

CONSTITUTION  
OF THE  
GRAND LODGE  
OF  
A.F. & A.M. OF CANADA  
IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO



2023

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The Book of Constitution  
OF THE  
GRAND LODGE  
OF  
ANCIENT, FREE AND ACCEPTED  
MASONS OF CANADA  
IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO



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2023

*Louis M. Donigan*  
Grand Secretary

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Special Note: The year in brackets following a section indicates the most recent amendment, if any.

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SPECIAL NOTE

The year in brackets following a section indicates the most recent amendment, if any.

CONSTITUTION  
OF THE  
GRAND LODGE  
OF  
ANCIENT, FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS  
OF CANADA  
IN  
THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

**Preamble**

We, the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Canada in the Province of Ontario, in order to form perfect fraternal union, to establish order, to ensure tranquillity, to provide for and promote the general welfare of the Craft, and to secure to the fraternity in the Province of Ontario all the blessings of Masonic privileges, do order and establish this Constitution.

**PART I – GRAND LODGE**

**Style and Title of Grand Lodge**

1. The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Canada in the Province of Ontario, now existing, hereinafter referred to as Grand Lodge, shall continue to exist under the same name, style and title.

## Seal of Grand Lodge

2. The following is the seal of Grand Lodge as hitherto adopted by Grand Lodge.



The seal of Grand Lodge consists of the Coat of Arms of Grand Lodge within a circular border on which is inscribed the words:

GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT FREE AND  
ACCEPTED MASONS OF CANADA

## Coat of Arms of Grand Lodge

3. The following is the Coat of Arms as hitherto adopted by Grand Lodge.



The Coat of Arms of Grand Lodge consists of:

Arms: Per pale, dexter per fess Gules and Argent, in chief on a chevron between three Castles Argent a pair of Compasses extended Sable, in base a Beaver proper; sinister quarterly Azure and Or, a Cross quarterly Argent and Vert, between in the first quarter a Lion rampant Or, in the second an Ox passant Sable, in the third a Man with hands elevated proper, vested Vert, the robe Crimson lined with Ermine, and in the fourth an Eagle, displayed also Or; the dexter side of the shield is formed by an ear of corn (wheat), the sinister by an olive branch (sprig of acacia).

Crest: A representation of an Ark, supported on either side by a Cherub proper, with the inscription over in Hebrew characters, "Holiness to the Lord."

Supporters: On either side a Cherub proper.

Motto: Audi, Vide, Tace.

### Standard Logo

3.1



The formal logotype of Grand Lodge shall be in size the following form and shape (regardless of): The logotype shall consist of a stylized inverted square on which is superimposed compasses opened at a 45° angle with the letter "G" in the centre.

In all masonic signage, communications, and publications including lodge crests, whenever a square and compasses appear; they shall be the formal logotype hereby adopted. This provision shall not apply to any lodge crest or signage in existence and currently in use on the 19th day of July, 1989. (1989)

## Brand

3.2 The formal brand of Grand Lodge shall consist of a maple leaf on which is superimposed a simplified square and compasses together with Ontario Masons as hereby adopted. (2021)



**Ontario Masons**

## Jurisdiction of Grand Lodge

4. Grand Lodge has Masonic jurisdiction throughout the territorial limits of the Province of Ontario, and the province is divided into several Masonic districts. (2002)

(b) Any other provision of this code to the contrary notwithstanding, the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario recognizes the M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge F. and A.M., Province of Ontario (and Jurisdiction) and will consider recognizing more than one Grand Lodge in another jurisdiction if the mainstream Grand Lodge in that jurisdiction “chooses to waive its right to maintain exclusive jurisdiction and to permit concurrent jurisdiction.” (2008)

## Work authorized by Grand Lodge

5. The authorized Work is the English ritual with slight modifications adopted by the Grand Lodge of Canada in 1859, as amended from time to time, except where a constituent lodge was permitted to continue the Work in any other form on condition of having submitted to the jurisdiction of Grand Lodge.

6. The Ritual is under the direction of a Ritual Committee which consists of the Grand Master, the Past Grand Masters and the Deputy Grand Master with a Past Grand Master appointed by them as Custodian of the Work.

7. No addition or alteration of the Ritual shall be made except that authorized by the Ritual Committee.

8. Lodges of this jurisdiction which confer degrees under a ritual specially authorized by Grand Lodge but which differs from that in general use are not permitted to confer degrees under the specially authorized form of a ritual on candidates in other lodges not working the same ritual. Degrees in the specially authorized ritual may be exemplified in other lodges, but they may not be conferred.

### **Composition of Grand Lodge**

9. Grand Lodge shall consist of its Grand Officers, its Past Grand Officers, and the Masters, Past Masters and Wardens of all lodges duly returned on the Grand Lodge register.

10. Grand Lodge may on motion constitute any Past Master of eminence and ability, who hails from another Grand Lodge recognized in this Grand Lodge and who has rendered service to the Craft, an honorary member of this Grand Lodge, with such rank and distinction as it may deem appropriate.

### **Officers of Grand Lodge**

11. The Officers of Grand Lodge, with their official designations, are as follows:

The Most Worshipful the Grand Master,  
 The Right Worshipful the Deputy Grand Master,  
 The Right Worshipful the District Deputy  
 Grand Masters (one for each district),  
 The Right Worshipful the Grand Senior Warden,  
 The Right Worshipful the Grand Junior Warden,  
 The Right Worshipful the Grand Chaplain,  
 The Right Worshipful the Grand Treasurer,  
 The Right Worshipful the Grand Secretary,

The Right Worshipful the Grand Registrar,  
 The Right Worshipful the Grand Director  
 of Ceremonies, (2000)  
 The Right Worshipful and Very Worshipful  
 Members of the Board of General Purposes,  
 The Very Worshipful the Grand Senior Deacon,  
 The Very Worshipful the Grand Junior Deacon,  
 The Very Worshipful the Grand Superintendent  
 of Works,  
 The Very Worshipful the Assistant Grand  
 Secretary,  
 The Very Worshipful the Assistant Grand Director  
 of Ceremonies,  
 The Very Worshipful the Assistant Grand  
 Chaplains (not more than five in number),  
 The Very Worshipful the Grand Sword Bearer,  
 The Very Worshipful the Grand Organist,  
 The Very Worshipful the Assistant Grand  
 Organist,  
 The Very Worshipful the Grand Pursuivant,  
 The Very Worshipful the Grand Stewards,  
 The Very Worshipful the Grand Standard Bearers  
 (two in number),  
 The Very Worshipful the Grand Tyler,  
 The Very Worshipful the Grand Historian,  
 The Very Worshipful the Grand Librarian, (2009)  
 The Very Worshipful the Grand Archivist, (2009)  
 The Very Worshipful the Grand Piper. (1997)

### **Rank of Officers and Members of Grand Lodge**

12. The rank of Officers and members of Grand Lodge is as follows:

The Grand Master,  
 Past Grand Masters, according to seniority in  
 office,  
 The Deputy Grand Master.  
 Past Deputy Grand Masters,

The District Deputy Grand Masters.  
 Past District Deputy Grand Masters,  
 The Grand Senior Warden,  
 Past Grand Senior Wardens,  
 The Grand Junior Warden,  
 Past Grand Junior Wardens,  
 The Grand Chaplain,  
 Past Grand Chaplains,  
 The Grand Treasurer,  
 Past Grand Treasurers,  
 The Grand Secretary,  
 Past Grand Secretaries,  
 The Grand Registrar,  
 Past Grand Registrars,  
 The Grand Director of Ceremonies,  
 Past Grand Directors of Ceremonies,  
     and including retrospectively all of the  
     Past Grand Directors of Ceremonies,      (2000)  
 The Grand Senior Deacon,  
 Past Grand Senior Deacons,  
 The Grand Junior Deacon,  
 Past Grand Junior Deacons,  
 The Grand Superintendent of Works,  
 Past Grand Superintendents of Works,  
 The Assistant Grand Chaplains,  
 Past Assistant Grand Chaplains,  
 The Assistant Grand Secretary,  
 Past Assistant Grand Secretaries,  
 The Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies,  
 Past Assistant Grand Directors of Ceremonies,  
 The Grand Sword Bearer,  
 Past Grand Sword Bearers,  
 The Grand Organist,  
 Past Grand Organists,  
 The Assistant Grand Organist,  
 Past Assistant Grand Organists,  
 The Grand Pursuivant,  
 Past Grand Pursuivants,

The Grand Stewards,  
 Past Grand Stewards,  
 The Grand Standard Bearers,  
 Past Grand Standard Bearers,  
 The Grand Tyler,  
 Past Grand Tylers,  
 The Grand Historian,  
 Past Grand Historians,  
 The Grand Librarian,  
 Past Grand Librarians, (2009)  
 The Grand Archivist,  
 Past Grand Archivists, (2009)  
 The Grand Piper,  
 Past Grand Pipers, (1997)  
 The Masters, Past Masters and Wardens of lodges,  
 in order of the numbers of their respective  
 warrants.

13. No brother shall be entitled to past rank in any office in Grand Lodge unless he has served a full term of twelve months, or unless expressly granted by Grand Lodge.

14. The privileges of Masonic rank under this Grand Lodge shall be restricted to –

(a) those who have attained rank under this jurisdiction; or

(b) those who have attained the rank of Past Master under the jurisdiction of any Grand Lodge recognized by this Grand Lodge,

(i) from the date of attaining such rank, if on that date he was a member in good standing of a lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge; or

(ii) upon affiliation with any lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge. (1982)

15. The Code for extending the grand honours to officers and members of Grand Lodge is as follows:

- (a) the Grand Master and Past Grand Masters – nine;
- (b) all brethren of the rank of Right Worshipful, present and past – seven;
- (c) all brethren of the rank of Very Worshipful, present and past – five;
- (d) a brother appointed by the Grand Master to represent him at the constitution of a lodge, and not otherwise entitled to more – five;
- (e) the Masters and Past Masters – three;
- (f) a brother who is the recipient of the William Mercer Wilson Medal, only on the occasion of the presentation of the medal to him – three; (1999)
- (g) a brother on the occasion of receiving a long service award, 50 year, 60 year or 70 year (service is computed from the date of initiation to the present, less any time deducted for demit or suspension) – three; and (2006)
- (h) all Grand and Past Grand Lodge officers of Grand Lodges recognized by this Grand Lodge may receive similar honours to those accorded to members of our own Grand Lodge, according to their rank by courtesy only.

### **Meetings of Grand Lodge**

16. The annual meeting of Grand Lodge shall be convened as close as possible to the third Wednesday in July, at a time to be established by the Grand Master, and the date and place decided upon by the Board of General Purposes. The hours set for the time of the

annual meeting of Grand Lodge, and for registrations and elections, shall be according to the time in effect in the place where Grand Lodge is being held. (2022)

17. The Grand Master, or in the event of his absence from the Province, or inability to act, the Deputy Grand Master, or in the event of his absence or inability to act, the Grand Wardens may summon and hold special meetings of Grand Lodge whenever the good of the craft shall, in their opinion, require it. The particular reason for convening such meetings shall be stated in the summons, and no other business shall be entered upon at any such meeting.

18. (a) No member of Grand Lodge shall attend at any meeting thereof without his proper Masonic clothing, nor wear any jewel not recognized by Grand Lodge. None but duly returned members shall be present without permission of the Grand Master. (2021)

(b) All eligible members of Grand Lodge must be registered in order to vote at the Annual Meeting. Registration for voting at the Annual Meeting shall take place at a time determined by the Board of General Purposes prior to the start of the Annual Meeting. (2021)

19. The Grand Master, if present, shall preside in Grand Lodge. If, at any meeting thereof, annual or special, except at a meeting called to assist in the performance of a ceremony, the Grand Master be absent, the Deputy Grand Master shall preside. If the Deputy Grand Master also be absent, the senior Past Grand Master present shall preside. In the absence of all the foregoing, Grand Lodge shall be ruled by the elective Grand Lodge Officer next in rank and seniority, who may be present, and if no elective Grand Lodge Officer be present, the meeting shall be deemed to be

cancelled.

20. A brother, who has not attained the rank of a Past Grand Master, shall not assume the Grand Master's chair, though he be entitled in the absence of the Grand Master to rule Grand Lodge.

21. When the Grand Wardens are in Grand Lodge, no others can fill their places, but in the absence of either, the Grand Master may appoint any Past Grand Warden present to act. If no Past Grand Warden be present, the Grand Master may direct any other member of Grand Lodge to act as Grand Warden for that occasion.

22. Grand Lodge is declared open in ample form when the Grand Master presides; in due form when a Past Grand Master or the Deputy Grand Master presides; at all other times, in form, yet with the same authority.

23. The Grand Master having taken his seat and opened Grand Lodge, the following shall be the order of business:

- (a) Confirming the minutes of previous meetings;
- (b) Reading and referring the Grand Master's Address;
- (c) Reading and referring communications, petitions and appeals;
- (d) Reading and referring the reports of the Auditor, the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Secretary;
- (e) Receiving and referring the reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters;
- (f) Reading and receiving the reports of the Board of General Purposes and, if expedient, considering the same in the following order, viz: (1992)

- (i) Audit and Finance,
  - (ii) Benevolence,
  - (iii) Condition of Masonry,
  - (iv) Constitution and Jurisprudence,
  - (v) Discipline,
  - (vi) Library, Museum and Archives,
  - (vii) Management,
  - (viii) Masonic Education,
  - (ix) Strategic Planning (2015)
- (g) Reading, receiving and considering the reports of special committees;
- (h) Presenting and considering notices of motion; and
- (i) General Business.

24. The reports of the Committee on Credentials and the Committee of the Scrutineers shall be presented during the annual meeting of Grand Lodge as determined by the Grand Master. (2022)

25. The order of business shall be called by the Grand Secretary at each meeting and may at any time be suspended or changed by two-thirds vote of Grand Lodge, and not otherwise.

26. The installation and investiture of the officers of Grand Lodge, according to ancient usage, shall take place immediately before the close of the annual meeting of Grand Lodge.

27. (a) Grand Lodge at any annual meeting may leave any particular matter to the determination of the Grand Master.

(b) Unless otherwise provided all matters brought up for discussion in Grand Lodge shall be decided by a majority of votes, each brother present having one vote, and the Grand Master a deciding vote in case of a tie. Each brother when voting shall hold up one of his hands. The Grand Deacons shall count the votes, unless the numbers in the opinion of the Grand Master be so unequal as to render counting unnecessary.

28. Any brother present in Grand Lodge shall have the right of appeal to Grand Lodge from any decision or ruling of the Grand Master given in Grand Lodge.

29. When a brother appeals from the decision of the Grand Master given while Grand Lodge is in session he shall state briefly the grounds for his appeal. The Grand Master may then state the reasons for his decision and, without further debate, shall put the question, "Shall the decision of the chair be sustained?" When the vote has been taken the decision of Grand Lodge shall be announced.

30. All members shall keep their seats, except the Grand Deacons, the Grand Director of Ceremonies and his assistants, and the Grand Stewards, who are allowed to move about from place to place in the discharge of their duties.

31. No brother shall speak twice on the same question, unless in explanation, or the mover of a motion in reply.

32. Every one who speaks shall rise and remain standing, addressing himself to the Grand Master; and no brother shall presume to interrupt the speaker except to address the Grand Master on a point of order.

33. If any brother shall have been twice called to order for transgressing these rules, and shall nevertheless be guilty of a third offence at the same

session, the Grand Master may peremptorily command him to leave Grand Lodge for that session.

34. No motion on any new subject shall be made, nor any new matter entered upon, after eleven o'clock at night.

35. No money grants shall be made by Grand Lodge on the last day of the meeting, unless notice of an intended application therefor shall have been given on the preceding day.

### **Nominations**

36. Any member of Grand Lodge may nominate any eligible candidate for an elective office, requiring nomination, or for the Board of General Purposes.

37. (a) Nomination for any elected office requiring nomination and for the Board of General Purposes, except for a District Deputy Grand Master, shall be made in writing and signed, using the current nomination form and in strict accordance with the instructions provided for the completion of the form. (2021)

(b) The submission must be accompanied with a Candidate Information Report and colour photograph. (2015)

38. (a) All nominations must be received by the Grand Secretary on or before the 1st day of April prior to the annual meeting of Grand Lodge at which the voting shall take place unless otherwise determined by the Board of General Purposes; provided, however, that when the 1st day of April falls on a Sunday or holiday, then on or before the following day. (2023)

(b) A candidate nominated for the office as member of the Board of General Purposes must be in possession of a "Past Master's Course Certificate of

Completion” as offered by the Grand Lodge College of Freemasonry on or before the same date his nomination is sent to Grand Lodge, as outlined by this Book of Constitution Section 38(a). (2016)

(c) A member appointed to the Board of General Purposes must be in possession of the said “Past Master’s Course Certificate of Completion” to be eligible for re-appointment or election to office. (2015)

39. The Grand Secretary shall send to all members so nominated, a complete list of all such nominations in alphabetical order for each office and, unless notice of withdrawal is received by the Grand Secretary on or before the 15th day of April or within 15 days after the closing date of nominations as determined by the Board of General Purposes from the member so nominated over his signature, the name of such member shall appear on the final list of nominations. (2023)

40. The final list of all nominations in alphabetical order for each office with particulars required by Section 37(a) shall be distributed in electronic format by the Grand Secretary to each lodge Secretary, to each member of the Board of General Purposes and to each of the nominees on or before the 30th day of April or within 30 days after the closing date of nominations as determined by the Board of General Purposes. It shall also be posted on the Grand Lodge website and made available electronically to each delegate registering to vote. (2023)

41. No brother shall be nominated for more than one elective office. For the purposes of this section a nomination for the Board of General Purposes shall be deemed to be a nomination for an elective office. Violation of the foregoing regulation shall result in the disqualification of the brother as a candidate for any

elective office. A candidate duly nominated may withdraw his name in writing at any time before the vote is taken.

### **Elections and Appointments**

42. The elective and appointive officers of Grand Lodge shall hold office until their successors shall have been elected or appointed and installed or invested in their stead.

43. The officers of Grand Lodge, except for the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Treasurer, the Grand Secretary and the members of the Board of General Purposes shall be elected or appointed annually.

44. (a) The Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Treasurer, and the Grand Secretary shall be elected for two years. (1981)

(b) The Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master shall be elected on an alternate year from that of the election of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary. (2004)

(c) The Grand Treasurer and the Grand Secretary shall be eligible for re-election. (1981)

(d) The members of the Board of General Purposes shall be elected or appointed for two years and shall be eligible for re-election or reappointment. (1981)

45. No brother shall be eligible for office in Grand Lodge unless he has attained the rank of Past Master.

46. The Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master shall be elected by ballot without nomination.

47. (a) Any brother who has served as an elected member of the Board of General Purposes shall be

entitled to have his name published as a candidate for the office of Deputy Grand Master if he signifies his intention in writing to the Grand Secretary on or before the 1st day of April or such other date as determined by the Board of General Purposes prior to the annual meeting of Grand Lodge at which a Deputy Grand Master is to be elected. The announcement of his candidature for that office shall be made at the same time as the nominations for other Grand Lodge offices are published, but such announcement shall not be construed as a nomination for the office of Deputy Grand Master and shall not preclude the candidature of other similarly qualified brethren for the office, up to and including the time of voting for that office. (2023)

(b) The submission must be accompanied with a Candidate Information Report and coloured photograph. (2015)

48. (a) The Grand Senior Warden, the Grand Junior Warden, the Grand Treasurer, the Grand Secretary, the Grand Registrar and the members of the Board of General Purposes elected as such by Grand Lodge shall be elected by ballot after nomination. All other officers shall be appointed by the Grand Master. (2022)

(b) Notwithstanding any other provisions herein, if only one qualified candidate has been nominated for the position of Grand Senior Warden, Grand Junior Warden, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary or Grand Registrar at the time for voting, that candidate shall be acclaimed to such position without a ballot. (2022)

49. Should any officer of Grand Lodge, other than the Grand Master or the Deputy Grand Master, die or cease to reside in the jurisdiction, or become incapable for any reason of performing the duties of his office, the Grand Master shall appoint a qualified brother to fill

the position until the next annual meeting, or during such incapacity.

50. (a) A candidate for the office of District Deputy Grand Master must hold the rank of Past Master, be a member of a lodge of the district and be a resident thereof, or his place of residence must be considered by the Grand Master to be near enough to the district to enable such District Deputy Grand Master to discharge his duties and responsibilities to the district in a satisfactory manner. (2015)

(b) A candidate for office as District Deputy Grand Master or Grand Registrar must be in possession of a qualifying certificate, as offered by our Grand Lodge, on or before the closing date for nominations, as determined by the Board of General Purposes, of the year seeking office. (2021)

(c) Should a Past Master, at the time of his election, be in office as Master of his lodge, and should his election be confirmed by the Grand Master, such election shall operate to vacate his office of Master, and a new election shall be held forthwith by the lodge.

51. The election of the District Deputy Grand Master shall be held on a date and at a time as determined by the Board of General Purposes and the result thereof shall forthwith be communicated to the Grand Master by the Chairman of Scrutineers. (2022)

52. The election of a District Deputy Grand Master shall be subject to the approval of and confirmation by the Grand Master.

### **Voting**

53. The ballots shall be prepared under the direction of the Grand Secretary, and shall contain: (2023)

- (a) an identifier of the order of the ballot; (2021)

- (b) properly defined spaces into which may be entered the names of the brethren to be voted for as Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master and spaces into which may be entered opposite the names of the brother or brothers to be voted upon; (2021)
- (c) a list of the elective offices and the candidates thereof in alphabetical order for each office. (2021)
- (d) (Deleted 2021)

54. The Grand Master shall, prior to the start of each voting period, appoint a Past Master as Chairman of a Committee of Scrutineers with power to select a sufficient number of scrutineers, none of whom shall be Grand Lodge officers or nominees for a Grand Lodge office, to take charge of the balloting. It shall be the duty of the chairman to supervise the scrutineers in the performance of their duties, to decide any doubtful ballots and to report the result of each ballot to the presiding officer of Grand Lodge. Before entering upon their duties the scrutineers shall solemnly pledge themselves to perform the same truly and faithfully. (2021)

55. The Scrutineers shall meet at such hours and in such places as the Grand Master may appoint. In supervising the elections they shall act under the direction of the Chairman. They shall be provided with a list containing the name and number of the lodge of each brother entitled to vote. (2021)

56. (a) The Master and Wardens of every lodge shall each be entitled to one vote. (2021)

(b) In addition thereto, each Past Master who is an Installed Master under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge and who is not holding office as a Master or

Warden of a lodge shall be entitled to one vote as a Past Master of one lodge only. (1982)

(c) In addition thereto, each Past Master who is an Installed Master under the jurisdiction of a Grand Lodge recognized by this Grand Lodge, and an affiliated member of any lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge and who has been ordinarily resident within the jurisdiction of the lodge with which he is affiliated for a period of at least two years, shall be entitled to one vote as a Past Master of one lodge only. (1992)

57. No representative (Master or Warden) of any lodge which has neglected to deliver to the Grand Secretary its returns and payments to Grand Lodge on or before the 8th day of July in each year or other such date as determined by the Board of General Purposes shall be permitted to vote at the annual meeting of Grand Lodge nor in the election of Grand Lodge offices and the Board of General Purposes until such returns, payments and requirements shall have been completed, unless by special resolution of the Board of General Purposes. Nothing in this clause shall deprive a Past Master of his vote as such. (2023)

58. With the exception of voting for the Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master, each brother voting shall mark the ballot in the space provided therefor opposite the name or names of the duly nominated brother or brethren for whom he desires to vote, such names having been listed on the ballot. He shall vote for five nominated members of the Board of General Purposes, otherwise his ballot for the Board of General Purposes shall be void. He shall submit his completed ballot as directed. (2021)

59. No brother shall submit more than one ballot in his personal right. (2021)

60. (a) Voting for the election of the District Deputy Grand Master shall take place during the voting period as determined by the Board of General Purposes. The Grand Master may extend the voting period if he deems it expedient. (2021)

(b) The vote under this Section for the District Deputy Grand Master shall be counted and announced forthwith. (2021)

(c) Subject to Section 52 but notwithstanding any other provisions herein, if only one qualified candidate has been nominated for the position of District Deputy Grand Master at the time for voting, that candidate shall be acclaimed to such position without a ballot. (2022)

61. A candidate for the office of Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Treasurer or Grand Secretary must, in order to be elected, receive a majority of all votes cast.

62. (a) Voting for the office of Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, the Board of General Purposes and all other elective offices shall take place during the voting period as specified by the Board of General Purposes. (2021)

(b) The vote shall be counted forthwith after the balloting period has ended and, if a second ballot is required, the voting shall take place during such time as determined by the Board of General Purposes. (2021)

(c) Only those brethren who have placed first or second on the original ballot for the office of Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary shall be eligible as candidates on the second ballot. An announcement of the holding of a second ballot, with the surnames of the two candidates in alphabetical order, shall be made available to each

registered voter as soon as possible after the close of the first ballot. (2021)

(d) The results of the final ballot for the office of Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary shall be delivered by the Chairman of the Committee of Scrutineers to the Grand Master for announcement. (2021)

(e) The vote under this Section for the Board of General Purposes and all other elective offices shall be counted forthwith and shall be delivered by the Chairman of the Committee of Scrutineers to the Grand Master for announcement. (2021)

63. The candidate for the office of Grand Senior Warden, Grand Junior Warden and Grand Registrar, respectively, obtaining the greatest number of votes shall be declared duly elected.

64. The five brethren nominated for the Board of General Purposes obtaining the greatest number of votes shall be declared duly elected. (2015)

65. (a) The District Deputy Grand Master of each district shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast by the Masters, Past Masters and Wardens of the lodges of such district who have been duly registered. (2022)

(b) The vote under this Section for the District Deputy Grand Master shall be counted and announced forthwith. (2022)

(c) Only those brethren who have placed first or second on the first ballot for the office of District Deputy Grand Master, shall be eligible as candidates for the second ballot. (2006)

66. A record of all ballots cast at any election shall be deposited by the Chairman of the Scrutineers with the Grand Secretary who shall retain them for three

months and shall then, unless otherwise directed by the Grand Master, destroy them. (2023)

### **Powers of Grand Lodge**

67. Grand Lodge has the sole power and authority to enact rules and regulations for the government of the Craft and to amend or repeal them from time to time, subject only to the Ancient Landmarks and this Constitution.

68. Only Grand Lodge has the inherent power to investigate and decide any matter concerning the Craft in general or any lodge or member thereof in particular; provided, however, that instead of exercising this power directly, Grand Lodge may delegate such authority or any part thereof.

69. Grand Lodge has the sole power to revoke the warrant of any lodge.

70. (a) The Constitution of Grand Lodge may be amended at the annual meeting thereof by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members voting. Abstentions shall not be counted as votes. (2022)

(b) A Notice of Motion by a member stating a proposed amendment must have been received by the Grand Secretary on or before the 1st day of January preceding the meeting at which the motion is to be considered, or such shorter period as may appear to the Grand Master on consultation with the Committee on Constitution and Jurisprudence to be just and appropriate. (2023)

(c) The Committee on Constitution and Jurisprudence shall have until the 15th day of February thereafter to review with the proposer of the motion any recommendations for revision of the proposed motion. (2022)

(d) The proposer of the motion shall have until the 1st day of March thereafter to communicate to the Grand Secretary his confirmation, amendment or withdrawal of the proposed motion. (2023)

(e) The Committee shall, on or before the 1st day of April thereafter, report to the Grand Secretary its determinations as to the regularity or irregularity of all outstanding motions for amendment. (2023)

(f) The Board of General Purposes shall, prior to the meeting of Grand Lodge at which any amendment is to be considered, review the aforesaid report of the Committee and either endorse the report in full or amend any determination such that a proposed motion may be deemed regular or irregular notwithstanding the report of the Committee. (2022)

(g) Only those proposed motions deemed to be regular, either by the Committee or by determination of the Board after review, shall proceed to Grand Lodge for consideration. (2022)

71. Any proposed amendment to the Constitution which has been rejected by Grand Lodge shall not be reconsidered at any time within three years after such rejection, except by leave of Grand Lodge by a two-thirds vote taken without debate.

72. The Grand Master may, subject to the Ancient Landmarks and the Constitution, rule upon matters submitted to him on usage, order and Masonic law. Every such ruling shall cease to have effect at the conclusion of the next annual meeting of Grand Lodge, unless Grand Lodge:

- (a) on the recommendation of the Committee on the Grand Master's Address shall have recommended that the ruling be referred to the Committee on Constitution and Jurisprudence for a report on its

constitutional validity;

- (b) on recommendation of the Committee on Constitution and Jurisprudence shall have approved by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of Grand Lodge present and voting a motion to the effect that the ruling be incorporated in the Constitution by an appropriate amendment thereto; and
- (c) adopts such amendment by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of Grand Lodge present and voting.

73. Grand Lodge, either with or without recommendation from the Grand Master, may, without prior notice of motion, recognize the service, eminence, or ability of one of its own members by conferring on him:

- (a) such rank as it may deem appropriate up to and including the rank of Past Grand Senior Warden, by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of Grand Lodge present and voting; or
- (b) any other rank it may deem appropriate, by a unanimous vote of the members of Grand Lodge present and voting.

74. Grand Lodge shall have the authority, on recommendation of the Board of General Purposes, to provide for or revoke concurrent jurisdiction of lodges.

75. Except in the case of Masonic offences, every lodge or brother affected by any ruling, decision or action of the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, a District Deputy Grand Master, the Board of General Purposes, or any subordinate authority of Grand Lodge, including the Committee on Credentials, shall be duly served with notice of such ruling, decision or

action and shall have the right to appeal therefrom to the Grand Master or Grand Lodge.

76. Notice of appeal shall be given by the appellant in writing to the Grand Secretary within 21 days after the notice of such ruling, decision or action shall have been served upon him.

77. (Deleted 1989)

### **Powers and Duties of the Grand Master**

78. (a) The Grand Master shall, following his installation at the annual meeting or as soon thereafter as possible, appoint every Grand Lodge Officer whose appointment is not otherwise provided for by the Constitution. (2022)

(b) The Grand Master shall, following the annual meeting of Grand Lodge, or as soon thereafter as possible, appoint the Chairmen of the Standing and Special Committees. (2022)

79. The Grand Master shall, during the annual meeting, install and invest or cause to be installed and invested, all officers who require installation or investiture, and who are present, and shall give directions for the installation or investiture of those who are not present.

80. The Grand Master may, by warrant, appoint any brother to represent the Grand Lodge at or near a sister Grand Lodge and may recommend any brother to represent a sister Grand Lodge at or near this Grand Lodge. If such latter representative fails to attend three consecutive annual communications, without satisfactory explanation, his representation shall be deemed to be terminated.

81. The Grand Master when present shall be the presiding officer of Grand Lodge whenever it may

meet.

82. The Grand Master may preside over any lodge and may direct the business thereof during his visit thereto.

83. The Grand Master may send any of the Present or Past Grand Lodge Officers to visit any lodge at any time.

84. The Grand Master may, either personally or by a Committee of Inquiry appointed by him, investigate any subject of Masonic complaint which may be brought before him, and may give such orders and directions with respect to the attendance of brethren and the production of books and papers, including the warrant, books and accounts of any lodge, as he may deem necessary for the purposes of such investigation. Should his orders or directions be disobeyed he may suspend any offending brother for such disobedience until the next meeting of Grand Lodge, or until his orders and directions be obeyed. He shall report in writing to Grand Lodge the action taken by him, his reasons therefor, and his opinion respecting any further action in the matter which should be taken by Grand Lodge.

85. The Grand Master may, when such action appears to him to be necessary or expedient, suspend any brother, or arrest the warrant or dispensation of any lodge and suspend the operation thereof until the next meeting of Grand Lodge. He shall report in writing to Grand Lodge the action taken by him, his reasons therefor and his opinion respecting any further action in the matter which should be taken by Grand Lodge.

86. The Grand Master may direct any lodge not to initiate or advance any candidate whom he knows or believes to be unworthy of initiation or advancement.

87. The Grand Master may direct any lodge not to

install or invest any officer of a lodge whom he knows or believes to be unworthy of holding office in the lodge.

88. It is the prerogative of the Grand Master to constitute and consecrate any lodge, dedicate any lodge room, lay any foundation stone, install and invest any Grand Lodge officer; and no brother can lawfully perform any of these ceremonies unless authorized to do so by the Grand Master.

89. The Grand Master has authority to grant dispensation for the following purposes:

- (a) to authorize the requisite number of brethren to meet as a lodge until the next annual meeting of Grand Lodge;
- (b) to authorize the Grand Secretary to issue a Grand Lodge certificate to a brother who has been legally admitted to a higher degree at a shorter interval than prescribed by the Constitution;
- (c) to relieve from Masonic disability any member of lodge which has been suspended;
- (d) to permit the healing of an irregularly made Mason;
- (e) to hold a public procession of the members of the lodge, or any other function in the name of the lodge or of the fraternity;
- (f) to permit the election and installation of the officers of a lodge at a time other than fixed by the by-laws of the lodge;
- (g) to hold a Lodge of Instruction;
- (h) to confer a higher degree on a brother at a shorter interval than that prescribed by the Constitution;

- (i) to receive and act upon a petition for initiation in any lodge from any person who has not resided for one year within its jurisdiction;
- (j) to receive and act upon a petition from any applicant for initiation who resides outside the jurisdiction of the lodge;
- (k) to initiate more than five candidates in one day;
- (l) to allow service under dispensation to rank as service under warrant in the case of any brother who has filled the office of Master or Warden in the same lodge, partly under dispensation and partly under warrant; and
- (m) a lodge may in special circumstances apply to the Grand Master for a dispensation to waive the requirements of Section 372. (1988)

90. The foregoing powers and prerogatives of the Grand Master shall not be construed as limiting or abridging the powers and prerogatives attached to the office of Grand Master by Masonic law and custom, except insofar as they are by this Constitution expressly limited or abridged.

91. All correspondence with the Grand Master on any business concerning Masons or Masonry shall be made through the Grand Secretary, the Deputy Grand Master, the District Deputy Grand Master, or the Board of General Purposes.

92. (a) In the case of the death, resignation or permanent disability of the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master shall act, by virtue of his office, as the Grand Master until the next annual meeting of Grand Lodge at which meeting the vacancy shall be filled by election for the unexpired term.

(b) In case of the temporary disability, by absence

or otherwise, of the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master shall act, by virtue of his office, until the Grand Master shall resume his duties.

(c) In the event of the death, resignation or permanent disability of both the Grand Master and the Deputy Grand Master, then the immediate Past Grand Master, or if he declines or is disabled, then the next immediate Past Grand Master shall act, by virtue of his rank, as Grand Master until the next annual meeting of Grand Lodge, at which meeting all vacancies then existing shall be filled by the election for the unexpired portions of their respective terms.

(d) Vacancies in all other elective offices shall be filled by election at the next annual meeting of Grand Lodge.

### **Powers and Duties of the Custodian of the Work**

93. The powers and duties of the Custodian of the Work are:

- (a) to answer questions on the authorized Work and all other rituals and ceremonials of Grand Lodge and to proofread any reprintings thereof;
- (b) to instruct the District Deputy Grand Masters; and
- (c) to conduct Lodges of Instruction.

### **Powers and Duties of the Deputy Grand Master**

94. The Deputy Grand Master shall, by virtue of his office, be President of the Board of General Purposes.

95. The Deputy Grand Master shall have authority, unless the Grand Master be present, to preside at any lodge meeting and to direct the business thereof during his visit thereto.

## **Powers and Duties of the District Deputy Grand Master**

96. The District Deputy Grand Master shall have authority, unless the Grand Master or the Deputy Grand Master be present, to preside at any lodge meeting within his District and to direct the business thereof during his visit thereto.

97. The District Deputy Grand Master shall visit all the lodges in his District during his term of office, and shall see that they are working in the authorized manner, and that returns have been regularly forwarded to Grand Lodge, together with all moneys owing to it. Should any lodge refuse or neglect to make the required returns and payments, he shall immediately report the fact in writing to the Grand Master.

98. The District Deputy Grand Master shall satisfy himself that any brother recommended in the petition for a new lodge as the first Master thereof is duly qualified to perform the duties of that office, and for that purpose he may summon that brother to attend for examination and he shall report to the Grand Master as to the qualifications of that brother.

99. The District Deputy Grand Master shall ascertain whether any lodge working under dispensation in his District is provided with suitable furniture and regalia.

100. The District Deputy Grand Master may hear and determine any subject of Masonic complaint, on being specially authorized to do so by the Grand Master or Grand Lodge.

101. The District Deputy Grand Master may summon the officers of any lodge, or any brother within his District to appear before him, and to produce the warrant, books, papers and accounts of such lodge. If the summons be not complied with, and a sufficient

reason be not given for non-compliance, he shall immediately report the fact in writing to the Grand Master.

102. The District Deputy Grand Master may grant dispensation for holding a Lodge of Instruction, but for no other purpose, and shall forthwith report each dispensation to the Grand Secretary together with notice of the time and place of the Lodge of Instruction.

103. The District Deputy Grand Master may appoint a District Chaplain, a District Secretary and chairmen of committees to act during his pleasure. He may also appoint a competent brother to instruct any lodge in his District which may desire instruction.

104. (a) The District Deputy Grand Master shall send to the Grand Secretary on or before the 1st day of June prior to the annual meeting of Grand Lodge a report of his proceedings and of the state of Masonry within his District, together with a list of such lodges as may have been instituted since the last return. (2008)

(b) In addition, the District Deputy Grand Master shall send to the Grand Lodge Chairman on the Condition of Masonry within fourteen (14) days of his official visit to each lodge in his District either by electronic transmission as an attachment, or by facsimile or by surface mail a copy of his report. Such report shall include, but not be limited to, the Lodge Master's/Secretary's report, the District Secretary's report, the District Deputy Grand Master's observations on the Condition of Masonry within the lodge, and the Lodge Master's/Treasurer's report. (2021)

(c) Should a lodge neglect to complete and/or provide to the District Deputy Grand Master the forms and information as required in, but not limited to, the Lodge Master's/Secretary's report or the Lodge

Master's/Treasurer's Report for a period of forty-five (45) days following the date of the Official Visit, the Warrant of the offending Lodge shall be suspended until such time as the information has been completed and/or provided. (2021)

(d) At the sole discretion of the Grand Master, one forty-five (45) day extension to the grace period noted in Sec 104 (c) may be granted. The Lodge must petition the Grand Master providing additional information for such extension to be granted. (2021)

105. If the District Deputy Grand Master shall neglect to act or proceed within a reasonable time in any case or business in which it is his duty to act or proceed, complaint of his neglect may be sent through the Grand Secretary to the Grand Master to be dealt with by him.

106. The District Deputy Grand Master shall apply for dispensation from the Grand Master for the holding of a District Divine Service, either alone as a district or jointly with other districts.

107. The District Deputy Grand Master has authority to make a per capita levy on the lodges in his District for the procurement of the dress regalia of his office, the payment of travelling expenses to the extent of at least one official visit in his year of office to each lodge in the District and such other expenses necessary to the discharge of the duties of his office. The jewel of office and the cuffs of the dress regalia of the District Deputy Grand Master shall be passed on to his successor.

108. The District Deputy Grand Master shall mail to each lodge in his District an audited financial statement of the receipts and expenses pertaining to the duties of his office. Such mailing shall be made not later than the 1st day of September following the installation of his successor.

109. The District Deputy Grand Master shall, on the occasion of his official visit to the lodges in his District, ascertain whether any cases of distress exist which should be recommended to Grand Lodge for relief and, if so, direct the attention of the officers to the Rules respecting Benevolence.

### **Powers and Duties of Other Grand Lodge Officers**

#### 110. Grand Wardens

The Grand Wardens, whenever directed, shall attend the Grand Master and act as his Wardens.

#### 111. Grand Chaplain

The Grand Chaplain shall, whenever practicable, attend all meetings of Grand Lodge and participate in such ceremonies as the Grand Master may direct, and shall prepare and deliver at the Annual Meeting of Grand Lodge a fitting tribute to the memory of the deceased brethren of the past year. (1992)

#### 112. Grand Treasurer

The Grand Treasurer shall:

- (a) keep such books and accounts and in such a manner as may from time to time be prescribed by the Board of General Purposes;
- (b) serve as an ex officio member of the Management Committee of the Board of General Purposes; (2014)
- (c) review and analyze the monthly financial statements, recommend adjustments where necessary and monitor variances from the annual budget; (2023)
- (d) prepare an annual budget based on an estimate of the receipts and expenditures on account of the

General Fund for the ensuing year, with a view to ensuring that the expenditures are essential and that the receipts are sufficient to cover them;  
(2023)

- (e) submit the annual budget to the Audit and Finance Committee for input and review; and  
(2023)
- (f) prepare and maintain a five (5) year financial forecast.  
(2023)

113. Grand Secretary (2018)

The Grand Secretary shall:

- (a) have custody of the seal of Grand Lodge and affix the same to all documents issued by authority of Grand Lodge, or the Grand Master;
- (b) sign and certify all instruments issued by Grand Lodge under seal or otherwise;
- (c) attend all meetings of Grand Lodge, of the Board of General Purposes, and of any Committee as he shall be directed by the Grand Master or Grand Lodge, and take minutes of their proceedings;
- (d) duly report at each annual meeting of Grand Lodge the receipt of the returns from the constituent lodges as entered in the book of Grand Lodge;
- (e) attend the Grand Master or the Board of General Purposes, and take to him or the Board, the books and papers he or the Board may direct;
- (f) consider the petition of a lodge working under dispensation for a warrant, to examine the books and records, to study the recommendation of the District Deputy Grand Master and to recommend the granting of a warrant;

- (g) serve as an ex officio member of the Management Committee of the Board of General Purposes; and
- (h) perform all other duties pertaining to his office and as directed by the Board of General Purposes.

#### 114. Grand Registrar

The Grand Registrar may, at the pleasure and direction of the Grand Master, take charge of any district or lodge for which there is not a District Deputy Grand Master. (2013)

#### 115. Grand Director of Ceremonies (2000)

The Grand Director of Ceremonies shall, in addition to his other duties, have the care during any meeting of Grand Lodge, of the clothing, regalia and jewels belonging to it.

#### 116. Appointed Grand Lodge Officers (2000)

All appointed Grand Lodge officers shall, whenever practicable, attend all meetings of Grand Lodge and perform such duties as may be directed by the Grand Master or the Constitution.

#### 117. Grand Pursuivant

The Grand Pursuivant shall preserve order in the porch at every meeting of Grand Lodge and, with the assistance of the brethren nominated for the purpose, shall see that none be admitted except those qualified, properly clothed and in all respects entitled to admission.

#### 118. Grand Stewards

The Grand Stewards shall assist in the regulation of grand festivals under the direction of the Grand Master, and in conducting the arrangements made for any meeting of Grand Lodge.

## 119. Grand Tyler

The Grand Tyler shall assist in the arrangements for any meeting of Grand Lodge, and see that none be admitted but those properly entitled.

## 120. (a) Assistant Grand Secretary

The Assistant Grand Secretary shall assist the Grand Secretary under his direction and perform such appropriate clerical duties in the Grand Secretary's office as may be assigned by the Grand Secretary.

## (b) Grand Organist

The Grand Organist shall have professional musical training, skill and keyboard ability such as to enable him to perform with competence, conduct and preside over the musical part of the ceremonies of Grand Lodge.

## (c) Grand Historian

The Grand Historian shall from time to time compile and preserve a record of all matters connected with the history of Grand Lodge.

## (d) Grand Librarian

The Grand Librarian shall act in an advisory capacity to the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Library, Museum and Archives of which the Grand Librarian would be a member *ex officio*. (2022)

The Grand Librarian shall serve at the will and pleasure of the Grand Master, in accordance with the provision of Section 42 and is subject to reappointment annually. (2022)

## (e) Grand Archivist

The Grand Archivist shall act in an advisory

capacity to the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Library, Museum and Archives of which the Grand Archivist would be a member ex officio. (2022)

The Grand Archivist shall serve at the will and pleasure of the Grand Master, in accordance with the provision of Section 42 and is subject to reappointment annually. (2022)

(f) Grand Piper

The Grand Piper shall have musical training, artistic skill and ability in bagpiping such as to enable him to fulfil the duties of the office with competence. (2009)

### **Moneys and Accounts of Grand Lodge**

121. All moneys payable to Grand Lodge shall be received by the Grand Secretary, who shall forthwith deposit the same in the bank or trust company in which Grand Lodge keeps its accounts to the credit of the appropriate account, and shall keep an account of all moneys so received and deposited. (2023)

122. The accounts of the Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary shall be kept in such manner and form and subject to such rules and regulations as the Board of General Purposes may from time to time prescribe in accordance with the provisions of Section 126. (2023)

123. The accounts shall be closed on the 30th day of April in each year. They shall be audited by the auditor appointed by the Board of General Purposes, and an abstract thereof certified by the auditor as correct shall be prepared and printed in the Proceedings of Grand Lodge.

124. A full statement of the accounts shall be prepared for the information of Grand Lodge, shall be certified

as correct by the auditor, and shall be submitted to the Board of General Purposes on the first day of its meeting prior to the meeting of Grand Lodge. This statement shall be referred for examination and audit to a committee of the Board, who shall forthwith report to the Board thereon.

125. The auditor shall audit the books of the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer and the books and accounts maintained by the Grand Secretary once each year and shall report to the Grand Master, the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer. (2023)

126. The Board of General Purposes shall prescribe from time to time the mode in which payments shall be made out of the appropriate funds of Grand Lodge and shall provide and pay out of the General Fund such sums as the Board may deem expedient, according to the needs and requirements of such activities as may be recognized and sanctioned by Grand Lodge, including grants for benevolent purposes and appropriations to any foundation or trust which may be established by Grand Lodge for charitable purposes.

127. (a) Fees to commute Grand Lodge dues shall be capitalized and allocated to a separate Commutation Fund to be invested and the resulting investment earnings [consisting of the net total of interest, dividends, realized capital gains, realized capital losses and management funds resulting from the investments of the Fund] together with a portion of the capital of the fund at the commencement of the fiscal year, may be transferred to the General Fund in any year of Grand Lodge, on requisition of the Grand Treasurer, in accordance with the following.

(b) As at May 1 of each year, the following two amounts will be identified in the balance of the Commutation Fund:

- (i) Net investment earnings credited to the fund during the prior fiscal year, identified as Earnings.
- (ii) Difference between the above Earnings and the balance of the fund, identified as Capital.

(c) Each year, after receipt of the lodge January returns referred to in Section 300, and after recording the life membership changes reported therein that are applicable prior to May 1, the balance of the fund as at May 1, will be evaluated by the evaluation calculation described under the Regulations Governing Life Membership Trust Funds and using the current ages of the commuted brethren and the current-year Grand Lodge fee described in Subsection 152 (m). (2015)

(d) If the balance of the Commutation Fund, as at May 1, is less than the amount of the evaluation calculated in (c), the investment Earnings of the fund in the prior fiscal year, up to the amount of the current-year Grand Lodge fees only, may be transferred to the General Fund, on requisition of the Grand Treasurer.

(e) If the balance of the Commutation Fund, as at May 1, equals or exceeds the amount of the evaluation calculated in (c), the current-year Grand Lodge fees for the commuted brethren may be transferred to the General Fund, on requisition of the Grand Treasurer.

(f) If, after the transfer of the fees described in (e), there is still a surplus of the balance of the Commutation Fund over the evaluation, a portion of the surplus equal to the excess of the prior year investment Earnings over the Grand Lodge fees transferred and up to 5% of the Capital portion of the fund identified in (bii), may be transferred to the General Fund of Grand Lodge, on the requisition of the

Grand Treasurer. (2004)

128. The Grand Treasurer, the Grand Secretary, the Grand Secretary and such of their assistants as the Board may decide, shall give bonds for the faithful discharge of their duties, in such form and for such amounts as the Board may determine, and the premiums on such bonds shall be paid by Grand Lodge. (2023)

129. The books of account of the Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Secretary and the securities of Grand Lodge shall always be open for inspection by the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master and the Board of General Purposes or its nominee. (2023)

130. The expenses of the members of the Board of General Purposes and of committees and commissions appointed by the Grand Master or Grand Lodge, in attending meetings thereof, respectively, shall be paid out of the funds of Grand Lodge, in the amount approved by the President of the Board of General Purposes.

### **Board of General Purposes**

131. The Board of General Purposes shall consist of the following:

- (a) Grand Lodge Officers – The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, District Deputy Grand Masters of each District, Grand Senior Warden, Grand Junior Warden, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, Grand Chaplain, Grand Registrar and Grand Director of Ceremonies.
- (b) Past Grand Masters.
- (c) Elected Members – Ten elected from among the Past Masters of constituent lodges for the term of

two years of whom five shall be elected each year. Any member who has been duly elected to the Board and who has not attained the rank of Grand Senior Warden shall have, by virtue of such election, the rank of Past Grand Senior Warden. (2015)

- (d) Appointed Members – Ten appointed by the Grand Master from among Past Masters of constituent lodges for a term of two years of whom five shall be appointed in each year. Any member who has been duly appointed to the Board and who has not attained the rank of Grand Senior Deacon shall have, by virtue of such appointment, the rank of Past Grand Senior Deacon. (2015)
- (e) Honorary Members – Not exceeding five in number confirmed by Grand Lodge, upon the recommendation of the Grand Master, from among the members of Grand Lodge in recognition of their services. Honorary members shall have the same rights and privileges as ordinary members of the Board and shall retain their honorary membership for a three year period and for such further three year period or periods as Grand Lodge may determine. (2015)

132. The Board of General Purposes shall elect annually, at its first meeting, one of its members to be Vice-President of the Board of General Purposes who, in the absence of the President, shall act as President of the Board.

133. In the absence of the President and the Vice-President, the Board shall elect a temporary Chairman.

134. The Board shall be the administrative and executive body of Grand Lodge, shall have the general care and regulation of all concerns of Grand Lodge and,

more particularly, it shall directly or by delegation, exercise the powers and perform the duties hereinafter set forth:

- (a) The Board shall determine the date and place at which the annual meeting of Grand Lodge shall be held and shall cause the necessary preparations to be made for all the meetings of Grand Lodge, as well as for any public ceremonies. (2022)
- (b) The Board shall be responsible for the furniture and regalia of Grand Lodge and for all other property belonging to Grand Lodge.
- (c) The Board shall be responsible for the finances of Grand Lodge including the authorization of any expenditures it may deem necessary and proper for the due administration of Grand Lodge and the investment of the funds of Grand Lodge in such investments and securities as may from time to time be authorized for trustee investments under the law of the Province of Ontario or be authorized by Grand Lodge. The Board shall submit annually to Grand Lodge an estimate of the receipts and expenditures for the ensuing year. For the purpose of discharging these responsibilities the Board may:
  - (i) inspect all books and records relating to the accounts of Grand Lodge;
  - (ii) make rules and regulations prescribing the manner in which the moneys and accounts shall be kept;
  - (iii) summon any brother having possession of any books, documents or accounts belonging to Grand Lodge to appear before it and may give such directions as may be deemed necessary regarding them.

- (iv) the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary shall manage the financial and administrative functions of Grand Lodge between the meetings of the Board of General Purposes and to annually report to the same through the Chairman of the Management Committee all decisions made on behalf of the Board outside of the regular budgeted spending and administrative duties. (2014)
- (d) The Board shall annually appoint as auditor a public accountant licensed under The Public Accountancy Act of Ontario and shall determine his remuneration.
- (e) The Board shall have authority to hear and determine all Masonic complaints, other than Masonic offences, respecting any constituent lodge or brother when properly brought before it. In the exercise of this power the Board shall:
  - (i) have the power to summon any officer of any constituent lodge or any brother to appear before it for the purpose of any inquiry, and may order the custodian of the warrant, books, papers and accounts of such lodge to produce them;
  - (ii) have the power to recommend suspension of any constituent lodge or any brother for disobeying any such summons or order unless sufficient reason for noncompliance is given; (1983)
  - (iii) require any member of the Board to withdraw while the Board considers its decision concerning any complaint affecting a member of the Board, or the lodge to which he belongs; and

- (iv) keep a complete record of the proceedings of the Board and of the judgment of the Board and submit a full report thereof to Grand Lodge.
- (f) The Board shall give precedence in the order of business at its meetings to all matters referred to it by the Grand Master or by Grand Lodge.
- (g) The Board shall cause all its transactions and resolutions to be entered in a minute book to be kept by the Grand Secretary.
- (h) The Board shall present a report of its proceedings for the preceding year to the annual meeting of Grand Lodge.
- (i) All communications to and from the Board shall be made in writing and signed.
- (j) The Board by resolution and the Grand Master shall have the power to appoint the members of all Standing Committees of the Board and may create any committee for special purposes, state its mandate and appoint its members. The members of any committee of the Board, except for the Chairman of Standing committees, may include brethren who are not members of the Board. All such committees shall report to the Board annually and whenever required to do so. (2015)
- (k) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 134(j), the composition of the Management Committee of the Board of General Purposes shall be as follows:
  - (i) the Grand Master (ex officio);
  - (ii) the Deputy Grand Master (ex officio) who shall preside as Chairman of the Committee;

- (iii) the Grand Treasurer (ex officio); (2014)
- (iv) the Grand Secretary (ex officio); (2014)
- (v) the Chairman of the Committee on Audit and Finance (ex officio);
- (vi) five (5) members from among the Honorary, Elected and Appointed members of the Board of General Purposes; consisting of 3 elected by the above noted members of the Board of General Purposes and 2 appointed by the Grand Master. (2011)
- (vii) the term of those individuals elected to the Management Committee shall be three years. One person shall be elected each year to serve a term of three years. (2011)
- (viii) the terms of those individuals appointed by the Grand Master shall be for 2 years each, coinciding with the term of the Grand Master that appointed them. There is no limit to the number of times an individual can be appointed by successive Grand Masters. (2011)
- (ix) vacancies occurring in the ranks of the appointed members to the Management Committee will be filled through appointment(s) by the Grand Master. Vacancies occurring in the ranks of the elected members of the Management Committee will remain vacant until next meeting of the Board of General Purposes when voting for Management Committee takes place. Any year that a vacancy has arisen and two (2) people are to be elected, the member with the highest number of votes shall be elected for a 3 year term. The

member with the second highest number of votes shall fulfil the remaining term of the vacant position. (2014)

134.1 (Deleted 2006)

### **Standing Committees of the Board (1996)**

135. (a) Audit and Finance  
 (b) Benevolence  
 (c) Condition of Masonry  
 (d) Constitution and Jurisprudence  
 (e) Discipline  
 (f) Library, Museum and Archives  
 (g) Management  
 (h) Masonic Education  
 (i) Strategic Planning (2015)

### **Powers and Duties of Standing Committees(1996)**

136. (a) Audit and Finance

To review the monthly statements of the Grand Secretary;

To review the annual reports of the Grand Treasurer, the Grand Secretary and the Auditor;

To consider, in conjunction with the Grand Treasurer, the investments of the funds of Grand Lodge; (2023)

To recommend the amounts to be transferred annually from the General Account for benevolent purposes or appropriations to any foundation or trust which may be established by

Grand Lodge for charitable purposes;

To recommend the approval of the charitable donations made on behalf of Grand Lodge by the Grand Master;

To review with the Grand Secretary the number of staff required for the Grand Lodge office including a Supervisor of Benevolence and the salaries to be paid;

To arrange for the reimbursement of the approved expenses of the members of the Board of General Purposes attending Grand Lodge; (2004)

To review the preliminary annual budget prepared by the Grand Treasurer and provide input; (2023)

To review all contracts over \$10,000.00 and conduct a feasibility study and cost/benefit analysis and provide evaluations, recommendations and final approval or veto before such contracts are signed. (2023)

To ensure all Grand Lodge Committee budgets meet the objectives of the Grand Lodge Strategic Plan; (2023)

To recommend any changes in financial commitments of the lodges to Grand Lodge; and

To make a periodic survey of the insurance coverage of Grand Lodge.

(b) Benevolence

To administer according to the rules respecting grants for benevolence the investment income from the Memorial Funds and the funds provided by Grand Lodge, Grand Lodge may appoint a

Supervisor of Benevolence who shall be the Executive Secretary of the Committee on Benevolence. It shall be his duty to assemble on behalf of the Committee, the necessary information on applications for benevolence and to keep the Committee informed about the financial circumstances of the beneficiaries of the grants.

(c) Condition of Masonry (2015)

To review the annual reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters and to make recommendations arising therefrom for the benefit of the Craft; and

To study the condition or state of Masonry in general throughout the jurisdiction and to make recommendations for the benefit of the Craft.

(d) Constitution and Jurisprudence (2015)

To make periodic review of the Constitution of Grand Lodge and, when advisable, recommend revision thereof or amendment thereto;

To consider the regularity or irregularity of proposed amendments to the Constitution of Grand Lodge and may make recommendations or comments on same to the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, Grand Lodge and/or the Board of General Purposes.

To consider rulings of the Grand Master and to recommend incorporation by way of amendment to the Constitution of all matters of general and continuing application contained therein; and

To advise the Grand Master, Grand Lodge and the Board of General Purposes on constitutional

matters.

(e) Discipline (2015)

To review the recommendations made to it by a Board of Appeal in respect of an appeal from the decision of a lodge or a Trial Commission on the trial of any brother for a Masonic offence and notify the Grand Secretary of its decision;

To review the verdict and the punishment imposed, if any, by a lodge or a Trial Commission following the trial of any brother charged with a Masonic offence, where there is no automatic appeal and no appeal has been taken by the accuser or the accused, and notify the Grand Secretary of its decision; and

To review any application to a lodge for restoration after indefinite suspension and to consider any application to Grand Lodge for restoration after indefinite suspension or after expulsion and notify the Grand Secretary of its decision or report its recommendation in respect thereof to Grand Lodge.

(f) Library, Museum and Archives (2015)

To be responsible for all aspects of the Grand Lodge Library, Museum and Archives; in particular for the accommodation of the collection, and the provision of staff to administer it;

To be responsible for the acquisition and cataloguing of books, periodicals and audio-visual materials, artifacts, archival material and other items of Masonic nature or interest, whether by purchase, donation, or bequest; for the fixing of rules in regard to the administration

of the collection and its accessibility for members; and for publicizing its holdings in such ways as may seem appropriate;

To preserve, repair, refurbish and restore where practicable, all library, museum and archival material;

To provide assistance and counsel to individual Masons, lodges and districts in such matters as may fall within its competence.

(g) Management (2015)

To advance the work of the Board of General Purposes, and the welfare of the Craft generally, by providing more intensive, informed and timely advice for the decision making and policy formulation functions of the Board;

To take under review and report on from time to time, either on its own initiative or on reference from the Grand Master or the Board of General Purposes, single issues that require disposition in the interest of the welfare and due administration of the Craft;

To receive from the Committee on the Condition of Masonry the annual review of reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters and report thereon to the Board with recommendations for whatever remedial action may be prompted by these reports;

To conduct a continuing review of recommendations made by the other Standing and Special Committees of the Board and report to the Board for approval of remedial action;

To consider and report to the Board on any specific proposals for constitutional amendment

referred to it from the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge;

To make recommendations to the Board concerning any changes, constitutional or otherwise, deemed to be desirable for the better and more orderly administration of the Craft by Grand Lodge;

To consider and report to the Board on any matters referred to it by the Board;

To report to the Board annually and on such further occasions as the Board may stipulate or as the Committee may deem desirable;

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, to act in an advisory capacity to the Grand Master and Grand Lodge in all matters deemed to be in the best interests of and for the better administration of the Craft.

(h) Masonic Education (2015)

To stimulate, supplement and support lodge and district programs about matters relating to the history, philosophy and symbolism of Masonry;

To arrange for the preparation and distribution of Masonic literature and information;

To encourage the participation of members in education and information programs on lodge and district levels;

To provide assistance and counsel, when requested, in the organization of education programs on lodge and district levels; and

To promote the sale of the publications of Grand Lodge pertaining to Masonic Education.

- (i) Strategic Planning (2015)

To identify, study and assess any matters which may affect the future of Freemasonry and prepare and present a five-year plan and make recommendations annually to the Board of General Purposes for the long term benefit of the Craft.

To this end, to maintain liaison with districts and lodges and to provide assistance and counsel in such ways as may seem appropriate; and

137. (a) The Board of General Purposes shall meet:
- (i) immediately after the close of the annual meeting of Grand Lodge to elect a Vice-President of the Board; (2022)
  - (ii) on or as close as possible to the third Saturday in June at a time and place determined by the Board of General Purposes for the annual meeting of the Board of General Purposes; and (2022)
  - (iii) at any other time and place at the call of the Grand Master or the President of the Board.
- (b) Seven members shall constitute a quorum. All questions shall be decided by a majority of the votes cast. In case of a tie vote, the presiding officer shall have a second vote.
- (c) The following shall be the order of business for the annual meeting of the Board of General Purposes: (2022)
- (i) receiving and referring the reports of the Auditor, Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary;
  - (ii) receiving the reports of the Standing and

Special Committees for recommendation to Grand Lodge; and

(iii) general business.

138. Committee on Credentials

(a) At the meeting of the Board of General Purposes, immediately following the annual meeting of Grand Lodge, the Board shall appoint a Past Master as Chairman of a Committee on Credentials, with power to add other members to the Committee. (1984)

(b) The powers and duties shall be:

(i) to see that any complaint related to election eligibility or election irregularity shall be made in writing and forwarded to the Grand Master for his decision. (2021)

(ii) (Deleted 2021)

(iii) (Deleted 2021)

(iv) (Deleted 2021)

(c) (Deleted 2021)

### **Lodges of Instruction**

139. A District Lodge of Instruction may be held only under the sponsorship of a lodge in the district and under a dispensation from the Grand Master or the District Deputy Grand Master.

140. The lodge in the district to which the required dispensation was granted, and the District Deputy Grand Master, shall be answerable for the proceedings of such Lodge of Instruction and responsible that the mode of working there exemplified has received the sanction of Grand Lodge.

141. Notice of the time and place of meeting of a Lodge of Instruction shall be given to the Grand Secretary.

142. Minutes shall be kept by the sponsoring lodge of all the proceedings, together with a record of the names of all brethren present and all brethren appointed to hold office in such lodge. Such minutes and records shall be produced when called for by the Grand Master or the District Deputy Grand Master.

### **Public Processions and Functions**

143. Except at Masonic Memorial Services, no public procession or function of the brethren as Masons, with or without regalia, shall be allowed to take place, without a dispensation from the Grand Master.

(a) At any public Remembrance Day Ceremony where a brother takes part (or brethren take part): such as laying a wreath in memory of those who have paid the supreme sacrifice, such brother (or brethren) shall be entitled to wear Masonic Regalia. (2004)

(b) At Masonic youth organization constituted meetings for Ontario DeMolay Chapters, Job's Daughters International Bethels in Ontario and International Order of the Rainbow for Girls Assemblies in Ontario where brethren attend and/or take part, such brethren shall be entitled to wear Masonic Regalia. (2022)

144. The proceedings at any such procession or function shall be reported immediately by the Master of each lodge taking part therein to the Grand Master through the Grand Secretary, and to the District Deputy Grand Master of each district in which a participating lodge is situated.

145. A local Board of Relief shall have power to conduct Masonic Memorial Services in accordance

with our memorial ceremonies with the same authority as a constituent lodge, and with the privilege of wearing Masonic regalia, provided always that such services shall be conducted by a brother of the rank of Master or Past Master.

146. Except at a Masonic Memorial Service, or at any public procession or function, for which a dispensation has been obtained, any brother appearing in public clothed in the regalia of the Craft shall be subject to such penalty as the Grand Master may impose. Any lodge participating in such offence shall stand suspended until Grand Lodge shall determine the appropriate penalty.

### **Other Organizations**

147. (Deleted 2022)

(a) (Deleted 2022)

(b) (Deleted 2022)

(c) (Deleted 2022)

(d) (Deleted 2022)

(e) (Deleted 2022)

148. Past Masters', Masters' and Wardens' Associations Masonic Associations of Districts and Secretaries' Associations are recognized by Grand Lodge as part of the Craft and it is permissible to refer to them in lodge notices. Bylaws of such associations shall not conflict with the provisions of the Constitution of Grand Lodge.  
(1996)

149. No lodge, as a lodge, has authority to form, adopt or sanction any subsidiary organization and the word "Masonic" must not be used in the name of any club or similar organization.

150. (a) Any Masonic Temple Corporation or other Masonic body having the management or control of a Craft lodge room may permit the use thereof for meetings and ceremonials to those bodies included in the list of permitted users published by this Grand Lodge. (2022)

(b) Upon receipt of a written application from an organization claiming a Masonic connection, the Grand Master may, in his sole discretion, grant the said organization permission to use a Craft lodge room for its meetings and ceremonials; provided, however, that this permission shall be subject to the approval of the particular Masonic Temple Corporation or other Masonic body having the management or control of the Craft lodge room which the applicant proposes to use for its meetings and ceremonials. (1998)

(c) Notice of the granting of any such permission shall be given forthwith in writing to the Grand Secretary.

151. In any city or district there may be established by the vote of a majority of the lodges in the city or district, a local Board of Relief. (2004)

A local Board of Relief shall be composed of a representative from each lodge in such city or district elected annually by open vote of the members present at the election of the officers of the lodge. They shall have power to frame a code of by-laws and elect a Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer.

When formation of the Board of Relief and its by-laws have been approved by the Grand Master, it shall be considered a duly constituted local Board of Relief under Grand Lodge.

The costs of administration of a local Board of Relief shall be born on a per capita basis by the lodges

in the city or district.

### **Fees Payable to Grand Lodge**

152. Fees payable to Grand Lodge shall be as follows:

- (a) Two hundred dollars for a warrant or the replacement of a warrant or a permanent name change uniting two or more lodges. (2004)
- (b) Two hundred dollars for a dispensation for the formation of a lodge. (2005)
- (c) Five hundred and twenty five dollars for the commutation of dues to Grand Lodge. (2023)
- (d) Thirty dollars for a dispensation to confer any degree within four weeks of the previous degree. (2005)
- (e) Twenty dollars for a dispensation to accept a petition for initiation from a person residing outside the jurisdiction. (2004)
- (f) Fifteen dollars for the registration of every person initiated in a lodge including the issuance of a Grand Lodge certificate. (2005)
- (g) Fifteen dollars for the registration and Grand Lodge certificate for a brother who, either as an Entered Apprentice or as a Fellowcraft coming from another recognized Grand Lodge, has received the remaining degree or degrees in this jurisdiction. (2005)
- (h) Ten dollars for a dispensation to accept a petition for initiation from a person who has not resided for one year within the jurisdiction. (2004)
- (i) Fifteen dollars for a Past Master's Certificate. (2005)

- (j) Fifteen dollars for the replacement of any lost certificate. (2005)
- (k) Fifteen dollars for a dispensation to elect and install (or either) at a time other than that fixed by the by-laws of that lodge. (2005)
- (l) Fifteen dollars for every Mason joining from another lodge including honorary and charter members, excluding amalgamated members. (2005)
- (m) Thirty dollars per annum payable semi-annually commencing January 2023 for every member of each lodge whose fees have not been commuted to Grand Lodge. (2022)
- (n) Five dollars for a dispensation for any public procession or function, other than a Divine, Memorial or Remembrance Service. (2005)
- (o) Five dollars for any other dispensation, other than for a Divine Service or a Lodge of Instruction. (2005)
- (p) Cost of submitting a semi-annual return will be \$100.00; if received by Grand Lodge on or before January 8<sup>th</sup> or July 8<sup>th</sup> for the preceding six months, the fee is waived. (2009)

### **Formation of a New Lodge**

153. A dispensation to form a new lodge may only be obtained upon petition to the Grand Master supported by a sponsoring lodge which shall be:

- (a) On a form obtainable on request from the Grand Secretary, signed by seven or more Master Masons in good standing, two of whom must have attained the rank of Installed Master; (1983)
- (b) accompanied by a lodge dues card or other

evidence of membership, a Certificate of Demission, or a Certificate of Standing in respect of each petitioner;

- (c) (i) accompanied by a recommendation by resolution supporting the petition by a lodge in the district in which the proposed new lodge is to be located and the consent by resolution of not less than one-half of the lodges in the district. Refusals as well as consents must be filed; and
  - (ii) the responsibility for acquiring consents or refusals shall lie with the sponsoring lodge;
- (d) accompanied by the recommendation of the District Deputy Grand Master of the district in which the nearest lodge is located; and
- (e) forwarded to the Grand Secretary, for submission to the Grand Master.

154. The resolution required from any lodge referred to in subsection (c) of Section 153:

- (a) may be passed by open vote by a majority of members present at a regular meeting of the lodge without prior notice;
- (b) shall be signed by the Master and Secretary of the lodge, and shall be under the seal of the lodge; and
- (c) may be dispensed with where, in the opinion of the Grand Master, it has been unreasonably withheld.

155. Where the petition is granted, the Grand Master may issue a dispensation authorizing the brethren to meet as a lodge until the next annual meeting of Grand Lodge.

## **Lodge Under Dispensation**

156. (a) The only powers or privileges possessed by a lodge under dispensation shall be those conferred by its dispensation; provided, however, that a lodge under dispensation may hold emergent meetings and may pass resolutions fixing initiation and affiliation fees and annual dues.

(b) A lodge under dispensation shall not have the power to elect officers or pass by-laws.

(c) The Master and the Senior Warden of a lodge under dispensation must have attained the rank of Installed Master prior to the issuance of the dispensation. (1983)

(d) The Master of a lodge under dispensation shall not be installed as the Master of that lodge while the lodge is under dispensation.

(e) A lodge under dispensation may be represented in Grand Lodge at the annual meeting, at which a warrant is obtained, but not by proxy.

(f) A lodge under dispensation shall transmit to the Grand Secretary, on or before the 1st day of June before the next annual meeting of Grand Lodge, its minute book and register. (1983)

157. Every newly warranted lodge shall be constituted and consecrated by the Grand Master, or by any other Grand Lodge Officer designated by him.

## **Amalgamation of Lodges**

158. Two or more lodges may amalgamate under one warrant approved by the Grand Master.

159. Each lodge proposing to amalgamate shall adopt a resolution to that effect. Notice of such resolution must have been given at a preceding meeting in each

lodge.

160. Each lodge shall appoint a committee of three members to arrange the terms of amalgamation and the Grand Master shall appoint a member from another lodge to act as a chairman of the joint committee with power to vote in case of a tie.

161. (a) The report of the joint committee, if favourable, shall recommend the name, number and district of the proposed amalgamated lodge and the time and place for such amalgamation. On the approval of the report of the committee of each lodge, a copy thereof shall be mailed to the last known address of each member of each lodge. Unless 25% or more of the membership as reported on the latest semi-annual return of any of the lodges notify the secretary of their lodge, in writing, of their objection to such amalgamation, within ten days from the date of mailing said notice, the amalgamation shall be carried into effect as soon as the Grand Master shall approve of such amalgamation. (2005)

(b) Any warrant not required for the amalgamated lodge shall be delivered up to the Grand Secretary, upon receipt of the approval of the amalgamation by the Grand Master.

(c) Notwithstanding Section 161 (b) the amalgamated lodge may elect to retain the surrendered warrant for historical, ceremonial or display purposes. Should the lodge so elect then a label, supplied by Grand Lodge, shall be affixed to the warrant indicating, that when the lodge no longer requires the warrant, it shall be returned to Grand Lodge in accordance with Section 161 (b). (2004)

162. The Grand Master, the District Deputy Grand Master, or such other brother as the Grand Master may appoint, shall carry the amalgamation into effect by

attending at the time and place named in the report of the joint committee, at which time members of the lodge present shall, choose, by ballot, the elective officers, who, with the officers appointed by the Master-elect shall be installed or invested immediately, if present.

163. The Secretary shall prepare a list of members of the amalgamated lodge, which shall be signed by the Master and Secretary and forwarded to the Grand Secretary within one month after the amalgamation.

164. Every member of the lodges so amalgamated shall be a member of the amalgamated lodge, but a member may obtain a certificate of demission before the amalgamation has been effected. If a member elects to demit the lodge, assistance shall be provided, if requested, to locate a new lodge and if lodge finances permit his affiliation fee will be paid to the new lodge. A demitted member or a member under suspension for any cause shall have the same rights in the amalgamated lodge as he would have had in his own lodge, had the amalgamation not taken place. (2004)

### **Certificates and Medals**

165. Grand Lodge Certificates shall be issued as follows:

- (a) to a Master Mason upon having been registered in the books of Grand Lodge as having been initiated, passed and raised in a lodge;
- (b) to a brother who, either as an Entered Apprentice or as a Fellowcraft coming from another recognized Grand Lodge has become an affiliated member of a lodge, and who therein has received the remaining degree or degrees;
- (c) to a brother of a lodge which has ceased to meet,

to enable him to affiliate with another lodge; provided, however, that such Certificate of Standing shall state the fact that he was a member, that he has been registered, and that his Grand Lodge dues are paid;

- (d) to any Past Master under this Grand Lodge who applies and pays the required fee; and
- (e) to a brother who has lost his Grand Lodge certificate upon application and payment of the required fee. The new certificate shall set forth the essential facts contained in the original certificate.

166. All Grand Lodge certificates shall be issued by the Grand Secretary with the seal of Grand Lodge attached and shall be in such form as the Board of General Purposes may from time to time direct.

167. Every brother to whom a Grand Lodge certificate is granted must sign his name in the margin thereof or the certificate will not be valid.

168. Every return or other document, upon which a Grand Lodge certificate is to be issued, must specify not only the date of initiation, but also the dates on which the brother was advanced to the second and third degrees.

169. All applications for Grand Lodge certificates must be made to the Grand Secretary, and the fee payable therefor on registration must be transmitted at the same time. No certificate shall be issued until such fee has been paid.

170. No brother shall obtain a Grand Lodge certificate if he shall have been admitted to more than one degree of Masonry on the same day, or at a shorter interval than four weeks from his receiving a previous degree,

unless by dispensation from the Grand Master.

171. It is improper for a Masonic certificate to be exhibited in any public place.

172. No member who is not in good standing can be awarded the Veteran Jubilee Button or Medal or the William Mercer Wilson Medal. (2022)

(a) The William Mercer Wilson Medal shall consist of a collar and medal. The collar shall be 38 mm in width throughout, of sky blue corded moiré ribbon, consisting of two pieces, each 425 mm in length. The top of each piece of ribbon shall have a piece of Velcro attached to ensure secure closure. A small tuck shall be sewed in the ribbon 130 mm from the top end to provide a bend in the collar to enable fitting around the wearer's neck. The bottom ends shall be sewed together to form a triangle and shall have a pewter-finished metal fastener at the point to which the medal shall be attached. This triangular point shall have sewed on the backside a piece of firm material to provide sufficient stiffness to the lower end of the collar. Attached to the triangular portion of the ribbon shall be a pewter bar 44 mm in width at the top and 38 mm at the bottom, and 8 mm in height, shall be embossed with the following words **FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE**. The medal shall be metal, pewter-finished and consist of a round, two-sided medal, with a connector eye incorporated in the casting at the top. The outside diameter of the circle shall be 38 mm and the inside diameter on either side shall be 29 mm. The circumference between the two circles shall be embossed with the following words: on the obverse side **WILLIAM MERCER WILSON MEDAL** and on the reverse side **GRAND LODGE OF A.F. & A.M. OF CANADA IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO**. The inner circle shall be embossed as follows: on the obverse side with a front bust image of M.W. Bro.

William Mercer Wilson, extending down into the lower portion of the circumference; on the upper half of the reverse side with the Coat of Arms of Grand Lodge; in the top portion of the lower half, a plain horizontal bar 25 mm in width at the top and 23 mm at the bottom, and 3 mm in height, suitable for engraving the name of the recipient and beneath said bar, a plain quarter arc 11 mm in length at the top and 9 mm at the bottom, 3 mm in width, suitable for engraving the year of receipt and placed above three maple leaves, the centre one 5 mm and the other two 3 mm in height on either side, under the bottom corner edge of the arc. A metal pewter-finished ring shall link the connector eye on the medal to the metal fastener on the collar. (2014)

(b) The Veteran Jubilee Medal shall be metal, gold-finished and consist of a round, two-sided medal, with a connector eye incorporated in the casting at the top. The outside diameter of the circle shall be 34 mm and the inside diameter shall be 26 mm. The circumference between the two circles shall be embossed with the following words: on the obverse side **GRAND LODGE OF A.F. & A.M. OF CANADA IN ONTARIO**; the letters shall be separated at the base by a "dot". The inner circle shall be embossed with the Square and Compasses, having an overall width of 22 mm and height of 20 mm; on the reverse side, arced around the top portion of the circumference **50 YEARS A MASON**. Between the first and last letters of the preceding shall be a plain horizontal bar 16 mm in width and 3 mm in height, suitable for engraving the year of receipt. The following words shall be embossed across the middle of the reverse side of the medal; **PRESENTED TO** and beneath such wording, a second horizontal bar, 26 mm in width at the top and 22 mm at the bottom, 3 mm in height, suitable for engraving the name of the recipient. Beginning at the base of the reverse side with crossed

stems, four maple leaves shall be embossed running up either side of the circumference, the first two of 4 mm in length, the third of 2 mm disappearing behind the base of the lower bar and the fourth of 3 mm emerging from behind the top edge of the lower bar. The top of the medal shall be metal gold-finished rectangle having a mounting pin with security clasp and horizontal bar mounted across the bottom on the reverse, 44 mm in width and 8 mm in height, with the centre of the bar raised to incorporate on the obverse the Ontario Shield of Arms, 9 mm in height and 7 mm in width, the Shield shall be surmounted by the three maple leaves forming a triangle. On either side of the Shield of Arms shall be embossed a series of four columns of horizontal Acacia leaves, three clustered in each column. The top bar and medal shall be connected by sky blue corded moiré ribbon 38 mm wide and 110 mm in length, folded over to support a metal gold-finished ring through which a second metal gold-finished ring shall pass to link to the connector eye on the medal. The medal shall not be more than 108 mm in length. (2014)

## PART II – LODGES

### Warrants

173. A “lodge” shall mean a lodge working under warrant of this Grand Lodge.

174. The priority of a lodge is derived from the number of its warrant as recorded in the books of Grand Lodge.

175. No lodge shall be acknowledged, nor any of its officers admitted into Grand Lodge, nor shall any of its members or their dependants be entitled to partake of the charitable or other Masonic privileges, unless it has been regularly constituted and registered.

176. If a lodge shall cease to exist, its warrant and records shall be delivered up to the Grand Secretary who shall issue a Certificate of Standing to each member of the lodge.

177. If the warrant be sold, or procured by improper means, it shall be deemed to be revoked and thereupon the lodge shall cease to exist.

178. If the membership of a lodge be reduced below seven, its warrant shall be deemed to be revoked and thereupon the lodge shall cease to exist.

179. (a) A lodge shall not cease to exist, nor shall its warrant be revoked until the Master, or in his absence the Wardens, have been notified in writing of the reason therefore and have been summoned to show cause to Grand Lodge why such action should not be taken.

#### (b) Voluntary Return of Warrant

- (i) A lodge may voluntarily return its warrant to Grand Lodge with the approval of the Grand Master.

- (ii) A lodge proposing to return its warrant to Grand Lodge shall adopt a resolution to that effect. The proposed resolution shall be duly given at a regular meeting; the proposed resolution shall be duly entered in the minutes and inserted in the lodge summons for the next regular meeting, at which time the proposed resolution shall come up for discussion.
- (iii) A lodge proposing to voluntarily return its warrant shall appoint a committee of three members to arrange the terms of said return and upon notice of same being received by Grand Lodge, the Grand Master shall appoint a member of Grand Lodge to act as chairman.
- (iv) Where funds are available, and within six months after the date the warrant is returned to Grand Lodge, the lodge shall provide assistance to its members to locate and apply to a new lodge by affiliation and shall pay the affiliation fee and payment of the first year's dues to the chosen lodge.
- (v) At the same time the warrant is returned; all furniture, books and assets of any nature shall be returned to Grand Lodge.
- (vi) Lodge funds remaining after allowing for the payment of affiliation fees and dues shall be distributed to Craft Masonic Charities only, under the direction of the appointed committee, as stated in subsection 179 (b) (iii), and the Grand Master.
- (vii) The Grand Master, the District Deputy Grand Master, or such other brother as the Grand Master may appoint, shall carry out

the “Extinguishing of the Lights Ceremony”  
by attending at the time and date specified  
for same. (2004)

180. A lodge under dispensation shall not be granted a warrant unless evidence is furnished to the Board of General Purposes by the District Deputy Grand Master that:

(a) the lodge has been working under dispensation for at least four months preceding the annual meeting of Grand Lodge;

(b) the proposed Master and Wardens are competent to confer the three degrees of Masonry;

(c) the books and records have been kept satisfactorily; and

(d) the lodge is provided with suitable furniture and regalia.

181. The jurisdiction of a lodge shall be concurrent with that of all other lodges under the jurisdiction of Grand Lodge. (2004)

## **Membership**

182. Membership in a lodge may be acquired:

(a) by having been regularly initiated; or

(b) by having been elected for affiliation; or

(c) by having been elected to honorary membership;  
or

(d) in the case of a new lodge, by having been named in the dispensation.

While membership in a lodge shall normally cease at the time of the member’s death, suspension, or demission, a lodge may request the permission of

the Grand Master to report the member as “presumed deceased” if he has reached the age of 90 years and the lodge has been unable to contact him during the preceding five years – such request to outline attempts made to locate him. (1991)

183. A resident in the Province of Ontario, who, during such residence has been initiated into Masonry by anybody beyond this jurisdiction, without the permission of the Grand Master, shall not be entitled to Masonic privileges, except upon such terms as may be imposed by the Grand Master or Grand Lodge.

184. A person who has been initiated in or affiliated with any lodge not recognized by this Grand Lodge, or who has been in any way involved in making Masons clandestinely, or who has assisted in forming a new lodge without the authority of the Grand Master, shall not be admitted into any Masonic lodge in this jurisdiction or partake of any Masonic privileges without applying for and receiving the dispensation of the Grand Master or Grand Lodge.

185. If the lodge by-laws authorize life membership, the lodge shall admit its members to life membership only upon such terms as provide for the payment to Grand Lodge of the fee prescribed for the commutation of dues and such further sum to the lodge as is sufficient to fund adequately the cost of the continued service to the member without encumbering the lodge or its dues paying members in any way. For each life member the lodge shall forthwith pay to Grand Lodge the fee prescribed for the commutation of dues, which payment shall exempt the lodge from payment of further dues to Grand Lodge on his behalf. (1992)

186. Upon a life member withdrawing from the lodge of which he originally became a life member, and

joining any other lodge, such other lodge shall not be obliged to pay any annual dues to Grand Lodge on his account; nor, in case he becomes a life member of such other lodge, shall it be obliged to pay a second fee therefor to Grand Lodge, but if such life member does not withdraw and affiliates with another lodge, the latter lodge shall be liable to Grand Lodge for his dues.

187. (a) Any brother who has rendered outstanding service to the Craft in general, or to any particular lodge may by a three-fourths vote by ballot of the members present, be elected an honorary member thereof, and with or without exemption from lodge dues, provided prior notice of motion to confer such honorary membership has been given and published in the lodge summons. (1992)

(b) If honorary membership is granted with exemption from lodge dues, then the same terms must be applied with respect to commutation of dues as exist for life membership in accordance with the provisions of Section 185. (1992)

188. (a) The funds received by the lodge to acquire a life membership, together with any monies already held by the lodge on account of existing life memberships, shall be kept separate and apart from the general funds of the lodge in a trust fund.

(b) Life memberships shall be calculated and monies may be withdrawn from the Life Membership Trust Fund in accordance with formulae as set out in Regulations approved by the Board of General Purposes from time to time.

(Refer to Part VIII – Regulations) (1997)

189. Life and honorary members shall be entitled to all the privileges of the lodge and shall be amenable to discipline in the same manner as ordinary

members. (1992)

**Demits (For Certificate of Severance see Section 410.1)**

190. (a) An application for a demit shall be in writing and signed by the applicant. (1992)

(b) Every application for a demission, from a brother residing within the jurisdiction of the lodge, shall be referred immediately to a committee of not more than three Masonic brethren appointed by the Master, which committee shall make enquiries concerning the request and report thereon to the Master prior to the next regular meeting of the lodge. (1992)

191. The application shall be presented to the next regular meeting of the lodge following its receipt. If the dues of the applicant are paid up to the date of the receipt of the application and no charges of unmasonic conduct are pending against him, the applicant shall be entitled to a demit without a vote. (1992)

192. Unless the application for a demit is withdrawn, a Certificate of Demission in accordance with Form 1 shall be granted at a date not later than the next regular meeting of the lodge and shall be effective from the date of the presentation of the application to the lodge.

193. The action of granting the demit shall be reported to the lodge at its next regular meeting and duly recorded in the minutes.

194. The lodge may, by resolution of which notice of motion has been given and published in a summons for a regular meeting, accept the application for demission of a member who is in arrears of dues. The Certificate of Demission (dues owing) in accordance with prescribed Form 2 shall state the fact and the

amount of the indebtedness of the brother to the lodge.  
(1991)

195. A brother who has been issued a Certificate of Standing or has been granted a demit without condition, shall be entitled to visitation privileges within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge for a period of one year from the date of the Certificate of Standing or the Certificate of Demission. (2005)

196. A member who is under suspension or against whom there is a charge of unmasonic conduct pending shall not have the right or be permitted to receive a Certificate of Demission.

197. A brother who has received a Certificate of Demission, on written application to the lodge of which he was a member, may be restored without payment of a restoration fee following a favourable report of a committee of inquiry: (2000)

- (a) when the application is made within three years from the date of demission, without a ballot, but by a resolution passed in open lodge by a majority vote of the members present of which due notice of motion has been given and on payment of dues for the current year; or
- (b) when the application is made after three years from the date of demission, by a majority vote by ballot of the members present, due notice of motion having been given and on payment of dues for the current year.

198. A brother who has received a Certificate of Demission (dues owing), on written application, to the lodge of which he was last a member, may be restored without payment of a restoration fee following a favourable report of a committee of inquiry: (1983)

- (a) when the application is made within three years from the date of demission, without a ballot, but by a resolution passed in open lodge by a majority vote of the members present of which due notice of motion has been given and on payment of an amount which shall not exceed the amount owing at the time of his demission plus dues for the current year; or
- (b) when the application is made after three years from the date of demission, by a majority vote by ballot of the members present, due notice of motion having been given and on payment of an amount which shall not exceed the amount owing at the time of demission plus dues for the current year.

### **Non-Payment of Dues**

199. Lodge dues are payable in advance. A brother shall be considered in arrears if he is default in payment of them, on the day following the due date of the current Masonic year as stipulated in the by-laws of the lodge. (2017)

200. (a) A brother who neglects to pay his dues as required by the by-laws of his lodge for twelve consecutive months shall be suspended. (2017)

(b) A lodge, however, may by open vote remit the dues of any brother, provided a notice of motion for remission has been given at the regular meeting immediately prior to that at which the vote is taken and provided such vote is taken prior to the dues becoming twelve months in arrears. (2017)

(c) The notice of motion must contain the amount of the dues to be remitted but shall not contain the name of the brother whose dues are being remitted. (2017)

(d) At the regular meeting of the lodge at which a brother's dues become twelve months in arrears the Secretary shall read his name and the Master shall forthwith declare him suspended for non-payment of dues. Such shall be duly recorded in the minutes of the lodge, notice of having been suspended for non-payment of dues shall be immediately sent to such brother, and the Secretary shall notify the District Deputy Grand Master and the Masonic Bureau, if a bureau exists, of such suspension. Where a Masonic bureau does not exist notice shall be given to the Secretaries of all lodges in the district. (2017)

201. A brother who neglects to pay his dues shall be dealt with by his lodge for such neglect in accordance with the provisions the Constitution of Grand Lodge. (2017)

202. At any time, and not later than ten months, a brother is in arrears of dues, the Secretary of the lodge shall send him notice thereof, including the amount owing, the date it was due, the date he will become twelve months in arrears, and a copy of Sections 199 to 203 of the Constitution. The notice shall be deemed served if mailed via surface delivery service to the last known address of such brother. (2017)

202. (a) (b) (c) (Deleted 2017)

203. A brother who has been suspended for non-payment of dues, on written application to the lodge from which he was suspended, may be restored following a favourable report of a committee of inquiry:

- (a) when the application is made within three years from the date of suspension, without a ballot, but by a resolution passed in open lodge, by a majority vote of the members present of which due notice of motion has been given and on

payment of an amount which shall not exceed the amount owing at the time of suspension to a maximum of two years' dues plus dues for the current year; or (1981)

- (b) when the application is made after three years from the date of suspension, by a majority vote by ballot of the members present, due notice of motion having been given and on payment of an amount which shall not exceed the amount owing at the time of suspension to a maximum of two years' dues plus dues for the current year. (1981)

204. A Mason who has been suspended for non-payment of dues by a lodge that has subsequently ceased to exist may petition Grand Lodge for his restoration.

### **Suspension**

205. A lodge has Masonic authority over its own members wherever they may reside and over all Masons whether affiliated or not who reside within its jurisdiction.

206. Except for non-payment of dues a lodge cannot deprive a member of his privileges until after due trial and conviction.

207. Suspended members are deprived of all their Masonic rights and privileges.

208. The suspension of a lodge places all its members under Masonic disability, except by dispensation from the Grand Master.

209. If any member shall be under suspension from his lodge or shall have failed to comply with its by-laws, or with the general regulations of the Craft, he shall not be eligible for membership in any other lodge.

210. (a) Suspension in any lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge or any Grand Lodge recognized by this Grand Lodge automatically results in suspension in all lodges under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge. (1983)

(b) Restoration in the lodge from which a member was originally suspended, under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge or any Grand Lodge recognized by this Grand Lodge automatically results in restoration in all lodges under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge from which the member was reciprocally suspended. (2007)

211. A brother suspended from his lodge shall not be liable for dues accruing during the period of his suspension. (1981)

212. A brother who is not in good standing at the time of his death cannot be restored to membership after his death.

### **Visitors**

213. A member in good standing who has been personally vouched for by a brother in good standing or who has passed a satisfactory examination by a Board of Trial may visit a lodge at the discretion of the Master.

214. A Board of Trial for a visitor shall be conducted by at least two Master Masons of the lodge, of whom one should be an Installed Master, appointed by the Master and the examination shall include:

- (a) a lodge dues card or other evidence of membership, a Certificate of Demission, or a Certificate of Standing;
- (b) acceptable proof of having been initiated, passed and raised in Craft Masonry; and

- (c) the requirement that the visitor either subscribe to the Tyler's oath in accordance with prescribed Form 3 or repeat it.

215. Following satisfactory examination, the visitor shall enter his name, Masonic rank and the name of his lodge in which he claims or last claimed membership, in the attendance book to be kept by each lodge for the purpose.

216. A visitor shall be subject to the by-laws of a lodge and to the Constitution of Grand Lodge.

### **Election and Appointment of Officers**

217. The elected and appointed officers of a lodge shall consists of: The Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Secretary, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Inner Guard, Senior Steward, Junior Steward and Tyler, to which may be added an Assistant Secretary, a Chaplain, a Director of Ceremonies, an Organist and a Historian.

218. No brother shall be eligible to be an officer of a lodge unless he is a member thereof in good standing and has proved his proficiency in the Master Mason Degree in open lodge. (1997)

219. No member of a lodge who resides at a distance of more than one hundred kilometres, by road, from the lodge meeting place, or who resides outside Ontario, shall hold office in the lodge without prior written permission of the Grand Master. (2004)

220. (Deleted 1983)

221. No member shall hold two offices in the same lodge at the same time, nor shall he hold office in more than one lodge at the same time without prior written permission of the Grand Master.

222. No member shall be nominated for office in a lodge except in the case of those officers authorized by the Constitution to be elected by open vote of the lodge.

223. Every lodge shall elect annually by a majority vote of the members present the Master, Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary, by separate written ballots, and by open vote the Tyler, two Auditors and an Examining Board composed of three Installed Masters, of which the Master may be one. (1983)

224. A lodge may by by-law provide that all or some of the officers of the lodge shall be elected by written ballot, except the Tyler, who shall be elected by open vote.

225. No lodge shall pass a motion empowering the Master or any other member to cast a single ballot for the election of a member to office.

226. In the event of a tie vote for the election of an officer, the Master and the Wardens shall each cast a second ballot.

227. Officers shall hold office until their successors, respectively, have been regularly elected or appointed, and installed or invested in their stead.

228. No member shall be eligible for the office of Master of a lodge unless he shall have served for twelve months as a Warden in a lodge in the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, except by dispensation of the Grand Master, or unless he shall have served for not less than eleven months in a year when as a result of an amendment to the by-laws of the lodge the date of the annual installation is less than twelve months from the date of the preceding annual installation.

229. (a) Where a Master shall have served for not less

than eleven months in a year when as a result of an amendment to the by-laws of the lodge or by dispensation of the Grand Master the date of the annual installation is less than twelve months from the date of the preceding annual installation, or by approval of Grand Lodge upon recommendation of the Grand Master, a Master shall be entitled to Past Rank. (1981)

(b) A Master of a lodge attains the rank of Past Master ONLY after he has served as Master for a minimum of 12 months (subject to Section 229(a)), AND a successor has been elected and installed in his stead. (2004)

### **Removal of Officers**

230. The Tyler may be removed for cause at any regular or emergent meeting of the lodge by a majority vote of the members present.

231. Any other officer of a lodge, except the Master, may be removed from office for cause deemed sufficient by the lodge by a resolution passed at a regular meeting of the lodge by a majority vote by ballot of the members present, provided notice of motion to hold such vote shall have been published in the summons calling such meeting.

232. The Master of a lodge may be removed from office only by order of the Grand Master or by Grand Lodge.

233. When the Master or any other officer is removed from office, he shall not thereby be deprived of any of the rights and privileges of membership.

234. (a) Should any officer die, resign his office, or become permanently incapable, by removal or otherwise, of performing the duties of his office, a

successor shall forthwith be appointed, for an appointed officer, or elected in accordance with (b), for an elected officer. (2022)

(b) The Master, or if the office of Master be vacant, the Senior Warden, or if both these offices be vacant, the Junior Warden, or if all three offices be vacant, the District Deputy Grand Master, shall ensure that in the case of a vacancy in an elective office, the necessary steps be taken for a new election; which election shall be held after due notice in the lodge summons at a regular meeting of the lodge or a meeting duly called for that purpose. (1983)

### **Powers and Duties of the Master and Other Officers**

235. The Master is responsible for the due observance of the Constitution, the by-laws of the lodge and all other laws, rules and regulations relating to lodges, and is bound to produce all books, minutes and accounts when required by lawful authority.

236. The clothing, regalia and furniture of every lodge belong to and are the property of the members of the lodge and the custody, care and maintenance thereof are the responsibility of the Master and the Wardens.

237. It shall be the duty of the Secretary, under the direction of the Master to update and maintain the Grand Lodge Database/System in a timely manner and as prescribed by the Constitution including as it relates to: (2023)

- (a) semi-annual returns to be submitted in accordance with Section 300; and (2023)
- (b) the elected and appointed officers of the lodge, immediately after their installation and investiture and upon any change in any such officer. (2023)

238. The Master shall annually cause to be sent to the Grand Secretary on a form to be supplied by the Grand Secretary the names of the Master, Past Masters and Wardens of the lodge who are entitled to attend and vote at Grand Lodge.

239. The Master shall cause the Secretary to send a copy of every summons to the members of the lodge, the District Deputy Grand Master of the district in which the lodge is situated, the Grand Secretary and the Grand Master, which shall be delivered in accordance with Section 270 of the Book of Constitution. (2023)

240. The Master shall cause to be published in the summons or shall read or cause to be read at one or more regular meetings of the lodge such portion of the Proceedings of the last annual meeting of Grand Lodge as in his opinion will prove most instructive and beneficial to the membership of the lodge.

241. The Master is responsible for the fees collected on behalf of Grand Lodge, and it is his duty to ensure that the same are regularly forwarded with the proper returns.

242. The Master is responsible for the Work and may permit any brother to assist him in conferring any portion of the degrees, except the obligation, which must be administered by an Installed Master.

243. The Master has no power to open or close the lodge in any degree in a form other than that prescribed in the Work.

244. The Master shall not initiate or advance any candidate whom he knows or believes to be unworthy.

245. The officers of a lodge shall, when summoned so to do, appear before the Grand Master, the Deputy

Grand Master, the District Deputy Grand Master, or any board or committee lawfully constituted.

246. The Master shall not, without the prior approval by resolution of the lodge, request another lodge to confer a degree or degrees upon a member of the lodge.

247. It shall be the duty of the Master to endeavour to arrange, if so requested, for the advancement of a candidate who has moved out of the district in which the lodge is located. If outside the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge arrangements shall be made through the Grand Secretary of this Grand Lodge. (2004)

248. It shall be the duty of the Master to install his successor in office and invest the other officers or ensure that this duty is duly discharged by an Installed Master.

249. The Tyler shall see that every member or visitor signs his name in the attendance book and is properly clothed before entering the lodge.

250. The Treasurer or Secretary, or both, may be required to be bonded by the lodge at the expense of the lodge to provide security for the funds committed to their care.

### **Installation and Investiture of Lodge Officers**

251. Prior to installation, the Examining Board shall examine the Master-elect and shall report in writing to the lodge on his familiarity with the duties of Master including his knowledge of the Work, the Constitution and the by-laws of the lodge.

252. At the next regular meeting of the lodge following the election of the Master and after the minutes have been read and approved, the question shall be put whether the choice of Master-elect shall be confirmed.

If the choice be confirmed, the Master-elect shall, subject to Sections 251 and 254, be installed.

253. If the choice of Master-elect be not confirmed, a summons shall be issued for the next regular meeting of the lodge, notifying the members that they must again elect a Master.

254. A Master-elect shall not be installed Master of a lodge unless the Examining Board reports that he is familiar with the duties of the Master.

255. If the Examining Board reports unfavourably against the Master-elect the report shall be noted in the minutes of the lodge, and a summons must be issued for the next meeting of the lodge notifying the members that they must again elect a Master.

256. A Master-elect shall not be in arrears of dues to the lodge at the time of his installation.

257. A Master-elect shall not assume the chair of the Master until he shall have been installed.

258. A Master-elect, including one who is already a Past Master, shall be installed according to the Ceremony of Installation.

259. If the Master has been re-elected, it shall not be necessary that he be reinstalled. If any other officer has been re-elected or re-appointed, he shall be re-invested. (1981)

260. The Ceremony of Installation shall not be performed in public.

261. No lodge shall hold a joint installation and investiture of officers with another lodge.

262. The Master only is installed; the other officers are invested.

263. The installation or investiture of any elective officer shall not be performed by proxy.

264. The Master, upon his installation, shall appoint all the officers who are not elective, and all standing committees for conducting the business of the lodge.

265. The investiture of an officer elected at the annual election, but not invested at the date of the annual installation, shall be deemed to take effect as of the date of the annual installation.

### **Lodge Meetings**

266. The day and hour of the regular meetings of a lodge shall be specified in the by-laws of the lodge.

267. A summons shall be prepared and issued by the direction of the Master for each regular and emergent meeting of a lodge, but a summons for a regular meeting may include notice of emergent meetings. The summons shall state the time and date of the meeting, together with the location and address of the temple. (1983)

268. A summons for a regular or emergent meeting shall be served at least nine days but not more than one month before the meeting. The mailing or delivery of a summons shall be regarded as good service thereof. (1983)

269. In the event it is impossible due to an interruption of postal services or other emergency to effect service of a summons, a regular meeting of the lodge may be held provided no business shall be transacted thereat with respect to which a summons is required to be served by this Constitution or the by-laws of the lodge.

270. A summons shall be sent in a sealed envelope or by secure electronic transmission via e-mail. Neither the summons nor the envelope shall contain any

material which does not relate to Craft Masonry or to any activity for which dispensation has not been obtained from the Grand Master. (2004)

271. An emergent meeting of a lodge may, by direction of the Master, or in his absence, by direction of the Senior Warden, or in the absence of both, by direction of the Junior Warden, be called at any time.

272. A summons for an emergent meeting shall state the reason for calling such meeting, and no business except that so stated shall be transacted at the meeting.

273. A meeting of a lodge shall not be held on a Sunday, except for the purpose of attending Divine Service or for performing the memorial ceremonies of the Craft.

274. (a) Except as provided in sub-section 274 (b), a lodge must be held in the regular lodge room having the necessary ante-room for all requirements of Masonry. The dedication of a Masonic temple shall be deemed to relate only to the lodge room(s) and the adjoining ante-room(s) and shall not relate to any other part of the temple. No lodge room shall be used before dedication for any Masonic ceremony without the prior permission of the Grand Master. All buildings or structures in which are situate one or more regular lodge room(s) should have displayed outside of and adjacent to the building or structure, an illuminated sign, pole or surface mounted, in form approved by the Grand Master. (2008)

(b) A meeting of a Lodge may be held in a non-Masonic Temple with the authorization of Grand Lodge. (2008)

275. The warrant must be present in the lodge room when the lodge is open.

276. No degree shall be conferred or exemplified elsewhere than in the lodge room, except by dispensation from the Grand Master. (2004)

277. Except as provided by Section 150, a Craft lodge room shall not be used except by Craft lodges, Masonic bodies and other bodies included in the list of permitted users published by this Grand Lodge. (2022)

278. No lodge shall participate with any other body, other than another lodge, in the conduct of a Masonic Memorial Service or a Masonic Divine Service.

279. A lodge outside the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge shall not confer a degree in a lodge but may, with prior consent of the Grand Master, exemplify a degree.

280. (a) Where a lodge or a number of Masons representing a lodge wish to visit a lodge outside the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, the prior permission of the Grand Masters of both jurisdictions must be obtained through the Grand Secretary. (1983)

(b) Where a lodge wishes to receive a formal and prearranged visit from a lodge or a number of Masons representing another Grand Lodge, the prior consent of the Grand Master must be received. (1990)

281. No Masonic ritual or part thereof, except its musical accompaniment, shall be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, recording or otherwise without the express consent of the Grand Master on the recommendation of the Ritual Committee. (2002)

282. Where the Grand Master presides at any lodge meeting, the Deputy Grand Master, if present, shall sit on his right. The District Deputy Grand Master, if present, shall sit on the left of the Grand Master. The

Master of the lodge or brother entitled to exercise his functions, shall sit on the left of the District Deputy Grand Master. The Grand Wardens, if present, shall occupy the Wardens' chairs.

283. Where the Deputy Grand Master, unless the Grand Master be present, presides at any lodge meeting, the District Deputy Grand Master, if present, shall sit on his right. The Master of the lodge, or the brother entitled to exercise his functions, shall sit on the left of the Deputy Grand Master. The Grand Wardens, if present, shall occupy the Wardens' chairs.

284. Where the District Deputy Grand Master presides at any lodge meeting within his district, and directs the business thereof, the Master of the lodge, or brother entitled to exercise his functions, shall sit on his left. When the Master resumes the chair, the District Deputy Grand Master shall sit on his left.

285. Subject to Sections 283, 284 and 285, at all meetings of the lodge, the Master, if present, shall preside. If he is not present, the Immediate Past Master, or, if they are not present, a Past Master of the lodge shall take the chair. If no Past Master be present, the Senior Warden, or in their absence, the Junior Warden, may rule the lodge from his chair of office, but he shall not occupy the Master's chair nor confer any degree.

286. A brother who has not attained the rank of Installed Master shall not assume the Master's chair.

287. At all meetings of a lodge, whether regular or emergent, seven members shall be a quorum, and no business shall be transacted and no degrees shall be conferred unless at least seven members of the lodge are present.

288. In all cases and under all circumstances, the lodge must be opened in the first degree and, in this degree,

all the ordinary business of the lodge is to be transacted.

289. No lodge has the power to adjourn from day to day.

290. Not more than one meeting of a lodge may be held on the same day.

291. All voting in a lodge shall be by show of hands, except in the cases where the Constitution or the by-laws of the lodge require a ballot; or where the lodge shall, by show of hands taken without debate, decide that a ballot be taken.

292. Voting in a lodge is not optional. Every member present in the lodge room must vote unless excused by the Master of the lodge.

293. Subject to Section 226, in the event of tie, the Master shall cast the deciding vote.

294. No motion to rescind or reconsider a resolution adopted by a lodge shall be allowed unless notice thereof be given at the preceding regular meeting.

295. If any brother behave in such a manner as to disturb the harmony of the lodge, and be admonished by the Master, and persist in his irregular conduct, the Master may order him to leave the lodge room and, if he disobey such order, may suspend him until the next regular meeting of the lodge. Such suspension, with the reason therefor shall be reported forthwith in writing by the Master to the District Deputy Grand Master of the district.

296. The expenses of the delegates of a lodge to the annual meeting of Grand Lodge can be defrayed only if authorized by by-law or resolution of the lodge.

297. A lodge shall not, either by by-law, resolution or

otherwise, enforce a special levy on its members for any purpose.

### **Lodge Records, Accounts and Moneys**

298. Every lodge shall keep the following records:

- (a) A Minute Book in accordance with prescribed Form 4;
- (b) A register of members, in which the Secretary shall record the name of each member of the lodge, his occupation, his date of birth, date of initiation or affiliation, dates of passing and raising and date of his death, demission, suspension, or restoration and the number of his Master Mason's Certificate from Grand Lodge; (1992)
- (c) An attendance book in which the members attending at each meeting shall sign their names before entering the lodge and a similar book, or portion of the same book, for visitors, who shall sign their names, Masonic rank and the name of the lodge to which they belong, or from which they have a Certificate of Demission or Certificate of Standing, before entering the lodge; and
- (d) Account books, in which all moneys received or paid on account of the lodge shall be entered by the Secretary and the Treasurer respectively.
- (e) Lodges approaching their 100th Anniversary, see Section 394. (1983)
- (f) Every lodge shall have and maintain in the lodge's name a minimum of \$1,000,000.00 Commercial General Liability coverage and \$1,000,000.00 Non Owned Automobile coverage. (2017)

### **Audits of Accounts**

299. The accounts of the lodge as of a date not more

than one month, prior to the day appointed for the installation and investiture of officers, shall be audited by the Auditors, who shall report such audit in writing to the lodge for approval on the day appointed for the installation and investiture of officers and prior to such installation and investiture. (1983)

### **Returns and Payments to Grand Lodge**

300. Each lodge shall update the Grand Lodge Database/System pursuant to Section 237, and shall mail or otherwise deliver to the Grand Secretary its payments to Grand Lodge semi-annually on or before the 8th day of January and the 8th day of July in each year. (2023)

301. A lodge which fails to update the Grand Lodge Database/System and/or make its payments before the expiry of the periods specified in Section 300, may be summoned by the Grand Master to show cause: (2023)

- (a) why it should not be suspended; and
- (b) where such failure continues for six months, why its warrant should not be withdrawn or revoked.

### **Lodge Seal**

302. (a) Every lodge shall have an approved seal, the design of which, shall be sent to the Grand Secretary for approval by the Grand Master.

(b) The lodge seal shall be affixed to all documents issued under the authority of a resolution of a lodge and, more particularly, the following documents:

- (i) by-laws;
- (ii) amendments to by-laws;
- (iii) certificate of adoption of by-laws;

- (iv) copy of the summons giving notice of motion to consider by-laws or amendments, which copy must accompany the by-laws or amendments thereto when forwarded for confirmation by the Grand Master;
- (v) application for benevolence;
- (vi) annual return of moneys expended for benevolence;
- (vii) any recommendation for the formation of a new lodge; and
- (viii) all dues cards. (2023)

### **Lodge Proxy** (Deleted 2021)

303. (Deleted 2021)

### **Lodge By-Laws**

304. Every lodge shall frame by-laws providing for its own governance. The lodge by-laws shall not conflict with the provisions of the Constitution of Grand Lodge.

305. (a) After the by-laws have been confirmed by the lodge, they shall be submitted to the Grand Secretary in duplicate under the seal of the lodge for approval by the Grand Master. (1989)

(b) No amendment shall be made in the by-laws of a lodge, unless by "Notice of Motion" given at a regular meeting; the proposed amendment shall be duly entered in the minutes and inserted in the lodge summons for the next regular meeting, when the proposed amendment shall come up for discussion. If the amendment is regularly moved and seconded, and passed with the support of a majority of the members present, it shall, as soon as it receives the approval of the Grand Master, become law. (1989)

(c) The Notice of Motion must be written in detail, specifying the section of the by-laws to be amended along with proposed amendment. (1989)

306. In submitting by-laws or amendments thereof to the Grand Secretary for approval by the Grand Master, after they have been confirmed by the lodge, the following documentation **signed by the Master and the Secretary under the seal of the lodge** is required: (1983)

- (a) one certified copy of the lodge notice containing the notice of motion in which the proposed amendment is printed in full;
- (b) one certified copy of a complete set of the **current** by-laws of the lodge; (1983)
- (c) one certified copy of that portion of the minutes of the meeting at which notice of motion was given, setting out in full the proposed motion; and (1989)
- (d) a certificate in duplicate in accordance with prescribed Form 5 (page 182), that the amendments (setting them out in full) were legally carried by a majority of the members present and voting. (1983)

### **Application for Initiation**

307. An application for initiation shall be in accordance with prescribed Form 6 and signed by the applicant. (1989)

This shall be the only document which the applicant shall be required to sign for his Application for Initiation. (1994)

308. An application must be recommended by two members of the lodge, both of whom must be Master

Masons in good standing.

309. An applicant must be of the full age of twenty-one years at the time of signing his application.

310. An applicant who is able to understand and appreciate the ceremonies prescribed by Grand Lodge, and who is morally worthy is a fit and proper person to apply to become a Mason. (2004)

311. (Deleted 2004)

312. An application for initiation shall not be received by the lodge unless the applicant has resided for a period of one year immediately prior to the date of his application in the jurisdiction of the lodge to which he seeks admission.

313. (Deleted 2004)

314. Where the place of residence of an applicant for initiation or affiliation residing within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge is nearer to a lodge under the jurisdiction of another Grand Lodge, he may petition this Grand Lodge for permission to apply to the nearer lodge under the other Grand Lodge.

315. Notwithstanding the provisions of Sections 312 and 361, where an applicant for initiation or affiliation has had a place of residence outside the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge for twelve months, which residence is nearer to a lodge in the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge he may, provided that he has obtained permission from the Grand Lodge having jurisdiction over his place of residence and with the approval of this Grand Lodge, apply for initiation or affiliation in a lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge.

### **Processing an Applicant for Initiation**

316. (a) The application for initiation shall be

submitted, in duplicate, to the Secretary of the lodge who **shall read the application in open lodge at the first regular meeting after its receipt.** A motion for acceptance of the application shall not be in order. (2004)

(b) Upon receipt of the application for initiation the Secretary of the lodge shall immediately enter into the Grand Lodge Database/System the information contained therein, to determine the eligibility of the applicant to be initiated. (2023)

317. The application, upon being read in open lodge, becomes the property of the lodge and Grand Lodge and cannot be withdrawn. (2004)

318. Each application, having been read in open lodge, **shall be referred to a committee of inquiry** of 3 or more Master Masons appointed by the Master, none of whom shall have proposed or seconded the application. The committee shall inquire into the character and qualifications of the applicant and shall report in writing thereon to the lodge at its next regular meeting held after the lapse of not less than four weeks, or as soon as possible thereafter.

319. Notice that the application has been received by the lodge **shall be reported, together with the names of the members recommending the applicant, in the summons for the next regular meeting of the lodge.** (1984)

320. Where an unfavourable report of a majority of the committee of inquiry with respect to an applicant is submitted to the lodge, the report must be received and adopted before the applicant is considered rejected. The Master shall thereupon declare the applicant rejected.

321. Where the applicant is rejected, either by the

receipt and adoption of an unfavourable report by the lodge, or by an unfavourable ballot, it shall be the duty of the Secretary to immediately make such report by updating the Grand Lodge Database/System with such report. (2023)

322. No application from a rejected applicant shall be received by the same or any other lodge within twelve months from the date of rejection.

323. (a) If a **favourable** report of the Committee of Inquiry with respect to an applicant has been submitted to the lodge, and if proper **notice of ballot** stating particulars of the name, date of birth [year-month-day], occupation and residence of the applicant has been given in the lodge summons, and if a search of the Grand Lodge Database/System has provided a report that the applicant is clear on the Grand Lodge records, the ballot may be proceed with at once. **If proper notice has not been given the ballot shall stand over until the next regular meeting of the lodge, of which proper notice shall have been given.** (2023)

(b) Where objection is made after the notice of the ballot has been published, the Master shall have the right to postpone the ballot for one regular meeting only, in which case notice of the ballot shall be repeated in the summons for the next regular meeting of the lodge. (1983)

### **Masonic Bureaus**

324. Any district or districts may, by a majority vote of the lodges in the district or districts, establish a Masonic bureau. Those Masonic Bureaus in existence as at the 22nd day of July 2004 shall continue. (2004)

325. Where a Masonic Bureau has been established in a district or districts, all lodges within the district or districts shall be required to become members thereof.

(2004)

326. The Masonic Bureau shall be composed of one representative from each of the lodges in the area having concurrent jurisdiction.

327. The representative of the lodge on the Masonic Bureau shall be elected annually by open vote of the members present and voting at the election of officers of the lodge.

328. The members of the Masonic Bureau shall have power to elect officers and frame by-laws and rules for the proper governance of the Bureau and the orderly discharge of its duties.

329. A copy of all such by-laws, rules and amendments thereof shall be sent to the Grand Secretary for approval by the Grand Master.

330. The costs of administration of the Masonic Bureau shall be borne on a per capita basis by the lodges in the area where the Bureau has been established.

331. (a) Where a Masonic Bureau has been established in a district or districts, the Secretary of each lodge in the district or districts shall, upon receipt of an application for membership, immediately forward the name of the applicant together with all the information he has collected therewith to the Secretary of the Bureau. (2004)

(b) After any regular meeting of the lodge at which an application for membership is rejected, or a candidate is initiated or is affiliated, or a member of the lodge is suspended, or is granted his demission (with or without dues owing), or is restored to membership, or is reported as deceased, the Secretary of the lodge shall report forthwith to the Secretary of the Bureau,

the names of the applicants rejected, the names of candidates initiated, the names of members suspended together with a statement of the cause of suspension, the names of members demitted (with or without dues owing), the names of members restored and the names of members deceased. (1991)

(c) In addition to the requirements of Sections 331(a) and 331(b) the Secretary of each lodge shall immediately report to the Grand Secretary that an application for membership has been rejected either by ballot or by an unfavourable report. (2004)

332. The Secretary of the Bureau shall send a statement once every four months to the Secretary of each lodge of all rejections, suspensions, demissions (with dues owing), and restorations that have been reported to him. The receipt of the statement shall be reported in open lodge by the Secretary of the lodge. (1991)

333. The Secretary of the Bureau shall keep a systematic record of the information referred to in Section 331. When the Secretary of a lodge notifies the Secretary of the Bureau of an application for membership, the latter shall check the records of the Bureau and forthwith inform the Secretary of the lodge whether the applicant is, either clear on the records of the Bureau, or has been rejected by a lodge within the preceding twelve months.

334. (a) In a district or districts where there has not been a Masonic Bureau established, each Secretary of a lodge shall report forthwith to the Secretaries of the other lodges, the names of any applicants rejected, the names of members suspended together with a statement of the cause of suspension, the names of members demitted (with or without dues owing) and the names of members restored. The receipt of the

statement shall be reported in open lodge by the Secretary of the lodge.

(b) In addition to the requirements of Section 334(a) the Secretary of each lodge shall report forthwith to the Grand Secretary the names of applicants who have been rejected either by ballot or by an unfavourable report. (2004)

### **Balloting for Applicants**

335. Balloting shall be the last order of business except the conferring of degrees.

336. It shall be the duty of the Master before the ballot is taken to satisfy himself that he has the jurisdiction to initiate the applicant.

337. When the order of balloting is reached, the Master shall direct the Junior Warden to notify members of the lodge in the ante-room that a ballot is about to be taken. After all members desirous of balloting have entered, the Master shall inform all members of the particulars of each applicant. No brother shall be admitted or allowed to retire during the balloting, except to receive the ballot of the Tyler, who shall be informed by the Master of the purpose of the ballot.

338. There shall be a sufficient number of white and black balls so that each member of the lodge shall be supplied with a white and a black ball. When the Master issues the instructions to distribute the ballots, the Deacons shall give to each member entitled to vote one white and one black ball.

339. The lodge or temple board shall have procured two ballot boxes of a design and colours approved by Grand Lodge. None except such boxes shall be used in collecting the ballots. (1981)

340. The Master shall inquire if each member present has been supplied with one white and one black ball.

341. Before ordering the ballots to be collected, the Master and Wardens shall examine the white box to see that no black balls are in it.

342. The Master shall then order the Deacons to collect the ballots, whereupon the Senior Deacon shall proceed to do so with the white box, with the drawer closed, in which each member shall deposit a white ball if he wishes to vote for the applicant, or a black ball if he wishes to vote against him. The Junior Deacon shall follow with a black box, with the drawer closed, and collect the reserved ballots.

343. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 342, the Master may require the members to ballot at the altar.

344. All members of the lodge present when the ballot is taken must ballot.

345. When the Master shall have satisfied himself that all members have balloted, he shall declare the ballot closed. The Senior Deacon shall present the white box, first to the Junior Warden, then to the Senior Warden, then to the Master for inspection. After the inspection, he shall place the ballot box upon the altar for inspection by any member who wishes to examine the ballot. The Master shall then ask the Wardens whether they find the ballot favourable or unfavourable to the applicant, and the Master shall then state how he finds the ballot.

346. In the event of a favourable ballot the Master shall declare the applicant accepted as a candidate for initiation.

347. In the event of an unfavourable ballot on any

applicant for initiation, the Master may order a second ballot, if he has not already declared the applicant rejected.

348. By unanimous consent, a collective ballot may be passed for two or more applicants at the same time; but, if unfavourable, the ballot shall be taken again for each applicant separately.

349. No balloting shall be declared favourable to the applicant if two or more black balls appear against him. A lodge, except one under dispensation may, however, by by-law, require the unanimous consent of the members present.

350. A second ballot for the acceptance of an applicant cannot be demanded by any brother as a right.

351. The Master shall not cause a ballot to be taken a third time for the acceptance of an applicant for initiation or affiliation; provided, however, that a collective ballot shall not be considered as one of the ballots.

352. After the Master has declared the results of the ballot, a further ballot cannot be taken.

353. A brother shall not speak in favour of or against the applicant before the ballot is passed.

354. The Master has no authority to demand of any brother his reasons for disapproving of any applicant or for voting against him.

355. No brother shall violate the secrecy of the ballot by stating how he voted or intended to vote (except as provided for under Masonic Trials), or by endeavouring to ascertain how a brother voted, or by revealing a brother's vote.

356. If a candidate is not initiated within six months

after his acceptance, another application and ballot shall be required. In computing the time aforesaid, the months that the lodge is in recess in accordance with its by-laws shall not be counted. In special cases, however, the Grand Master may extend the said period for an additional term not exceeding six months.

357. If a candidate who has been balloted for and accepted refuses to be properly prepared, the initiation fee shall be returned.

### **Application for Affiliation**

358. An application for affiliation shall be in accordance with prescribed Form 7 and signed by the applicant. This shall be the only document which the applicant shall be required to sign for his Application for Affiliation. Affiliation fee must accompany the Form. (1998)

359. An application must be recommended by two members of the lodge, both of whom must be Master Masons in good standing.

360. A lodge dues card or other evidence of membership, a Certificate of Demission, or a Certificate of Standing must accompany the application for affiliation.

361. An application for affiliation shall not be entertained unless the applicant has resided for a period of at least one year in the Province of Ontario immediately prior to the date of his application. (1981)

362. The procedure for processing an application for affiliation shall, so far as applicable, be the same as for an application for initiation except that notifications in the lodge summons shall contain the name and number of the lodge of the applicant. (1981)

363. An applicant for affiliation including an Entered

Apprentice or Fellowcraft Mason may make application provided that he is of the full age of twenty-one years at the time of signing his application.

364. The procedure for balloting on an application for affiliation shall, so far as applicable, be the same as for an application for initiation.

365. A Past Master of a lodge under this Grand Lodge who has been registered in the books of Grand Lodge, or a Past Master of a Grand Lodge recognized by this Grand Lodge is entitled to his rank as a Past Master as from the date of affiliation, in any lodge with which he may affiliate.

366. A Brother who has been suspended or who has demitted (dues owing) must have been restored by his lodge before he can apply for affiliation.

367. When a lodge has ceased to exist, any member thereof shall be eligible to affiliate with another lodge on producing a Certificate of Standing issued by the Grand Secretary.

368. An applicant for affiliation, who has been rejected, may apply again to the same or any other lodge without waiting for any specified time.

### **Initiation and Advancement of a Candidate**

369. Where objection is made to the initiation of a candidate after he has been balloted for and accepted, it shall be the duty of the Master to investigate the objection, and if he finds the same well founded, he shall not initiate such candidate until such objection is removed.

370. A candidate must receive his first degree in the lodge in which his application has been accepted, unless in case of urgent necessity, of which the Grand Master shall be the sole judge.

371. Every newly initiated candidate shall be presented with a *current* copy of the Book of Constitution and a copy of the by-laws of the lodge. He shall be required to sign the by-laws of the lodge as evidence of his willingness to obey the same. (1994)

372. No lodge shall initiate an applicant earlier than the next meeting of the lodge (regular or emergent) following his having been balloted for and accepted. (1988)

373. No lodge shall confer more than five degrees in one day except by dispensation of the Grand Master. (1983)

374. Candidates must be taken separately up to and inclusive of:

(a) the charge in the N.E. angle in the Entered Apprentice degree;

(b) the obligation and explanation of the altered position of the L's in the Fellowcraft degree; and (1981)

(c) the B.M. star in the Master Mason degree.

375. Where objection is made to the advancement of a brother, any member of the lodge may require that such objection be placed in the form of a charge and if not so placed at the next regular meeting of the lodge, the objection shall be of no effect.

376. Every candidate initiated in or affiliated with a lodge becomes a member thereof from the date of his initiation or affiliation, and is liable for the payment of lodge dues whether or not he has signed the by-laws of the lodge.

377. No brother shall be advanced to a higher degree until he has proved his proficiency in the former

degree in open lodge. The examination of a Master Mason to prove his proficiency shall be held in the Master Mason degree in open lodge.

378. No lodge shall make a Mason for a lesser fee than One Hundred Dollars over the cost of items received by, or paid on behalf of the candidate. Such items include but are not limited to an apron, bible, books, booklets, Grand Lodge fees. No lodge shall remit or postpone the payment of any part of this sum. (2006)

379. Every lodge shall register with the Grand Secretary the names of the members initiated or affiliated therein.

380. Every initiated brother upon being made a Master Mason shall be entitled to a Grand Lodge certificate, and the lodge shall procure and pay for such certificate.

381. Should the lodge neglect to register the name of an initiated or affiliated brother on being made a Master Mason with the Grand Secretary, such brother may apply to the Grand Secretary who, on proof being produced that he has paid the full fee of his lodge, shall give him a certificate which shall entitle him to enjoy the full privileges of the Craft. The offending lodge shall be reported to Grand Lodge and shall be proceeded against for neglecting to make the proper return and for detaining moneys which are the property of Grand Lodge.

382. No higher degree in Masonry shall be conferred on any brother at a shorter interval than four weeks from the date of receiving a previous degree, except under dispensation from the Grand Master.

383. (Deleted 2004)

## PART IIA – LODGES OF RESEARCH

383A. (1990)

(a) (i) Lodges for the purpose of masonic study and conducting research in masonic and related matters may be formed with the consent of the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario.

(ii) Every application for a dispensation to form a research lodge shall be made by petition, on a form obtainable from the Grand Secretary, and shall be signed by seven or more master masons resident in this Jurisdiction and members in good standing of lodges on the register of this Grand Lodge. Each petitioner shall designate his masonic rank and the name and number of his lodge next to his signature.

(iii) The petition shall be returned to the Grand Secretary who shall refer it to the Grand Master.

(iv) A certificate of good standing of each petitioner shall be forwarded with the petition to the Grand Secretary.

(b) A research Lodge that has been working under the dispensation of the Grand Master for not less than six months may petition for the granting of a warrant. (2022)

(c) Upon the presentation of a petition for the granting of a warrant, supported by a recommendation of the Grand Master and the Board of General Purposes and a satisfactory report on the books and records by the Grand Secretary, Grand Lodge may grant the issue of a warrant to the petitioning lodge and assign it such name and number on the register of Grand Lodge as shall be deemed proper. The petitioning lodge shall be duly constituted as soon as convenient by the Grand Master or a representative appointed by him for that

purpose. (2022)

(d) A research lodge under dispensation may be represented in Grand Lodge at the Annual Communication at which the granting of a warrant is sought. (2022)

(e) A warrant for a research lodge shall not be granted until there is furnished by the Deputy Grand Master a certificate to the effect that the lodge which has been working under dispensation has made arrangements for the use of suitable lodge premises within the jurisdiction and has available for its use proper furniture and regalia.

(f) Only the names of brethren who have signed the petition for a research lodge and who have submitted the required certificates of good standing in lodges in this jurisdiction shall be entered upon the warrant as charter members.

(g) Research lodges shall report to the Grand Master, or to such other Grand Lodge officer as may be delegated by the Grand Master, through the office of the Grand Secretary, and shall not be assigned to any particular masonic district in this Jurisdiction. Sections 153, 154, 207, 210, 275 and 365 of the Constitution, and other provisions thereof not consistent with Part IIA, shall not apply to research lodges.

(h) The Grand Secretary shall provide, on payment of the proper fee, a certified copy of a warrant of a research lodge, properly signed and sealed, and preferably of a reduced size convenient for transporting.

(i) (i) Research lodges shall not initiate, pass or raise candidates nor shall they exemplify parts or all of any degree of Craft Masonry.

(ii) Research lodges are required to obtain dispensation from Grand Lodge, through the Grand Secretary, when holding any regular meetings at a place other than that designated in their bylaws.

(iii) No business other than that of receiving research reports shall be transacted at any meeting of a research lodge unless at least seven members of the lodge are present.

(iv) Members of a research lodge are not eligible, as such, to register or vote at any communication of Grand Lodge.

(v) Research lodges are required to pay annual dues and other relevant fees to Grand Lodge in the same manner and amount as regular lodges.

(j) (i) The officers of a research lodge shall be elected, installed and invested at a time and place specified in the bylaws of the research lodge.

(ii) In order to qualify for the office of Master or Wardens in a research lodge the member shall hold the rank of Past Master in a regular lodge.

(iii) The officers of a research lodge shall not be entitled by virtue of such office to membership in a Masters' and Wardens' Association or Secretaries' Association or other similar association.

(k) (i) A Master Mason in good standing in any regular lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario shall be eligible for membership in a research lodge.

(ii) A petition for membership in a research lodge shall bear the endorsement of two members of the lodge and shall be submitted to the Secretary of the research lodge along with a certificate of good standing in a regular lodge in the jurisdiction.

(iii) Membership in a research lodge shall not be deemed to be membership in a regular lodge as required in the Constitution of this Grand Lodge.

(l) (i) Research lodges may admit, as subscribing members, those who desire to be aware of and support the progress of masonic research in Ontario but do not desire full membership. Subscribing members shall be entitled to such rights as the bylaws of the research lodge prescribe but shall be entitled to attend meetings of the research lodge as visitors only.

(ii) No ballots shall be required for admission to a research lodge as a subscribing member.

(m) All members of a research lodge must maintain active membership in good standing in a regular lodge of this Grand Lodge. Membership in a research lodge only shall not qualify a mason to continue membership in good standing of this Grand Lodge.

(n) In this Part IIA "regular lodge" means a lodge regularly constituted under Part I of this Constitution to award and exemplify degrees in Craft Masonry.

(o) The existence and proper institution of Heritage Lodge No. 730, G.R.C. is hereby acknowledged. Heritage Lodge shall be and is hereby designated a research lodge under Part IIA and is subject to all the provisions of this part.

### PART III – REGALIA AND INSIGNIA

384. (a) The Grand Lodge recognizes and adopts the usage of the Lewis Jewel in our jurisdiction, which can be worn by a “Lewis”, defined Masonically as a member whose father/stepfather is a Mason in good standing or was in good standing at the time of his demise. The Lewis Jewel shall be metal and gold-finished. The overall length of the jewel shall not be more than 82 mm, consisting of two bars 11 mm in height by 38 mm in width, connected by chain, with a tapering, truncated rectangular piece representing the “Lewis”, having a rectangular base of 12 mm by 4 mm, a rectangular top of 7 mm by 2 mm and a height of 17 mm, suspended below the lower bar, and connected by two chains through an oval ring affixed to the top of the “Lewis”. Engraved on the upper bar shall be the Masonic rank, name and date of Initiation of the father/stepfather, with similar information on the son engraved on the lower bar. The reverse side of the upper bar shall have a mounting pin with security clasp.

(b) The Grand Master’s Award for Distinguished Service shall consist of a collar and medal. The collar shall be 38 mm in width throughout, of garter blue corded moiré ribbon, consisting of two pieces, each 425 mm in length. The top of each piece of ribbon shall have a piece of Velcro attached to ensure secure closure. A small tuck shall be sewed in the ribbon 130 mm from the top end to provide a bend in the collar to enable fitting around the wearer’s neck. The bottom ends shall be sewed together to form triangle and shall have a gold-finished metal fastener at the point to which the medal shall be attached. This triangular point shall have sewed on the backside a piece of firm material such as leather to provide sufficient stiffness to the lower end of the collar. The medal shall be metal,

gold-finished and consist of a round, two-sided medal, with a connector eye incorporated in the casting at the top. The outside diameter of the circle shall be 38 mm and the inside diameter on the obverse side shall be 29 mm. The circumference between the two circle on the obverse side shall be engraved or embossed with the following words: **GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF CANADA**; the letters shall be separated at the base by a "star". The circumference of the inner circle shall consist of a series of dashes, each 4 mm in length, separated by a space of 2 mm. The inner circle shall be engraved or embossed with the Coat of Arms of Grand Lodge. The reverse side shall be engraved or embossed as follows: the following words aced around the top portion of the circumference: **GRAND MASTER'S AWARD** and beneath on three horizontal lines **FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE**. On the lower half, two plain bars, one under the other, the top of the upper bar 33 mm in width and the bottom of upper bar 27 mm, 5 mm in height, suitable for engraving the name of the recipient; the top of the lower bar 27 mm in width and the bottom of lower bar 22 mm, 5 mm in height, suitable for engraving the year of receipt, with the end of each bar having the shape of a scroll curling upwards. A metal gold-finished ring shall link the connector eye on the jewel to the metal fastener on the collar. (2014)

(c) No jewels or medals shall be worn in a lodge other than those specified for the officers, except: a single Past Master's jewel, the Veteran Jubilee Medal, a Lewis Jewel, a Royal Arch Companion jewel, a Scottish Rite Member jewel, and a jewel or medal presented by any Grand Lodge recognized by this jurisdiction, each worn on the left chest outward in the preceding sequence; the William Mercer Wilson Medal; the Grand Master's Award for Distinguished Service; the

Maple Leaf pin with the square and compasses; and any other jewel, medal, or button specifically designed and/or authorized by Grand Lodge, and any lodge insignia approved by the Grand Master. (2022)

(d) At any lodge which holds a Remembrance Service before, during, or after their November meeting, all brethren may wear military, or civil orders, decorations, or medals to which they are entitled, and the traditional poppy, in memoriam of those who have paid the supreme sacrifice and in recognition of honourable and valuable service to the Crown and Canada. (2002)

385. No regalia other than that of a Craft Mason shall be worn in a Craft lodge or at a Craft lodge function.

386. Except for the conferring of degrees in a Royal Arch Chapter, at assemblies of the Royal Order of Scotland or attending constituted Masonic youth organization meetings, Craft lodge regalia shall not be worn at meetings of other bodies or organizations. Such prohibition shall not apply in instances of attendance of the Grand Master or his designate within the Province of Ontario at Grand Communications of other Masonic or Masonic related bodies. (2022)

### **Entered Apprentice Apron**

387. (a) The apron shall be 305 mm in width and 305 mm in depth, with the triangular flap 114 mm in depth at the centre.

(b) The apron and flap shall consist of a white genuine lambskin, and both apron and flap shall be lined with white cloth material. The apron and flap shall be bound together along the top edge with 16 or 22 mm white tape, the extended ends of which tape shall form the ties of the apron. The ties shall be attached in such manner that when the apron is worn,

the ties shall be tied together immediately adjacent to the right upper corner of the apron. The tie on the right hand side of the apron shall be of such length that the end of the tie shall be approximately flush with the bottom edge of the apron.

### **Fellowcraft Apron**

388. The apron shall be of the same specifications as those for the Entered Apprentice apron with the exception that two rosettes of 25 mm sky blue corded moiré ribbon with centres of silver-finished (silver, chromium, or rhodium plate) metal buttons shall be attached. Each rosette shall consist of not less than nineteen pleats and shall be not more than 57 mm in diameter.

### **Master Mason Apron**

389. (a) The apron shall be 406 mm in width and 356 mm in depth with the triangular flap 165 mm in depth at the centre.

(b) The apron shall consist of a white genuine neutralized lambskin, having a border around the two sides and bottom of 51 mm sky blue corded moiré ribbon. The flap shall be of the same lambskin and shall have a border around the bottom of 38 mm sky blue corded moiré ribbon. The flap shall be lined with either white or sky blue material, but the apron shall be lined only in heavy quality sky blue taffeta, bengaline, satin, or similar material of rich appearance. The apron and flap shall both have an interlining the full size of the apron and flap.

(c) Two metallic, silver-finished chain tassels, suspended from 51 mm sky blue corded moiré ribbon lined with white material, shall be attached. The ribbon shall extend to the bottom of the tassels. The tassels themselves shall be composed of a bar top from which

are suspended seven separate chains.

(d) Three rosettes of 25 mm sky blue corded moiré ribbon, with centres of silver-finished metal buttons bearing the design of the "G" within the square and compasses united, shall be attached. Each rosette shall consist of not less than nineteen pleats, and shall be not more than 57 mm in diameter.

(e) The apron and flap shall be bound together along the top edge with 38 mm sky blue corded moiré ribbon, with approximately 16 mm of this ribbon showing on the front of the apron.

(f) A sky blue web belt, 32 mm in width, of rich appearing material shall be attached to the top edge of the apron and enclosed by the top edge ribbon binding. The belt shall be adjustable and joined together at the left upper corner of the apron by a silver-finished serpent fastener.

(g) No emblem or ornamentation, other than as specified in the general specifications, shall be used on any apron worn in any Craft lodge, except that: (1988)

(i) Lodge officers may have the emblem of their office in sky blue, in the centre of the apron, and

(ii) A crest designating a two hundred year old lodge, as set out in Section 394.1.

### **Master and Past Master Apron**

390. The apron shall be the same specifications as those for the Master Mason apron with the exception that the three rosettes shall be replaced by three metallic, silver-finished emblems. These emblems shall consist of perpendicular lines upon horizontal lines, thereby forming three sets of two right angles. The length of the horizontal lines shall be 63.5 mm and

of the perpendicular lines 25.4 mm. (1986)

### **Collar of Master**

391. (a) The collar shall be a metallic silver-finished chain mounted upon 51 mm wide sky blue corded moiré ribbon lined with blue cloth material, and having two bows of 25 mm sky blue corded moiré ribbon mounted over the chain.

(b) The bows shall be attached to the collar between the fourth and fifth medallions on each side, counting from, but not including the centre medallion to which the jewel of office is attached.

(c) The outside diameter of the chain collar shall be not more than 381 mm and not less than 356 mm. The chain collar medallions shall consists of:

- (i) eight five-pointed stars, each within a circular wreath, to one of which medallions the jewel shall be attached; and
- (ii) eight snake emblems with the wreath and snake emblems joined together alternately in a circle with the necessary metallic chain links between.

(d) Another chain of similar material and not exceeding 350 mm in length and 4 mm in width or diameter may be attached to the collar in the area of each bow of the collar. (1994)

### **Collar of Officer**

392. (a) The collar shall be of sky blue corded moire ribbon and 102 mm in width throughout. The centre seam at the bottom of the collar shall be covered with 13 mm silver braid. The collar shall be lined with sky blue cloth material and shall have a silver-finished metal fastener at the point to which the jewel of office

shall be attached. The interlining of the collar shall be of sufficient stiffness so that the collar will not pucker or wrinkle unduly, nor become limp.

(b) The collar of the Immediate Past Master shall be that of an Officer as described in Section 392(a) or, if provided in the Lodge By-Laws, it may be a metallic finished chain similar to that of the Master as described in Sections 391 and 394 (g). (2000)

### **Jewels of Master and Officers**

393. All jewels shall be metal, silver-finished and suspended from the collar by a silver-finished metal fastener. The jewels of the respective officers are as follows:

Master	– the Square
Immediate Past Master	– Square to which is appended the engraved diagram of the 47th Problem of the first Book of Euclid
Senior Warden	– the Level
Junior Warden	– the Plumb Rule
Chaplain	– the Book on a Triangle
Treasurer	– the Crossed Keys
Secretary	– the Crossed Pens
Assistant Secretary	– the Crossed Pens with the word “Assistant”
Deacons	– the Dove bearing an olive branch in its beak
Director of Ceremonies	– the Crossed Rods
Stewards	– the Cornucopia
Organist	– the Lyre
Inner Guard	– the crossed Swords
Tyler	– the Sword
Historian	– the Scroll surmounted by a Torch

## One Hundred Year Lodge

394. A lodge that has requested recognition of having attained one hundred years of active service, after having received the written permission of the Grand Master, is entitled, as a special mark of distinction, to have the regalia and insignia of its members ornamented as follows: (1983)

- (a) the sky blue ribbon border and flap of the Master Mason apron and Installed Master apron edged on the inside and outside edges with 13 mm wide gold braid with the braid overlaid on the ribbon;
- (b) the chain tassels and rosette buttons of the Master Mason apron in gold-finish instead of silver-finish;
- (c) the emblem of office on the aprons of the officers embroidered in gold metallic instead of sky blue silk;
- (d) the chain tassels and levels of the Installed Master apron in gold-finish instead of silver-finish;
- (e) the jewels of the officers in gold-finish instead of silver-finish;
- (f) edgings of 13 mm wide gold braid on the inside and outside edges of the collars of the officers and the centre seam at the bottom of the collar covered in gold braid instead of silver braid; and
- (g) the chain collar of the Master in gold-finish instead of silver-finish.

## Two Hundred Year Old Lodge

(1988)

394.1 A lodge which has attained its two hundredth year of continuous and active service and has requested recognition accordingly to the Grand Master through the office of the Grand Secretary, after having

received the written permission of the Grand Master shall be entitled, as a special mark of distinction, to have the aprons (Master Mason and Installed Master) of its members ornamented with a crest affixed to the lambskin portion of the aprons, centered immediately below the flap thereof, which conforms to the following specifications.

- (a) The crest shall be 9 cm in diameter with a sky blue embroidery;
- (b) The name and number of the lodge shall appear within the outer rim and the inner rim at the top of the crest and the letters "G.R.C." shall appear within the outer rim and the inner rim at the bottom of the crest, and
- (c) Two columns stylized to represent the Roman numeral II shall appear in the centre of the crest. The Pillars shall be joined together by a scroll on which appears the year the lodge was established;
- (d) The form of the crest shall be as set forth in Form 10.

### **Dress Regalia of Very Worshipful Grand Lodge Officers Present and Past**

395. The dress regalia of Very Worshipful Grand Lodge Officers shall consist of an apron and a collar with a jewel of office.

- (a) Apron
  - (i) The Apron shall be 457 mm in width and 406 mm in depth, not including the fringe. The triangular flap shall be 114 mm in depth at the centre, not including the fringe.
  - (ii) The apron shall consist of a white genuine neutralized lambskin having a border around

the two sides and bottom of garter blue corded silk ribbon edged on the inside and outside edges with 13 mm gold braid, so that 83 mm of ribbon shall show between the gold edgings. The flap shall be of garter blue silk ribbon, edged on all sides with 13 mm gold braid. The apron and flap shall be lined with garter blue material and shall be fringed with 25 mm gold metallic English twisted fringe on the sides and bottom. They shall be bound together along the top edge with 38 mm garter blue corded silk ribbon. A pocket shall be incorporated in the lining. (1983)

- (iii) Two metallic gold-finished chain tassels, suspended from 51 mm wide garter blue corded silk ribbon lined with garter blue cloth material, shall be attached. The ribbon shall extend to the bottom of the tassels. The tassels themselves shall each be composed of a bar top from which are suspended seven separate chains.
- (iv) Three metallic gold-finished emblems shall be attached, and the two emblems on the lambskin shall be mounted on a garter blue background, the edges of which background shall show very slightly beyond the edges of the emblems. Embroidered emblems of gold metallics may be used, if desired, in which case no garter blue background is required. (2002)
- (v) A garter blue web belt, 32 mm in width, of rich appearing material shall be attached to the top edge of the apron and enclosed by the top edge binding. The belt shall be adjustable and joined together at the left upper corner of the apron by a gold-finished serpent

fastener.

- (vi) The emblem of office which is the same as the device on the jewel shall be embroidered on the lambskin in gold metallics and highlighted with garter blue silk within a circle embroidered in gold metallics. The outside diameter of the circle shall be 114 mm and the inside diameter of the circle shall be 98 mm. In the case of Assistant Very Worshipful Grand Lodge officers the word "Assistant" shall be added and shall be placed below the emblem.
- (vii) The Standards of the Grand Standard Bearers and Coat of Arms of the Grand Pursuivant shall be embroidered in silks of the colours of the Arms of Grand Lodge.
- (viii) There shall be no ornamentation on the border.

(b) Collar

- (i) The collar shall be 102 mm in width throughout, of garter blue corded silk ribbon edged on the inside and outside edges with 13 mm gold braid, so that 76 mm of ribbon shall show between the gold edgings. In addition, the centre seam at the bottom of the collar shall be covered with 13 mm gold braid.
- (ii) The collar shall be lined with garter blue cloth material and shall have a gold-finished metal fastener at the point to which the jewel of office shall be attached. The interlining of the collar shall be of sufficient stiffness so that the collar will not pucker or wrinkle unduly nor become limp.

- (iii) There shall be no ornamentation on the collar.

**Dress Jewels of Very Worshipful Grand Lodge Officers Present and Past**

396. (a) The jewels shall be metal, gold-finished and suspended from the collar. The outside diameter of the circle of the jewel shall be 70 mm and the inside diameter shall be 51 mm.

(b) The following jewels shall have the emblem of office within a circle on which is engraved or embossed a wreath composed of wheat and acacia: (2000)

- (i) Grand Deacons  
– the Dove bearing an olive branch in its beak
- (ii) Grand Superintendent of Works  
– the Protractor
- (iii) Grand Sword Bearer  
– the Crossed Swords
- (iv) Grand Organist  
– the Lyre
- (v) Grand Pursuivant  
– the Crossed Sword and Rod, surmounted by the shield of the Coat of Arms of Grand Lodge.
- (vi) Grand Steward  
– the Cornucopia between the legs of the compasses extended, surmounting a glory, all within a circle on which is engraved or embossed “Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Canada in the Province of Ontario”
- (vii) Grand Standard Bearer

- the two Standards of the Arms of Grand Lodge, flowing from two crossed staves which are tied together with a ribbon

(viii) Grand Tyler

- the Sword with the circle engraved or embossed with the words “Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Canada in the Province of Ontario,” instead of the wreath composed of wheat and acacia

(ix) Grand Historian

- the Scroll surmounted by a Torch

(x) Grand Librarian

- the Scroll surmounted by a stylized lamp of learning (2009)

(xi) Grand Archivist

- the Scroll surmounted by a treasure chest, representing a ‘lodge box’ (2009)

(xii) Grand Piper

- the Bagpipes (1997)

(c) The following jewels shall be the same as the Grand Lodge officers they assist except the circle shall be engraved or embossed with the word “Assistant” instead of the wreath composed of wheat and acacia:

(i) Assistant Grand Chaplain

- the Book on a Triangle

(ii) Assistant Grand Secretary

- the Crossed Pens

(iii) Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

- the Crossed Rods

(iv) Assistant Grand Organist

– the Lyre

### **Undress Regalia of Very Worshipful Grand Lodge Officers Present and Past**

397. The undress regalia of Very Worshipful Grand Lodge Officers shall consist of an apron and collar with a jewel of office.

(a) Apron

- (i) The apron shall be 457 mm in width and 406 mm in depth. The triangular flap shall be 114 mm in depth at the centre.
- (ii) The apron shall consist of a white genuine neutralized lambskin, having a border of garter blue corded silk ribbon 102 mm in width around the two sides and bottom. The flap shall be of garter blue corded silk ribbon. The apron and flap shall be lined with garter blue cloth material, and shall be bound together along the top edge with 38 mm garter blue corded silk ribbon. A pocket shall be incorporated in the lining.
- (iii) Two metallic gold-finished chain tassels, suspended from 51 mm wide garter blue corded silk ribbon lined with garter blue material shall be attached. The ribbon shall extend to the bottom of the tassels. The tassels themselves shall each be composed of a bar top from which are suspended seven separate chains.
- (iv) Three metallic gold-finished emblems shall be attached and the two emblems on the lambskin shall be mounted on a garter blue background, the edges of which background shall show very slightly beyond the edges of

the emblems. (2002)

- (v) A garter blue web belt, 32 mm in width of rich appearing material shall be attached to the top edge of the apron and enclosed by the top edge binding. The belt shall be adjustable and joined together at the left upper corner of the apron by a gold-finished serpent fastener.
- (vi) The emblem of office which is the same as the device on the jewel shall be embroidered in garter blue silk and gold metallics within a wreath of wheat and acacia joined together at the bottom with a bow. The outside diameter of the wreath shall be 152 mm. The wheat shall have seven ears and ten leaves and the acacia shall have fifteen leaves. In the case of the Assistant Very Worshipful Grand Lodge Officers the word "Assistant" shall be added and shall be placed below the emblem.
- (vii) The Standards of the Grand Standard Bearers and the Coat of Arms of the Grand Pursuivant shall be embroidered in silks of the colours of the Arms of Grand Lodge.
- (viii) There shall be no ornamentation on the border.

(b) Collar

- (i) The collar shall be 102 mm in width throughout, of garter blue corded silk ribbon. The collar shall be lined with garter blue cloth material and shall have a gold-finished metal fastener at the point to which the jewel of office shall be attached. The interlining of the collar shall be of sufficient stiffness so that the collar will not pucker or wrinkle unduly,

nor become limp.

(ii) There shall be no ornamentation on the collar.

### **Undress Jewels of Very Worshipful Grand Lodge Officers Present and Past**

398. (a) The undress jewels shall be metal, gold-finished and suspended from the collar. They shall consist of the emblem of office within an oval wreath of wheat and acacia. The jewels shall be of open locket style, 38 mm in width, 51 mm in depth and 6 mm in thickness. The open section of the jewels shall be filled so as to provide a garter blue background for the emblem of office.

(b) The jewels of Assistant Very Worshipful Grand Lodge Officers shall be the same, but the wreath of wheat and acacia shall be omitted and the word "Assistant" shall be added at the bottom.

### **Dress Regalia of Right Worshipful Grand Lodge Officers Present and Past (except Deputy Grand Master)**

399. The dress regalia of each Right Worshipful Grand Lodge Officer shall consist of an apron, a collar with jewel of office and a pair of cuffs. The regalia of each Past Right Worshipful Grand Lodge Officer shall consist of an apron and a collar with jewel of office.

(a) Apron

(i) The apron shall be 457 mm in width and 406 mm in depth, not including the fringe. The triangular flap shall be 114 mm in depth at the centre, not including the fringe.

(ii) The apron shall consist of a white genuine neutralized lambskin having a border around

the two sides and bottom of garter blue corded silk ribbon edged on the inside and outside edges with 13 mm gold braid, so that 83 mm of ribbon shall show between the gold edgings. The flap shall be of garter blue corded silk ribbon, edged on all sides with 13 mm gold braid. The apron and flap shall be lined with garter blue material and shall be fringed with 25 mm gold metallic English twisted fringe on the sides and bottom. They shall be bound together along the top edge with 38 mm garter blue corded silk ribbon. A pocket shall be incorporated in the lining. (1983)

- (iii) Two metallic gold-finished chain tassels suspended from 51 mm wide garter blue corded silk ribbon lined with garter blue cloth material shall be attached. The ribbon shall extend to the bottom of the tassels. The tassels themselves shall each be composed of a bar top from which are suspended seven separate chains.
- (iv) Three metallic gold-finished emblems shall be attached, and the two emblems of the lambskin shall be mounted on a garter blue background, the edges of which background shall show very slightly beyond the edges of the emblems. Embroidered emblems of gold metallics may be used, if desired, in which case no garter blue background is required. (2002)
- (v) A garter blue web belt, 32 mm in width, of rich appearing material shall be attached to the top edge of the apron and enclosed by the top edge binding. The belt shall be adjustable and joined together at the left upper corner

of the apron by a gold-finished serpent fastener.

- (vi) The emblem of office which is the same as the device on the jewel shall be embroidered in gold metallics, within a wreath of wheat and acacia joined together at the bottom with a bow. The outside diameter of the wreath shall be 152 mm. The wheat shall have seven ears and ten leaves and the acacia shall have fifteen leaves.
- (vii) In the case of the District Deputy Grand Master, the name of the District and "G.R.C." shall be embroidered within the wreath.
- (viii) The border shall have a modified wreath of wheat and acacia joined together at the bottom with a bow. The wheat shall have seven ears and fourteen leaves and the acacia shall have fifteen leaves.

(b) Collar

- (i) The collar shall be 102 mm in width throughout, of garter blue corded silk ribbon edged on the inside and outside edges with 13 mm gold braid, so that 76 mm of ribbon shall show between the gold edgings. The collar shall be lined with garter blue cloth material and shall have a gold-finished metal fastener at the point to which the jewel of office shall be attached. The interlining of the collar shall be of sufficient stiffness so that the collar will not pucker or wrinkle unduly, nor become limp.
- (ii) There shall be a modified wreath of wheat and acacia joined together at the bottom with a bow embroidered in gold metallics. The

wheat shall have seven ears and ten leaves and the acacia shall have nineteen leaves.

(c) Cuffs

- (i) The cuffs shall be of garter blue corded silk ribbon, edged on all four edges with 13 mm gold braid and lined with garter blue material. A gusset of garter blue corded silk ribbon shall be inserted between the two back edges of the cuffs. The bottom edge of the cuffs shall be trimmed with 25 mm gold metallic English twisted fringe attached so that the tassels of the fringe point upward and do not hang free but are secured to the garter blue corded silk ribbon. The interlining of the cuffs shall be of sufficient stiffness so that the cuffs will not become soft or limp.
- (ii) The emblem of office which is the same as the device on the jewel shall be embroidered in gold metallics within a wreath of wheat and acacia joined together at the bottom with a bow. The outside diameter of the wreath shall be 121 mm. The wheat shall have seven ears and ten leaves and the acacia shall have fifteen leaves.
- (iii) In the case of the District Deputy Grand Master, the name of the District and "G.R.C." shall be embroidered within the wreath.

**Dress Jewels of Right Worshipful Grand Lodge Officers Present and Past (except Deputy Grand Master)**

400. The jewels shall be metal, gold-finished and suspended from the collar. For those jewels which specify a circle, the outside diameter of the circle shall

be 70 mm and the inside diameter shall be 51 mm. The circle shall be engraved or embossed with a wreath composed of wheat and acacia. The jewels of the respective officers are as follows:

- (a) District Deputy Grand Master
  - the Compasses and Square united enclosing a five-pointed Star, within a circle on which is engraved or embossed the name of the District and “G.R.C.”
- (b) Past District Deputy Grand Master
  - the Star is omitted
- (c) Grand Senior Warden
  - the Level only
- (d) Grand Junior Warden
  - the Plumb Rule only, no circle
- (e) Grand Chaplain
  - the Book on a Triangle
- (f) Grand Treasurer
  - the Crossed Keys
- (g) Grand Secretary
  - the Crossed Pens
- (h) Grand Registrar
  - the Scroll
- (i) Grand Director of Ceremonies
  - the Crossed Rods

(2000)

### **Undress Regalia of Right Worshipful Grand Lodge Officers Present and Past**

401. The undress regalia of each Right Worshipful Grand Lodge Officer shall consist of an apron and a collar with a jewel of office.

## (a) Apron

- (i) The apron shall be 457 mm in width and 406 mm in depth. The triangular flap shall be 114 mm in depth at the centre.
- (ii) The apron shall consist of a white genuine neutralized lambskin having a border of garter blue corded silk ribbon 102 mm in width around the two sides and bottom. The flap shall be of garter blue corded silk ribbon.
- (iii) The apron and flap shall be lined with garter blue cloth material, and shall be bound together along the top edge with 38 mm garter blue corded silk ribbon. A pocket shall be incorporated in the lining.
- (iv) Two metallic gold-finished chain tassels, suspended from 51 mm wide garter blue corded silk ribbon lined with garter blue material shall be attached. The ribbon shall extend to the bottom of the tassels. The tassels themselves shall each be composed of a top bar from which are suspended seven separate chains.
- (v) Three metallic gold-finished emblems shall be attached, and the two emblems on the lambskin shall be mounted on a garter blue background, the edges of which background shall show very slightly beyond the edges of the emblems. (2002)
- (vi) A garter blue web belt, 32 mm in width of rich appearing material shall be attached to the top edge of the apron and enclosed by the top edge binding. The belt shall be adjustable and joined together at the left upper corner of the apron by a gold-finished serpent

fastener.

- (vii) The emblem of office which is the same as the device of the jewel shall be embroidered in garter blue silk and gold metallics within a wreath of wheat and acacia joined together at the bottom with a bow. The outside diameter of the wreath shall be 152 mm. The wheat shall have seven ears and ten leaves and the acacia shall have fifteen leaves.
- (viii) In the case of the District Deputy Grand Master, the wreath shall be replaced with a double circle embroidered on gold metallics, with the name of the District and "G.R.C." embroidered in garter blue silk between the two circles. The outside and the inside diameters of the outer circles shall be 121 mm and 108 mm respectively. The outside and the inside shall be 76 mm and 64 mm respectively.
- (ix) There shall be no ornamentation on the border.

(b) Collar

- (i) The collar shall be 102 mm in width throughout, of garter blue corded silk ribbon. The centre seam at the bottom of the collar shall be covered with 13 mm gold braid, and a convex button 22 mm in diameter, covered with basket weave gold metallics, shall be placed on the gold braid, the centre of the button to be 140 mm up from the lower point of the collar.
- (ii) The collar shall be lined with garter blue cloth material and shall have a gold-finished metal fastener at the point to which the jewel of

office shall be attached. The interlining of the collar shall be of sufficient stiffness so that the collar will not pucker or wrinkle unduly, nor become limp.

- (iii) There shall be no ornamentation on the collar.

### **Undress Jewels of Right Worshipful Grand Lodge Officers Present and Past**

402. The undress jewels shall be metal, gold-finished and suspended from the collar. They shall consist of the emblem of office within an oval wreath of wheat and acacia. The jewels shall be of open locket style, 38 mm in width, 51 mm in depth and 6 mm in thickness. The open section of the jewels shall be filled so as to provide a garter blue background for the emblems of office.

### **Dress Regalia of Deputy Grand Master Present and Past**

403. The dress regalia of the Deputy Grand Master shall consist of an apron, a collar and cuffs. The dress regalia of a Past Deputy Grand Master shall consist of an apron and collar. The regalia shall be the same general specifications as for other Right Worshipful Grand Lodge Officers.

- (a) Apron

The border of the apron shall have lotus flowers on the two sides and bottom with the pomegranate at each lower corner embroidered in gold metallics.

- (b) Collar

The collar shall be a chain of gold or metal gilt over a garter blue ribbon designated by seven

stars spaced alternately with seven “G.R.C.s” and six snake medallions and shall have a gold-finished metal fastener.

Another chain of similar material and not exceeding 350 mm in length and 4 mm in width or diameter may be attached to the midpoint of each side of the collar. (1994)

### **Dress Jewel of Deputy Grand Master Present and Past**

404. The dress jewel shall be metal, gold-finished and suspended from the collar. The emblem of office shall be the compasses and square united with a five-pointed star in the centre for the Deputy Grand Master. The dress jewel of a Past Deputy Grand Master shall be similar, without the star.

### **Dress Regalia of Grand Master Present and Past**

405. The dress regalia of the Grand Master shall consist of an apron, a collar and cuffs. The dress regalia of a Past Grand Master shall consist of an apron and a collar. The regalia shall be the same general specifications as for the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge Officers.

#### **(a) Apron**

The lambskin of the apron shall have the sun in splendor embroidered in gold metallics in the centre. The border of the apron shall have the pomegranate on each side, the lotus flowers along the bottom and seven-eared wheat at each lower corner embroidered in gold metallics. The flap shall have two pomegranates, two lotus flowers and three seven-eared wheat embroidered in gold metallics.

#### **(b) Collar**

The collar shall be a chain of gold or metal gilt over a garter blue ribbon designated by nine stars spaced alternately with six "G.R.C.s" and five snake medallions and shall have a gold-finished metal fastener.

Another chain of similar material and not exceeding 350 mm in length and 4 mm in width or diameter may be attached to the midpoint of each side of the collar. (1994)

(c) Cuffs

The wreath shall be omitted.

### **Dress Jewel of Grand Master Present and Past**

406. The dress jewel shall be metal, gold-finished and suspended from the collar. The emblem of the jewel shall be the compasses extended to 45 degrees, with the segment of a circle at the points and a gold plate included on which is to be represented an eye within a triangle, both irradiated. The dress jewel of a Past Grand Master shall be similar without the gold plate.

### **Undress Regalia of Grand Master Present and Past**

407. (a) The undress regalia shall consist of an apron and a collar which shall be the same general specifications as for the undress regalia of a Right Worshipful Grand Lodge Officer.

(b) The lambskin of the apron shall have the sun in splendor embroidered in garter blue silk and gold metallics. The wreath shall be omitted.

### **Undress Jewel of Grand Master Present and Past**

408. The undress jewel shall be the same general specifications as for the undress jewel for a Right Worshipful Grand Lodge Officer. The emblem of office shall be the same specifications as for the dress jewel

of a Grand Master – Present and Past.

**PART IV**  
**RULES RESPECTING TRIALS FOR**  
**MASONIC OFFENCES**

**Masonic Conduct**

409. A member of the Masonic Order accepts the responsibility for maintaining a mode of life and conduct that is not only above reproach but is an example of good behaviour within the community. (2001)

**Masonic Offences**

410. A Masonic offence is the wilful violation of the laws, usages and customs of Masonry or of Masonic obligation and in particular, and without limiting the generality of the foregoing, when wilfully committed, the following are specific Masonic offences:

- (a) To make a declaration of or profess atheism;
- (b) To show contempt for God or religion;
- (c) To violate the Constitution, laws, edicts, rules or regulations of Grand Lodge;
- (d) To violate the by-laws of any lodge thereof of which he is a member;
- (e) To disobey or show disrespect for Masonic authority;
- (f) To express contempt for Masonry;
- (g) To violate any of the several Masonic obligations, other injunctions of the ritual or any of the landmarks of Masonry;
- (h) To violate the secrecy of the ballot, or make any improper revelation of any other proceeding or ceremony of Grand Lodge or of a constituent

lodge;

- (i) To countenance an imposter or hold Masonic communion with a clandestine Mason or with an irregular lodge;
- (j) To unduly solicit a candidate for Masonry;
- (k) To use a Masonic emblem for any improper purpose;
- (l) To wrong a brother Mason by fraud or otherwise;
- (m) To commit any offence of a criminal or quasi criminal nature involving a violation of moral conduct which would shock the conscience of a Mason;
- (n) To commit adultery or engage in any other sexual immorality;
- (o) To commit an act of cruelty to his wife or child.

### **Certificate of Severance**

410.1

(2007)

(a) A member against whom a charge of unmasonic conduct is pending or proceedings are ongoing pursuant to Part IV of the Constitution may, at any stage of any proceeding, make a request in writing including an acknowledgment that he is bound by Section 425(b) relating to Restoration after Suspension and without giving reasons, addressed to the Secretary of the lodge in which the charge is pending or the proceeding is ongoing, that a Certificate of Severance be issued to him. Upon the receipt of the request, the Secretary shall forthwith transmit the request to the Grand Secretary. The Grand Secretary shall, upon receipt of the request and upon written direction from the Chairman of the Committee on Discipline, issue a Certificate of Severance in a form prescribed by Grand

Lodge.

(b) The request for and the acceptance of the Certificate of Severance shall not in any manner be construed as an admission of guilt to a Masonic charge.

(c) A member to whom a Certificate of Severance has been granted shall for all purposes be considered to have been indefinitely suspended from all lodges of which he is a member in this Grand Jurisdiction.

(d) The sections of the Constitution relating to restoration after indefinite suspension shall apply, with the necessary changes, to restoration after a Certificate of Severance has been granted.

(e) Upon the granting of a Certificate of Severance all complaints alleging a Masonic offence shall automatically be stayed and all documents shall be forwarded to the Grand Secretary for review by the Discipline Committee. (2001)

(f) Where a Certificate of Severance has been granted, the Secretary of the lodge in which the complaint is pending shall record the same in the lodge records and shall advise the Masonic Bureau of the district. If there is no Masonic Bureau in the District the matter shall be reported in writing to the Secretary of each lodge in the district.

## **Complaint**

411.(a) A complaint against any Mason within the jurisdiction of Grand Lodge shall be in writing, shall be signed by the complainant and shall specify with reasonable certainty the particulars of the offence alleged, including the time and place of its commission.

(b) Where a complaint is received by any Mason, he shall deliver it forthwith to the Master of his lodge except where the complaint is against the Master of his

lodge, in which case it shall be delivered to the District Deputy Grand Master of the district in which the lodge of the Master is located. Upon receipt of the complaint, the Master of the lodge or the District Deputy Grand Master, as the case may be, shall forthwith forward the complaint together with any supporting documentation to the Grand Secretary. (2001)

(c) If the complaint is not against a member of his lodge, the Master shall forward it together with any supporting documentation immediately to the Grand Secretary. When the Grand Secretary has determined the lodge of which the Mason named in the complaint is a member, or was last a member, he shall forward it to the Master of that lodge. (2001)

(d) After the complaint is received by the District Deputy Grand Master as described in Section 411(b) all of the sections of the Book of Constitution relating to the Reviewing Committee and Masonic Trials shall apply as the situation requires and the words Master or Master of the lodge shall be deemed to mean the District Deputy Grand Master as described in Section 411(b). (1998)

(e) After a complaint has been delivered to the Master of a lodge, the Grand Master may direct an attempt to mediate, reconcile and adjust the matter to assist the brethren in reaching a mutually acceptable resolution without any further proceedings or he may, in his discretion, after consultation with the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Secretary and the Chairman of the Discipline Committee, determine whether or not the same shall be proceeded with or dismissed. (2001)

(f) If the complaint is against a member of that lodge and has not been resolved under the preceding subsection, unless the Grand Master directs that the matter shall be dismissed, the Master shall proceed to

appoint a Reviewing Committee as hereinafter provided. (2001)

(g) After a complaint has been delivered to the Master of a lodge pursuant to subsection (c), the Grand Master may direct an attempt to mediate, reconcile and adjust the matter to assist the brethren in reaching a mutually acceptable resolution without any further proceedings or he may, in his discretion, after consultation with the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Secretary and the Chairman of the Discipline Committee, determine whether or not the same shall be proceeded with or dismissed. (2001)

(h) After a complaint has been delivered to the Master of a lodge pursuant to subsection (c) and if the matter has not been resolved pursuant to subsection (g), unless the Grand Master has directed that the matter shall be dismissed, the Master of that lodge, upon receipt of the complaint, shall proceed to appoint a Reviewing Committee as hereinafter provided.(2001)

(i) The Grand Master may direct the making of a complaint against any Mason within the jurisdiction of Grand Lodge. (2001)

(j) Where information is received by a lodge or any one of its members, and it appears that there is sufficient evidence to make a complaint, but no member of the lodge is prepared to make a complaint, the Junior Warden, in his office as Junior Warden, shall make such complaint in the manner set out in this section. (2001)

### **Reviewing Committee**

412. (a) Within 10 days of the receipt of the complaint or within such other time as may be directed by the Grand Master, the Master of the lodge of which the Mason named in the complaint is a member, or was

last a member, shall appoint a Reviewing Committee of three Master Masons (who, when practicable, shall be Past Masters) and shall name one of their number as Chairman, and shall forthwith advise the Grand Secretary in writing. The complainant shall not be a member of the Reviewing Committee. (2001)

(b) It shall be the duty of the Reviewing Committee to determine whether or not there are reasonable grounds to support the complaint and, for that purpose, it shall make such inquiries as may seem necessary.

(c) If the Reviewing Committee reports to the Master that there are no reasonable grounds to support the complaint, it shall thereupon stand dismissed and such ruling shall be reported forthwith in writing to the complainant and to the Grand Secretary for transmission to the Committee on Discipline. In any such case the nature of the complaint, the name of the complainant and the name of the charged brother shall remain confidential. The complaint, together with all evidence taken in respect thereof and the report of the Reviewing Committee shall be forwarded forthwith to the Grand Secretary for disposition by him and no copies thereof or excerpts therefrom shall be taken or reproduced. (2001)

(d) If the Reviewing Committee reports to the Master that there are reasonable grounds to support the complaint, the charged brother shall thereupon stand charged with the offence alleged in the complaint and the Master shall forthwith cause to be served upon the charged brother a Notice of Charge in accordance with Form 8 attached to which shall be a copy of the complaint. (2001)

(e) As soon as the Notice of Charge and a copy of the complaint has been served on the charged brother,

a copy of the Notice of Charge and the complaint, together with proof of such service, shall be filed with the Secretary of the lodge who shall forward forthwith to the Grand Secretary a copy of the Notice of Charge and the complaint together with proof of service. (2001)

### **Notice in Summons**

413. On the charge being filed with the Secretary as provided in the preceding section, he shall cause to be published in the summons for the next regular meeting of the lodge, a notice to all the members thereof that such charge has been filed and will be read in open lodge at that meeting. The notice shall not in any manner identify the charged brother. (2001)

### **Procedure on Reading Charge**

414. (a) The charge shall be read in open lodge at the meeting for which the summons containing notice of the filing of the charge was issued.

(b) (Deleted 2001)

(c) (Deleted 2001)

(d) (Deleted 2001)

### **Trial Commission**

415. (a) Upon receipt by the Grand Secretary of a copy of the Notice of Charge, it shall be the duty of the Grand Master to appoint a Trial Commission to consist of three Master Masons (who, when practicable, shall be Past Masters and shall be skilled in matters of masonic discipline) and shall name one of them as Chairman of the Trial Commission. (2001)

(b) The Chairman of the Trial Commission shall appoint a Master Mason, other than a member of the commission, to serve as Secretary. (2001)

(c) No member of the Reviewing Committee shall be eligible to be a member or Secretary of the Trial Commission. (2001)

(d) The Chairman of the Trial Commission shall appoint the time and place of trial. (2001)

### **Notice of Trial**

416. (a) The time and place of trial shall be so fixed by the Chairman of the Trial Commission as to give the charged brother a reasonable opportunity to prepare and present his defence. (2001)

(b) Both the complainant and the charged brother shall be served with a notice stating the time and place appointed for trial. (2001)

### **Duty of Trial Commission**

417. It shall be the duty of the Trial Commission to see that the rules respecting Masonic trials are adhered to, that the charged brother has a reasonable opportunity to prepare and present his defence and that the trial is brought to a close as expeditiously as may be reasonable. (2001)

### **Service of Documents**

418. Where the service of any document in connection with a Masonic trial, or any appeal therefrom is required to be made on any brother, such service shall be effected in the following manner:

- (a) If the residence of the brother is known, and he resides within a forty kilometer radius of his lodge, he shall be served personally; (2007)
- (b) If the residence of the brother is unknown or he resides outside a forty kilometer radius of his lodge or for any other reason he cannot be served personally, he may be served by sending the

document by prepaid first class mail addressed to him at his last known address. (2007)

- (c) Where a document is served by mail, service thereof shall be deemed to have been effected on the tenth day following the date of mailing.

## **Trial**

419. (a) The trial shall proceed on the date set by the Chairman of the Trial Commission and may be adjourned from time to time as may be necessary. Notice of any adjournment shall be given to all parties concerned. (2001)

(b) Should the charged brother fail to attend at the time and place of trial, after proof that notice has been served on him, the Trial Commission may proceed in his absence and conduct the proceedings to a final conclusion. (2001)

(c) Should the charged brother fail to attend the trial, the Chairman of the Trial Commission shall appoint a competent Master Mason to represent him. (2001)

(d) The failure of the charged brother to attend the trial shall not be deemed to be an admission of the offence charged. (2001)

(e) The complainant and the charged brother may each choose a Master Mason to represent him and each shall be entitled to be present at the trial as provided in these rules and to examine or cross-examine the witnesses either in person or by his representative, as the case may be. (2001)

(f) Notwithstanding the right given to the complainant and to the charged brother in the preceding subsection to choose a Master Mason to represent him, in the event that the Grand Master, after

consultation with the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Secretary and the Chairman of the Discipline Committee, deems the choice of any such Master Mason to be inappropriate, such choice shall not take effect whereupon the complainant or the charged brother, as the case may be, may, subject to this provision, choose a different Master Mason to represent him. (2001)

### **Witnesses**

420. (a) It shall be the duty of the complainant and the charged brother to secure the attendance of their respective witnesses. Any witness, who is a Mason resident in the jurisdiction of Grand Lodge, may be compelled to attend and give evidence at a Masonic trial upon being served with a summons in accordance with Form 9 issued by the Grand Secretary. (2001)

(b) Witnesses, who are Masons, shall give their testimony on their honour as Masons. Witnesses, who are not Masons, must be competent to give evidence in a court of law and shall solemnly pledge themselves to state the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

### **Evidence**

421. (a) The rules respecting evidence in a court of law in Ontario shall apply as far as the same may be reasonably made applicable to evidence at Masonic trials.

(b) Both the complainant and the charged brother shall be entitled to testify at any Masonic trial. (2001)

(c) The testimony of any witness unable to attend the trial may be taken by deposition before any Master Mason authorized by the Trial Commission to act in the matter upon due notice of the time and place for the

taking of such evidence, having been given to the complainant and the charged brother each of whom shall be entitled to attend in person or by his representative and to examine or cross-examine the witness in the same manner and to the same extent as if his testimony were being given at the trial (2001)

(d) The Chairman of the Trial Commission shall decide all questions as to the relevancy of the evidence and the regularity of the proceedings. (2001)

(e) The Secretary of the Trial Commission shall cause the evidence submitted and all objections thereto to be recorded. The evidence and objections so recorded as well as the rulings and decisions made at the trial shall be forwarded by the Secretary to the Grand Secretary for transmission to the Committee on Discipline. (2001)

(f) If the charged brother pleads guilty to the Masonic offence charged, such plea shall not be accepted as evidence proving the offence, but the Trial Commission shall take such evidence as may be necessary to satisfy itself that the offence has been committed by the charged brother. (2001)

(g) Where the Masonic offence charged consists of or involves conduct for which the charged brother has been found guilty of a criminal or quasi criminal offence by a court of competent jurisdiction, a certified copy of a court proceeding indicating a finding of guilty and the disposition of the matter may be admitted as prima facie proof of such conduct. (2001)

(h) At the trial of any charge relating to a ballot for initiation or membership, any Mason shall be at liberty to disclose how he voted in that particular case.

(i) No person shall be entitled to attend a Masonic

trial as a spectator or visitor except by leave of the Trial Commission. (2001)

### **Judgment**

422. (a) At the conclusion of the evidence, the complainant and the charged brother may each address any relevant argument to the Trial Commission either in person or by his representative. (2001)

(b) When the evidence and the arguments are concluded, the complainant, the charged brother and their respective witnesses and representatives shall retire and the Trial Commission shall decide the guilt or innocence of the charged brother. (2001)

(c) The decision of “guilty” or “not guilty” shall be determined by a majority vote of the Trial Commission taken in the absence of the Secretary. (2001)

(d) When the verdict has been reached the Trial Commission shall readmit those persons entitled to enter and announce the verdict. (2001)

(e) If the verdict is that the charged brother is guilty of the offence charged, the Trial Commission shall then hear such representations as to punishment as may be presented by the complainant, the offender or their respective representatives, whereupon the complainant, the offender and their respective witnesses and representatives shall again retire. (2001)

(f) The punishment of the offender shall be determined by a majority vote of the Trial Commission taken in the absence of the Secretary and shall be decided by the Chairman putting the question as to whether the offender be suspended for a definite time, suspended indefinitely, or reprimanded. Each of these questions shall be put separately, in the above order, if

necessary. If the punishment decided upon is "indefinite suspension," the Trial Commission may also, by a majority vote, recommend to Grand Lodge that the offender be expelled. If the punishment decided upon is "definite suspension" the duration thereof shall be voted upon separately and decided by a majority vote. (2001)

(g) When the punishment of the offender has been decided upon the Trial Commission shall readmit those persons entitled to enter and shall announce the punishment to be imposed. (2001)

(h) Both the complainant and the offender shall be served with notice of the verdict and the punishment imposed, if any, by the Secretary of the Trial Commission forthwith after the conclusion of the trial and a copy of such notice, together with proof of such service, shall be sent to the Grand Secretary immediately thereafter. (2001)

## **Punishment**

423. (a) The only punishment which a Trial Commission may impose for a Masonic offence shall be either: (2001)

- (i) indefinite suspension from a lodge;
- (ii) suspension from a lodge for a definite term of not more than three years and not less than three months; or
- (iii) reprimand.

(b) Where the punishment of indefinite suspension from a lodge is imposed, it may be accompanied by a recommendation for expulsion from the Masonic Order.

(c) No punishment imposed by a Trial

Commission shall be carried out or take effect until the lodge has been notified by the Grand Secretary that the punishment so imposed has been confirmed or varied after review by the Committee on Discipline. (2001)

(d) The punishment of reprimand shall be administered at such time and place and in such manner as the Grand Master may direct.

(e) The punishment of suspension deprives the offender of all Masonic rights and privileges from the date it takes effect and so long as it continues.

(f) The punishment of expulsion shall only be carried out by order of Grand Lodge on the recommendation of the Board of General Purposes through its Committee on Discipline.

### **Board of Appeal**

424. (a) The complainant or offender may appeal from any verdict of a Trial Commission or from any punishment imposed by it by serving notice of appeal within 30 days after notice of the verdict and of the punishment to be imposed has been served upon him, pursuant to s. 422 (h). (2001)

(b) Notice of appeal shall be in writing, shall be signed by the appellant, shall specify the reasons for appeal and shall be served upon the Grand Secretary within the time limited for so doing.

(c) Wherever a notice of appeal has been duly served upon him, the Grand Secretary shall give notice thereof to the Chairman of the Committee on Discipline.

(d) On being notified of the appeal, the Chairman of the Committee on Discipline shall appoint a Board of Appeal consisting of five Past Masters, one of whom shall be a member of that Committee and shall act as

Chairman of the Board. These appointments shall be made having regard to the location of the lodge from which the appeal has come and the convenience of the parties. No member of the Reviewing Committee or of the Trial Commission shall be eligible to be a member of the Board of Appeal. (2001)

(e) The Grand Secretary shall provide the Board of Appeal with a transcript of the recorded evidence and objections thereto, as well as the rulings and decisions made at the trial.

(f) Each party shall be entitled to obtain, upon request to the Grand Secretary, a copy of the material provided to the Board of Appeal.

(g) The Chairman of the Board of Appeal shall appoint a time and place for the hearing of the appeal, and shall cause notice thereof to be served upon each of the parties.

(h) The time shall be so fixed as to give each of the parties a reasonable opportunity to prepare his case.

(i) Upon the hearing of the appeal each of the parties, either in person or by his representative, may address any relevant argument to the Board of Appeal and the appellant shall have the right to reply.

(j) The appeal shall be based on the evidence as submitted to the Trial Commission. No new evidence shall be heard on the appeal except in unusual circumstances and then only by leave of the Board of Appeal. (2001)

(k) The Board of Appeal may recommend to the Committee on Discipline that the verdict,

- (i) be reversed and an acquittal directed;
- (ii) be rejected and a new trial directed; or

- (iii) be affirmed and that the sentence imposed by the Trial Commission be confirmed or varied. (2001)

### **Committee on Discipline**

424.1

(a) On receipt of a recommendation from a Board of Appeal, the Committee on Discipline may accept, reject or vary such recommendation and the decision of the Committee on Discipline shall be final except where the Committee recommends expulsion.

(b) Where the Committee recommends expulsion, the Grand Secretary shall give written notice of its decision to the offender that the decision shall become final unless, within sixty (60) days of receipt of the notice, the offender files written notice with the Grand Secretary that he intends to show cause why the recommendation for expulsion should not be made final. (2001)

If the offender files a written notice that he intends to show cause why the decision should not be made final, within the said sixty (60) day period, the Grand Secretary shall serve upon the offender, by prepaid, ordinary post, addressed to his last known address, a notice setting out the time, date and place of the hearing to show cause. (2001)

(c) Where no appeal has been taken from any verdict of a Trial Commission or from any punishment imposed by it within the time limited for so doing, the Grand Secretary shall refer the case to the Committee on Discipline for review and the decision of that Committee shall be final. (2001)

(d) The Chairman of the Committee on Discipline shall notify the Grand Secretary of its decision and shall return to him all documents relating to the case.

(e) Where the Committee on Discipline directs a new trial, the Grand Master shall appoint a new Trial Commission.

(f) Where a new trial has been directed, no amendment shall be made to the original charge unless the charged brother is given due and timely notice thereof. (2001)

(g) The Grand Secretary shall notify the parties and the lodge concerned of the decision of the Committee on Discipline.

(h) Except where a new trial has been directed, no brother shall be tried twice for the same offence.

### **Restoration after Suspension**

425. (a) Suspension for a definite term shall expire at the end of the term and any brother so suspended shall thereupon become entitled to resume his membership and all rights and privileges thereof without making application to the lodge. (2001)

(b) An application for restoration by a brother who has been suspended indefinitely may only be made after the expiration of five years from the date upon which the suspension took effect and shall be made in writing to the lodge from which he was suspended.

- (i) Notice of the application for restoration shall be inserted in the lodge summons preceding the regular meeting at which the application will be voted upon.
- (ii) The vote on a resolution to accept the application for restoration shall be by secret ballot and it shall require a two-thirds vote of the members present for its adoption.

- (iii) Forthwith after the meeting at which such resolution is adopted or defeated, the Secretary of the lodge shall send to the Grand Secretary a copy of the application and any relevant material in respect thereof together with a copy of the resolution and the result of the ballot thereon.
- (iv) Upon receipt thereof, the Grand Secretary shall refer the matter to the Committee on Discipline for review and, for that purpose, the Committee shall make such enquiries as may seem necessary.
- (v) Where the Committee on Discipline decides to approve a resolution of the lodge accepting the application, its decision shall be final.
- (vi) The applicant shall not be restored to membership in his lodge or to his other Masonic rights and privileges until he has been notified by the Grand Secretary that the resolution of his lodge accepting his application has been approved by the Committee on Discipline.
- (vii) Where a resolution to accept the application was defeated by the lodge or where the Committee on Discipline is not prepared to approve a resolution of the lodge accepting the application, it shall report its recommendation in respect thereof to Grand Lodge.
- (viii) Where the lodge from which he was suspended has ceased to exist, such application may be made to Grand Lodge through the Grand Secretary, in which

case, the application shall be referred to the Committee on Discipline which shall report its recommendation in respect thereof to Grand Lodge after having made such enquiries as may seem necessary.

- (ix) Where a brother is restored by Grand Lodge after a resolution to accept his application was defeated by his lodge or where the lodge from which he was suspended has ceased to exist, he shall have the status of non-affiliated brother.

(1982)

### **Restoration after Expulsion**

426. (a) If five years have elapsed since his expulsion, or since his last application for restoration, a person desiring to be restored shall apply to Grand Lodge through the Grand Secretary and the application shall specify the reasons why he seeks restoration.

(b) Notwithstanding any recommendation from the lodge of which he was a member at the time of his expulsion, Grand Lodge may accept or refuse the application.

### **Offences by Masters and Lodges**

427. All complaints or charges arising between a lodge and its Master shall be filed with the Grand Secretary, who shall forward the same to the Grand Master for any necessary action.

## PART V - GRANTS OF BENEVOLENCE

428. Grants of benevolence by Grand Lodge to a brother, or to dependent relatives of a living or deceased brother, are to be considered as supplementary assistance to that given by the lodge recommending the application. (1992)

429. No grant of benevolence may be made to an unaffiliated Mason, nor to dependent relatives of a deceased brother who, at the time of his death, was an unaffiliated Mason. (1992)

430. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Benevolence to make recommendations to the Board of General Purposes for enactment of regulations which appear to be desirable in governing benevolence. (1992)

(See Part VIII – Regulations)

## PART VI – CHARGES

### THE CHARGES

#### OF A

#### FREEMASON

Extracted from the Ancient Records of Lodges  
Throughout the World.

#### FOR THE USE OF LODGES

To be Read at the Making of New Brethren, or When  
the Master shall Order it.

#### THE GENERAL HEADS

#### OF THE

#### CHARGES OF A FREEMASON

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- I. - Of God and Religion.
- II. - Of the Civil Magistrate, supreme and subordinate.
- III. - Of Lodges.
- IV. - Of Masters, Wardens, Fellows and Apprentices.
- V. - Of the Management of the Craft in Working.
- VI. - Of Behaviour, viz.:
  1. In the lodge while constituted.
  2. After the lodge is over and the Brethren not gone.
  3. When the Brethren meet without strangers, but not in Lodge formed.
  4. In the presence of strangers not Masons.
  5. At home and in your neighborhood.

## 6. Toward a strange Brother.

### VII.- Ancient Charges - To the Master-Elect.

#### I. - Concerning God and Religion

A Mason is obliged by his tenure to obey the moral law, and if he rightly understands the art he will never be a stupid atheist nor an irreligious libertine. He, of all men, should best understand that God seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh to the outward appearance, but God looketh to the heart. A Mason is, therefore particularly bound never to act against the dictates of his conscience. Let a man's religion, or mode of worship, be what it may, he is not excluded from the Order, provided he believes in the Architect of heaven and earth, and practises the sacred duties of morality. Masons unite with the virtuous of every persuasion, in the firm and pleasing bond of fraternal love; they are taught to view the errors of mankind with compassion, and to strive by the purity of their own conduct to demonstrate the superior excellence of the faith they may profess. Thus, Masonry is the centre of union between good men and true, and the happy means of conciliating friendship amongst those who must otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance.

#### II. - Of the Civil Magistrate, Supreme and Subordinate

A Mason is a peaceful subject to the civil powers wherever he resides or works, and is never to be concerned in plots or conspiracies against the peace or welfare of the nation, nor to behave himself undutifully to inferior magistrates. He is cheerfully to conform to every lawful authority; to uphold on every occasion the interest of the community, and zealously promote the prosperity of his own country. Masonry has ever flourished in times of peace, and been always injured by war, bloodshed and confusion, so that kings and

princes in every age have been disposed to encourage the Craftsmen on account of their peaceableness and loyalty, whereby they practically answer the cavils of their adversaries, and promote the honor of the Fraternity. Craftsmen are bound by peculiar ties to promote peace, cultivate harmony, and to live in concord and brotherly love.

### III. - Of Lodges

A Lodge is a place where Freemasons assemble to work and to instruct and to improve themselves in the mysteries of their ancient science. In an extended sense, it applies to persons as well as to place; hence every regular assembly, or duty organized meeting of Masons is called a lodge. Every brother ought to belong to some lodge, and be subject to its by-laws and the general regulations of the Craft. A lodge may be either general or particular, as will be best understood by attending it, and there a knowledge of the established usages and customs of the Craft may be acquired. From ancient times no Master or Fellow could be absent from his lodge, especially when warned to appear at it, without incurring a severe censure; unless it appeared to the Master and Wardens that pure necessity hindered him.

The persons made Masons and admitted members of a lodge must be good and true men, free born, and of a mature and discreet age and sound judgment, no bondsmen, no women, no immoral or scandalous men, but of good report.

### IV. - Of Masters, Wardens, Fellows and Apprentices

All preferment among Masons is grounded upon real worth and personal merit only, that so the lords may be well served, the brethren not put to shame, nor the royal Craft despised; therefore no Master or Warden is chosen by seniority, but for his merit. It is

impossible to describe these things in writing, and therefore every brother must attend in his place and learn them in a way peculiar to this Fraternity. Candidates may, nevertheless, know that no Master should take an apprentice unless he is a perfect youth having no maim or defect in his body, that may render him incapable of learning the art, or serving his master's lord and of being made a brother and then a Fellowcraft in due time, after he has served such a term of years as the custom of the country directs; and that he should be descended of honest parents, that so when otherwise qualified, he may arrive to the honor of being a Warden, and then the Master of the lodge, the Grand Warden, and at length the Grand Master of all the lodges, according to his merit.

No brother can be a Warden until he has passed the part of a Fellowcraft, nor a Master until he has acted as a Warden nor Grand Warden until he has been Master of a Lodge, nor Grand Master unless he has been a Fellowcraft before his election, who is also to be nobly born, or a gentleman of the best fashion, or some eminent scholar, or some curious architect or other artist descended of honest parents, and who is of singularly great merit in the opinion of the lodges.

These rulers and governors, supreme and subordinate, of the ancient lodge, are to be obeyed in their respective stations by all the brethren, according to the old charges and regulations, with all humility, reverence, love and alacrity.

N.B. – In ancient times, no brother, however skilled in the Craft, was called a Master Mason until he had been elected into the chair of the lodge.

## **V. - Of the Management of the Craft in Working**

All Masons should work honestly on working days, that they may live creditably on holy days; and the

time appointed by the law of the land or confirmed by custom, shall be observed.

The most expert of the Fellowcraftsmen shall be chosen or appointed the Master, or overseer, of the lord's work, who is to be called Master by those that work under him. The Craftsmen are to avoid all ill language, and call each other by no disobliging name, but brother or fellow; and to behave themselves courteously within and without the lodge.

The Master, knowing himself to be able of cunning, shall undertake the lord's work as reasonably as possible, and truly dispend his goods as if they were his own; nor give more wages to any brother or apprentice than he really may deserve.

Both the Master and the Mason receiving their wages justly shall be faithful to the lord and honestly finish their work, whether task or journey; nor put the work to task that hath been accustomed to journey.

None shall discover envy at the prosperity of a brother, nor supplant him nor put him out of his work if he is capable to finish the same; for no man can finish another's work so much to the lord's profit, unless he be thoroughly acquainted with the designs and draughts of him that began it.

When the Fellowcraftsman is chosen Warden of the work under the Master, he shall be true both to Master and Fellows, shall carefully oversee the work in the Master's absence, to the lord's profit; and his brethren shall obey him.

All Masons employed shall meekly receive their wages without murmuring or mutiny, and not desert the Master till the work be finished.

A younger brother shall be instructed in working

to prevent spoiling the materials for want of judgment, and for increasing and continuing brotherly love.

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

No laborer shall be employed in the proper work of Masonry; nor shall Freemasons work with those who are not free, without an urgent necessity; nor shall they teach laborers or unaccepted Masons as they should teach a brother or a fellow.

## **VI. - Of Behaviour, viz.:**

### 1. - In the Lodge While Constituted

You are not to hold private committees or separate conversations without leave from the Master, nor to talk of anything impertinently, or unseemly, nor interrupt the Master or Wardens or any brother speaking to the Master; nor behave yourself ludicrously or jestingly while the lodge is engaged in what is serious and solemn; nor use any unbecoming language upon any pretence whatsoever; but to pay due reverence to your Master, Wardens and Fellows and put them to worship.

If any complaint be brought, the brother found guilty shall stand to the award and determination of the lodge who are the proper and competent judges of all such controversies (unless you carry them by appeal to the Grand Lodge), and to whom they ought to be referred, unless a lord's work be hindered the meanwhile, in which case a particular reference may be made, but you must never go to law about what concerneth Masonry, without an absolute necessity apparent to the lodge.

### 2. - Behaviour After the Lodge is over and the Brethren Not Gone

You may enjoy yourself with innocent mirth, treating one another according to ability, but avoid excess, or forcing any brother to eat or drink beyond his inclination, or hinder him from going when his occasions call him, or doing or saying anything offensive, that would forbid an easy and free conversation, for that would blast our harmony and defeat our laudable purposes. Therefore, no private piques or quarrels must be brought within the door of the lodge, far less any quarrels about religion, or nations, or state policy, we being only as Masons of the universal religion before mentioned; we are also of all nations, tongues, kindreds and languages, and resolved against all politics, as what never yet conduced to the welfare of the lodge, nor ever will.

### 3. - Behaviour When Brethren Meet Without Strangers, But Not in a Lodge Formed

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

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

You should be cautious in your words and carriage, that the most penetrating stranger should not be able to discover or find out what is not proper to be intimated; and sometimes you may divert a discourse

and manage it prudently for the honour of the worshipful Fraternity.

#### 5. – Behaviour at Home and in Your Neighbourhood

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

#### 6. – Behaviour Toward a Strange Brother

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

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

Finally—All these charges you are to observe, and also those that shall be communicated unto you in another way; cultivating brotherly love, the foundation and capstone, the cement and glory of this ancient Fraternity; avoiding all wrangling and quarreling, all slander and backbiting, nor permitting others to

slander any honest brother, but defending his character and doing him all good offices, so far as is consistent with your honor and safety and no further. And if any of them do you injury, you must apply to your own or his lodge, and from thence you may appeal to the Grand Lodge, at the annual communication, as has been the ancient laudable conduct of our forefathers in every nation; never taking a legal course but when the case cannot be otherwise decided; and patiently listening to the honest and friendly advice of Masters and Fellows, when they would prevent you going to law with strangers, or would excite you to put a speedy period to all lawsuits that so you may find the affair of Masonry with more alacrity and success; but with respect to the brothers or Fellows at law, the Masters and brethren should kindly offer their mediation which ought to be thankfully submitted to by the contending brethren; and if that submission is impracticable, they must, however, carry on their process of lawsuit without wrath and rancour (not in the common way) saying or doing nothing which may hinder brotherly love and good offices to be renewed and continued, that all may see the benign influence of Masonry, as all true Masons have done from the beginning of the world, and will do to the end of time.

Amen, so mote it be.

## Summary of the Ancient Charges and Regulations

(To be read by the Secretary, or Acting Secretary, to the Master-elect, prior to his Installation into the chair of the lodge)

1. You agree to be a good man and true, and strictly to obey the moral law.
2. You agree to be a peaceful subject, and cheerfully to conform to the laws of the country in which you reside.
3. You promise not to be concerned in plots or conspiracies against government, but patiently to submit to the decisions of the supreme legislature.
4. You agree to pay a proper respect to the civil magistrate, to work diligently, live creditably, and act honorably by all men.
5. You agree to hold in veneration the original rulers and patrons of the order of Freemasonry, and their regular successors, supreme and subordinate, according to their stations, and to submit to the awards and resolutions of your brethren in the general lodge convened, in every case consistent with the constitution of the order.
6. You agree to avoid private piques and quarrels and to guard against intemperance and excess.
7. You agree to be cautious in your carriage and behaviour, courteous to your brethren and faithful to your lodge.
8. You promise to respect genuine and true brethren and to discountenance impostors and all dissenters from the original plan of Freemasonry.
9. You agree to promote the general good of society, to cultivate the social virtues, and to propagate the

knowledge of the mystic art as far as your influence and ability extend.

10. You promise to pay homage to the Grand Master for the time being, and to his officers when duly installed, and strictly to conform to every edict of the Grand Lodge.
11. You admit that it is not in the power of any man, or body of men, to make innovation in the body of Masonry.
12. You promise a regular attendance on the communications and committees of the Grand Lodge upon receiving proper notice thereof; and to pay attention to all the duties of Freemasonry, upon proper and convenient occasions.
13. You admit that no new lodge can be formed without permission of the Grand Master; and that no countenance ought to be given to any irregular lodge, or any person initiated therein, and that no public procession of Masons clothed with the badge of the Order can take place without the special licence of the Grand Master, except at a Masonic Memorial Service.
14. You admit that no person can regularly be made a Freemason or admitted a member of any lodge, without previous notice and due enquiry into his character; and that no brother can be advanced to a higher degree except in strict conformity with the laws of the Grand Lodge.
15. You promise that no visitor shall be received into your lodge without due examination and producing proper vouchers of his having been initiated into a regular lodge.

## PART VII – FORMS

### FORM 1

#### Section 192

#### CERTIFICATE OF DEMISSION

This to certify that Bro. \_\_\_\_\_  
 has resigned and withdrawn from membership of this  
 lodge, being \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge,  
 numbered \_\_\_\_\_ in the register of the Grand Lodge  
 of Canada in the Province of Ontario; and that his  
 resignation has been accepted in open lodge on the  
 \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. 20\_\_\_\_.

And further that he has paid all dues and retires in  
 good standing.

Given under the seal of the lodge this \_\_\_\_\_  
 day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. 20\_\_\_\_, at  
 \_\_\_\_\_, in the Province of Ontario.

(Lodge  
 Seal)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Worshipful Master

## FORM 2

## Section 194

CERTIFICATE OF DEMISSION  
(DUES OWING)

This to certify that Bro. \_\_\_\_\_  
has resigned and withdrawn from membership of this  
lodge, being \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge, numbered  
\_\_\_\_\_ in the register of the Grand Lodge of Canada in  
the Province of Ontario; and that his resignation has  
been accepted in open lodge on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
\_\_\_\_\_, A.D.  
20\_\_\_\_\_.

And further that his dues owing to this lodge are  
\_\_\_\_\_ dollars.

Given under the seal of the lodge this \_\_\_\_\_  
day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. 20 \_\_\_\_\_,  
at \_\_\_\_\_, in the Province of Ontario.

(Lodge  
Seal)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Worshipful Master

## FORM 3

Section 214(c)

## TYLER'S OATH

I, \_\_\_\_\_ do hereby and hereon solemnly and sincerely swear that I have been regularly initiated, passed and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in a just and legally constituted lodge of such; that I do not stand suspended or expelled; and I know of no reason why I should not hold Masonic Communication with my brethren.

FORM 4  
Section 298(a)  
MINUTE BOOK

Masonic Hall \_\_\_\_\_  
Minutes of the regular meeting of \_\_\_\_\_  
Lodge, No. \_\_\_\_ held on \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
\_\_\_\_\_, A.D. 20 \_\_\_\_\_.

Present

W. Bro. _____	W.M. _____	Bro. _____	J.D. _____
"	I.P.M. _____	"	D. of Cer. _____
Bro. _____	S.W. _____	"	Organist _____
"	J.W. _____	"	S. Steward _____
"	Chaplain _____	"	J. Steward _____
"	Treasurer _____	"	Historian _____
"	Secretary _____	"	I.G. _____
"	S.D. _____	"	Tyler _____

In addition to the above named officers there were in attendance \_\_\_\_\_ Past Masters, \_\_\_\_\_ other members and \_\_\_\_\_ visiting brothers as recorded in the Attendance Book of the lodge.

Opening Lodge

The lodge was opened in the first degree at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock.

The minutes of the last regular meeting (and subsequent emergent meetings, if any), were read and confirmed.

**Reports of Committees on Applications**

The committee on the application of Mr. \_\_\_\_\_, an applicant for initiation (affiliation), reported favourably (or unfavourably, as the case may be). (2004)

### **Reports – General**

The committee appointed to take into consideration (here state the subject), submitted their report, which was, on motion of Bro. \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Bro. \_\_\_\_\_, received and adopted (or as the case may be).

### **Payment of Accounts**

On motion of Bro. \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Bro. \_\_\_\_\_, the sum of \_\_\_\_\_, in full of \_\_\_\_\_ account for \_\_\_\_\_ (or in part payment, as the case may be), was ordered to be paid.

### **Reading of Application**

An application for initiation (affiliation) from Mr. (Bro.) \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, date of birth [year–month–day] \_\_\_\_\_ occupation or profession, \_\_\_\_\_ recommended by Bros. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, was read in open lodge.

### **Appointment of Committees on Applications**

The Worshipful Master appointed Bros. \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ a committee to make the necessary inquiries on the application of \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_, to report thereon at the next regular meeting.

### **Appointment of General Committees**

The same form, only insert the specified business.

### **Ballot**

The W.M. ordered the ballot to be passed for Mr. (Bro.) \_\_\_\_\_, an applicant for initiation (affiliation), which was taken, and on examination, declared in favour of (or against) the applicant, (as the case may be). (2004)

### Board of Trial

The W.M. appointed Bros. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, a Board of Trial to put the necessary questions to Mr. \_\_\_\_\_, a candidate for initiation. If more than one state their several names, and say "candidates."

### Initiation of Candidates

The Board of Trial, having reported to the W.M. that the candidate had answered the necessary questions satisfactorily and the candidate having paid the proper fee and having been properly prepared, he was (or they were severally) initiated into the first degree of Freemasonry.

### Passing

Bro. \_\_\_\_\_ (or Bros.), a candidate (or candidates) for advancement, was (or were) examined in open lodge as to his (or their) proficiency, and directed to retire.

The lodge was opened in the second degree at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock.

No objection being made, Bro. \_\_\_\_\_ (or Bros.) having been found worthy of advancement, and having been properly prepared, he was (or they were severally) passed to the second or Fellowcraft degree.

### Raising

Bro. \_\_\_\_\_ (or Bros.), a candidate (or candidates) for further advancement, was (or were) examined in open lodge as to his (or their) proficiency, and directed to retire.

The lodge was opened in the third degree at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock.

No objection being made, Bro. \_\_\_\_\_ (or Bros.) having been found well skilled, he was (or they were severally) raised to the third or sublime degree of Master Mason.

### **Calling from Labour to Refreshment**

The lodge was called from labour to refreshment at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock.

### **Called from Refreshment to Labour**

The lodge resumed labour at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock.

### **Closing the Lodge**

The lodge was closed in harmony in the first degree at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock (and where applicable and "after being duly closed in the third degree at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock and in the second degree at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock").

Confirmed in open lodge the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. 20 \_\_\_\_\_.

---

Secretary

---

Worshipful Master

#### **NOTE:**

1. For the sake of clearness and distinction, a line at least should be left blank between each minute, and a marginal note made of its contents.
2. Each lodge must keep a book, or books, outside the lodge room for the members and visitors to enter their names as they arrive, which it is the duty of the Tyler to see done before he gives notice of their being present.

3. Lodge minutes are to be read on regular nights only; and after having read the minutes of the previous regular meeting, those of any subsequent emergency are to be read for confirmation.

4. Secretaries of lodges should also keep a rough minute book (and never on any account use slips of paper) to enter the proceedings of the lodge as they occur, and afterwards fairly copy them in the regular minute book, to which he must attach his signature; and when they have been read and confirmed in open lodge, the W.M. likewise signs them in the right hand corner.

5. It is usual on the presentation of reports from committees to move their reception, or their reception and adoption. If open to discussion or amendment, first move their reception and afterwards their adoption.

FORM 5  
Section 306(d)  
CERTIFICATE OF AMENDMENT  
OF BY-LAWS

We, the undersigned, being the Worshipful Master and Secretary, do hereby certify that at the \_\_\_\_\_ regular meeting of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_ held on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, on motion of \_\_\_\_\_ seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, the following amendments to the by-laws of the lodge were legally carried by the majority of the members present and voting.

(Here set out the amendments in full)

(Lodge

Seal) \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_

Worshipful Master

(1981)

FORM 6  
Section 307  
APPLICATION FOR INITIATION

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_ on the register of the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario.

I, (full name) \_\_\_\_\_, of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, in the county of \_\_\_\_\_ and Province of Ontario, born [year–month–day] \_\_\_\_\_, occupation \_\_\_\_\_, being of mature age do declare,

- (a) that, unbiased by the improper solicitation of friends and uninfluenced by mercenary or other unworthy motives, I freely and voluntarily offer myself a candidate for the mysteries of Masonry;
- (b) that I am prompted by a favourable opinion conceived of the institution, and a desire for knowledge; and
- (c) that I will cheerfully conform to all the ancient usages and established customs of the Order.

I further declare, (2023)

- (a) that I now reside at \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) that my phone number is \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) that my electronic contact information is \_\_\_\_\_

- (d) that during the year immediately preceding the date of this application, I have resided at the following addresses:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ ; and

- (e) that I have not been rejected by this or any other lodge, except as follows:

Date of Rejection	Name and No. of Lodge	Location of Lodge

Witness my hand this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D.  
20 \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature in full)

Recommended by \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In consideration of your receiving this application for membership, I consent to investigations being made from any source relating to my qualifications for membership in the Masonic Order.

I also release the Lodge, each of its members, and the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario, and each of its members, from all claims which I may have arising from the investigations of my qualifications, or my rejection, if such should occur.

I acknowledge and agree that all information relating to my application, investigation, acceptance or rejection, shall remain confidential between me and the Masonic Order.

I further agree and consent to the transmission of my name, address, date of birth, occupation and other personal information set out on this form by e-mail or any other electronic means.

I further acknowledge and agree that this application and notice of rejection thereof, if such should occur, may be retained by the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario in a central data base.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature)

(2004)

## FORM 7

## Section 358

## APPLICATION FOR AFFILIATION

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge, No. \_\_\_\_\_ on the register of the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, in the County of \_\_\_\_\_ and Province of Ontario, occupation \_\_\_\_\_, born [year-month-day] \_\_\_\_\_ being a \_\_\_\_\_ Mason, and desirous of becoming a member of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge, No. \_\_\_\_\_, do declare as follows:

I am not in debt to any lodge for dues or otherwise.

I was initiated, passed and raised in \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge, No. \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of \_\_\_\_\_, and am in good Masonic standing. I am (or was last) a member of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge, No. \_\_\_\_\_.

My Grand Lodge Certificate number is: \_\_\_\_\_.

I have resided, during the year immediately preceding the date of this application, at the following addresses:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Dated at \_\_\_\_\_ this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ A.D. 20 \_\_\_\_\_.

Signature in full \_\_\_\_\_

Recommended by: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Affiliation fee must accompany the form.**

In consideration of your receiving this Application for Affiliation, I consent to investigation being made from any source relating to my qualifications for membership in the Masonic Lodge to which this application is directed.

I also release the lodge, each of its members, and the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario, and each of its members, from all claims which I may have arising from the investigation of my qualifications, or my rejection, if such should occur.

I acknowledge and agree that all information relating to my application, investigation, acceptance or rejection, shall remain confidential between me and the Masonic Order.

I further agree and consent to the transmission of my name, address, date of birth, occupation and other personal information set out on this form by e-mail or any other electronic means.

I further acknowledge and agree that this application and notice of rejection thereof, if such should occur, may be retained by the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario in a central data base.

---

(signature)

(2004)

FORM 8  
Section 412(d)  
NOTICE OF CHARGE

TAKE NOTICE that you are charged with the offence(s) alleged in a complaint made against you by \_\_\_\_\_, a copy of which is attached hereto.

AND TAKE NOTICE that this charge will be read in open lodge at the next regular meeting of the lodge and that your attendance at that meeting is required.

(Lodge  
Seal)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Worshipful Master

## FORM 9

## Section 420(a)

## SUMMONS TO WITNESS

To Brother \_\_\_\_\_ of  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_, G.R.C.

TAKE NOTICE that Brother \_\_\_\_\_  
 who is (or was last) a member of \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_ G.R.C. stands charged with one or  
 more Masonic offences alleged in a complaint made  
 against him by \_\_\_\_\_, a copy  
 of which is attached hereto.

AND TAKE NOTICE that you are required to  
 attend at the trial of Brother \_\_\_\_\_  
 scheduled to commence at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock in the fore  
 (or after) noon on \_\_\_\_\_ day, the \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_, at the \_\_\_\_\_  
 Masonic Temple at \_\_\_\_\_ in the  
 \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in  
 the Province of Ontario, and so from day to day until  
 the said trial is concluded, to give evidence on behalf  
 of \_\_\_\_\_ the complainant (or  
 the charged brother) and also to bring with you and  
 produce at the said trial any document in your  
 possession relevant to the guilt or innocence of the  
 charged brother.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, this Summons is signed and  
 sealed on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the  
 Province of Ontario this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
 20 \_\_\_\_\_.

(Seal)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Grand Secretary

FORM 10

Section 394.1

TWO HUNDRED YEAR OLD CREST



(1988)

## PART VIII – REGULATIONS

### REGULATIONS GOVERNING GRANTS OF BENEVOLENCE

(adopted July 13, 1992)

1. All applications for benevolence must be made through a lodge.
2. The lodge recommending an application for benevolence must pass a resolution to that effect in open lodge and record it in the minutes of the meeting.
3. The District Chairman of Benevolence will assist the District to process all requests for Grand Lodge benevolence.
4. The Secretary of the lodge shall report the receipt of a grant of benevolence to the lodge in open meeting and record it in the minutes of the meeting.
5. Grants of benevolence are held in trust for Grand Lodge by the Lodge. Whenever a grant or any portion thereof is no longer required by the beneficiary, the Lodge shall return the unused grant or portion thereof to the Supervisor of Benevolence. (2022)
6. (Deleted 2022)
7. The Chairman of the Committee on Benevolence shall prepare and present to the Board of General Purposes meeting held immediately prior to the annual meeting of Grand Lodge, for the purpose of being printed for the information of Grand Lodge,

a report in such form as directed by the Board of General Purposes, respecting all applications for benevolence and the disposition thereof.

8. The income from the Memorial Fund, invested and on deposit, shall be available to the Committee on Benevolence for grants of benevolence. Such income shall be augmented by such amounts as Grand Lodge may from time to time approve for transfer from the general funds of Grand Lodge.
9. The income from the Memorial Fund and such additional funds authorized for transfer by Grand Lodge shall be credited to the revenue account of the Benevolence Fund.
10. All applications for grants of benevolence must be made upon the printed form which will be furnished on request to the Supervisor of Benevolence. (2022)
11. The application form must be completed in full and signed by the Worshipful Master and Secretary with the seal of the lodge affixed thereto. The application must then be reviewed, approved and signed by the District Chairman of Benevolence. (2016)
12. The comments of the Lodge Chairman of Benevolence and the District Chairman of Benevolence are essential in assisting the Committee. Additional supportive information and documentation is always appreciated.
13. Applications for benevolence must be delivered to the Supervisor of Benevolence immediately after they are processed by the Lodge and District Chairman of Benevolence, as outlined in the preceding sections. (2022)

14. The Committee on Benevolence shall meet as soon as possible after an application has been processed by Grand Lodge and forwarded to the Committee on Benevolence for disposition. (2016)
15. Grants of benevolence shall be made by cheque payable to the lodge or in such manner and at such times as the Committee may determine. In special cases this may vary at the joint discretion of the Chairman of the Committee on Benevolence and the Chairman of Audit and Finance.
16. The Secretary of the Lodge shall provide an update to the Supervisor of Benevolence on the disposition of the grant and the current status or welfare of the recipient. (2022)
17. (Deleted 2016)
18. (Deleted 2016)
19. Grants of Grand Lodge benevolence will be monitored by the District Chairman of Benevolence in co-operation with the lodge(s) through visitation. It shall be the duty of the District Chairman to review, with the respective lodge, the circumstances of the grant recipient and determine if an application on the prescribed form should be resubmitted.

(2004)

(Refer to Sections 428, 429, 430)

## REGULATIONS GOVERNING

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP

## TRUST FUNDS

(Adopted July 17, 1997)

1. The amount that must be set aside in the Life Membership Trust Fund shall be at least as great as that determined by multiplying the lodge dues by the age factor from the following table:

Amounts to be set aside in sinking fund for each \$1  
of annual dues per member  
(based on a Real Rate of Return of 3%)  
for LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Ages	IMMEDIATELY Column A	AT AGE 65 Column B
21 - 24	\$ 26.72	\$ 3.07
25 - 29	25.76	3.51
30 - 34	24.55	4.08
35 - 39	23.18	4.75
40 - 44	21.62	5.54
45 - 49	19.89	6.49
50 - 54	18.02	7.66
55 - 59	16.03	9.13
60 - 64	13.87	11.05
65 - 69	11.66	The higher ages are shown to complete an evaluation of the sinking fund per regulation (2).
70 - 74	9.55	
75 - 79	7.58	
80 - 84	5.89	
85 - 89	4.55	
90 >	3.48	(2004)

2. Regardless of how payments into the Life Membership Trust Fund were calculated, as of the first day of each fiscal year the fund shall be evaluated by

extending the age-group factors in column A by the current number of life members in each age group and multiplying the total of those extended factors by the current lodge dues. Where the lodge does not have dues, this is the current annual cost per member of operating the lodge. If members receive a life membership at age 65, a similar calculation must also be made to include the factors from column B for such members who will receive life membership.

---

THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE  
EVALUATION CALCULATION

Life Members Current Ages	Number	Column A Factor	Number Times Factor
21 – 24	1	26.72	26.72
25 – 29	1	25.76	25.76
30 – 34	1	24.55	24.55
35 – 39	2	23.18	46.36
40 – 44	2	21.62	43.24
45 – 49	3	19.89	59.67
50 – 54	4	18.02	72.08
55 – 59	5	16.03	80.15
60 – 64	9	13.87	124.83
65 – 69	9	11.66	104.94
70 – 74	6	9.55	57.30
75 – 79	6	7.58	45.48
80 – 84	3	5.89	17.67
85 – 89	3	4.55	13.65
90 +	2	3.48	6.96
	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> 57		<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> 749.36

Lodge Dues = \$90.00

Evaluation: 749.36 x \$90.00 = \$67,442.00

(2004)

3. If the Life Membership Trust Fund equals or exceeds the amount of the evaluation calculated in (2), the current lodge dues of the existing life members shall be paid or transferred into the lodge's general funds.

4. If the Life Membership Trust Fund is less than the amount of the evaluation calculated in (2), the interest earned by the fund in the prior fiscal year, up to the amount of the current lodge dues only, shall be paid or transferred into the lodge's general funds.

5. Where the lodge has, for each life member, paid the fee prescribed for the commutation of dues per Section 185, lodge dues as referred to in regulations (1), (2), (3), (4), and (6) shall be reduced by the Grand Lodge fee referred to in Section 152(m).

6. If, due to aging or a decreased number of life members, after an evaluation of the Life Membership Trust Fund using the factors of regulation (1), there is a surplus in the Life Membership Trust Fund, then the excess of the interest earnings over the lodge dues, plus up to 5% of the assets of the fund, up to the evaluation surplus, may be withdrawn to the general or other funds of the lodge. Before making such a withdrawal, the lodge must request approval from the Grand Secretary, forwarding with the request the evaluation which indicated that there was an excess and the calculations of the amount being withdrawn.

Refer to Section 188(a), (b)

## PART IX – INDEX

This Book of Constitution has been arranged with the intention of making it easy to use. If you are interested in the regulations on a particular topic, the easiest way to locate them is to check in the appropriate part of the detailed Table of Contents at the front of the book. With very little practice the reader will be able to find what he wants. The index which follows is only supplementary and does not claim to be exhaustive.

*The numbers which follow each entry refer not to pages but to the Sections of the Constitution.*

SPECIAL NOTE: The year in brackets following a section indicates the most recent amendment, if any.

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