the committee or to the Lodge any information he may have as to why the applicant should not be elected. This is not only his right but his duty. The members may discuss the character and qualifications of a candidate before the ballot is taken, but not afterwards.

16.19. BALLOT ON PETITIONS — Each petition for initiation or affiliation must be balloted on separately, and every member present must vote, and if he should persist in refusing to vote, charges should be preferred against him. However, the W. M. may in his discretion excuse a blind brother from voting, or he may, on request, designate some brother to cast the ballot for him as directed. If on the vote only one black ball appears, the W. M. shall thereupon order a new ballot on the petition taken in the regular manner before the result is declared. A ballot cast under misapprehension or by mistake does not affect the rules of balloting as to results, and the same must be accepted and treated as intentional.

16.20. CANNOT BE RECONSIDERED — A ballot can never be reconsidered after the result thereof has been declared, but if only one black ball appears, it is the duty of the Master, before announcing the result to order a new ballot, but if a black ball appears the second time the candidate must be declared rejected. [before 1933]

16.21. ONE REJECTED MAY RENEW — One rejected on his petition for initiation cannot file a new petition during the same meeting but he may do so at any subsequent communication, which petition must take the same course as the original and all other petitions. However the by-laws of the Lodge may provide that a specified time shall elapse before a petition can be renewed. In the absence of such by-law, the petition may be renewed under the provisions above stated.

16.22. DEGREES IN THREE MEETINGS —Conferring of

the degrees in less than three meetings conflicts with the Constitution of Grand Lodge and the Grand Master is not empowered to grant dispensation to confer the degrees in less than three meetings.

16.23. NEGLECT TO TAKE DEGREES — One who fails or refuses to take the degrees or either of them, or finds it impossible to do so, is not of a matter of right, entitled to have the fee therefor refunded to him. The Lodge may, at its option, retain or refund same. A Lodge may by its by-laws limit the time for a candidate to take the E. A. Degree after election thereto. [before 1933]

16.24. COURTESY DEGREES — A subordinate Lodge may, by request, confer any one or all of the degrees for another Lodge, either in this or another Grand Jurisdiction, and in such cases the membership of the person so initiated or advanced would be in the Lodge for which the work would be done and the fees belong to same. This request must be made in an official way, and the act of the Lodge. Such request from the Master or Secretary or any number of members is not sufficient. No Lodge shall request another Lodge to confer a degree as a courtesy until the requesting Lodge has collected the fee for all of the degrees. All requests for courtesy degrees in other Grand Jurisdictions must be cleared through the office of the Grand Secretary.

16.25. ASSUMED NAME — A Masonic obligation taken by one under an assumed name is binding. [before 1933]

16.26. MAY AFFIRM — A candidate for the degrees of Masonry who entertains conscientious objections to the use of the term “swear” may be obligated and made a Mason, the person conferring the degree on him being authorized to substitute the word “affirm” for the word “swear” wherever it may occur in any of the obligations. [before 1933]

16.27. MASTER MASON NOT EXAMINED — A brother who has been raised is not required to be examined on his proficiency in the M. M. Degree. Yet it is the duty of the W. M. or presiding officer to impress on the newly raised brother the importance of such proficiency.

CHAPTER XVII.**LODGE MEMBERSHIP: DEMIT AND AFFILIATION**

17.1. WHO MAY RESIGN OR DEMIT — Any officer, except the first three, may resign HIS OFFICE WITHOUT EFFECTING HIS LODGE MEMBERSHIP. Any member, except a duly installed Master or Warden, whose dues or assessments are paid up to that date or remitted by the Lodge, and against whom no charges are pending, may apply for a demit FROM LODGE MEMBERSHIP either orally in open Lodge, or in writing received at a regular communication, and in no case can he be required to give any reason or excuse for so doing.

A demitted Mason shall have the right to visit Lodges, lecture and instruct candidates for a period of six months after the date of his demit. If demitted for a period longer than six months, his right to lecture and instruct candidates, visit Lodges, receive pecuniary aid, or join in any Masonic procession is forfeited so long as non-affiliation continues.

17.2. UNDER CHARGES — When a request for a demit is made in this manner and upon the statement of the Secretary that the applicant has complied with the above requirements, the Lodge must grant this demit without vote of the Lodge. This severs the membership of the Brother instantly, effective upon the date of such request provided that no member at that time offers to prefer charges against the applicant, and if charges are so preferred the demit cannot be granted. Should the Brother be acquitted, he is then entitled to a demit.

17.3. GROUP APPLICATION — Any number of members may apply jointly for their demits, but in no case can a demit be granted if in so doing the membership of the Lodge would be reduced below the required constitutional number.

17.4. WHEN NOT ISSUED — The Secretary has no right to issue a demit until it is properly presented and if there be no objections by the Lodge. A brother convicted of a Masonic offense

and sentenced to suspension or a reprimand, is not entitled to a demit until he has received his punishment. A demit cannot be granted on condition that the holder pays his dues or that it be contingent on any other matter. A Lodge cannot require a brother to be examined in open Lodge before granting him a demit. Owing the Lodge money does not debar a brother from taking his demit.

17.5. DUPLICATE OF DEMIT — Where one loses his demit by fire or otherwise, he may apply to the Lodge which granted it for a duplicate, which should be given. But if it is impracticable to issue the duplicate the Lodge should grant a certificate, under seal and signed by the Secretary, that a demit had been granted and had been lost or destroyed. Said certificate shall then have the force and effect of a demit.

17.6. TRANSFER — A person may transfer his membership from one lodge in this state to another Lodge in this State without demitting, in manner as follows:

He may make application to any Lodge within this State for membership therein by transfer, a copy of which shall be filed with the Lodge of his membership. Such application shall give his name, age and residence; the name, number and location of the lodge of which he is then a member and shall state that he is at that time in good standing therein, and desires to transfer his membership therefrom to the Lodge to which he is making application.

17.7. RECEIPT OF TRANSFER — Such application shall be received by the Lodge to which made, referred to a committee and take the same course as petition for affiliation on a demit. If elected by the Lodge to which application is made, the Secretary shall so notify the Lodge of which the applicant is a member and thereupon upon the payment of all dues to date and if no charges are pending against him, the Lodge shall issue a transfer of membership to the new Lodge and thereafter the membership of the brother shall cease in the old Lodge and become and be in the new Lodge.

17.8. TRANSFER VALIDITY — The provisions for transfer of membership shall be applicable only between Lodges within this Grand Jurisdiction and those of other Grand Jurisdictions having similar laws.

17.9. The foregoing provisions do not affect in any way the rules and regulations as to issuance of demits and affiliation thereunder, and the same shall be and remain in force, but it is an alternative method for the transfer of membership.

17.10. WHEN EFFECTIVE — A Lodge receiving an application for transfer and electing a brother upon such application, shall not enter such brother's name on its records as affiliating upon the date of such election, but shall wait until it has received from the Lodge of first membership a formal release of such applicant, and shall thereupon enter the brother as affiliating on the date such release shall bear and not otherwise. The above provisions apply to Fellow Crafts and Entered Apprentices as well as to Master Masons.

17.11. PETITIONS FOR AFFILIATION — A demitted Mason may apply to any Lodge in this State without the consent of the Lodge of his residence. The fact of all previous rejections on such demit shall be shown in the petition. The petition shall be accompanied by a demit on the margin of which the applicant has affixed his signature or by legal certificate in the nature of a demit.

17.12. DEGREES NOT CONFERRED — A brother holding a demit from a Lodge in this or a foreign Grand Jurisdiction can become a member only by affiliation. He cannot be advanced as a profane by taking the degrees, even though he cannot be avouched for and cannot pass the examination.

17.13. WHEN RECEIVED — A petition for affiliation or dual membership can be received at a regular communication only, and the report of the committee on such petition must be made in a subsequent regular communication. [amended 2001]

17.14. DISPOSAL OF — A petition for affiliation must take the same course as for initiation by reference to a committee, even though it be the Lodge which granted the demit. The same rules governing balloting, withdrawing, or otherwise disposing of petitions for initiation shall apply to petitions for affiliation also.

17.15. AGE OF DEMIT — A demit is not affected by age. A brother dying while his petition is pending cannot be elected after his death, as death abates the petition and demit and fee must be promptly returned to the proper person.

A resident of this State may affiliate with a Lodge in another State and a resident of another State may affiliate with a Lodge in this State.

17.16. RIGHTS OF REJECTED — A brother holding a demit who petitions a Lodge for membership is entitled, if rejected, to the return of his demit, and the fee, if there be a fee, must be returned to him. He does not forfeit his right to apply to any Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction for membership, notwithstanding the fact that he has been rejected.

17.17. DISMISSAL CERTIFICATE — A profane receives the E. A. degree after having been elected to receive the three degrees and then gets a dismissal certificate, and joins a Lodge in another State, but after two years and before he takes the F. C. degree, he moves back to his former home and applies for affiliation as an E. A. with the Lodge that initiated him, presenting a dismissal certificate from the Lodge in the other State. The Grand Master's ruling, which was adopted by the Grand Lodge, was that he had no connection with the Lodge he first joined and that the petition should be referred to a committee as in all cases of petitions for affiliation.

17.18. CERTIFICATION OF DEMIT — No demit issued by a Lodge working under this Grand Jurisdiction shall be recognized unless it bears the seal of the Lodge or is accompanied with a certificate of the Grand Secretary that the Lodge which issued it is a just and regular Lodge working under dispensation at

time of granting same. No Lodge shall receive a petition for affiliation, the demit accompanying same being from a Lodge without the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Alabama, until the Lodge has ascertained from the Grand Secretary that the Lodge issuing the demit is a regular Lodge under the jurisdiction of a Grand Lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of Alabama.

17.19. DEMITS FROM CLANDESTINE — A person holding a demit from a clandestine Lodge or from a subordinate Lodge in the jurisdiction of a Grand Lodge never recognized by this Grand Lodge is a profane and can only become a member by petition for the degrees in the prescribed manner. A demit issued by a Subordinate Lodge whose Grand Lodge had been recognized by this Grand Lodge, but with whom fraternal relations have been severed, is acceptable provided such demit was issued to the brother before the aforesaid fraternal relations were severed.

17.20. DUAL MEMBERSHIP — A Master Mason can be a member of two Masonic Lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction, provided both Lodges record him as a dual member, and his membership is reported to the Grand Lodge. However, a dual member cannot hold elected office in both lodges at the same time. Furthermore a Master Mason of a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction may also hold membership in another Grand Jurisdiction provided this Grand Jurisdiction is in fraternal relations with the other Grand Jurisdiction and that said Grand Jurisdiction legalizes dual membership. [amended 1998]

Should a Master Mason holding dual membership within Alabama desire to withdraw his membership from one Lodge, he shall notify the Lodge from which he desires to withdraw his membership of his decision, and if he has paid current dues and no charges are pending against him, the Secretary of that Lodge will carry him as withdrawn and notify the other Lodge in which dual membership was held of the date that the member is no longer a dual member. Should a Master Mason holding dual membership in Alabama and another Grand Jurisdiction desire to withdraw his dual membership from the Lodge in Alabama, he will notify the Lodge from which he desires to withdraw his membership of his

decision, and if he has paid current dues and no charges are pending against him, the Secretary of that Lodge will issue a demit marked “Demit from Dual Membership” and send the demit to the Grand Secretary for his endorsement, who will then forward the demit to the Grand Lodge of the other jurisdiction to be forwarded to the other Lodge in which dual membership was held. In no case shall the Secretary issue a demit to a member who holds membership in another Lodge. Any matter that affects membership in either Lodge will likewise affect membership in both. [amended 1996]

17.21. RENUNCIATION — When a Master Mason requests that his name be stricken from the roster of the Lodge of which he is a member, this amounts to a renunciation by him of Masonry, and strips him of all the rights and benefits of Masonry.

WHEN A MASTER MASON, WHO HAS PREVIOUSLY RENOUNCED HIS MASONIC MEMBERSHIP, EXPRESSES HIS DESIRE TO BE RESTORED TO GOOD STANDING, HE MUST FOLLOW THE PROCEDURES AS PROVIDED FOR IN EDICTS NO.31.1 THRU 31.4 OF THIS MASONIC CODE.

CHAPTER XVIII.**LODGE MEMBERSHIP; DUES; SNPD; REINSTATEMENT**

18.1. AMOUNT FOR REINSTATEMENT — The by-laws of a Lodge may specify an amount, the payment of which will reinstate any of its members from suspension N.P.D., provided such amount does not exceed that for which he was suspended.

18.2. MINISTERS EXEMPT — It is within the discretion of the subordinate Lodge as to whether they shall charge dues against Ministers, actively engaged in, or retired from, their calling. A Minister not actively engaged in his calling is not exempt from fees, as provided in the Constitution. [amended 2001]

18.3. DUES — A by-law increasing the dues, when properly adopted, is not an assessment.

18.4. PERPETUAL DUES MEMBERSHIP — Perpetual Dues Memberships are authorized in constituted Lodges subject to the following terms and conditions:

A. Any member in good standing in a constituted Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction may become a Perpetual Dues Member in that lodge. The Lodge shall vote to accept Fifteen (15) times the annual dues of the Lodge or a minimum of Three-Hundred and Fifty (\$350.00) as the fee for a Perpetual Dues Member pursuant to the provisions of this section.

B. The member desiring a Perpetual Dues Membership shall apply to the secretary of his lodge for such membership on forms prescribed by the Grand Lodge and shall tender therewith the amount his Lodge voted with the application. The Lodge secretary shall complete his part of the application and shall forward the same together with the full fee due, to the Grand Secretary. The date of the application shall be the date the Grand Secretary certified the application.

C. The application shall be signed by the applicant and have the certification of the lodge secretary. The application shall not become effective until the applicant's record has been certified by

the Grand Secretary. The application shall contain thereon the computations upon which the Perpetual Dues Membership fee is predicated. If the fee tendered is incorrect, the Grand Secretary shall return the application and fee to the constituent lodge secretary for correction and resubmittal. A copy of the completed and accepted Perpetual Dues Membership application and a certificate of Perpetual Dues Membership shall be furnished to the applicant and his lodge by the Grand Secretary.

D. After the Perpetual Dues Membership application and fee have been received and accepted by the Grand Secretary, the Perpetual Membership fee shall not be refunded under any circumstances.

E. After the applicant's Perpetual Dues Membership has been accepted by the Grand Secretary, the Perpetual Dues Membership fee shall be paid over to the Grand Treasurer. The funds shall be placed collectively in a restricted Perpetual Dues Trust Endowment Fund. These funds shall be accounted for on an individual lodge basis, listing the amount a person paid into the fund for both Lodge dues and Grand Lodge dues and any assessments in effect. The funds shall be accounted for separately, by the Grand Treasurer, from all other Grand Lodge Funds. The funds shall be audited annually as required in the Constitution and Edicts.

F. A Perpetual Dues Member shall owe no further dues to the lodge of which he is a Perpetual Dues Member. An annual dues card shall be issued by the lodge secretary who shall denote Perpetual Dues Membership thereon.

G. The Perpetual Dues Membership Fee, less any amount required to supplement earned interest to pay the constituent lodge the first year's dues and the Grand Lodge dues, shall be considered principal and shall never be spent. The Perpetual Dues Membership Endowment Fund shall be administered in the manner directed by the Corporate Board, in consideration of Finance Committee's recommendation. Of the total amount of earnings, including interest, derived from the investment of the Perpetual Dues Membership Endowment Fund, the amount to be paid annually to each constituent Lodge for each Perpetual Dues Member shall be established and determined by the Corporate Board, in consideration of Finance Committee's recommendation,

and such amount shall be paid at the time of Grand Lodge Perpetual Dues Membership dues billing. [amended 2001]

H. The Grand Secretary shall, at the time of the annual interest distribution, submit a statement to the lodge for an amount covering the Grand Lodge dues and assessment in effect at the time the member joined the plan. The lodge shall during the members lifetime and thereafter pay to the Grand Lodge the amount designated by the Grand Secretary's Grand Lodge Perpetual Dues Membership dues statement.

I. The obtaining of a Perpetual Dues Membership in one lodge by a dual member shall have no effect on his membership in the other lodge to which he belongs. Dual Perpetual Dues Memberships are permitted.

J. A Perpetual Dues Member may transfer his membership. If the transfer is within this Grand Jurisdiction the entire Perpetual Dues Membership fee he originally paid shall be transferred to the account of the lodge to which he affiliates. If the affiliation is outside this Grand Jurisdiction the entire Perpetual Dues Membership fee shall remain with the lodge of which he was a Perpetual Dues Member.

K. Any certificate of good standing issued to a Perpetual Dues Member shall have endorsed thereon the fact that the holder is a Perpetual Dues Member and the amount of the Perpetual Dues Membership fee which shall be transferred to the constituent lodge in Alabama with which he transfers or affiliates.

L. If a Perpetual Dues Member shall be suspended, expelled, demits or withdraws and is subsequently restored to good standing, or re-affiliates from out of state, his Perpetual Dues Membership shall be restored. The affected Member shall have no right to the use or return of any money from the Perpetual Dues Membership Endowment Fund. Enrollment in the Perpetual Dues Membership program shall not prevent a Mason from being suspended or expelled for reasons other than the non-payment of dues in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and Edicts of the Grand Lodge. [amended 2001]

M. If a lodge consolidates, surrenders its charter or has its charter arrested, the funds credited to that lodge in the Perpetual Dues Membership fund shall follow the members according to

the relevant sections of the Constitution and Edicts dealing with consolidations, surrendering and arrests of charters.

N. A memorial perpetual dues membership for the members lodge and/or an Honorary Perpetual Dues Membership and placed in any Alabama lodge may be purchased by any person for a deceased master mason of an Alabama lodge. The lodge shall vote to accept fifteen (15) times the annual dues of the Lodge or a minimum of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) as the fee for a memorial perpetual or Honorary perpetual dues membership. Interest derived therefrom shall be in accordance with sub-sections G and H.

O. A brother, at any future time, may add any amount to his Perpetual Dues Membership fee through his local lodge secretary.

P. Applications for Perpetual Dues Membership shall be on forms prescribed by the Grand Lodge and the Grand Secretary shall provide all forms required for the implementation of this section.

Q. Where Perpetual Dues Members have not been heard from for more than seven (7) years, the Worshipful Master shall direct the secretary to report the names of such missing brethren to the Grand Lodge on the annual report form as being deceased. Their names shall then be transferred to the rolls of deceased Perpetual Dues Membership, but this action shall have no effect on the amount of money paid the lodge and Grand Lodge for that Perpetual Dues Member as set forth in sub-sections G and H.

R. There shall be no cost to the constituent lodge for administration of this program by the Grand Lodge.

18.5. All funds and other assets of every kind belonging to said Perpetual Dues Membership Endowment Fund, (the Fund), as created by Section 10, Article IV of the Constitution shall be deposited in said Fund. The Corporate Board, in consideration of Finance Committee's recommendation, is authorized to select such financial institution or institutions as the Corporate Board deems appropriate to receive and invest the property contained in the Fund and the Corporate Board, in consideration of Finance Committee's recommendation, is empowered to contract with such institution(s) for that purpose. The Corporate Board, in

consideration of Finance Committee's recommendation, shall exercise control and oversight over the investment and management of the Fund, including oversight over any trustees existing under any declaration of trust as may be existing or created from time to time. The Corporate Board, in consideration of Finance Committee's recommendation, is further authorized to do all acts, not inconsistent with the Constitution, as it deems appropriate for the protection and management of the Fund. All acts previously taken upon the authority of Edict 18.5 shall remain valid. [amended 2001]

18.6. Dues cannot be collected from a brother applying for a demit beyond the date of the formal presentation to the Lodge of his request for such demit.

18.7. SUSPENSION FOR N. P. D. — At the last regular communication preceding the 24th of June, the Secretary shall before the election of officers for the ensuing Masonic year, read out in open Lodge, the names of all members whose dues remain unpaid for two years or for one year if the by-laws of the Lodge so provide. The W. M. shall then declare each one of them suspended as of midnight, June 23, announcing each name, and order the Secretary to write the word "Suspended N. P. D." and the date thereof opposite the name of each brother thereby suspended on the Secretary's record of accounts between the Lodge and its members. Notice to brother of suspension not required.

18.8. SUSPENSION N. P. D. — A Lodge has the authority to suspend members for non-payment of dues for a shorter period than two years. But it cannot extend the time for a period longer than two years, and any by-law providing for it is null and void.

18.9. HOW EFFECTED — Suspension for non-payment of dues cannot be effected in any other manner, nor at any other time, and the failure of the Lodge to comply in every detail with the foregoing requirements, or to hold a communication at the specified time, extends the time for suspension one more year,

unless the Lodge shall secure a dispensation from the Grand Master to meet at a subsequent date and to transact at such subsequent meeting any and all business that should have been transacted at the annual communication, including the election of officers and the suspending of members for non-payment of dues.

18.10. OBLIGATORY — The requirement for suspension for non-payment of dues as above stipulated, is obligatory, though it reduces the membership below the constitutional number. A brother owing two years dues, cannot at the annual communication prevent suspension as above defined, except on the payment of at least one year's dues, or the Lodge by majority vote of those present remits the same.

18.11. SNPD ERRONEOUSLY — Should the Lodge ascertain that a member had been erroneously suspended for non-payment of dues by reason of clerical error on the part of the Secretary or otherwise, the records of the Secretary shall be corrected and the facts in the case shown on the minutes. The Secretary shall then at once notify the suspended brother of such corrections and also notify the Grand Secretary requesting the erasure of the brother's name from the report of those suspended for non-payment of dues.

18.12. NO DUES DURING SUSPENSION — No dues accrue against one who has been suspended or expelled for unmasonic conduct during the period of such suspension or expulsion. [before 1933]

18.13. GRAND LODGE DUES FOR REINSTATEMENT — When a brother suspended for non-payment of dues is reinstated the Lodge owes the Grand Lodge a reinstatement fee equivalent to the then prevailing Grand Lodge dues for one year on his account. Remittance is due and payable with the report on which he is shown reinstated unless he shall have been suspended in June and shown reinstated on the immediately next succeeding July 14 report.

18.14. EFFECT OF SNPD — A brother who stands suspended N P D has no right to visit his own or any other Lodge. All his rights dependent upon Lodge membership are suspended until he is reinstated. The widow and children of a brother who dies while suspended N P D have no masonic privileges.

18.15. SUSPENDED MEMBER IN LODGE — If after the Lodge is opened and it should be ascertained that a suspended member is present, the W. M. or presiding officer shall not close the Lodge on such account, but shall order from the Lodge room the suspended member.

18.16. MEMBERSHIP CARD BY MISTAKE — A brother was suspended for N P D for two years and his name read out at the proper time. He later sent the Secretary one year's dues and through an oversight was given his card. Ruling: The payment of one year's dues does not reinstate the brother or entitle him to the privileges of the Order, and he is a suspended Mason. If the card was given through oversight it should be recalled.

18.17. VOTE NECESSARY — When a brother has been suspended for non-payment of dues and applies for reinstatement, he shall file a formal request and the Worshipful Master may appoint a committee of three members of the Lodge to make an investigation if he deems it advisable, or shall appoint such a committee upon request of a member of the Lodge, which committee shall, at a subsequent meeting make a report of their findings to the Lodge.

If no committee is appointed, such application may be balloted on at the regular communication at which it is received and a favorable vote of a two-thirds majority of the members present shall be required to reinstate the applicant. The Master may submit the question of reinstatement to the members present either by rising vote or secret ballot, provided that if any member present requests the Master to obtain the vote by secret ballot, the vote shall be so taken, using paper ballots instead of the ballot box.

18.18. CARD TO BE GIVEN — When a suspended member pays to the Lodge the amount of dues in arrears at the time of suspension, or such less amount as the Lodge may by due action have fixed, and the Lodge votes to reinstate him, he shall be furnished with a certificate showing him reinstated to good standing in that Lodge as of the date the vote to reinstate him was taken. The dues to be paid the Lodge from date of reinstatement to next June 24, should be fixed by each Lodge in its by-laws.

18.19. LODGE DEFUNCT — If Lodge is defunct, he may be reinstated by making the necessary payment to the Grand Secretary, accepting a certificate to that effect. A new Lodge at the same place and composed mostly of the membership of the suspending Lodge (now defunct) has no right to accept the suspended brother's money, for reinstatement.

18.20. NO REINSTATEMENT — A brother cannot be reinstated after death, either by payment of or remittal of his dues.

18.21. DUES REMITTED — A majority of the members present at a regular communication has the authority to remit any part or all the dues owed by one of its members. The remission of such dues, however, does not exempt the Lodge from paying to the Grand Lodge the Grand Lodge dues on the brother. If the Lodge remits the dues of a brother, the Secretary or any one else is without power or right to exact any part of such dues from him. The Lodge must pay the Grand Lodge dues on any of its members to whom it has granted life membership without dues.

CHAPTER XIX.**PROCESSIONS; FUNERALS**

19.1. CHARTER NOT CARRIED — It is not necessary that the charter be carried to the grave in burying a brother, nor is it necessary at public installations, or other ceremonies held at a place away from the Lodge room, that the Charter and other things placed in the charge of the Master be carried there. [before 1933]

19.2. REGALIA — Blue Lodge regalia shall not be worn on any occasion except on occasions strictly Masonic. If a Lodge goes as a body, the Lodge must be opened and closed.

19.3. CORNER-STONES — The Masonic ceremonies should not be performed in laying the corner-stone of a factory, storehouse, warehouse, office building, depot, hotel, mill, dwelling house, storage house, market house, machine shop or other building of any and every description owned by private individuals, corporations, companies, societies or other organizations and intended for private individuals, corporations, companies, societies or other organizations.

19.4. REQUIREMENTS FOR A STONE — No corner-stone shall be laid of less dimensions than 9 x 12 inches. It shall be inscribed with the name of the Grand Master, together with the year of Masonry in which the stone is laid. A cavity must be provided, in which must be deposited the articles required and provided for in the ritual for laying corner-stones. [amended 1932 & 1999]

19.5. MASONIC PROCESSIONS — Masons cannot turn out in Masonic processions except on Masonic occasions, nor join in funeral processions of persons not Masons. [before 1933]

19.6. MASONIC FUNERALS — Masonic funerals may be conducted in connection with those of other societies, but the

body of the deceased brother must be placed in charge of the subordinate Lodge before final disposition, and remain under full control and direction of the Lodge until its interment. In all cases, the Masonic services must be separately performed and must be the last services performed at the grave. [before 1933]

19.7. LODGE AT MASONIC SERVICES — A subordinate Lodge as such cannot appear in a funeral parade with any other fraternity or organization, except it be for the express purpose of performing or assisting in the performance of Masonic funeral ceremonies. Neither can any one wearing Masonic regalia assist any other fraternity or organization in the performance of its funeral ceremonies. [before 1933]

19.8. NON-AFFILIATE FUNERAL — A non-affiliated Mason may be buried with Masonic ceremonies under the following conditions only:

1. If he has demitted within six months prior to his death, with the intention of joining another Lodge, or of uniting with others in the formation of another Lodge, and he dies before such purpose has been consummated.

2. If he was a member of a Lodge whose charter was forfeited within six months prior to his death.

3. If he had made application to a Lodge for affiliation which application was pending at the time of his death.

19.9. WHEN NOT ENTITLED — One who has been suspended or expelled and restored to the rights and privileges of Masonry, but not to Lodge membership, occupies the position of a non-affiliated Mason, and therefore not entitled to Masonic burial. [before 1933]

19.10. SNPD — A Mason who stands suspended N. P. D. at the time of his death is not entitled to Masonic burial.

19.11. SUICIDE — The fact that a brother in good standing commits suicide is no reason why he should be denied Masonic burial. [before 1933]

19.12. WHO MAY OFFICIATE — The W. M. presiding at a Masonic burial may call a Past Master or W. M. or Warden, or other qualified brother, to conduct the ceremony. In such cases the minutes should show the W. M. who presided and note the fact that the other brother conducted the services by request.

19.13. WHEN DEFERRED — When it is reasonably impracticable and inconvenient to perform the burial service at the time of the interment of the deceased brother, it may be done as soon thereafter as practicable; but this does not warrant the willful or careless neglect of performing the service at the time of the burial.

19.14. OMISSIONS — In such cases all passages in the service relating to the presence of the body and the open grave should be omitted. [before 1933]

19.15. CLOTHING FUNERAL — The only suitable Masonic clothing for funeral occasions is a white sash, apron and gloves. [before 1933]

19.16. BADGE OF MOURNING — The badge of mourning in this Grand Jurisdiction shall be a blue ribbon, partly covered by a narrow black ribbon, worn on the lapel of the coat or vest. [before 1933]

19.17. PALL-BEARERS — If the Lodge does not take charge of the Burial until the Body is deposited over the grave it is permissible for non-masons to be active Pall-Bearers; however in case all are not masons the masons who are pall-bearers must not don aprons until the body is placed over the grave. [amended 1998]

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CHAPTER XX.**THE MASONIC HOME****20.1. REVOCATION OF PRIOR EDICTS —**

Notwithstanding any other provisions contained in the Edicts of the Grand Lodge, all Edicts previously existing under this Chapter XX are hereby deleted and replaced with the following; provided, however, that actions which have been taken in good faith under the previously existing Edicts shall continue to be recognized the same as if the Edict remained in effect. Provisions for “Stipend” shall continue to be in effect only as to a resident who is an admittee of the Masonic Home on the date of approval of this Edict and, to such residents, the provision for “Stipend” shall remain in force as previously established. [amended 1997]

20.2. AUTHORIZATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN CHARITABLE CORPORATIONS — The Grand Lodge, with the approval of a majority of the Grand Lodge members voting at an Annual Communication, shall have the right to enter into membership in one or more non-profit corporations, organized for the purpose of charitable activities, and to exercise all rights and privileges of such membership not inconsistent with the laws of the State of Alabama and the Constitution and Edicts of the Grand Lodge. [amended 1997]

20.3. SELECTION OF DIRECTORS IN CHARITABLE CORPORATIONS — In the event and for so long as the Grand Lodge is a member of any non-profit corporation, unless directed to be done in a different manner by a majority of the Grand Lodge members voting at an Annual Communication, any rights provided for the Grand Lodge to select one or more directors shall be accomplished in the following manner:

a. As to each position of director which the Grand Lodge is entitled to vote, candidate(s) shall be nominated by any member of the Grand Lodge. Additionally, for each position of director, a candidate shall be nominated by a majority vote of the Corporate Officers of the Grand Lodge.

b. Nominations will be made at the First Session of the Grand Lodge with a single page biography presented to the Grand Secretary, which will be made available to the members of Grand Lodge. Elections will be held during the Third Session.

c. All candidates for each director position shall be presented to the Grand Lodge members in Annual Communication and each position of director shall be filled by a majority vote of the Grand Lodge members present and voting in Annual Communication.

d. In the event of a vacancy during the term of office of a director, the director to fill the vacancy shall be appointed by a majority vote of the Corporate Board of the Grand Lodge until the next Grand Lodge Annual Communication and, at such Communication, the director to serve the remaining period of said vacancy shall be elected in the manner set out in subparagraphs a. through c., above. [amended 1997]

20.4. MASONIC HOME PROPERTY — The Masonic Home is a part of the charitable outreach of the Grand Lodge. The property, plant, equipment, trade name, including the name “the Alabama Masonic Home”, is owned by the Grand Lodge and may be used directly by the Grand Lodge or by other persons as may be designated by the Grand Lodge. [amended 1997]

20.5. ADMISSION — In order to be admitted to the Alabama Masonic Home under the auspices of the Grand Lodge’s charitable outreach, an admittee shall meet the following qualifications. There shall be three categories of candidates for admission.

a. Category One applicants are those Master Masons who are members of a Lodge chartered by the Grand Lodge who have been members for a minimum of five (5) years immediately prior to making application for residence in the Masonic Home.

b. Category Two applicants are those wives and widows of Master Masons who meet, or at the time of their respective husband’s death, met the requirements of membership stated in Edict 20.5a.

c. Category Three applicants are those other relatives of Master Masons who meet, or at the time of said Master Mason’s death, met the requirements of membership stated in Edict 20.5a.

The relationship to a Master Mason shall be that of parent, sibling or child.

d. It shall have been determined that said proposed admittee is legitimately in need of assistance in order to meet the financial obligations of an admittee and that such need cannot be as well and economically provided for through or by some other charitable or governmental sources of funding.

e. The Board shall have received the written recommendation of the management of the Alabama Masonic Home on the applicant.

f. Priority of admission, retention, and the offer of financial assistance shall be given first to Category One, then Category Two and then Category Three applicants. [amended 1997]

20.6. LIFE CARE CONTRACTS PROHIBITED — No person shall be admitted to the Alabama Masonic Home under any agreement of life time care or for any guaranteed period of greater than one (1) year. [amended 1997]

20.7. ASSISTANCE — If it shall have been determined that said proposed admittee is legitimately in need of assistance in order to meet the financial obligations of an admittee and that such need cannot be as well and economically provided for through or by some other charitable or governmental sources of funding or by admission to the Masonic Home, upon the written recommendation of the entity operating the Masonic Home and with said entity's certification that the proposed or continuing admittee is financially and medically qualified to receive and/or to continue receiving charitable outreach, with the approval of the Corporate Board of the Grand Lodge, may offer monetary assistance. Priority will be given based on the application category as determined by Edict 20.5. This assistance shall not extend for a period of more than 12 months and may be not be extended without the subsequently granted approval of the Grand Lodge. Such assistance shall be paid out of the regular budget of the Masonic Home, not the Emergency Fund, which is established in Chapter XXI and controlled by the Grand Master. [amended 1997 & 2001]

20.8. BUDGET AND OVERSIGHT — So long as the Grand Lodge deems it appropriate to extend its charitable outreach to persons through the Alabama Masonic Home, the financial resources to meet said obligation shall not be expended unless such expenditures are approved in the manner set forth herein:

a. The budgetary period shall be October 1 of the current year through September 30 of the following year.

b. The management of the Masonic Home shall prepare a proposed budget of the estimated expenditures of the Home, in its various departments, for the coming budgetary period, which said budget shall be submitted to the Grand Lodge Committee on Finance no later than September 10th of the preceding year for consideration. With the proposed budget, the Masonic Home's management shall provide such information as is reasonably necessary for the Committee on Finance to properly evaluate all aspects of said proposed budget. If requested by the Committee on Finance, the Masonic Home's management shall provide any and all other information sought for that purpose.

c. The Committee on Finance will review the request for charitable funding as presented. The Committee on Finance shall consider the budget as proposed by the Masonic Home's management and recommend to the Grand Lodge that said proposed budget be accepted, modified or rejected, either in whole or in part. Thereafter, the Committee on Finance shall present its proposal for charitable funding for the operation of the Home during the coming budgetary period, to the Grand Lodge along with the Committee on Finance's recommendations for consideration by the Grand Lodge. Additionally, if requested by the Masonic Home's management, the budget, as proposed by the Masonic Home's management, shall be presented to the Grand Lodge for consideration.

d. The Grand Lodge shall consider the proposed budget and the recommendations of the Committee on Finance. The Chairman of the Committee on Finance and/or the representative of the Masonic Home's management shall be heard by the Grand Lodge, as permitted by the Grand Master. The Grand Lodge members shall select, by a majority vote, either the proposed budget of the Masonic Home's management or the recommendations of the

Committee on Finance or such an amendment thereto as said Grand Lodge members deem appropriate. Thereafter, the funding plan so approved shall be considered the approved budget for the operation of the Masonic Home during the coming budgetary period.

e. There shall be conducted a complete audit of the books of the Masonic Home of the fiscal year then passed through September 30. This audit shall be presented in written form to the Grand Lodge at each Annual Communication. Such audit be accomplished by a certified public accountant approved by the Corporate Board of the Grand Lodge and in the manner set forth herein. [amended 1997]

20.9. FUNDING — All money that shall come into possession of the Grand Lodge, and which the Grand Lodge has determined to be used for the Masonic Home, shall be paid to the Grand Secretary, and paid out by the Grand Treasurer, only in accordance with these rules and such other regulations as may be established by the Grand Lodge. [amended 1997]

20.10. BEQUESTS — All gifts, testamentary donations and bequests made or left to the “Alabama Masonic Home” or the “Masonic Home” or the “Home”, unless specifically designated by the donor for some other purpose, shall be placed in the Alabama Masonic Home Endowment Fund. [amended 1997]

20.11. ENDOWMENT FUND OF HOME —

1. The Corporate Board is hereby authorized and directed to act in the name of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Alabama, a corporation, with respect to that certain trust agreement concerning the Alabama Masonic Home Endowment Fund; provided, however, that no portion of said Endowment Fund shall be transferred to the ownership and/or control of any person or entity other than the designated trustee, the Grand Lodge, or as provided for investment purposes in the trust instrument, without the prior approval of the Grand Lodge members; provided further, however, that oversight of the investment policies by the trustee shall be vested

in the Committee on Finance of the Grand Lodge as provided herein.

2. All funds and other assets of every kind belonging to the Endowment Fund shall be forthwith delivered to the appropriate trustee; said assets to be handled and administered in accordance with said declaration of trust; and, further, that all persons and corporations having possession or control of any properties, cash, bonds or other assets of whatever nature, belonging to the Endowment Fund shall forthwith transfer and deliver same to said trustee under said declaration of trust.

Said officers and other persons hereinabove named shall be, and are hereby, authorized, empowered and directed to execute any and all documents to effectuate the transfer of said property to the Trustee. Upon the full consummation of such transfer(s) and delivery of said property to the Trustee, said officers and other persons are thereby, discharged and relieved of further responsibility concerning said the Endowment Fund arising from the receipt of said property.

3. It is the duty of the Committee on Finance to oversee and, if appropriate, to approve investments policies made by the Trustee in accordance with the provisions of the declaration of trust; and, further, that the decision of a majority of said Committee concerning any such investment policies by the Trustee shall be adequate and sufficient to bind the Grand Lodge and to constitute the approval of such investment policies as specified in the declaration of trust.

4. All property and contributions of any kind or character, real or personal, which may be hereafter made to or for the Masonic Home Endowment Fund shall forthwith be turned over to the Trustee, to be administered as a part of the corpus of said trust estate, in accordance with the provisions of said declaration of trust. [amended 1997]

20.12. DEPOSITORIES — The Grand Treasurer with the approval of the Corporate Officers may deposit funds received by him from the Grand Secretary or any other source in any bank in the State of Alabama, if the bank so chosen is insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

CHAPTER XXI.**THE EMERGENCY FUND**

21.1. The Emergency Fund having been consolidated with the Masonic Home Fund, the Grand Master is authorized to provide for relief as set out in the rules and regulations governing the Emergency Fund, and cause such relief to be charged to and paid from the Masonic Home Fund.

21.2. The Emergency Fund shall consist of the ten cents per capita mentioned in Art. VI, Sec. 21, of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge and such further sums as may from time to time be donated or bequeathed to it or appropriated to it by the Grand Lodge.

21.3. HOW EXPENDED — The Emergency Fund shall be expended under the direction of the Grand Master for the relief of distressed worthy brother Master Masons, their wives, widows, children and other dependent relatives who are members of their households. This relief shall not be granted unless the Mason upon whose membership the claim is based is or was at death and for four years prior thereto, a member in good standing in a Subordinate Lodge of the Grand Lodge; provided that only in extreme cases and for strong reasons the Grand Master may dispense with this requirement of good standing and provided further that all claimants against the fund must be found worthy and provided further that a brother who has demitted in good faith for the purpose of affiliating with another Lodge and has within six months thereafter actually petitioned a Lodge for affiliation, and whose petition therefor was pending at the time of death shall be deemed in good standing within the meaning of this Edict.

21.4. WHO ENTITLED — The name of no person shall be placed upon the list of beneficiaries from this fund until after the Grand Master by careful inquiry among the officers of the Lodge nearest to such person's residence or among well informed Masons

of his community, satisfied himself that such person is both worthy and in distress and entitled to assistance from this fund.

21.5. LODGE ASSISTS — It shall be the duty of the subordinate Lodge in which membership is or was held by the Mason on whose membership claim to relief from this fund is based to pay one-third of the amount agreed upon by the Grand Master and Master of the Lodge as necessary for the relief of such distressed person. In such case, the consent of the Master or presiding Warden is sufficient to bind the Lodge.

21.6. FAILURE TO ASSIST — If such Lodge and its Master or presiding Warden refuse after earnest solicitation by the Grand Master to contribute its one-third of said amount, the Grand Master may in his discretion nevertheless place the name of such person on said list, but he shall report the facts fully to the next communication of the Grand Lodge, with his opinion as to whether such refusal was justified, for such action as the Grand Lodge may see proper to take.

21.7. GRAND MASTER'S DISCRETION — The granting of relief out of this fund is at the enlightened discretion and responsibility of the Grand Master, who shall at each communication of the Grand Lodge place at its disposal all correspondence and information concerning each case.

21.8. GRAND MASTER'S DUTY — In January of each year, the Grand Master shall make diligent inquiry of the officers of the Lodge nearest the residence of each beneficiary as to the continued worthiness and distress of such person, and shall drop therefrom all found to be unworthy or no longer in need of such relief.

CHAPTER XXII.**MISCELLANEOUS**

22.1. MASONIC RESEARCH — The Grand Master is authorized to issue a warrant to any club, circle or other organization of Masons formed for the purpose of Masonic research or study, and to permit the use of the word “Masonic” in connection therewith, after he has examined and approved in writing its by-laws and constitution, and is satisfied of the good faith and purpose of such organization. Any change in its by-laws or constitution must also be submitted to and approved in writing by the Grand Master. Such warrant may at any time within the discretion of the Grand Master be withdrawn. [amended 1931]

22.2. PUBLICATION PROCEEDINGS — It is not violative of Masonic law to publish any proceedings of a Masonic body proper to be written, but the propriety of such publication should be governed by sound judgment and enlightened discretion. An abuse of this privilege is a Masonic offense.

22.3. APPEALS FOR ASSISTANCE — Where appeals for assistance, etc., are made by a Lodge to other Lodges, the endorsement of the Grand Master is necessary.

22.4. BUSINESS OR POLITICAL PURPOSES — Masonry is neither a political nor a business organization, and no Mason should use the Order or appeal to the brethren of the Craft, to further his political aspirations or business interest, simply because he is a Mason.

However, this edict does not prevent a Master Mason from including his Masonic affiliation as part of a list of organizational memberships and civic activities. [amended 1989]

22.5. CEREMONIAL WORK — Ceremonial work done while either the Grand Master or a Past Grand Master is presiding, is done in “ample form”, if done while the Deputy Grand Master

is presiding, it is done in “due form”, if done while one of the Grand Wardens is presiding it is done “in form”, if done while any other brother especially deputized by the Grand Master it is done “in form”.

CHAPTER XXIII.**TRIALS: THE TRIBUNAL**

23.1. LODGE SOLE TRIBUNAL — A Subordinate Lodge is the sole tribunal having jurisdiction to try a Mason for a Masonic offense and every accused Mason is entitled to such trial.

23.2. A QUORUM IS SUFFICIENT — If a quorum of the Lodge is present, there is a sufficient number present to legally try a Mason.

23.3. WHEN W. M. CANNOT PRESIDE — In a Masonic trial the Master of the Lodge may preside although he preferred the charges, but if he actually engages in or conducts the prosecution, or acts as counsel for the Lodge, or if he be related to the accused by blood or marriage within the fourth degree, he cannot preside and he must retire while the vote is taken.

23.4. WHEN OFFICER CANNOT ACT — No officer of a Lodge shall act as such at his own trial. Another must be appointed to serve as such in that case only to its final disposition.

23.5. RELATIONSHIP — The father, brother, son, uncle, nephew and cousins to the third degree; father-in-law, son-in-law, brother-in-law, uncle-in-law and husband of a first cousin of the defendant or of the brother preferring the charges are disqualified to vote in the trial of a brother, as being of such close relationship “as would likely bias his verdict”. More remote relationship might disqualify if the evidence showed that association together with relationship between the parties was so intimate “as would likely bias his verdict”. The question of disqualification is decided by the Master. [before 1933]

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CHAPTER XXIV.**TRIALS: JURISDICTION OF OFFENDERS**

24.1. JURISDICTION — Every subordinate Lodge has the right to try its own members, except the Master, except as herein noted, and there is no authority conferred by the Constitution and Laws in this jurisdiction which would authorize the Grand Lodge while in session, or the Grand Master in vacation, to order a change of venue in Masonic trial.

24.2. CONCURRENT JURISDICTION — Where two Lodges have concurrent jurisdiction of a Masonic offense and one Lodge institutes charges, the latter may by unanimous consent dismiss the charges, and the other Lodge may then institute new proceedings, but the first Lodge cannot “transfer” the case from itself to the other Lodge.

24.3. OFFENSE PRIOR TO DEMIT — When a Lodge grants a demit to a brother, who moves into another jurisdiction and affiliates with a Lodge there, and after the granting of the demit the first Lodge prefers charges against the brother for an offense committed before the granting of the demit, and tries and suspends or expels him, such action is legal and proper, although the Lodge to which he then belongs had no notice thereof. It is proper, however, in such case for the Lodge to give the Lodge to which the brother belongs notice of such charges. In any event it is the duty of the Lodge to which the brother belongs to abide by the action of the Lodge trying him, and if suspended or expelled make such order on its rolls.

24.4. CHARGES PREFERRED — It is the especial duty of the Junior Warden to prefer charges for Masonic offenses; but he has the privilege of asking for a committee of investigation, and should the Worshipful Master grant such request he may appoint such committee with instruction to also prefer the charges, if after investigation they deem the facts to justify. It is the duty of any Master Mason to report the unmasonic conduct of any other

brother to the Master or Junior Warden of the offender's Lodge. Any member of the Lodge has the right to prefer charges, if he be in good standing.

24.5. A Lodge has no right to ignore reports or complaints of unmasonic conduct of one of its members when such complaints are made by a member of another Lodge. The Worshipful Master must either instruct the Junior Warden or appoint a committee to investigate the matter. A Lodge may have a standing committee to investigate complaints as to violations of Masonic law, and in proper cases prefer charges against the offender. Only Master Masons who are members of the Lodge and in good standing have the right to prefer charges. The Worshipful Master may prefer charges himself, but it is preferable that the Junior Warden or a committee, or some other member of the Lodge do so. Neither a nonaffiliate, nor one suspended or expelled, or one suspended N. P. D. has the right to prefer charges.

24.6. SHOULD BE DEFINITE — The charges and specifications should be definite. Some offenses, however, are so often repeated that they become habitual, and if so charged, need not be definite as to the time and place, as in the case of a single offense. [before 1933]

24.7. MAY BE AMENDED — The charges and specifications may be amended at any time before the voting is done, the accused being present; but when amended, the accused may continue the trial, if he is not prepared to meet the amended charges. [before 1933]

CHAPTER XXV.**WHAT ARE AND WHAT ARE NOT MASONIC OFFENSES**

25.1. Any conduct of a Mason involving “moral turpitude” whether committed before or after initiation, is a Masonic offense.

25.2. MORAL TURPITUDE — The term “Moral Turpitude” means more than “Immorality”; there must be involved in the offense charged not only immorality but also an element of inherent baseness, vileness or depravity.

25.3. Any conduct unbecoming a gentleman and which tends to bring discredit upon the brother and embarrassment or disrepute upon the Fraternity is a Masonic offense.

25.4. BEFORE INITIATION — Only such conduct as involves “moral turpitude” can be made the basis of Masonic charges when committed before initiation.

25.5. INSTANCES OF MASONIC OFFENSES — The following acts by a Mason have been held to be Masonic offenses:

- (1) To violate any of his obligations;
- (2) Willfully to absent himself from a communication of his Lodge after receiving a legal summons to attend the same;
- (3) The use of abusive or insulting language in writing or speaking about a brother;
- (4) Challenging a brother to fight a duel;
- (5) Treating his wife cruelly or abandoning her without good cause;
- (6) Teaching or practicing the doctrine of polygamy;
- (7) Making illicit proposals to a lady;
- (8) To have illicit intercourse with another Master Mason’s wife, widow, mother, sister or daughter even though she be not chaste; also any attempt on his part to do so;
- (9) Disloyalty to his government;
- (10) A false statement of a material fact willfully made by an applicant in his petition for the degrees is a violation of Masonic

Law, for which he may be tried and convicted after the degrees are conferred;

(11) General worthlessness and having the reputation of a common liar;

(12) Secretly to dispose of one's property and leave the country without settling his debts or saying anything to his creditors;

(13) To be guilty of drunkenness and profanity;

(14) To cruelly and shamefully chastise his child;

(15) To refuse or willfully neglect to pay back money borrowed from the Lodge;

(16) To speak evil of a brother Master Mason or his family;

(17) For the Secretary to fail to pay over all the money to the Treasurer or to be behind in his accounts and not promptly make good the deficit;

(18) To tell a newly made Mason that he had thrown away his money in being made a Mason;

(19) To threaten that a Lodge shall not grow any more;

(20) To declare that he did or will blackball a candidate for the degrees of Masonry, because the Lodge had previously rejected a friend of his or for any reason which does not affect the character and qualifications of the candidate;

(21) Aiding in illicit distilling of intoxicating liquors or beverages;

(22) To engage in the business of illegally retailing spirituous, vinous or malt liquors;

(23) To swindle one's creditors or anyone else, whether they are Masons or not;

(24) For a Mason to become a Communist, to embrace, practice or espouse the Communistic theory. A brother found guilty of such offense shall be expelled from all rights and privileges of Masonry. [amended 1998 & 1999]

25.6. BELIEF IN DEITY — In Alabama it is a Masonic offense for a Mason to declare that he does not believe in Deity.

25.7. MASON DRUNK — Any Mason who visits another Lodge or attends his own, or joins in a Masonic procession or

funeral while intoxicated, is guilty of unmasonic conduct and should his own Lodge, upon being informed of such conduct, fail or refuse to prefer charges against him, the said derelict Lodge should be reported to the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge for discipline.

25.8. PARODIES — Any Lodge on being informed that any member of same has printed or written or authorized the printing or writing of any parody on the unwritten work, or has displayed or read same publicly shall prefer charges against the brother for a shameless desecration and flagrant violation of his obligation.

25.9. A Secretary who refuses to turn over the books and property of the Lodge which he may have in his custody, by order of the Worshipful Master and the consent of the Lodge, is guilty of unmasonic conduct and subject to charges.

25.10. USE OF WORD “MASONIC” — Unless recognized and approved by resolution of the Grand Lodge, the use of the word “Masonic” in connection with any club, organization, business or publication constitutes a Masonic offense.

25.11. CRIMINAL LAW — A violation of the criminal law of the State may or may not be a Masonic offense, according to the facts and circumstances, and an indictment thereof is not of itself sufficient reason why charges should be preferred. Charges should be preferred in the event of a supposed unmasonic conduct, regardless of indictment. A plea of guilty, Nolo Contendere, or guilty verdict may be used as evidence to convict a Mason of unmasonic conduct.

25.12. TO PLEAD USURY — It is not unmasonic to plead usury to a debt. [before 1933]

25.13. DUES OR ASSESSMENT — The non-payment of dues or a special assessment made by the Lodge is not of itself a Masonic offense, nor can it be made so by the by-laws of the Lodge. The only penalty for non-payment of dues is suspension.

25.14. CARD PLAYING — It is not unmasonic to play cards, but a Lodge may by its by-laws prohibit its members from playing for money. [before 1933]

25.15. NON-PAYMENT OF DEBTS — It is not unmasonic to plead the statute of limitations in any case in which it is allowed to be pleaded by the laws of the State, but the refusal of a Mason to pay his just debts, when he has the ability to do so, is a Masonic offense. The mere refusal to pay a debt is not a Masonic offense. There may be an honest contention as to its justice or validity. The contention, however, should be in good faith, and not a mere pretext.

25.16. BANKRUPTCY — Taking benefit of the bankrupt law is not of itself, a Masonic offense.

CHAPTER XXVI.**TRIALS: PROCEDURE**

26.1. ADDRESS OF ACCUSED — When the address of the accused is unknown, the Lodge may, after a reasonable time, and after due diligence by the Lodge, through its Secretary or committee, to ascertain his whereabouts or address, proceed with the trial as if the accused were present.

26.2. ACCUSED FAILS TO APPEAR — When the notice required has been given and the accused willfully fails to appear, he may be tried as if present, but some brother should be appointed to defend him.

26.3. POSTPONEMENT — The granting of a postponement of a trial is within the sound discretion of the Master, and after being granted should not be questioned or discussed.

26.4. CIVIL COURT — Subordinate Lodges are not required to defer action against a member because a prosecution may be pending against him in the civil courts. Whenever charges are preferred against a brother the Lodge must proceed to hear the case under the rules prescribed.

26.5. ACCUSED IN PRISON — When the accused is in the penitentiary or prison, he should have the notice and be permitted to have counsel, and if he has none, the W. M. should appoint counsel to represent him, and he should have the right to submit his own testimony, if he so desires.

26.6. SOJOURNER OR RESIDENT — A sojourner or resident brother is one who is residing or living within the jurisdiction of the Lodge other than that of his membership, and that is true whether the Lodge of his membership is in the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Alabama or any other Grand Lodge.

26.7. CHARGES WITHDRAWN — Charges having been submitted to the Lodge, cannot be withdrawn except by unanimous consent. Where there is more than one specification, the brother may plead guilty to one and the others may be withdrawn, but only by unanimous consent. If such consent is not given, the trial must proceed under the specifications to which no plea of guilty was entered. Where unanimous consent is given, the brother cannot be tried on the specifications withdrawn. They may, however, be made the basis of a new charge, in which case notice must be given as required by the Edicts and Constitution.

26.8. TRIAL ON COPY — Where the original charges have been lost or mislaid, the trial may be had on a copy of the charges. A true copy is to all intents and purposes as good as the original.

26.9. CHARGES — The recommendation of a Committee appointed to investigate complaints against a brother that no charges be preferred does not deprive a member of the Lodge of the right to prefer charges against the brother if such member sees proper to do so.

26.10. SETTLEMENT — When one or more members of a Lodge have been guilty of unmaasonic conduct in a personal difficulty or variance, the settlement of such differences between the parties does not necessarily relieve the offending party or parties from liability to charges and trial.

26.11. DEFENDANT'S COUNSEL — A member of the committee or a brother preferring the charges should not act as counsel for the accused.

26.12. JOINT TRIAL — More than one Master Mason may be tried at one time if the offense is the same, provided there is no objection from the Lodge or from any of the defendants. In case of objection they must be tried separately. A Fellow Craft or Entered Apprentice cannot be tried with a Master Mason, though the offense be the same and no objection is interposed.

26.13. OUT OF JURISDICTION — When a brother commits a Masonic offense outside the territorial jurisdiction of membership Lodge, the Lodge where the offense committed shall draw up the specifications on which it deems charges should be based, and under the seal of the Lodge forward same to membership Lodge. On receipt of said specifications, the membership Lodge shall either prefer charges on the specifications received, and notify the other Lodge of its action, or request the other Lodge to proceed with the trial. Should the membership Lodge neglect to make reply in either manner as defined, the Lodge where offense committed at the expiration of thirty days is vested with sole jurisdiction over the matter. In all cases the trial Lodge shall officially notify the membership Lodge of the result of the trial. The action of the trial Lodge is conclusive except subject to appeal, and suspension or expulsion by trial Lodge means not only from the fraternity, but from the Lodge of which he was a member.

26.14. TRIAL OF ONE SUSPENDED — Upon the presentation of charges against one who has been suspended, the Lodge should appoint a committee to take the testimony. A copy of the charges, notice of the appointment of the committee, and the day set for them to take the testimony must be served on the accused at least ten days before the day set. The committee must meet at the appointed time, examine the witnesses presented by both the prosecution and defense, reduce their testimony to writing, and report same back to a Lodge called for trial. The Lodge so met must have the testimony read and determine the cause as in other cases.

A brother who stands suspended for unmasonic conduct is subject to charges and trial for unmasonic conduct other than that for which he was suspended. This is true, although an appeal to the Grand Lodge is pending from the first offense.

26.15. TRIAL OF ONE SNPD — A brother who stands suspended for non-payment of dues is subject to charges, and when a brother against whom charges have been preferred has been suspended N. P. D., he has not the right to appear in open Lodge while so suspended, but the trial must be conducted in the

same manner as one suspended for unmasonic conduct. One suspended N. P. D. has no right to appear even as a witness. His deposition must be taken as a profane.

26.16. TESTIMONY — The testimony of a Mason is taken upon his honor. The testimony of a Mason may not be directly impeached, but it may be contradicted by other witnesses to a given statement of facts.

26.17. PLEA OF ACCUSED — If both the accused and counsel for the Lodge announce ready for trial, counsel for the Lodge arraigns the accused by reading the charges aloud, to which the accused in person enters a plea to each specification and to each charge.

How can the accused plead? The accused may plead guilty, not guilty, self-defense or set up matter in extenuation, excuse, or justification.

CHAPTER XXVII.**THE EVIDENCE**

27.1. BURDEN OF PROOF — The burden of proof is on the Lodge. The guilt of the accused is not to be presumed, but it must be established by competent and satisfactory evidence, before a conviction can be had.

27.2. RECORD OF EVIDENCE — A court reporter who is a Master Mason in good and regular standing may be appointed Secretary pro tem and record the evidence, verbatim, at a Masonic trial, regard being had to the requirements of Con, Art. VII, Rule 9. [Sec. 3]

27.3. PROPER NOTICE — It is not necessary that the notice given by the committee of the time and place of taking testimony be signed by the Secretary or attested by the Seal of the Lodge.

27.4. TESTIMONY OF E. A. OR F. C. — When an Entered Apprentice is a witness in a Masonic trial his testimony shall be taken in an Entered Apprentice Lodge. When a Fellow Craft is such witness his testimony shall be taken in a Fellow Craft Lodge, and the testimony of either shall be taken in the same manner as that of a Master Mason.

27.5. TESTIMONY OF PROFANES — The testimony of persons not Masons and of Masons suspended or expelled may be used in a Masonic Trial. Such testimony may be taken in writing or by electronic means before a committee appointed by the Master to take depositions. The witnesses shall swear or affirm to the testimony before a person authorized to administer oaths. The accused, his counsel, and counsel for the Lodge, having proper notice of the time and place of said deposition, has the right to cross examine the witness.

27.6. TESTIMONY OF NON-RESIDENT — When

testimony of Masons living in a foreign jurisdiction is desired, written interrogatories may be propounded to such witnesses and filed with the W. M. to which the opposite party may file cross-interrogatories. The interrogatories, both direct and cross, should then be sent to the Secretary of the Lodge in whose jurisdiction the witnesses reside. The deposition of the witnesses should then be taken in open Lodge, and returned by the Secretary under the seal of the Lodge. The time in which cross-interrogatories may be filed should be prescribed by the W. M. and notice thereof given. The opposing party may, at the time of filing cross-interrogatories, demand notice of the time and place of taking depositions.

The testimony of persons not Masons and of Masons suspended or expelled living in another jurisdiction to be used in a Masonic trial shall be taken in the same manner as those of non-resident Masons, except it is not taken in open Lodge.

27.7. ACCUSED MAY TESTIFY — The accused has a right to testify in his own behalf. [before 1933]

27.8. WIFE A COMPETENT WITNESS — When a brother is accused of abusing or whipping his wife, on a trial therefor his wife is a competent witness, and should be examined as any other profane. [before 1933]

The wife is a competent witness for or against a defendant, even though her husband be the prosecutor or injured party.

27.9. WHEN NOT — A wife is not a competent witness for or against he husband except in cases of mistreatment of her by him, nor is a divorced wife a competent witness as to matters and things which transpired during coverture, except in some cases. [before 1933]

27.10. CONFESSIONS OR ADMISSIONS — A voluntary confession or admission made by the defendant may be introduced as evidence against him on his trial for a Masonic offense.

27.11. TESTIMONY OF PREVIOUS TRIAL — The

admissibility of testimony on a former Masonic trial is governed by the analogous rules of evidence that prevail in law courts of the State.

27.12. CONVICTIONS OF CRIME — The conviction of a Mason in the criminal courts of a crime and the testimony on which it was based may be offered in evidence upon any trial of such Mason in the Lodge and shall be given such weight as the Lodge in its fair judgment may deem it entitled. Upon being informed of such conviction in the criminal courts it shall be the duty of the Master and the Junior Warden to cause the facts of such conviction to be investigated by a committee or otherwise and to cause charges to be preferred if the facts justify.

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CHAPTER XXVIII.**TRIALS: THE DECISION**

28.1. ARGUMENTS — There should be no argument or discussion of a case either by counsel or the brethren after the prosecutor and defendant have retired that the Lodge may take a vote. They are, however, permissible before, and the prosecution has the right to close the argument.

28.2. EVERY MEMBER MUST VOTE — Every member of the Lodge, who is present and can hear the evidence submitted at a trial, not only has the right, but is required, to vote, except where there is such near relationship by blood or marriage to the accused, or to the brother preferring the charges as would likely bias his verdict, or where by bias, prejudice or a fixed opinion is made known at outset of trial by a member and in such event he shall not sit on trial, and shall retire from the Lodge when the vote is being taken. [1950]

28.3. VOTE — The vote of the Lodge shall be taken by a call of the roll, 1st, as to the guilt of the defendant; 2nd, as to the punishment. The Master should vote.

28.4. ROLL CALL — The vote on the trial of a brother shall be taken as follows: Each brother present shall sign his name to a roll before the Lodge is opened. Each and every name on such roll shall be called each time a vote is taken. It shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master to ascertain that every brother present has signed the roll.

28.5. MEMBER CHANGING VOTE — After the Lodge has closed at which a brother has been tried, and either acquitted or convicted, the members cannot change their vote. A brother may, however, change his vote before the result has been declared. However, even after the result has been declared, either as to guilt or innocence, or on the assessment of punishment, a member voting in the majority may make a motion to reconsider, and it

may be reconsidered; provided, no brother has left the hall. [before 1933]

28.6. VOTE AGAIN — In the event no motion is made to reconsider, the Master may, upon being informed that the brethren did not understand the question, again put the question without a motion; provided, no brother has left the hall. [before 1933]

28.7. WHAT MINUTES MUST SHOW — In case of a trial the minutes of the Lodge shall show the number of members present and the number voting aye and nay on each question.

CHAPTER XXIX.**APPEALS**

29.1. APPEALS — Questions affecting the action of a subordinate Lodge in a Masonic trial can come to and be heard by the Grand Lodge only through an appeal. An appeal while pending does not vacate or supersede the sentence; such sentence is in force and effect and is final unless reversed by the Grand Lodge.

29.2. GRAND LODGE ACTION — Upon appeal the Grand Lodge or during its recess the Grand Master, may reverse or affirm the judgment or order, or modify the same in any way, including a finding of guilty when acquitted by the subordinate Lodge or the increasing or decreasing of the penalty on a finding of guilty; or may, if necessary and proper, order a new trial.

29.3. VOID CONVICTION — When on appeal the Grand Lodge holds the proceedings in a trial to be null and void, for reason of the trial Lodge's failure to comply with the legal requirements, the membership of the accused brother is undisturbed.

29.4. ERRONEOUS CONVICTION — The Grand Lodge's reversal of sentence of suspension or expulsion restores the brother to the rights and privileges of Masonry, but not to membership. His status is then that of an unaffiliate and is entitled to the Grand Secretary's certificate of restoration.

29.5. RESTORATION — When the Grand Lodge reverses a judgment of acquittal by a subordinate Lodge and suspends or expels the brother, he cannot be restored to rights and privileges by the subordinate Lodge, but by the Grand Lodge only.

29.6. REVERSAL — When on appeal the Grand Lodge reverses a sentence of indefinite suspension or expulsion and affixes a definite suspension, such action by the Grand Lodge restores the brother to rights and privileges of Masonry upon the

expiration of the period of suspension fixed by the Grand Lodge, but does not restore him to membership at the expiration of such sentence.

29.7. CERTIFICATE AND VISITATION — The Grand Secretary should issue to the brother a certificate of restoration in the nature of a demit stating the facts thereon. The brother's status is then that of an unaffiliate and may petition the Lodge of his choice on such certificate. He also has the right of visitation, subject to the courtesy of the Lodge as applies to all unaffiliated Masons.

29.8. RESTORATION PENDING APPEAL — Pendency of appeal does not prevent a Lodge from restoring the appellant to rights and privileges, but if he is reinstated, the appeal should be withdrawn.

29.9. DEATH OF APPELLANT — When before an appeal and the transcript has reached the Grand Secretary's hands the appellant dies, the appeal is thereby abated, and the fact of the death and abatement shall be shown on the minutes of the Lodge. If, at the time of death, the brother's appeal has reached the hands of the Grand Secretary, the trial Lodge shall immediately notify the Grand Secretary, who shall file such notice with the appeal and enter thereon an order of abatement.

29.10. NOT ENTITLED TO DEMIT — He is not, however entitled to a demit if an appeal is pending under such sentence, even though the sentence has expired. He must await the disposition of the appeal before the demit can be granted.

29.11. NEW TRIAL — A Lodge may, by a majority vote, order a new trial, based either on newly discovered evidence, or on the fact that a conviction was had upon evidence subsequently found to have been false. The motion to grant a new trial must be made at a regular communication, or soon thereafter, and a new trial may be ordered by a majority of the members present at such communication, the resident members of the Lodge having been

duly notified of the pending motion, provided, however, if the accused was acquitted and no appeal was taken, he cannot be tried again for the same offense. [1950]

29.12. WHEN ORDERED — When a brother is tried and found guilty and sentenced, and the trial Lodge closed, the Lodge cannot be called together again and the error corrected, but a new trial may be ordered.

29.13. TRANSCRIPT — On all appeals the “transcripts” should be made out with care; each paper copied in a neat and legible hand, and the whole fastened together in their proper order, and the style of the case marked on the papers, and directed to the Grand Secretary. It must be affirmatively shown by the transcript that every requirement of the Grand Lodge has been complied with or that it has been waived. The failure of the Secretary of the subordinate Lodge to make up and forward the transcript as required does not nullify the appeal. The Grand Lodge may, and should, on application, order same sent up without delay.

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CHAPTER XXX.**THE PUNISHMENT**

30.1. PUNISHMENT — The by-laws of a Lodge cannot provide for a fixed punishment for designated offenses. No punishment can be assessed except after a legal trial and conviction, and the only way to fix punishment is by roll call of the members; and when a brother is found guilty he must be either expelled, indefinitely suspended, definitely suspended or reprimanded, although the accused pleads guilty, and the Lodge failing to fix punishment of a brother found guilty is grossly derelict of duty. Should the Lodge fail to fix a punishment on the first roll call, the W. M. shall put the vote again, and so repeat it until the Lodge either fixes a punishment or the W. M. becomes convinced that the Lodge will not vote a punishment; in which case it is the duty of the W. M. to take an appeal to the Grand Lodge, and pending such appeal the status of the accused is that of a brother under charges. The W. M. may refuse to assess an inadequate punishment and appeal to the Grand Lodge. After the punishment is fixed, the Lodge cannot remit or reduce such punishment. It, however, may for good cause grant a new trial by a majority vote of those present. When punishment is not proportionate the Grand Lodge will on appeal order new trial. Only a majority vote of the members present is required to convict or affix punishment of a reprimand. A two-thirds vote is necessary for expulsion or suspension. A Lodge can forgive a brother before conviction, but has no right to forgive him after he has been tried and found guilty.

30.2. NOT CONTINGENT — Suspension must be either indefinite or for a definite period. It cannot be imposed to continue until the happening of a particular event.

30.3. MODE OF FIXING — In fixing the punishment of a brother found guilty in a Masonic trial the W. M. shall put the question first on expulsion, and if two-thirds of the members present do not vote for expulsion, he shall then put the question on indefinite suspension. If this does not receive the required

two-thirds vote, he shall put the question of definite suspension. Should the Lodge by a two-thirds vote refuse to suspend the brother for as long a term as the W. M. names in the question, he shall put the question on definite suspension for a shorter term, and then still a shorter term as his judgment may dictate. Should the Lodge refuse to expel or suspend the brother, they shall then by a majority vote order a reprimand. It is permissible for a member to name the period of definite suspension in a motion.

In the event the Trial Commission finds an accused guilty and affixes the penalty of reprimand, the following procedure shall be followed to impose the penalty. The acting Chairman of the Trial Commission who presides over the trial shall write a reprimand and send it to the District Lecturer of that district, who shall read the reprimand to the sentenced member without addition or amplification at a regular communication of that lodge with no other visitor present, within sixty days. The District Lecturer delivering the reprimand shall notify the Chairman of the Trial Commission of the date the reprimand was delivered. [amended 1996]

30.4. EFFECT — The practical effect of definite suspension, indefinite suspension and expulsion is the same in each instance, the only difference being as to the time. In every case the brother is deprived of the rights and privileges of Masonry during the period of his sentence. But when a brother has been definitely suspended and his term of suspension shall have expired before the next session of the Grand Lodge and on appeal the Grand Lodge reverses the sentence by an acquittal, the Secretary of the Lodge shall set out the fact of such acquittal on the page of the minutes showing the brother's conviction.

30.5. REPRIMAND — Where the punishment is a reprimand and the brother refuses to attend to receive his punishment, he is thereby deprived of the rights and privileges of Masonry until he receives his punishment, or appeals from the conviction.

30.6. RESTORED IMMEDIATELY — When one is suspended for a definite length of time, and his term of suspension

expires, he is, immediately, restored to all the rights and privileges of Masonry, as well as to Lodge membership.

30.7. OTHER BODY SUSPENSION — The suspension or expulsion of a Mason from his membership in any of the so-called “higher-Masonic bodies” is not a suspension or expulsion from his subordinate Lodge.

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CHAPTER XXXI.

RESTORATION AND REINSTATEMENT

31.1. PROCURED — In order to be reinstated to membership one who has been expelled or indefinitely suspended, must first be restored to the rights and privileges of Masonry, and then proceed regularly by petition, which petition must be referred to a committee and be balloted on following report of committee as in all cases of petitions for affiliation. A quorum of the Lodge can reinstate, but the vote must be unanimous. If rejected, he may renew petition as often as he may desire.

31.2. RESTORATION TO R. AND P. — When a petition to be restored to the rights and privileges of Masonry is received, it shall be read in open Lodge at a regular communication. The W. M. shall then fix a day for action thereon, which must be at some regular communication, and order the Secretary to notify or summon every resident member of the Lodge to be present.

31.3. At the meeting so had, an affirmative vote by two-thirds of the members present taken viva voce, restores the brother to the rights and privileges of Masonry; and if restored he may then at that meeting, or at a subsequent meeting, petition the Lodge for membership therein; such petition to be considered and acted upon in all respects as a petition for affiliation, by reference, to a committee. If he does not petition for membership, or if he is rejected, then the Lodge shall on request, issue him a certificate of restoration, under the seal of the Lodge, which certificate shall have the same force and effect as a demit, as per form here set out. If the application for restoration be refused, he may renew it at any subsequent communication unless restricted by individual Lodge By-laws. One restored to rights and privileges has status of an unaffiliated Mason.

FORM

“This is to certify that _____ was a member in good standing of _____ Lodge No. ____ and was

_____ from said Lodge, but has been restored to the rights and privileges of Masonry, and is entitled to petition for membership in any Lodge.”

(To be signed by the Master and countersigned by the Secretary, with seal of Lodge attached.)

31.4. WHO CAN RESTORE — No subordinate Lodge except that one which suspended the Mason can restore him to the rights and privileges of Masonry. If such Lodge is defunct he must apply by petition to the Grand Lodge, and if restored by the Grand Lodge he is entitled to a certificate in the nature of a demit from the Grand Secretary.

31.5. SOJOURNER, RESTORATION — When the defendant was a sojourner and was suspended or expelled by a Lodge other than that of which he was a member, he must make application to the Lodge which tried him for restoration to the rights and privileges of Masonry, and if that is granted he may then apply to his own or any other Lodge for membership.

31.6. RESTORATION BY GRAND LODGE —When a brother who has been suspended by a subordinate Lodge for a definite period, and on appeal the Grand Lodge suspends him indefinitely, he can be restored to the rights and privileges of Masonry only by the Grand Lodge and not by the subordinate Lodge.

CHAPTER XXXII**IMPEACHMENT OF WORSHIPFUL MASTER**

32.1. A Lodge cannot try its W. M., but any five of its members may file with the Grand Master, impeachment proceedings against the W. M. for official misconduct, as provided in Art. VI, Sec. 25 of the Constitution. The members of a Lodge have the right and it is their duty to investigate any creditable rumor reflecting on the character of their W. M., and if their findings justify it, any five of them may institute impeachment proceedings, by preparing the petition for impeachment, setting out in same the full specifications of the W. M.'s misconduct, and each of the five go before the Secretary of the Lodge and sign the petition. The Secretary shall then endorse thereon that the five petitioners signed the same in his presence, and that each one is a member of that Lodge and in good standing. He shall then affix the seal of the Lodge thereto and forward it promptly to the Grand Master, who will then proceed in the matter as set out in Sec. 25, Art. VI of the Constitution. The Suspension of the W. M. on report of three investigators suspends such W. M. from his office, and he is thereby prohibited from presiding or discharging any duty as W. M. The impeachment of a W. M. affects his official status only, and his membership is undisturbed. After his impeachment is made final he is subject to charges as any other Mason for unmasonic conduct before he was W. M. or while he was W. M., provided such charges are not for official misconduct.

32.2. RIGHT TO OFFICE — Any officer of the Lodge has the right to hold office and perform the duties pertaining thereto while charges are pending against him. Provided however, that the W. M. has no such right when through impeachment proceedings he is suspended from his office by the Grand Master. Any officer or member of a Lodge is eligible for election to office while charges are pending against him. Death abates pending charges and if the brother is not debarred for other legal reasons, he is entitled to Masonic burial.

32.3. DUTY OF INVESTIGATORS — The three investigators must with all convenient dispatch serve a copy of the charges on the accused which service may be in person or by registered mail to his last known address, demanding return receipt. When service is made by mail in the manner set out, two days shall be allowed for delivery. After delivery of a copy of the charges to the accused, he shall have five days within which to submit a written answer to the investigators, accompanied with such affidavits or other documents or proof he may desire to submit. The investigators are not prosecutors, and it is their duty in good faith to endeavor to ascertain all the facts both pro and con from whatever source.

32.4. IMPEACHMENT EXPENSES — A Worshipful Master cited by the Grand Master to appear at Grand Lodge to answer impeachment proceedings against him is not entitled to have his expenses paid by Grand Lodge.

32.5. TRIAL AFTER TERM — Except for official misconduct a Past Master may be tried for an offense committed while he was Master. The jurisdiction in such case being in the subordinate Lodge, he no longer being Master and not subject to impeachment.

CHAPTER XXXIII**PROPOSITION TO AMEND**

33.1. AMENDMENTS — Every proposition to revise or repeal an existing Edict or to add a new Edict shall be submitted in writing to the Grand Secretary at least sixty days before the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge at which time it is to be presented, and if certified by the Jurisprudence Committee as being in proper form, a copy of the proposal shall be sent to all Past Grand Masters, Officers of the Grand Lodge and to the Worshipful Master of each subordinate Lodge at least thirty days before the Annual Communication. It shall then be distinctly read at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge when, if approved by a majority vote, it will be effective.

No other proposition to revise or repeal an existing Edict or to add a new Edict shall be received by the Grand Lodge for its action without the forgoing provisions being complied with, except the Grand Lodge may by two-thirds vote of the members present waive the requirements of previous notice to the Grand Secretary and Lodges. [amended 1998]

SUGGESTIONS FOR TRIALS AND APPEALS

These suggestions are no part of the Constitution or Edicts and have not the force or effect of Masonic law. They are intended as helpful guides to the Lodge, the officers, the witnesses and the parties and here, following the provisions relating to Trials and Appeals, is deemed a convenient place to set them out.

A Masonic code for the guidance and direction of a whole Grand Lodge jurisdiction would be incomplete without a chapter upon the subject of trials and appeals. The following has, therefore, been prepared with a special view to that subject, and the directions and decisions of the Grand Lodge have been implicitly followed as a matter of course, so far as the Constitution has given directions, and the Grand Lodge made decisions, and it is hoped that the forms here presented will be found of service to the Masters of Lodges whenever they may be called upon to preside during a Masonic trial, the most unpleasant duty that a Master can be required to perform, and yet one of the most imperative. Several authorities have been consulted and the chapter has been prepared with all the care and deliberation that could be bestowed upon it.

THE CHARGE

The first step to be taken towards a Masonic trial is, of course, to prefer charges, or make a complaint. The charges and specifications must be made in writing and over the signature of a Master Mason, or by a committee of the Lodge.

The important requisites of a charge or complaint are that it should be brief and yet comprehensive; clearly defining the nature of the offense charged, and specifying, with reasonable certainty, the time, place and circumstances of its commission. Thus:

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of Oriental Lodge, No. 164:

The undersigned, a Master Mason (or the undersigned, a committee appointed by the Worshipful Master for that purpose), charges Brother A. B. with immoral and un-Masonic conduct:

First Specification—In that the said A. B. on the 1st day of April, last past, in public, in the county of Jackson, was in the state of intoxication from the use of spirituous liquors, in violation of his duty as a Mason, and to the scandal and disgrace of the Masonic Fraternity.

Second Specification—And also, in that the said A. B., on the 1st day of April, last past, and on divers other days before the exhibition of this complaint, in the county of Jackson, was in a state of intoxication from the use of spirituous liquors and other intoxicating drinks, in violation of his duty as a Mason, and to the scandal and disgrace of the Masonic Fraternity; and it is hereby demanded that the said A. B. be dealt with therefor, according to Masonic law and usage.

The complaint must be signed by the brother who prefers the charges, or by the committee appointed by the Master.

Or the form for a different offense may be thus:

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of Oriental Lodge, No. 164:

The undersigned, a Master Mason (or the undersigned, a committee appointed by the Worshipful Master for that purpose), charges Brother A. B. with immoral and un-Masonic conduct:

First Specification—In that the said A. B. did on the 1st day of April, last past, in public, before divers citizens, to-wit: before John Smith and many others, in the county of Jackson, say that Masonry was a humbug, a cheat and a swindle, in violation of his duty as a Mason and to the scandal and disgrace of the Masonic Fraternity.

Second Specification—And also, in that the said A. B. did on the 1st day of April, last past, and on divers other

days before the exhibition of this complaint, in public, before John Smith, Peter Lambert and many others, in the county of Jackson, say, in speaking of Masonry, that it was a humbug, a cheat and a swindle, and that he did not believe it was a good institution, in violation of his duty as a Mason, and to the scandal and disgrace of the Masonic Fraternity; and it is hereby demanded that the said A. B. be dealt with therefor, according to Masonic law and usage.

The complaint must be signed as before directed.

These forms might be indefinitely multiplied, but these will be sufficient to show the manner, and the importance of specifying with reasonable certainty of the time, place and circumstances under which the alleged offense was committed, that the accused may know what he has to answer, and how to prepare for his defense. For, of course, he cannot be charged with one offense and convicted of another. It may be amended, however, before the vote.

The main object in view in having several specifications is to be certain to have some one of them that will conform to the proof, where there may be doubt as to what the proof will be. Thus, if a party was charged with saying that Masonry was a humbug, a cheat and a swindle, it would not do to prove that he said he did not believe in Masonry or that he said it was not a good institution. Either would be a Masonic offense, but then the proof must sustain the offense with which the party is charged, and not some other offense. Technicalities are not so much regarded in a Masonic trial as they are in courts of law; but still the proof must sustain the particular charge made and not un-Masonic conduct in general.

THE EVIDENCE

The charge having been presented to the Lodge, the Master appoints a day for the trial, sufficiently distant to notify the party, to summon the witnesses and to have time to take testimony. The notice which the party must have is

specified in Article VII of the Constitution, and need not be repeated here. If the witnesses are Master Masons, their evidence is heard in open Lodge; if they are not, the Master appoints a committee to take their testimony in writing and it must be sworn to before some person authorized to administer oaths; but the testimony of a Master Mason is taken upon his honor as a Mason.

All persons are competent witnesses in a Masonic trial that are competent in a civil court at common law, and none others. This rule excludes idiots, madmen and children who are too young to be sensible of the obligations of an oath. But this rule only requires of them a belief in God, and that He will punish falsehood. It excludes persons who are rendered infamous by reason of their conviction of certain crimes, as perjury, subornation of perjury, etc. All others are competent witnesses in a Masonic trial, as they are in a trial before a civil tribunal. But all persons are not equally credible; and while a person may be simply competent; yet he may be of such notorious bad character that one would not believe him on oath. Witnesses who are not Masons may be impeached, but a Master Mason cannot be impeached. He may be contradicted by the introduction of witnesses to prove a contrary state of facts to that alleged by him, but no witness can be allowed to testify that they would not believe him on oath.

Each party has the right to introduce testimony, the accuser to sustain his charges, and the accused to show his innocence. To procure the attendance of witnesses on either side, no process is necessary if the witness is a Mason and a member of the Lodge, because he is bound to obey the summons of the Master when the Lodge is called together for the trial, and he will then be present to give his testimony. But if he be a member of some other Lodge in the same city, the Secretary of the Lodge in which the trial is to take place will issue his summons under the seal of the Lodge requiring his attendance. If the witness be not a Mason, his

attendance before the committee appointed to take testimony must, of course, be voluntary.

If a witness whose testimony is desired be a Mason and a Member of some other Lodge in the same town or city, and he refuses to attend and give evidence, charges should be preferred against him in the Lodge of which he is a member. Or, if he be an unaffiliated Mason, charges may be preferred against him in any Lodge in the same Lodge jurisdiction. But if the witness resides in the jurisdiction of another Lodge his evidence may be taken by a committee.

THE TRIAL

When the time set for the trial arrives, the Master opens the Lodge in the third degree. In the jurisdiction of Alabama the trial is had before the Lodge itself, and at a Communication especially notified for that purpose (Cons., Art. VII, Sec. 3, Rule 6) at which no visitors are admitted except witnesses and counsel, and then only in case they are Master Masons.

If the party on trial be not a Master Mason, the examination takes place in the highest degree to which he has attained, but none are admitted except Master Masons and the accused; after the examination is closed the Lodge is opened in the third degree and the final decision is made.

When the Lodge is open, the trial proceeds if both parties are ready. But either side may ask for a postponement, and it is the duty of the Master to grant it if good cause is shown. If the Master refuses to grant a postponement, the party that asks for it should request that a memorandum of the fact be entered upon the minutes, together with the reasons for which it was asked, and it is the Master's duty to require this to be done, that it may go before the Grand Lodge in case an appeal should be taken.

So, also, if either party objects to any testimony that is proposed to be introduced, and the Master overrules the

objection, it is the duty of the Master, at the request of the party to cause the objection and his decision thereupon to be entered upon the minutes, that it may go up to the Grand Lodge upon the record. And if the Master rules out any testimony that is proposed to be introduced, the same course must be taken if the party wished to obtain the benefit of it.

If both parties announce themselves ready, the accused is considered as pleading “not guilty”: without any formal pleading to that effect, but he may if he choose, plead specially, admitting some specifications and denying others. Or he may admit some of the specifications, or even the whole charge, and set up matter in extenuation or excuse, or justification. But he may adduce the same matter in evidence, and have the benefit of it under the general plea of “not guilty”.

Both parties being ready, the trial proceeds. The testimony to sustain the charge is first introduced. The evidence is heard in open Lodge, where witnesses are Masons; and where they are not Masons, by deposition, as already indicated. The testimony to sustain the charge having been heard, accused introduces his testimony, and then testimony in rebuttal may be heard if any is considered necessary. The testimony having all been delivered, the accused may be heard in argument by himself, or by his counsel, if he have one, and he be a Mason.

The case being closed, both parties withdraw—the accuser and the accused. But if the charges are drawn up and presented by a committee appointed by the Master for that purpose, the committee does not withdraw, as it is merely the instrument through which the Lodge has acted, and is supposed to be as uninterested in the matter as any other member of the Lodge.

Upon every trial, the Secretary of the Lodge shall write down, in a fair hand, the whole of the evidence in the case that is proper to be written. (See Art. VII, Sec. 3, Rule 9.)

The question is then, upon each specification, to be distinctly put by the Master to every member present, be-

ginning with the youngest, "Is the accused guilty or not guilty?" The answer shall be given standing and in an audible manner, and the Secretary shall record the answer (Rule 10.)

If the accused be found guilty, the Lodge by vote shall assess the punishment due to the offense.

There are four modes of punishment known to Masonry, as the result of a trial, if the brother be found guilty. These are Reprimand; Definite Suspension, or for a certain period of time; indefinite Suspension, and Expulsion. As the Master has to put it to the Lodge what punishment shall be assessed after the brother has been found guilty, he shall put it upon the highest, Expulsion, first. If the requisite majority will not assess that, then upon the next, Indefinite Suspension, and so on down, until the Lodge has agreed upon the proper one.

In this jurisdiction Rule 12 of Article VII, Sec. 3 of the Constitution requires that all cases of suspension or expulsion two-thirds of the votes of all the members present shall be required.

The case having terminated and the decision of the Lodge entered upon the record, the accused ought to be notified of the result as early as possible, in order that he may take an appeal to the Grand Lodge, if the decision should be against him, and he chooses so to do, within the time prescribed in the Constitution. The notice should be given by the Secretary of the Lodge, and under the seal of the Lodge, and if conveyed to him in any other manner it is not official notice.

Any member of the trial Lodge who feels aggrieved by the decision of the Lodge upon the trial of any brother may take an appeal to the Grand Lodge; but the manner of taking the appeal, and the time in which it must be done, is fully laid down in the Constitution, in Article VII, that it need not be enlarged upon here.

APPEALS

If an appeal is taken to the Grand Lodge, either by the brother accused, or any other member of the Lodge, the Secretary of the Lodge shall immediately record the appeal and transmit to the Grand Lodge at the next Communication thereof, the appeal, certified under his hand and the seal of the Lodge (Cons., Art. VII, Sec. 3, Rule 16.) Of course, a full and perfect record of the whole case must be sent up, because the record must show affirmatively that every requisite of the Grand Lodge has been complied with. And in sending up appeals to the Grand Lodge the transcript should be made out with care; each paper should be copied in a neat and legible hand and the whole fastened together in their proper order and the style of the case marked on the papers and directed to the Grand Secretary. Otherwise, the Grand Lodge will order the proceedings returned and order the Subordinate Lodge to send them up in regular and constitutional form.

RULES
FOR THE GUIDANCE OF SECRETARIES OF
SUBORDINATE LODGES IN MAKING
TRANSCRIPT ON APPEAL.

1. State opening of the Lodge, giving place, date and names of officers present and serving.
2. Names and number of members present.
3. Statement of number of members of the Lodge.
4. Statement by the W. M. of the object of the communication of the Lodge.
5. Set out the charges and specifications, and date of service on the accused.
6. Name of counsel for the Lodge. Name of counsel for the accused.
7. If any one should ask a postponement of the trial, set

it out and the reasons therefor, and the ruling of the W. M. thereon.

8. State all objections to the sufficiency of the charges and the ruling of the W. M. thereon.

9. Set out the whole evidence offered on the trial that is proper to be written, and the ruling of the W. M. on objections, if any, to the evidence.

10. State the vote of the Lodge on the question of guilt.

11. State the vote of the Lodge on the question of punishment.

12. Set out the notice and date of appeal.

13. If appeal is by a member of the Lodge, other than the accused ten days' notice must be given the accused. Set out a copy of this notice, with the evidence of the service on the accused.

14. If, as to any of the matters, the Secretary and Worshipful Master differ, the certificate of the Master shall prevail, but the Grand Lodge may hear evidence as to which is correct.

15. Certify that the above and foregoing is correct transcript of the proceedings in above stated trial.

Date this certificate, sign it as Secretary, and attach seal of the Lodge.

See also Edicts 23.1 to 31.6, both inclusive.

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This CD-rom version of the Masonic Code of Grand Lodge of Alabama has been updated using the printed copy of the Masonic Code (updated 12-01) distributed by the Grand Secretary's office. It is not an official publication of the Grand Lodge. Please refer any discrepancies to that office.

Wayne E. Sirmon, Chairman
Committee on Masonic Education & Public Relations