

HANDBOOK OF MASONIC LAW



THE
GRAND LODGE
OF THE
STATE OF LOUISIANA
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
REVISED TO JUNE 29th & 30th, 2019
REVISED PAGES FOR INSERTION IN THIS LOOSE LEAF
HANDBOOK RECORDING ANY CHANGES WILL BE ISSUED
AFTER ANNUAL GRAND COMMUNICATION.

HANDBOOK OF MASONIC LAW



THE
GRAND LODGE
OF THE
STATE OF LOUISIANA
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
REVISED TO JUNE 29th & 30th, 2019
REVISED PAGES FOR INSERTION IN THIS LOOSE LEAF
HANDBOOK RECORDING ANY CHANGES WILL BE ISSUED
AFTER ANNUAL GRAND COMMUNICATION.

Preface

The Grand Lodge of Louisiana, Free and Accepted Masons, during its 1978 Annual Grand Communication, instructed the committee to re-publish the Handbook of Masonic Law with all changes to date.

The task was completed after many hours of tedious work throughout the year. Points of Law no longer applicable were removed, contradictions were clarified, duplications were removed. Edicts that modified the Constitution or General Regulations were inserted in the appropriate Article and Section, and a single index to the Law was prepared.

In re-writing the Handbook one or more members of the committee found points of the Law that appeared appropriate to change. The suggested changes were submitted in proper form with the report of the committee to the Grand Lodge at the 1978, Annual Grand Communication. The report of the committee (including the recommended changes) was adopted by the Grand Lodge, and the committee instructed to complete the task of having the revised Handbook of Masonic Law printed for proper distribution.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Preface.....	I
Declaration of Principles.....	iii
Acts of the Legislature	v
The Charges of a Freemason.....	viii
Constitution.....	1
General Regulations.....	11
Edicts.....	65
Appendix (Sundry Forms)	111
Index	154

Preface

The Grand Master, the Grand Secretary, and each member of the committee was most helpful in bringing this work to fruition. Special thanks is given to Brother Sharp, a printer by profession in proofreading the copy.

We humbly submit our work with appreciations for the opportunity that was ours to be of service to this Grand Lodge.

Fraternally submitted,

WOODROW A. DOWNS, P.G.M. (53)
 Chairman
 ARCHIE EVANS, G. L. (271)
 CHARLES O. LONG, P.M. (432)
 ROSCOE F. PORTER, P.M. (364)
 JUNIUS B. SHARP, G. L. (209)

Preface

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES,
 OF THE GRAND LODGE OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA.
 FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS.

Freemasonry is a charitable, benevolent, educational and religious society. Its principals are proclaimed as widely as men will hear. Its only secrets are in its methods of recognition and of symbolic instruction.

It is charitable in that it is not organized for profit and none of its income inures to the benefit of any individual, but all is devoted to the promotion of the welfare and happiness of mankind.

It is benevolent in that it teaches and exemplifies altruism as a duty.

It is educational, in that it teaches by prescribed ceremonials a system of morality and brotherhood based upon the Sacred Law.

It is religious in that it teaches monotheism; the volume of the Sacred Law is open upon its altars whenever a Lodge is in session; reverence for God is ever present in its ceremonials, and to its brethren are constantly addressed lessons of morality; yet it is not sectarian or theological.

It is a social organization only so far as it furnishes additional inducement that men may foregather in numbers, thereby providing more material for its primary work of education, of worship, and of charity.

Through the improvement and strengthening of the character of the individual man. Freemasonry seeks to improve the community. Thus it impresses upon its members the principals of personal righteousness and personal responsibility, enlightens them as to those things which make for human welfare, and inspires them with that feeling of charity, or good will toward all mankind which will move them to translate principle and conviction into action.

To that end it teaches and stands for the worship of God; truth and justice; fraternity and philanthropy; enlightenment and orderly liberty, civil, religious and intellectual. It charges each of its members to be true and loyal to the government of the country to which he owes allegiance and to be obedient to the law of any state in which he may be.

It believes that the attainment of these objectives is best accomplished by laying a broad basis of principles upon which men of every race, country, sect and opinion may unite rather than by setting up a restricted platform upon which only those of certain races, creeds and opinions can assemble.

Preface

Believing these things, this Grand Lodge affirms its continued adherence to that ancient and approved rule of Freemasonry which forbids the discussion in Masonic meetings of creeds, politics, or other topics likely to excite personal animosities.

It further affirms its conviction that it is not only contrary to the fundamental principles of Freemasonry, but dangerous to its unity, strength, usefulness and welfare, for Masonic bodies to take action or attempt to exercise pressure or influence for or against any legislation, or in any way to attempt to procure the election or appointment of government officials, or to influence them, whether or not members of the Fraternity, in the performance of their official duties.

The true Freemason will act in civil life according to his individual judgement and the dictates of his conscience.

Masonry abhors Communism as being repugnant to its conception of the dignity of individuals personality, destructive of the basic rights which are the divine heritage of all men and inimical to the fundamental Masonic tenet of faith in God. Anyone embracing Communism is therefore barred from Masonic Membership in Louisiana.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

**LANDMARKS RECOGNIZED BY THE GRAND LODGE
OF LOUISIANA**

(Adopted February 14, 1989)

Government of Masonry

1. The Grand Lodge is the supreme governing body within its territorial jurisdiction. The powers of the Grand Lodge are derived from the Ancient Landmarks, usages and customs of Masonry. It has original and exclusive jurisdiction to enact and enforce all laws and regulations for the government of the Craft.
2. That it is the prerogative of the Grand Master to preside over every assembly of the craft in his jurisdiction, whether grand or subordinate, and to exercise the executive functions of the Grand Lodge during its recess.
3. The Necessity of Masons to congregate in Lodges, to have a Master and two Wardens.
4. No one can be elected Master of a chartered Lodge but a Master Mason who shall have served as a Warden.
5. That no appeal can be taken to the Lodge from the decision of the Master or Warden occupying the chair in his absence. A Lodge can not try its Master.
6. No Lodge can interfere with the business of another Lodge.
7. The equality of all Masons.
8. The right of every Mason to appeal to the Grand Lodge, from any decision affecting his status as a Mason.
9. Membership in the Fraternity:
The Grand Lodge recognizes the physical, mental moral, and spiritual qualifications of a candidate for membership in the Masonic Fraternity, as derived from the Ancient Landmarks. The candidate must receive a clear ballot to qualify for membership.

Reference:

General Regulations of 1721

“No man can be entered a brother in any particular Lodge, or admitted a member thereof, without the unanimous consent of all the members of the Lodge then present when the candidate is proposed, and their consent is formally asked by the Master.”

Anderson's Constitutions

Landmarks Recognized

This Landmark applies to candidates applying for membership in the fraternity, and those asking to be “accepted” from other Masonic Lodges.

10. The Masonic Insignia
During the latter part of the eighteenth century, the Square and Compasses, were united in a certain manner to form the recognized insignia of Masonry. The Grand Lodge of Louisiana recognizes this as a Landmark of Masonry. The Square and Compasses, as they appear in the Master Mason Degree, shall be the official insignia of Louisiana Grand Lodge.
The Grand Lodge recognizes that the letter “G” has been added to the insignia in recent years, not by official action, but by individuals as an expression of love for the Diety, The Grand Lodge would permit this addition to continue, but will not permit other innovations, deletions, or additions without permission of the Grand Lodge with the exception of present officers jewels.
11. “The Book of the Law”, square and compasses, are the Great Lights in Freemasonry, and their presence in an open Lodge is indispensable.
12. The white lambskin apron is the badge of a Mason.
13. The legend of the Third Degree.
14. The covenants of a Mason do not conflict with his duty to God, his country, his family, his neighbor, or himself, but are binding upon his conscience and actions.
15. Penalties described in Masonry are Ancient Symbolic Penalties.
16. Masons must obey the moral law and government of the country in which they reside.
17. Secrecy applies to the modes of recognition, certain symbols, the ballot, obligations, signs, pass words, and the forms of initiation.
18. A belief in the existence of God, in the immortality of the Soul and a resurrection thereof to future life.
19. The volume of the Sacred Law, open upon the altar, is an indispensable furnishing of every Lodge while at labor.
20. The symbolism of the Operative Art.
21. The prerogative of the Grand Master to grant dispensations for conferring degrees at irregular times and for opening and holding Lodges (Lodge under dispensation).
22. That no visitor, unknown to the Brethren present, or to some one of them as a Freemason, can enter a lodge without first passing an examination according to ancient usage.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

23. Every Master, before closing his Lodge, may give, or cause to be given, a lecture on Masonry, or a part thereof.
24. FREE-MASON
Healing Day- June 24, 1813.
Moderns and Ancients had separated and formed separate Grand Lodges over one question.
The religious belief of a candidate.
They agreed - June 24, 1813 on this statement.
“Let a man’s religious or mode of worship be what it may, he is not excluded from the order, provided he believes in the Glorious Architect of Heaven and Earth and practices the sacred duties of Morality”
25. These Landmarks can never be repudiated.

**ACTS OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
STATE OF LOUISIANA**

AN ACT

Incorporating the Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana,
and for other purposes.

Whereas, Jean Soule, P. F. Dubourg, L. Moreau Lislet, Modeste Lefebvre, Senior; Yves Lemonier, Junior; Augustus Guibert and J. B. Pinta, of the Grand Lodge of Free-Masons of this State have by their petition stated that there has existed and still exists in this State divers Lodges or Societies of Free-Masons, over which there is a presiding or superintending Grand Lodge, composed of the petitioners, as members, and divers others who are or may join in promoting the good of the Craft, founded on the ancient usages of their Society, the principles of which are charity and universal benevolence; to the end, therefore, that charitable institutions may be promoted—

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, in General Assembly convened, That the several persons hereinbefore named, and others who are or may become members of the said Grand Lodge, and their successors, shall be and are hereby deemed to be a body corporate and politic in name and deed, by the style of the Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana, and by the said name and style shall have perpetual succession of officers and members, and a common seal to use and shall have full power to make alter, amend and change such By- Laws as may be agreed on by the members of the same; provided, such By-Laws be not pugniant to the laws or Constitution of this State or of the United States.

Section 2. And be it further enacted, That they shall have full power and authority, under the style and name of the Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana, to take, hold and enjoy, real and personal property; to sue for and recover all such sum or sums of money as now are or hereafter may become due to the said Lodge, by any name or style whatever, at any court of law or any tribunal having jurisdiction thereof, and the rights and privileges of the said Lodge in any court or at any tribunal whatever, to defend, and also to receive, take and apply bequests or donations as my be made to and for the uses and purposes intended by the said institution.

Acts of the Legislature

Section 3. And be it further enacted, That all the regular Lodges already constituted under the power and jurisdiction of the said Grand Lodge, are hereby declared to be bodies corporate and politic in name and deed, by whatever style or name they may be called and known in their constitution, with equal powers to those which are hereby given to the said Grand Lodge, so long as the said Lodges remain under the power and jurisdiction of the said Grand Lodge, and in all things abide by and conform themselves to the resolutions and By-Laws of the same, and no longer.

Approved March 18, 1816, pp. 99 and 100.

AN ACT

Supplementary to an Act entitled “An Act Incorporating the Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana and for other purposes”.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, in General Assembly convened, That all the regular lodges which have been constituted by the Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana, since the passage of the Act to which this is a supplement, as well as all the regular lodges, which shall be hereafter constituted by the same are hereby declared to be bodies corporate and politic, in name and deed, by whatever style or name they may be called and known in their constitution, with equal powers to those which are given to the said Grand Lodge by the said Act, so long as the said lodges shall remain under the power and jurisdiction of the said Grand Lodge, and in all things abide by and conform themselves to the resolutions and By-Laws of the same, and no longer.

Approved February 11, 1819, p. 16.

No. 225

AN ACT

To exempt from taxation the Hall of the Grand Lodge of A.Y.
Masons, of the State of Louisiana.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, in General Assembly convened, That the building situated on the corner of St. Charles and Perdido streets, in the City of New Orleans, and known as “The Hall of the Grand Lodge of A. Y. Masons, of the State of Louisiana”, Shall be exempt from State and Parish taxation, so long as it is occupied as the Grand Lodge of A.Y. Masons.

Approved March 15, 1855.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

No. 72.

AN ACT

To amend the second section of an Act entitled “An Act Incorporating the Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana, and for other purposes-Approved March 18, 1816.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, in General Assembly convened, That the second section of the Act entitled “An Act incorporating the Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana, and for other purposes, approved March 18, 1816, be amended and re-enacted so as to read as follows:”

Section 2. Be it further enacted, etc., “That they shall have full power and authority, under the style and name of the Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana to take, hold and enjoy real and personal property, to sell, mortgage or otherwise encumber any species of property; to borrow money on mortgage or real estate or on pledge of personal property; to issue bonds or other obligations to pay money; to sue for and recover all such sum or sums of money as now are or hereafter may become due to the said Grand Lodge by any name or style whatever, at any court of law or any tribunal having jurisdiction thereof, and the rights and privileges of the said Grand Lodge, in any court or tribunal whatever; to defend and also to receive, take and apply bequests or donations, as may be made to and for the uses and purposes intended by the said institution, and that these powers shall attach to all the regular lodges, which have heretofore been or shall hereafter be constituted by the said Grand Lodge so long as the said lodge shall remain under the powers and jurisdiction of the said Grand Lodge, and in all things abide by and conform themselves to the resolutions and By-Laws of the same, and no longer.”

Section 3. Be it further enacted, etc., That all laws and parts of law contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, be and the same are hereby repealed, and that this Act shall take effect from and after its passage.

Approved April 25, 1872, p. 123.

THE CHARGES OF
A FREE-MASON

EXTRACTED FROM

THE ANCIENT RECORDS OF LODGES

BEYOND SEA, AND OF THOSE IN ENGLAND, SCOTLAND AND
IRELAND FOR THE USE OF THE LODGES IN LONDON.
TO BE READ

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

(As Published by the Grand Lodge of England, 1723)*

THE GENERAL HEADS, VIZ.:

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

I. CONCERNING GOD AND RELIGION.

A Mason is oblig'd by his Tenure to obey the Moral Law; and if he rightly understands the Art he will never be a stupid ATHEIST, nor an irreligious LIBERTINE. But, though in ancient Times Masons were charg'd in every Country to be of the religion of that country or nation

* This copy has been minutely collated with an original copy of ANDERSON'S CONSTITUTIONS, in the possession of Bro. Bob Morris, and is found to be literally correct. The title page of the original work is given as above.

Charge of a Free-Mason

whatever it was, yet 'tis now thought more expedient only to oblige them to that Religion in which all Men agree, leaving their peculiar Opinions to themselves; that is, to be good Men and true, or Men of Honour and Honesty, by whatever Denominations or Persuasions they may be distinguish'd; whereby Masonry becomes the Centre of Union, and the Means of conciliating true Friendship among Persons that must have remain'd 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 concern'd in Plots and Conspiracies against the Peace and Welfare of the Nation, nor to behave himself undutiful to inferior Magistrates for as Masonry hath been always injured by War, Bloodshed and Confusion, so ancient Kings and Princes have been much dispos'd to encourage the Craftsmen, because of their Peaceableness and Loyalty, whereby they practically answered the Cavils of their Adversaries and promoted the honour of the Fraternity, who ever flourish'd in times of Peace. So that if a Brother should be a Rebel against the State, he is not to be countenanc'd in his Rebellion, however he may be pitied as any unhappy man; and if convicted of no other Crime, though the Loyal Brotherhood must and ought to disown his Rebellion, and give no Umbrage or Ground of political jealousy to the Government for the time being, they cannot expel him from the Lodge, and his Relation to it remains indefeasible.

III. OF LODGES.

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

The persons admitted Members of a Lodge must be good and true Men, free born, and of mature and discreet age, no Bond-men, no Women, no immoral or scandalous Men, but of good Report.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

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 despis'd; Therefore, no Master or Warden is chosen by Seniority, but for his Merit. It is impossible to describe these things in writing, and every Brother must attend in his Place and learn them in a way peculiar to this Fraternity. Only Candidates may know that no Master should take an Apprentice, unless he has Employment for him, and unless he be a perfect youth, having no Maim or Defect in his Body that may render him incapable of learning the Art - of serving his Master's LORD, and of being made a Brother, and then a Fellow Craft in due time, even after he has served such a term of Years as the Customs of the Country directs; and the he should be descended of honest Parents; that so, when otherwise qualifi'd he may arrive at the Honour of being the 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 pass'd the part of a Fellow Craft nor a MASTER, until he has acted as a Warden; nor GRAND WARDEN, until he has been a Master of a Lodge; nor GRAND MASTER, unless he has been a Fellow Craft before his Election, who is also to be nobly born, or a Gentleman of the best Fashion, or some eminent Scholar, or some curious Architect or other Artist, descended from honest Parents, and who is of singular great Merit, in the opinion of the Lodge. And for the better and easier and more honorable Discharge of his Office the Grand Master, has a power to chose his own DEPUTY GRAND MASTER who must be then, or must have been formerly, the Master of a particular Lodge, and has the Privilege of acting whatever the GRAND MASTER his Principal, should act, unless the said principal be present, or interpose his Authority by a letter.

These Rules and Governors, supreme and subordinate of the Ancient Lodge, are to be obey'd in their respective Stations by all the Brethren, according to the old Charges and Regulations, with all Humility, Reverence, Love and Alacrity,

V. OF THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CRAFT IN WORKING

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

Charge of a Free-Mason

The most expert of the Fellow Craftsmen, shall be chosen or appointed the Master or Overseer of the Lord's work; who is to be call'd 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 reasonable as possible, and truly dispend his Goods as if they were his own; nor to give more Wages to any Brother or Apprentice than he really may deserve.

Both the MASTER, and the 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 or put him out of the his Work if he be 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 a Fellow Craftsman is chosen Warden of the Work under the Master, he shall be true both to Master and Fellows, shall carefully oversee the Work in the Master's absence, to the Lord's profit, and his Brethren shall obey him.

All Masons employed shall meekly receive their wages without murmuring or mutiny; and not desert the Master till the work is finished.

A younger Brother shall be instructed in working, to prevent spoiling the materials for want of judgement, and for increasing and continuing of Brotherly Love.

All the tools used in working shall be approved by the Grand Lodge. No Labourer shall be employed in the proper work of Masonry; nor shall FREE MASONS work with those that are not free, without an urgent Necessity; nor shall they teach Labourers and unaccepted Masons as they should teach a Brother or Fellow.

VI. OF BEHAVIOR, VIZ:**1. IN THE LODGE WHILE CONSTITUTED**

You are not to hold private Committees, or separate Conversation, without Leave from the Master, not to talk of anything impertinent 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 Pretense whatsoever; but to pay due Reference to your Master, Wardens and Fellows, and put them to worship.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

If any Complaint be brought, the Brother found guilty shall stand to the Award and Determination of the Lodge who are proper and competent Judges of all such controversies (unless you carry it by Appeal to the GRAND LODGE,) and to whom they ought to be referr'd 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. BEHAVIOR AFTER THE LODGE IS OVER, AND THE BRETHREN NOT GONE

You may enjoy yourself with innocent Mirth, treating one another according to ability, but avoiding all Excess or forcing any Brother to eat or drink beyond his Inclination, or hindering him from going when his Occasions call him, or doing or saying anything offensive, or that may forbid an easy and free Conversation, for that would blast our Harmony and defeat our 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 Catholick Religion above mention'd; we are also of all Nations, Tongues, Kindreds and Languages and are resolv'd against ALL POLITICKS, as what never yet conduced to the Welfare of the Lodge, nor ever will. This Charge has been always strictly enjoin'd and observed; but especially since the Reformation in BRITAIN, or the Dissent and secession of these Nations from Communion of ROME.

3. BEHAVIOR WHEN BRETHREN MEET, WITHOUT STRANGERS BUT NOT IN A LODGE FORMED

You are to salute one another in a courteous manner, as you will be instructed, calling each other Brother, freely giving Mutual Instruction, as shall be thought expedient, without being overseen or overheard, and without encroaching upon each other, or derogating from that Respect which is due to any Brother were he not a Mason; for, though all Masons are as brethren, upon the saine LEVEL, yet Masonry takes no honours from a Man that he had before; nay rather it adds to his Honour, especially if he has deserv'd well of the Brotherhood, who must give honour, to whom it is due, and to avoid ill manners.

Charge of a Free-Masons

4. BEHAVIOUR IN PRESENCE OF STRANGERS NOT MASONS

You shall be cautious in your Words and Carriage, that the most penetrating Strangers shall not be able to discover or find out what is not proper to be intimated; and sometimes you shall divert a Discourse, and manage it prudently, for the Honour of the worshipful Fraternity.

5. BEHAVIOUR AT HOME AND IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

You are to act as becomes a moral and wise man; particularly not to let you Family, Friends and Neighbors know the Concerns of the Lodge, &c., but wisely to consult your own Honour and that of the ancient Brotherhood, for reasons not to be mention'd here. You must also consult your Health, by not continuing together too late, or too long from home after Lodge Hours are past; and by avoiding of Gluttony or Drunkenness that your Families be not neglected or injured, nor you disabled from working.

6. BEHAVIOUR TOWARDS A STRANGE BROTHER

You are cautiously to examine him in such a Method as Prudence shall direct you, that you may not be impos'd upon by an ignorant, false Pretender, whom you are to reject with Contempt and derision, beware of giving him any Hints of Knowledge.

But if you discover him to be a true and genuine Brother, you are to respect him accordingly; and if he is in want, you must relieve him if you can, or else direct him how he may be reliev'd. You must employ him some Days, or else recommend him to be employ'd. But you are not charged to do beyond your Ability, only to prefer a poor Brother that is a good Man and true, before any other poor People in the same Circumstances.

FINALLY, All these CHARGES you are to observe, and also those that shall be communicated to you in another way, cultivating BROTHERLY LOVE, the Foundation and Capstone, the Cement and Glory of this ancient Fraternity, avoiding all Wrangling and Quarreling, all Slander and backbiting, not permitting others to slander any honest Brother, but defending his Character, and doing him all good Offices, as far as is consistent with your Honour and Safety, and no farther. And if any of them do you Injury, you must apply to your own or his Lodge; and from thence you may appeal to the GRAND LODGE at the Quarterly Communication, and from thence to the Annual GRAND LODGE, as has been the ancient laudable Conduct of our Forefathers in every Nation, never taking a legal

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

Course but when the Case cannot be otherwise decided and patiently listening to the honest and friendly Advice of Master 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 mind the Affair of MASONRY with the more Alacrity and Success, but with respect to Brothers or Fellows at Law, the Master and Brethren should kindly offer their Mediation, which ought to be thankfully submitted to by the contending Brethren; and if that Submission is impracticable, they must, however, carry on their Process or Law-Suit, without Wrath or Rancour, (not in the common way,) saying or doing nothing which may hinder Brotherly Love and good Offices be renew'd and continu'd 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.

CONSTITUTION
OF
THE GRAND LODGE
OF THE
STATE OF LOUISIANA
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

TITLES OF THE ARTICLES

ARTICLE	I. Style and Title	2
ARTICLE	II. Of Whom Composed.....	2
ARTICLE	III. The Powers of the Grand Lodge	2
ARTICLE	IV. The Officers of the Grand Lodge.....	3
ARTICLE	V. Powers and Duties of the Grand Lodge.....	5
ARTICLE	VI. Communications and Quorums for Business	6
ARTICLE	VII. The Constituent Lodges.....	7
ARTICLE	VIII. Dues, Fees and Assessments	9
ARTICLE	IX. Amendments	10

Constitution
THE CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1.
Style and Title.

Section 1. This Grand Lodge shall be Known by its corporate name and title “THE GRAND LODGE OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA.”

ARTICLE II.
Of Whom Composed.

Section 1. The members of this Grand Lodge shall consist of its actual officers, Past Grand Masters, the Grand Tyler excepted, and the Masters and Wardens in Office (when duly installed) of its constituent Lodges.

Section 2. All Past Deputy Grand Masters and Past Grand Wardens of this Grand Lodge and all Past Masters of Lodges under this Grand Lodge, so long as they are members in good standing of Lodges under this Grand Jurisdiction, shall be entitled to seats in this Grand Lodge and to take part in all it proceedings, including the initiation of legislation, but shall have no vote except when representing a duly accredited delegate as proxy.

ARTICLE III.
The Powers of the Grand Lodge.

Section 1. It shall have the exclusive right to constitute and govern all Lodges of symbolic Freemasonry in the State of Louisiana; shall hear all appeals, decide in the last resort between the Lodges and the brethren, redress all grievances, and shall have exclusive power to try and punish its own officers and the Master in office for its constituent Lodges. It may make all laws and regulations necessary for the government of the Lodges and brethren under this Grand Jurisdiction, and for the propagation and advancement of the true principles and work of Ancient Freemasonry, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution or the Ancient usage and landmarks of the Order.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana, Free and Accepted Masons, is the sole legal power of symbolic Masonry and sovereign in the State of Louisiana. It is supreme and so recognized by all Masonic Grand Jurisdictions throughout the world. All true Masons within this Grand Jurisdiction owe obedience to her. No Lodge attempting to exist in this state without a Charter from this Grand Lodge shall be acknowledged as regular.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana
ARTICLE IV.
The Officers of the Grand Lodge.

2017
Section 1. The officers of the Grand Lodge shall consist of the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, Grand Senior Warden, Grand Junior Warden, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, Grand Chaplain, Grand Marshal, Grand Senior Deacon, Grand Junior Deacon, Grand Sword Bearer, Grand Pursuivant, Grand Standard Bearer, Grand Physician, Grand Organist, a District Deputy Master for each Masonic District, who shall also have the rank of Grand Steward, District Grand Lecturers, Grand Photographer, and Grand Tyler. Additional appointed officers may include Grand Inner Guard, Grand Master Expert and Grand Hospitalier (without regalia or specific duties). All elective Grand Officers and District Deputy Grand Masters must be Past Masters of regular constituent Lodges, chartered under the Grand Lodge. Any eligible member may be nominated for an elective office in the Grand Lodge provided that a limit of five minutes be placed on the nomination of any one member which shall include the seconds.

2010
Section 2. The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Wardens, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Secretary shall be chosen by ballot after the Completion of all business on the first day, or the second day of each Annual Grand Communication, at the discretion of the Grand Master (except that in case due to limitation placed on the number of persons permitted to assemble it should become necessary as provided under Article VI. Section 2, of this Constitution to limit the attendance at any Grand Communication to the Elected Grand Lodge Officers and Past Grand Masters, the election shall be by mail ballot as provided in Section 3, of the Article), and shall be installed on the last day thereof, after all other matters have been disposed of. The balance of the Grand Lodge Officers shall be appointed by the Grand Master.

2019
Section 3. Should competent authority prohibit the assembly of persons in numbers sufficient to provide a quorum of Grand Lodge, making it necessary at the usual time of the Annual Grand Communication for the elected Grand Lodge Officers and Past Grand Masters to exercise the authority specified in Article VI, Section 2 of this constitution, the Grand Master shall cause the Grand Secretary to send notification by mail no later than seven (7) days prior to the date fixed for the Annual Communication or, if the limiting regulation is published less than seven (7) days prior to the date of the Annual Grand Communication, no later than seven (7) days after the regulation is published, in which case the Grand Master may act to set a new date for the Annual Grand Communication to be not less than ten (10) days nor more than three (3) weeks after the notices are mailed by the Grand Secretary to all Grand Lodge Officers, Past Grand Masters, and members of Grand Lodge advising that the Annual Grand Communication will not be held in the usual manner, giving the reason therefor, and the date on which the affairs of Grand Lodge will be transacted by the elected Officers and Past Grand Masters.

Constitution

The notice shall contain a printed ballot providing space for election of a brother to each elective Grand Lodge office except Grand Junior Warden and to each Grand Lodge board on which a vacancy occurs. (In case it should become necessary to hold two successive Annual Grand Communications in this manner, the ballot for the election of Grand Lodge Officers at the second such Annual Grand Communication shall make no provision for voting for Grand Senior Warden or Grand Junior Warden). Opposite each office named shall be two squares, one of which will provide for a vote for a brother whose name shall be printed on the ballot; one of which will enable a member to write in another brother's name and vote for him. The following names shall be printed on the ballot;

Opposite GRAND MASTER the name of the sitting Deputy Grand Master.

Opposite DEPUTY GRAND MASTER the name of the sitting Grand Senior Warden.

Opposite GRAND SENIOR WARDEN (except in the second consecutive year of election by mail) the name of the sitting Grand Junior Warden.

Opposite GRAND TREASURER the name of the sitting Grand Treasurer.

Opposite GRAND SECRETARY the name of the sitting Grand Secretary.

Opposite the various boards whose members are customarily elected annually by Grand Lodge as their terms of office expire, the names of the brethren whose terms on the respective boards are ending.

Each ballot when mailed out will contain a stamped envelope addressed to the Grand Secretary for return of the completed ballot, and a notice advising that all ballots to be counted must be returned to the office of the Grand Secretary no later than nine o'clock a.m. of the first day set for the Annual Grand Communication.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

Ballots shall be opened and tallied at the office of the Grand Lodge, in the presence of a quorum of the board of elected officers and Past Grand Masters of the Grand Lodge on the first day of the Annual Grand Communication; the brethren receiving a majority of the ballots cast for their respective offices shall be declared duly and constitutionally elected, shall be entitled to all the authority, privileges and prerogatives of their respective offices, and shall be installed on the last day of the Annual Grand Communication, provided the Grand Master shall at the first opportunity thereafter install the various elected and appointed officers who are unable to be at the Annual Grand Communication for installation.

Notice of the result of the mail election shall be mailed to each constituent Lodge, each Grand Lodge officer, Past Grand Master, and member of the Grand Lodge, within five days after the announcement in Grand Lodge of the result of the election.

Section 4. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Grand Master, due to death, permanent removal from Louisiana, interdiction, or resignation, the Deputy Grand Master shall become Grand Master in fact and in name; and in like manner the Grand Senior Warden, shall become Deputy Grand Master and Grand Junior Warden shall become Grand Senior Warden.

ARTICLE V.

Powers and Duties of the Grand Officers.

Section 1. The Grand Master is invested with all the power and authority and is entitled to all the privileges and prerogatives attached to his office by the ancient usages of the Fraternity. He may, during the recess of the Grand Lodge, grant dispensations for the formation of new lodges and suspend the working of any Lodge, or its Master, until the next communication of the Grand Lodge. He may appoint as many deputies as he may require to perform the duties incumbent upon him, and call special meetings of the Grand Lodge whenever formally petitioned by one-fifth of the Chartered Lodges.

Section 2. He shall (in person or by proxy) constitute and consecrate all new Lodges and install their officers, inspect the work of the constituent Lodges at least once a year and see that they work uniformly and correctly and according to the landmarks, laws and usages of the Order and that the constitution, Regulations and Edicts of this Grand Lodge are faithfully obeyed. He shall be ex officio Chairman of all committees and shall at each Annual Grand Communication report to the Grand Lodge all his official acts during the year, state the condition of the constituent Lodges and of Masonry generally and make any other suggestions as may seem to him conducive to the good of the craft and proper to be acted upon by this Grand Lodge.

Constitution

Section 3. The Deputy Grand Master, shall represent the Grand Master and exercise all his rights, prerogatives and privileges, perform all his duties whenever the Grand Master may from death, absence, inability or other cause, be unable to perform the same, and should the Deputy Grand Master be, for like reason, unable to act, the Grand Senior Warden and Grand Junior Warden shall, in the order named, take the position of Grand Master, and in the event of the inability of the first four Grand Officers to act the Junior Past Grand Master shall act until the inability be removed.

Section 4. These, and the other Grand Officers of the Grand Lodge, generally, shall do and perform all the duties attached to their several stations by the usage and customs of the Fraternity, and enjoy all rights, privileges and prerogatives thereof, until their successors shall be duly elected and installed.

ARTICLE VI.

Communications and Quorums for Business.

Section 1. This Grand Lodge shall hold one Annual Grand Communication, which shall be convened on such a day as the *General Regulations* shall provide, and shall continue in session from day to day, until all the business is disposed of; it may hold as many special communications as circumstances may require of which due and sufficient notice shall be given to each Lodge previous to holding the same

Section 2. At least one-eighth of all the chartered Lodges shall be represented at the transaction of ordinary business; one-fourth at the election of officers, or the changing of the General Regulations, and one-half at the amending of the Constitution; provided however, that if at the time of the Annual Grand Communication the number of persons permitted to assemble is limited by competent local, state or national authority to a total less than the sum of the number of Grand Lodge Officers, plus the number of living Past Grand Masters, plus the number of constituent Lodges chartered under Grand Lodge, the power of Grand Lodge to adopt a budget, appropriate money, pass on acts of the Grand Master, and of constituent Lodges, review trial records, and carry on the affairs of Grand and constituent Lodges may be exercised by a board composed of the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Senior Warden, Grand Junior Warden, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary and all living Past Grand Masters.

4
10
0
6
1
4

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

In the event it is necessary for Grand Lodge to proceed on this basis, a quorum shall consist of at least eleven, or two-thirds of those named which ever is the lesser, one of whom shall be one of the four first-named officers; provided that amendment, alteration, revision, or change of this Constitution, or the assessment of a tax or increase in Grand Lodge fees or dues by such Annual Grand Communication of Grand Lodge composed only of the elected Grand Lodge Officers and Past Grand Masters may be accomplished only by a proposal presented in writing to an Annual Grand Communication which, if approved by a majority of a quorum present, shall be mailed with an explanation of its purposes to all constituent Lodges chartered under this Grand Lodge, when, if a majority of the chartered Lodges approve the same and notify the Grand Secretary thereof, it shall be adopted.

At the time for the first Annual Grand Communication after the prohibitory regulation has been rescinded, the Grand Communication shall be held in the customary manner.

ARTICLE VII.
The Constituent Lodges.

Section 1. Every regular Lodge of symbolic Freemasonry in this State must be held by virtue of a charter of this Grand Lodge or Dispensation of the Grand Lodge or Grand Master; each chartered Lodge to be registered and numbered according to the date of its Charter. It shall not proceed to work until it shall have first been constituted and consecrated and its officers duly installed. All charters shall be exactly uniform.

At the first meeting of a Lodge after receiving its Charter, the Master shall request the names of its charter members be sent to the respective Lodges from which they hail, by the Grand Lodge office.

Lodges shall not be permitted to send their Charters anywhere except to the office of the Grand Secretary and then only for repairs, renewing or permaplasticizing and the temporary removal of a Charter from the Lodge room does not nullify the work of the Lodge. The absence of the officer in charge of the Charter does not prevent the Lodge from functioning legally in all meetings. A Lodge furnishing the Grand Master with satisfactory evidence that its Charter has been lost or destroyed shall be entitled to a duplicate Charter without charge.

Section 2. The constituent Lodges shall be composed of those named in their Charters, and such brothers as they shall admit by regular affiliation or shall raise to the sublime degree of Master Mason.

Constitution

Section 3. The officers of each Lodge shall consist of a Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer and Secretary Senior and Junior Deacons, and Tyler, and such other officers as may be deemed necessary by the Lodge; the first five of the above named officers must be chosen by ballot, provided it shall be legal for the Lodge, by unanimous consent, to permit any designated officer to cast the ballot for the Lodge for the office of Secretary or Treasurer; all officers except the Tyler must be members of the Lodge. In all elections a majority of all the votes cast shall be necessary to an election. No brother can be elected Master of a Lodge unless he has served as Warden. The Master, alone, has authority to name the appointive officers of the Lodge.

Section 4. Every chartered Lodge shall have the right to confer the three degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason, according to the ancient customs and rites of the Order, and to do all other acts pertaining to Masonry, not in any way conflicting with this Constitution, the General Regulations and Edicts of this Grand Lodge, or the ancient usages and customs of the Fraternity. No man can be made a Mason regularly in Louisiana except by a regular Lodge working under a Charter or Dispensation from this Grand Lodge.

Section 5. Dispensations for new Lodges shall be granted only upon the petition, in writing, of at least fifteen Master Masons in good standing. The first three officers named in the petition must be fully competent to confer the three degrees of symbolic Masonry; and each petition must be accompanied with a certificate of demit, or of good standing, of each petitioner.

Section 6. Lodges working under Dispensation may exercise only the rights granted to them in their Dispensation. They have no right or power of electing their three first officers or of sending representatives to the Grand Lodge. At the expiration of the Masonic year they shall send up a correct transcript of their work, under such regulations as the Grand Lodge shall determine.

Section 7. Lodges which shall fail to make their returns and pay their dues shall not be entitled to be represented in the Grand Lodge; and all Lodges which shall have failed to make their returns and pay their dues, or to hold their regular meetings and elect their officers, or to be represented in the Grand Lodge, for two successive years, shall forfeit their Charter, which shall be canceled, and all their books, jewels implements and property shall revert to the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

1976 Section 8. Each chartered Lodge shall be entitled to three votes in the Grand Lodge, through its representatives or their proxies; and in case of the absence of one or more of said representatives, the vote or votes of those absent shall be cast by the senior representative present. 1976

Section 9. The constituent Lodges are required to enforce uniformity in the following particulars of work:

In the means of recognition.

In the ties that bind us together as Masons.

Section 10. Constituent Lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction are distinct, legal corporations by virtue of several Legislative Acts of the State of Louisiana, and have the rights, privileges and powers listed in the Acts (subject only to such limitations as the Grand Lodge fixes), and may acquire, mortgage and sell property, borrow and issue evidences of indebtedness, and receive donations.

Section 11. In addition to the constituent Lodges hereinabove provided for, the state shall be divided into Masonic Districts by this Grand Lodge, and in each such district, a district Lodge may be formed, composed of all the members in good standing of the Lodges in each respective Masonic District, which said district Lodges shall operate under constitutions and by-laws to be approved by this Grand Lodge, provided, however, said district Lodges shall not receive petitions for, nor confer degrees, nor shall they be obligated to pay dues, contributions or fees to this Grand Lodge.

The Grand Master is authorized to make changes in the boundaries of Masonic Districts whenever necessary.

ARTICLE VIII.

Dues, Fees and Assessments.

Section 1. Each chartered Lodge shall pay to the Grand Lodge such dues and assessments for each member borne on its register during the year and such fee for each degree conferred as hereinafter provided; provided that if any member demits from any Lodge in this state and joins another Lodge in this state during the same year or transfers on certificate of good standing during the same year, only the named Lodge from which the member demitted or transferred shall owe dues to the Grand Lodge on his account.

Assessments levied by the Grand Lodge are against the Lodges and must be paid to the Grand Secretary by the Lodges when the annual returns are made.

Constitution

1988 No Grand Lodge or constituent Lodge dues, fees or assessments shall be levied against any brother who shall have been a Master Mason in good standing for fifty or more years. All 50 year members should be notified that they can voluntarily pay their dues if they so desire. 1988

1997 No Grand Lodge dues, fees, or assessments in addition to the proportionate ratio payments shall be levied against any Perpetual Member or against the Constituent Lodge in which he is a Perpetual Member because of his membership therein. 1997

Section 2. The sum of fifty dollars shall be charged for each Dispensation and the same sum for each Charter issued by the Grand Lodge, for the formation of a new Lodge.

Section 3. Lodges shall not charge less than ninety dollars for conferring the three degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason. The Lodges may charge such sums for affiliation and the dues of members as each may think proper.

ARTICLE IX.

Amendments.

Section 1. Any amendment, alteration, revision or change of this Constitution must be proposed in writing, at an Annual Grand Communication, and if a majority of the members present assent, it shall be printed in the proceedings of the Grand Lodge, and sent to all constituent Lodges, when, if a majority of the chartered Lodges approve the same and notify the Grand Secretary thereof, or if, at the next Annual Grand Communication, two-thirds of the members present of a sufficient quorum vote in favor of the same, it shall be adopted.

Section 2. Whenever a majority of the chartered Lodges shall, by resolution, demand a convention to amend or revise this Constitution, the Grand Master shall call upon all the chartered Lodges to assemble by their delegates at such time and place as he shall determine, if a majority of the Lodges requesting such a convention shall not have agreed upon the time and place, provided that the Grand Master, in fixing the time, shall not exceed two months from the time he shall have received the demand from a sufficient number of Lodges. Each Lodge shall elect and send one delegate to said convention, which convention, when duly assembled, shall have power, by vote of two-thirds of all chartered Lodges represented, to revise, alter or change this Constitution, as may seem to them necessary and proper.

Section 3. The adoption of this Constitution abrogates and repeals the former Constitution of this Grand Lodge as such, and all Regulations, Resolutions and Edicts, in way conflicting with this Constitution are null and of no effect.

GENERAL REGULATIONS
OF
THE GRAND LODGE
OF THE
STATE OF LOUISIANA
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

TITLES OF THE ARTICLES

	PAGE
ARTICLE I. Organization and General Order of Business	12
ARTICLE II. Special duties of the Grand Officers.....	15
ARTICLE III. Duties of Committee	19
ARTICLE IV. Trials and Punishments in the Grand Lodge	24
ARTICLE V. Special Rights and Duties of Constituent Lodges	25
ARTICLE VI. Initiation, Advancement and Affiliation	28
ARTICLE VII. Trials, Punishments and Appeals	36
ARTICLE VIII. Grand Lodge Cemetery	52
ARTICLE IX. Relief Lodges	54
ARTICLE X. Masonic Home Properties and Charities	55
ARTICLE XI. Masonic Learning Center of Louisiana.....	56a
ARTICLE XII. Particular Provisions	57
ARTICLE XIII. Consolidation of Lodges	61
ARTICLE XIV. Extinct Lodges	62
ARTICLE XV. Masonic Library/Museum Foundation	63
ARTICLE XVI. Perpetual Membership Board.....	64a
ARTICLE XVII. Amendment	64b

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana
THE GENERAL REGULATIONS.

ARTICLE I.
Organization and General Order of Business

2006 Section 1. The date and place of the Annual Grand Communication shall be fixed by resolution of the Grand Lodge, 2006

The Grand Lodge shall not be opened for business until a quorum for ordinary business is present. If a quorum is not present, the presiding officer shall call off the Grand Lodge from day to day until a quorum is formed.

2006 The Grand Lodge, by resolution in Annual Communication assembled, or the Grand Master, may change the place or change the date of the Annual Grand Communication for the following year to the last Saturday in January or the second or third Saturday in February or the Monday following such Saturday in that year. 2006

2013 Until the year 2020, thereafter the Annual Grand Communication shall begin on the closest Saturday practicable to the Feast day of St. John the Baptist (June 24) or on the Monday following such Saturday, but the Grand Lodge, by resolution in Annual Communication assembled, or the Grand Master, may change the place or change the date of the Annual Grand Communication for the following year to the week preceding the closest Saturday or the week following the closest Saturday to the Feast Day of St. John the Baptist, the session to convene on Saturday of said week or the Monday following such Saturday. 2013

2018 Thereafter, commencing in 2020 each Annual Grand Communication shall begin on the fourth Saturday of the month of April, but the Grand Lodge, by resolution in Annual Communication assembled, or the Grand Master, may change the place or change the date of the Annual Grand Communication for the following year to the week preceding or the week following the fourth Saturday in April. 2018

Section 2. The Grand Lodge shall have the following standing boards and committees and, immediately after the Grand Lodge is opened for business, the presiding officer shall fill all vacancies in said boards and committees.

1997 a. A Committee on Masonic Law and Jurisprudence composed of seven members who must be Past Masters of constituent Lodges. 1997

1997 b. A Board of Budget and Control, composed of five elected members, one member being elected each year for a term of five years. 1997

c. A Committee on Appeals and Grievances composed of seven members who shall be Past Masters of Lodges, and at least five members of the said Committee shall sign any report that is made to the Grand Lodge on all such matters referred to said Committee. 1997

d. A Committee on State of the Order composed of three members. 1997

e. A Committee on Credentials composed of not more than fourteen (14) members whose members and chairman shall be appointed by the Grand Master. 1997

2008 f. A Permanent Committee on Work composed of Six Past Masters, one member being appointed each year for a term of six years, by the presiding Grand Master, who shall designate the Chairman of the Committee for the current year. 2008

GENERAL REGULATIONS

The Nineteen Masonic Districts shall be divided and grouped together in LECTURE DISTRICTS as follows:

- LECTURE DISTRICT 1 composed of Masonic Districts 1, 2, and 6. 1985
- LECTURE DISTRICT 2 composed of Masonic Districts 3, 4, and 7.
- LECTURE DISTRICT 3 composed of Masonic Districts 5, 8, and 9.
- LECTURE DISTRICT 4 composed of Masonic Districts 10, 11, and 12.
- LECTURE DISTRICT 5 composed of Masonic Districts 13, 14, and 19.
- LECTURE DISTRICT 6 composed of Masonic Districts 15,16,17, and 18.

- g. A Committee on Foreign Correspondence, composed of five members.

- h. A Committee on History, composed of seven members.

- i. A Committee on Necrology, composed of three members.

- j. A Committee on Masonic Education composed of five members, one member being appointed each year for a term of five years by the Grand Master, who shall also designate the Chairman of the committee for the year. 1995

- k. The Board of Charities and Benevolence composed of the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, and five Master Masons, of whom one is to be elected each year for a term of five years. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Masonic Charities shall be a member ex-officio of said Board of Charities and Benevolence. 2008

- l. A Masonic Service Committee composed of the Grand Master, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Secretary, and six members appointed yearly by the Grand Master, with the Grand Secretary performing the duties of secretary of the same. 1995

- m. A Committee to Supervise Publication of “ The Louisiana Freemason” Magazine composed of five members.

- n. Public Information Committee composed of members appointed by the Grand Master .

- o. A Committee on Membership Development consisting of one member from each Masonic District, a total of nineteen members, to be appointed by the Grand Master, who shall select the Chairman from among the members appointed. 1997

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

- p. A Financial Oversight Committee consisting of five (5) members with financial background, training and experience to be appointed by the Grand Master which shall provide an overview of all Grand Lodge investments and funds, including investment guidelines for all Boards and Committees based upon generally accepted accounting principles and to suggest the form and content of simplified all-inclusive financial reports. 2008

- q. A Grand Attorneys Committee consisting of five (5) members with professional legal qualifications, training and experience who shall, without remuneration, furnish legal services to the Grand Lodge. The Grand Master shall appoint the members and shall name the Chairman who shall supervise the allocation of tasks and the performance of said services. 2016

- r. An Information Technology Committee consisting of five (5) members appointed by the Grand Master, together with the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Senior Warden and Grand Junior Warden as ex-officio members during their term of office, which shall provide to Grand Lodge appropriate information, guidance and forms to maintain, upgrade and enhance recording and information delivery systems including web page(s), membership and financial data. 2008

- s. A Committee on Gifts, Wills and Legacies consisting of five (5) members with appropriate training and experience to be appointed by the Grand Master, together with the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Senior Warden and Grand Junior Warden as ex-officio members during their term of office, who shall, without remuneration, provide to Grand Lodge appropriate advice, guidance, information and forms to effectuate donations of every kind to Grand Lodge for fraternal and /or philanthropic purposes. 2008

- t. A Board of Trustees for Fraternal Properties composed of the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Senior Warden, Grand Junior Warden, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary and the junior Past Grand Master which Board shall act for The Grand Lodge in leasing, selling or encumbering properties owned by The Grand Lodge in its fraternal capacity. Such action shall be taken only upon a favorable vote by a majority of the Board members, provided that the Grand Master shall have the power of casting a deciding vote in the event of a tie. 2009

- u. There is hereby created a standing Committee to be known as the Planning Committee which shall develop, revise and recommend plans and courses of action to the Grand Lodge of Louisiana, F. & A.M. for use in administering its affairs, both business and fraternal. 2010

General Regulations

The Planning Committee shall consist of eight (8) members to include the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Senior Warden, Grand Junior Warden, Grand Secretary and the three (3) immediate Past Grand Masters with the newly-elected Grand Junior Warden becoming a member and the longest-serving Past Grand Master rotating off the Committee to be replaced by the junior Past Grand Master each year. The presiding Grand Master shall be chairman of the Committee. The Committee is authorized to utilize advisory sub-committees and to avail itself of all available resources. It shall not, however, infringe upon the established prerogatives of the Grand Master or other elected Grand Lodge officers.

All other committees shall be composed of three members unless otherwise provided by the resolution creating the same.

All committees and boards are created by action of the Grand Lodge and are subservient thereto. The delineation of the duties of said committees and boards shall not be construed as prohibiting Grand Lodge from instructing, and/or recommending to said committees and boards.

Section 3. As soon as the vacancies in these committees are filled and it has been determined by the Committee on Credentials and a roll call of all the Lodges and Grand Lodge members that a quorum is present the Grand Master, Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary, shall make their reports; after which these reports and such other business as is proper and time will permit, shall be appropriately referred; but no final action shall be had on any subject of importance at the first session of the Grand Communication.

Section 4. At the succeeding session of the Annual Grand Communication, the reports of the standing and special committees and such other business that shall properly be brought before the Grand Lodge, shall be disposed of.

Section 5. No business shall be acted upon at any special communication of this Grand Lodge, except that which it was expressly called together to consider, and so far as applicable, the rules for the government of the Annual Grand Communication shall govern all Special Communications.

ARTICLE II.

Special Duties of the Grand Officers.

Section 1. The Grand Master shall, as soon after his installation as possible, appoint the standing committees of the Grand Lodge. He shall also appoint all special committees that may be ordered and see that they are faithful in the performance of their duties, he shall grant, at his discretion, all dispensations for the organization of new Lodges and shall, either in person or by deputy, before delivering a Dispensation to the officers named therein,

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

and at the first meeting fully instruct them in their respective duties.

In case of a vacancy in the office of Grand Secretary or of the Grand Treasurer, the Grand Master shall have the power to appoint a Grand Secretary or a Grand Treasurer to hold office until the election and installation of officers at the next regular Grand Communication. Such officers, when so appointed, shall perform all the duties provided for under Section 2. and 3., of Article II of the General Regulations.

1984 1984
In case of a vacancy in the office of Deputy Grand Master, Grand Senior Warden, or Grand Junior Warden, for any cause whatsoever during the recess of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master shall not fill the vacancy.

In case of a vacancy in any appointive Grand Lodge Office, or on any Grand Lodge Board or Committee during the recess of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master shall have authority to fill the vacancy until the election and installation of officers at the next regular Grand Communication.

The Grand Master has the authority to close the Grand Lodge, a District Lodge or a Constituent Lodge in summary manner. The Deputy Grand Master, Grand Senior Warden, and Grand Junior Warden have the authority at open meetings to close the Lodge in a summary manner.

2014 2014
Section 2. The Grand Treasurer shall keep proper books of accounts and have them ready at all times to exhibit to the Grand Master, or to any committee appointed by the Grand Lodge or Grand Master for that purpose. He shall keep, in some regularly chartered bank or banks in the State of Louisiana, to be selected by the Grand Master, all the monies, notes, bonds or other securities that may come into his possession as Grand Treasurer, in such accounts as are necessary and proper established in the name of the Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana. All expenditures of Grand Lodge monies shall be made as provided hereinafter. At the first session of each Annual Grand Communication, the Grand Treasurer shall report to the Grand Lodge the condition of the accounts with a detailed statement of all funds which have passed through or remain in his hands during his term of office.

Section 3. The Grand Secretary shall carefully record all the proceedings of the Grand Lodge proper to be written; shall keep just and true accounts between the Grand Lodge and the constituent Lodges, and all other parties; shall receive all monies paid to the Grand Lodge, and deliver the same to the Grand Treasurer immediately on the receipt thereof. He shall keep a journal of all the official acts done by him during the recess of the Grand Lodge; shall preserve all correspondence addressed to the Grand Lodge, and copies of all communications emanating from it, or from the Grand Master, on official business, and shall issue all documents, letters, notices or summonses, ordered

General Regulations

by the Grand Lodge or directed by the Grand Master, and to which he shall affix the seal of the Grand Lodge — always retaining it in his possession for that purpose. He shall keep a register of all the Lodges holding Charters of this Grand Lodge, which shall contain the dates of their Constitution, Warrant and Dispensation, with their number and the place where they are located, a register of all brethren belonging to the Lodges under this Grand Lodge, with such particulars and according to such forms as the Grand Lodge shall determine; also a register of those entitled to permanent seats in this Grand Lodge, according to Section 2. of Article II of the Constitution.

He shall, at the opening of the Grand Lodge, report in writing the official business of his office during its recess; such Lodges as have failed to make complete returns as required by the Grand Lodge; and any business left unfinished at the last Grand Communication or which may have been specially referred to the present; and a list of all communications, appeals, or other matters lodged in his office for the consideration of the Grand Lodge. He shall be furnished by the Grand Lodge with books, stationary and other things necessary for his office, and suitable rooms for an office and library room of which he shall be the keeper.

He shall be allowed for the above services, and such others as the Grand Lodge may require of him, such salary as may be fixed by resolution of the Grand Lodge.

Section 4. The Grand Marshal shall have charge of all public processions and other ceremonies of the Grand Lodge, to be assisted therein by the Grand Sword Bearer; and, under the direction of the Grand Senior Deacon, assisted by the Grand Stewards, introduce and accommodate all visiting brethren and see that every brother entitled to a seat in the Grand Lodge is properly placed.

Section 5. The Grand Pursuivant shall assist the Grand Junior Deacon in the discharge of his duties and permit no improper intrusion.

Section 6. The Grand Stewards shall examine all visitors who require an examination, previous to entering the Grand Lodge, and serve the officers and members of the Grand Lodge according to the customary duties of their office.

Section 7. The Grand Tyler shall, in addition to the customary duties of his office, serve all notices and summons delivered to him by the Grand Secretary or Grand Master; take charge of the property of the Grand Lodge; and for his services receive fifty dollars per annum.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

Section 8. The Grand Treasurer, and Grand Secretary, shall execute bond with a surety company authorized to do business in the State of Louisiana in the sum of \$25, 000.00 each, made payable to the Grand Lodge, within ten days after their election and installation for the faithful performance of their duty, and the Grand Lodge shall pay the premium on said bonds.

Section 9. The State of Louisiana shall be divided into not more than twenty-five Masonic Districts with due regard to the proximity of Lodges and modes of travel so that there shall not be more than thirty in a district. In each district, there shall be a District Deputy Grand Master appointed by the Grand Master in accordance with Section 1. of Article IV of the Constitution in the following manner.

Annually, at a meeting of the Lodges of the various Masonic Districts throughout the State of Louisiana there shall be selected by a majority vote of those present, and entitled to a vote as set forth hereinafter, a Past Master of one of the Lodges of said districts as a choice of the brethren of that district to be recommended to the incoming Grand Master for appointment as District Deputy Grand Master.

Each District shall make its recommendation of its nominee to the incoming Grand Master no later than two months prior to the Grand Lodge Session.

But the Grand Master shall have power to make another appointment if he so chooses. At this meeting, each lodge, including the District Lodge, shall have three votes which shall be cast under the same rules as voting is done for Grand Lodge officers at the Annual election.

In the event a meeting is not held in the district, then annually, on the second day after the Grand Lodge opens in a place designated by the Grand Master, and announced at one of the first sessions of the Grand Lodge, a meeting of all Lodges in such district shall be held to make such recommendations.

The Grand Master, shall announce his appointments during the same Grand Lodge Communication and the District Deputy Grand Masters shall be installed in office together with the other appointive officers of the Grand Lodge.

General Regulations

The District Deputy Grand Masters shall not exercise any of the prerogatives of the Grand Master without special authorization but shall, in general exercise supervision over the affairs of the Lodges in their respective Masonic Districts, see to it that peace and harmony prevail at all times; visit the Lodges at least once a year; make reports to the Grand Master of the progress of the work in the Lodges quarterly; give the Lodges proper instruction in relation to the labors of the Lodge and the practice of the rites and ceremonies of Freemasonry; conduct necessary correspondence with the various Lodge in their respective districts.

The District Deputy Grand Masters shall, endeavor to make themselves perfect in the knowledge of our precepts, maxims and charges, as well as the correct Masonic lectures, although it is not necessary that they hold a certificate of proficiency. They shall when practicable, consult together and interchange opinions on Masonic subjects. They shall make an annual report on the result of their labors, and the progresses and status of their respective Lodges at the next stated meeting of the Grand Lodge. Such report shall be mailed to the Grand Master by the first of November of each year, and shall include a report of the district meeting above provided for.

In general, the District Deputy Grand Masters shall be the personal representatives of the Grand Master, and as such be authorized to call a special meeting of the Lodges in their respective districts not more than once a year, to be called the District Deputy Grand Master's meeting, at which they shall address the brethren on some Masonic subject. The District Deputy Grand Master shall not intrude unnecessarily into affairs of the respective Lodges but shall, consistent with the ancient customs of our Fraternity, exercise such superintendence over the Lodges of their respective districts as will tend to increase the prestige of the Fraternity.

The Grand Master shall appoint District Grand Lecturers (one in each Masonic District) who shall hold a current certificate of proficiency and who shall perform their duties under the supervision of the Grand Master and the Permanent Committee on Work.

ARTICLE III.
Duties of Committees.

Section 1. The Committee on Foreign Correspondence shall, at the opening of each Annual Grand Communication, report to the Grand Lodge all matters of special interest to the Order which may appear in the correspondence of the Grand Lodge, or that may be derived from other source since the last Annual Grand Communication, and should any subject demand an expression of the opinion of the Grand Lodge, they shall append to their report such resolutions as will express the sentiments they entertain and for which they have given reasons in their report.

General Regulations

Section 2. The Board of Budget and Control shall assist in preparing a budget each year and submit it to the Grand Lodge for approval. It shall examine the report of the Grand Lodge Auditor and report to the Grand Lodge. It may, with the approval of the Grand Master, authorize transfer of funds as between budgeted items but in no case to exceed the total budget. The Board must supervise all financial affairs, investments and holdings of the Grand Lodge other than funds administered by the Board of Trustees for Masonic Charities, the Board of Directors of the Grand Lodge Cemetery, Perpetual Membership Funds, the Masonic Learning Center of Louisiana, Inc., and the Masonic Library/Museum Foundation of Louisiana, Inc. No investment can be made without approval of the Board and maturing securities shall be handled as the Board directs, and a written report covering such actions submitted to the Grand Lodge at its next Annual Grand Communication. None of the securities of the Grand Lodge may be disposed of by voluntary action without prior approval of the Board, evidenced by a written report which shall be made to the Grand Master when the Grand Lodge is not in session. The Board shall have access to all books, accounts, vouchers and other papers of the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Secretary, and no access to the bank box of the Grand Lodge may be had unless there be present at least one member of the Board of Budget and Control together with the Grand Master and either the Grand Treasurer or the Grand Secretary, provided that the Grand Master may designate the Deputy Grand Master, Grand Senior Warden or Grand Junior Warden to represent him if he cannot be present.

Section 3. The Committee on Appeals and Grievances shall examine all appeals and complaints before the Grand Lodge, and report thereon, and recommend such action to the Grand Lodge as, to them, shall seem fit and proper. All Lodges are required to transmit to the Grand Secretary, immediately upon the conclusion thereof, whether an appeal is taken or not, eight copies of the complete transcript of every trial had in such Lodge, the same to be reviewed and reported on by the Committee on Appeals and Grievances.

Section 4. The Committee on Masonic Law and Jurisprudence shall examine and report on all questions of Masonic Law and usage which may at any time arise in this jurisdiction, and which shall have been referred to them for examination, and report to the Grand Lodge in the form of an expression of opinion; and on all Lodge by-laws referred to them during the recess of the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

They shall report to the Grand Master, and if approved by him, their report shall be carried into effect, and the by-laws have force and effect; provided that the Grand Master, without reference to the Committee, shall act upon any new or revised by-laws or amendments to the same, where the entire subject matter follows the model form of by-laws without substantial deviation therefrom, or where the subject matter refers to any or all of the following items: the name and domicile of the Lodge; the date and time of communication; the amount available to the relief committee; fees and dues; compensation of officers; form of trial; order of business.

The Grand Master shall furnish to the Committee on Masonic Law and Jurisprudence, at least quarterly, a copy of all ruling that he may have made.

1984 The Committee on Masonic Law and Jurisprudence shall review the written law and make recommendation to the Grand Lodge for possible need of clarification or change; it shall receive all proposals to change the written law and report to the Grand Lodge its recommendation. 1984

1984 At the close of each regular Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge the Committee shall make a correct and complete digest of all acts of the Grand Lodge which are designed to become a part of the Handbook of Masonic Law, or which in any manner change any of its existing articles or provisions, in form and content similar to the contents of the present Handbook of Masonic Law, and deliver the same promptly to the Grand Secretary in order to expedite its annual revision. 1984

Section 5. The Committee on Credentials shall ascertain if all dues, assessments and fees to the Grand Lodge have been paid and report to the Grand Lodge, the names and numbers of all delinquent Lodges at the first session of each Annual Grand Communication.

Before the Grand Lodge meets in its Annual Communication it shall be the duty of the Committee to compile a numerical index of the Lodges and an alphabetical list of all brethren entitled to be seated as representatives of their respective Lodges, all Grand Lodge Officer, all Past Grand Master, all members of committees, all representatives of foreign jurisdictions, and all distinguished visitors present.

General Regulations

The Committee shall require of every representative of the Lodges in this jurisdiction a certificate signed and sealed by the Secretary of the Lodge, certifying that he is entitled to represent his Lodge. If such representative has appointed a proxy, the written proxy signed by the duly elected and installed officer who is being represented must be attached to such certificate, and both presented to the Committee on Credentials.

Immediately after the last session of each Annual Grand Communication, the Committee shall furnish the Grand Secretary's office with a numerical list of all Lodge representatives, or their proxies.

Section 6. The Committee on Masonic Education shall prepare and distribute program material, educational literature and the like, supervise the preparation, printing and distribution of all educational publications of the Grand Lodge and, in consultation with the Grand Master, determine the policy thereof.

Section 7. The Masonic Service Committee shall endeavor to make available for purchase by the constituent Lodges and Members such supplies, equipment and paraphernalia as needed for Masonic purposes.

A financial report shall be made annually to the Board of Budget and Control which shall recommend to the Grand Lodge, disposition and use of any monies accrued from the operations.

Section 8. The Board of Charities and Benevolences shall have as Chairman the presiding Grand Master and the Board shall elect from its members a vice-chairman, treasurer, and secretary and may adopt rules and regulations, not in conflict with the Constitution, General Regulations and Edicts of the Grand Lodge, to govern all its necessary activities, making a full report of its transactions at each Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge.

1998 There shall be appropriated annually out of the fund for Charities and Benevolences the sum of \$5,000.00 to be used by the Grand Master, in his discretion, for charitable and benevolent purposes. A report of the funds so used shall be submitted to the Charities and Benevolences Committee at each Annual Grand Communication. 1008

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

Each constituent Lodge is authorized to set up a Committee composed of all of its elected officers, to be designated the Lodge Committee on Charities and Benevolences, which shall have an appropriation by such Lodge of at least \$100.00 per annum to be used for charitable and benevolent purposes. The Committee shall furnish the Lodge annually with a statement of receipts and disbursements and a complete report on all of its transactions.

1998 Except for relief granted directly by the Grand Master, all applications for relief made to the Grand Lodge Board of Charities and Benevolences must originate in the Lodge of which the recipient is, or if deceased, was a member, widow, children, or orphans of the deceased, after investigation by, and approval of the Lodge Committee on Charities and Benevolences, and be accompanied by an agreement by the Lodge to pay one-half of the sum required for such relief; provided that The Grand Lodge Board of Charities and Benevolences, may reduce, or remit entirely, the Lodge's pro rata if its financial statement shows its inability to pay. 1998

Section 9. The Committee to Supervise Publication of "The Louisiana Freemason Magazine" shall supervise publication of each issue of the magazine, and make the necessary report to the Grand Lodge at the Annual Grand Communication.

1984 Section 10. Each committee shall report in writing on all matters submitted to it, as speedily as possible, which reports must be signed at least by the chairman, unless there be a division of opinion, in which case the separate reports must be signed, respectively, by the parties making them. 1984

Section 11. The Permanent Committee on Work shall meet prior to each Grand Lodge annual session, at the place of the Grand Lodge Session and at a time mutually agreed upon and shall review such portions of the Ritualistic work as may be deemed necessary to ensure that the work is taught uniformly throughout the State.

Section 12. The State of the Order Committee is composed of three members. Their duties are to give an analysis of the Grand Master's Reports and actions at the Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge.

General Regulations

ARTICLE IV.

Trials and Punishments in Grand Lodge.

Section 1.

2013 a. Should any brother, whose trial for offenses exclusively belongs to the Grand Lodge (Article VII, Section 1, b, (4) of the General Regulations) have charges preferred against him, the Grand Master shall, if in his opinion the charges are of grave character, suspend the brother from the exercise of the duties of his office until the next annual Grand Communication when, on proof of the act for which the order of suspension was made, the Grand Lodge may inflict such Masonic punishment, or make such decree as two-thirds of those present shall deem the case to require. 2013

2013 b. In every instance in which the Grand Master has seen fit to suspend a brother, the Grand Master and/or his designee(s) may serve as Trial Commission, with full authority to issue summons, conduct hearings, and perpetuate evidence for consideration and/or review by the Committee and Appeals and Grievances for recommendation to the Grand Lodge for action in due course. 2013

1984 Section 2. Should any Lodge of this jurisdiction, or brother, or number of brethren at any time renounce their allegiance to this Grand Lodge, or openly resist the Constitution, Regulations or Edicts of this Grand Lodge, the Grand Master shall, during the recess of the Grand Lodge, suspend such Lodge, brother or brethren from all their Masonic rights and privileges until the next Annual Grand Communication when, on proof of the act for which the order of suspension was made, the Grand Lodge may inflict such Masonic punishment, or make such decree as two-thirds of those present shall deem the case to require. 1984

If proper evidence and proof of the act for which the order of suspension was made is not presented to the Grand Lodge in open session or if some definite degree of punishment is not decreed by two-thirds majority vote of those present, the suspension shall be lifted immediately upon the closing of the Grand Communication which reviewed or failed to review the case, and the Lodge, brother or brethren shall be restored to membership as of the date of such suspension.

Section 3. All acts of the Grand Master under Article IV are automatically referred to the committee on Appeals and Grievances for their review and recommendation to the Grand Lodge for final action.

ARTICLE V.

Special Rights and Duties of Constituent Lodges.

1989 Section 1. Every chartered Lodge shall elect its officers once a year, said election to be held during the months of November or December, and the officers elected shall be installed by a Master or Past Master on or before the anniversary of St. John the Evangelist and said officers shall remain in office until the successors are duly elected and installed. Any election held subsequent thereto without a dispensation from the Grand Master is null and void. 1980

Any member of a Lodge under this Grand Jurisdiction, wherever residing, may be elected to any office in his Lodge except that of Master, and any member wherever residing who has served as Warden, even for a part of a term, may be elected Master, but the ability of the officer to attend meetings and perform his duties should be seriously considered. All officers elected or appointed must be able to speak, read and write the language used by the Lodge.

No Brother may serve as one of the three principal officers (Worshipful Master, Senior Warden or Junior Warden) of more than one Constituent Lodge at the same time. A Brother who serves as a principal officer of a Constituent Lodge may serve as Secretary or Treasurer of another Lodge at the same time.

2011 No Brother may serve as Secretary for more than one Constituent Lodge at the same time, nor serve as Treasurer for more than one Constituent Lodge at the same time but, may serve as Secretary and Treasurer of two different Constituent Lodge at the same time. 2011

Nomination for office in constituent Lodges is prohibited. No Brother should seek office, but if elected or appointed, he should accept, although he cannot be compelled to accept when he declines for reasons satisfactory to himself alone.

1977 No officer can be installed by proxy. All appointed officers unable to be present at the regular installation ceremonies may be installed later without dispensation. 1977

Any officer-elect who neglects or refuses to present himself for installation shall be deemed to have refused the office, after which a second election may be held upon dispensation from the Grand Master.

General Regulations

Any vacancy which may occur in any elective office of a Lodge may be filled by election upon dispensation from the Grand Master. The Master may fill any vacancy which may occur in any appointive office of a Lodge.

1978 Absence from his Lodge of an elected officer of a Lodge for three months without performing the duties of his office has the effect of abandoning the office. Whereupon a dispensation from the Grand Master must be obtained to elect and install a successor. 1978

If a lodge is unable to hold a meeting because of the removal of the Master and both Wardens, the Grand Master shall deputize the District Deputy Grand Master, or other Grand Lodge Officer or Past Grand Master to open the Lodge, after due notice to its members, hold an election for the officers and install them.

2014 Section 2. Each Lodge shall hold at least one communication in each month. At the option of the Lodge, the regular communications during the calendar year may be suspended for not more than any three months. As many other communications may be held every month as the Lodge may direct or the Master, after due notice, may order. No business of a character affecting the financial affairs of a Lodge, the disposal of its property, the standing of any of its members, candidates or applicants for membership, or the election of its officers shall be transacted, unless there be present five members of the Lodge of whom one must be the Master or a Warden. At no special meeting shall any business be transacted except the particular business which the meeting was called to consider. 2014

Section 3. Each Lodge shall keep a true record of all its transactions proper to be written: a proper book of accounts between the Lodge and its members, and a book containing a full roll of its members, and exact copies of all its returns to the Grand Lodge, which books as well as all the papers and documents of the Lodge, shall be open to the inspection of the Grand Master, or his Deputy, whenever required.

Section 4. Each chartered Lodge shall have a seal, with the name, number and location of the Lodge engraved thereon, together with such device as it may choose, with which all returns to the Grand Lodge, all attested documents issued by the Lodge shall be sealed.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

1977 Section 5. The first three officers of each Lodge, after they shall have been duly installed, or each of them, have power to appoint proxies to represent them in the Grand Lodge in case of their absence therefrom, which shall be in writing, and they shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of the offices they represent. The proxy must be a member in good standing of the same Lodge, or a Lodge in the same Masonic District as the brother appointing him, provided no one shall be permitted to hold a proxy for more than one Lodge, and no proxy shall be issued in blank, nor shall the same be transferable. It must be written, include the name of the member appointed and signed by the officer granting the same. It must be presented to the Committee on Credentials of the Grand Lodge before the opening of the Grand Communication. In the absence of one or two of the first three officers of the Lodge and/or their proxies, the senior officer present, shall have the other vote or votes and shall be issued ballots accordingly. In the absence of the first three officers of the Lodge and their proxies, a Lodge may be represented by any Past Master of the Lodge, the Junior Past Master present having preference, who shall be certified by the Committee on Credentials and issued ballots accordingly. 1977

Section 6. The Master and Wardens of each Lodge shall constitute a Relief Committee, and shall visit and attend the sick and distressed worthy brethren, their widows and orphans, living in the vicinity of the Lodge, and contribute such assistance as their circumstances may require and the funds of the Lodge will permit.

Section 7. Each Lodge may take cognizance of the conduct of Masons living in its vicinity and not belonging to another Lodge of this Grand Lodge, and try and punish them, for Masonic offenses committed in its vicinity, or such as may be referred to it by the foreign regular Lodge where the offense was committed.

2012 Section 8. Whenever a brother Master Mason, in good standing, shall have expressed his desire that the usual Masonic burial service shall be performed over his remains, or when his nearest relatives, family or friends request it, it shall be the duty of the Lodge to which he belonged, or (if a sojourning brother) in whose vicinity he shall have died, to attend his funeral and perform the service. Upon proper request by the brother or surviving relatives the Lodge may, in the discretion of the Worshipful Master or appropriate committee, conduct such services over the remains of an Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft Mason who is in good standing and receiving Masonic instruction. 2012

Section 9. Each chartered Lodge shall be mailed an annual report, through the data processing system, of all its proceedings for the year ending the 31st. day of December. All dues shall be delivered to the Grand Secretary on or before the 15th. of January in each year under the liability of loss of representation. A list of the newly elected and appointed officers of the Lodge, Past Masters and 50 year members shall be completed on forms furnished by the Grand Lodge.

General Regulations

Lodges shall make monthly reports to the Grand Secretary's office on forms provided by that office. Such reports shall be made not later than ten days after the end of the month being reported on. A report shall be submitted even though there were no changes for the month. The Lodge shall transmit to Grand Lodge a true copy of each petition acted upon by the Lodge within thirty (30) days of the completion of all action taken in connection with such petition. 2011

Section 10. Lodges held under Dispensation shall make the returns required of the chartered Lodges, and in addition, send up a correct transcript of their proceedings and copy of their by-laws, and their Dispensation, with a petition for a Charter, if the same is desired. They shall be entitled to send a delegate to represent their interests in the Grand Lodge, to be chosen from among their own members; but said delegate shall be allowed no vote.

Section 11. When a Lodge is granted a Charter, all members who have signed the petition for the same shall pay the full annual dues to the new Lodge and, in addition thereto, the full annual dues, assessments and charges due the Grand Lodge for the full current year. The Lodges on whose rolls such members were previously carried shall be notified by the Grand Lodge of the granting of the Charter. Lodges of former membership shall not be liable to the Grand Lodge for dues and assessments of such members for that year.

ARTICLE VI.

Initiation, Advancement and Affiliation.

Section 1. Every candidate for initiation into Masonry must be eighteen years of age before making application and except he be a mariner, must have been a resident of the State of Louisiana continuously for twelve months before filing his application. Such residence in the state, once acquired, shall not be lost by temporary absences therefrom, or even removal to another state, if the applicant has not acquired, or intended to acquire, permanent residence elsewhere or has not come under any other Masonic jurisdiction. These restrictions as to time for residence shall not apply to a CITIZEN of the State of Louisiana who is a federal or state employee or to a member of the armed forces of United States. An application for the degrees by one who has never been rejected and who has never received any of the degrees may be made to any Lodge in the state subject to the following: 2001

a. The Secretary of each Lodge receiving a petition must notify every Lodge within a 25-mile radius of the residence of the applicant that the petition has been received. Such notice shall include the name, address, age, and occupation of the applicant, the names of two proposers; the names of the investigating committee and all other information required by our law. The Secretary of the Lodge shall certify on the petition that such notice has been made and shall make an oral report to the Lodge that these requirements have been fulfilled before the ballot is spread. 1991

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

b. At least two (2) members of the investigating committee shall personally contact the applicant at his home and conduct an investigation of him locally, including review of his criminal background check and a search of his various media accounts, if any, permission for which shall not be denied, and certify to the Lodge that they have done so.

c. The Master must enforce these provisions before permitting a ballot.

Every application for the degrees in Masonry must be in writing, on forms approved by the Grand Lodge, personally signed by the applicant who must use his full, legal name. He shall set forth his full name, age, place of birth, actual residence, occupation, his motive for applying, and give his pledge of honor that he believes in God and that no unworthy motive, selfish consideration, persuasion or influence has induced him to make the application. It must be complete, with every question completely and truthfully answered. Whenever necessary, answers to questions may be explained by additional statements of fact. If one cannot sign his name, he cannot apply; and no Lodge shall receive the application of one who cannot speak, understand, read and write the language used by the Lodge to confer the degrees and transact its business, nor of one mentally incapacitated or seriously physically handicapped. The applicant must be vouched for and recommended by two members in good standing in the Lodge to which the application is made, which they shall do on their own personal knowledge of the applicant or upon the basis of receipt of Masonic information.

The discovery of a false or erroneous statement in a petition before balloting, or after balloting but before any degree is conferred, must result in a new correct petition being filed which, if received by the Lodge, shall take the same course as if a petition had never been filed. If the applicant fails or refuses, after formal written notification by the Lodge, to file a new petition within four weeks, the original shall be presented to the Lodge for ballot with the explanation that it contains a false statement. The Master is charged with the responsibility of protecting the Lodge from such unworthy candidates. In such cases the fees shall be returned.

General Regulations

The discovery of a false statement of material fact in a petition, after the applicant has received one or more degrees, or been elected a member by affiliation, must be referred to the three principal officers of the Lodge, who, after holding an investigation and hearing, shall report to the Grand Master, who may then order his membership nullified, and his name stricken from the records. His status shall be that of one indefinitely suspended.

Section 2. No Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction shall initiate, pass or raise any person who is a citizen or permanent resident of any other state or country having a Grand Lodge, nor advance any Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft holding such membership in a Lodge of another Grand Jurisdiction without the consent of such Lodge, evidenced by a waiver of jurisdiction, certificate of dismissal, demit, or other satisfactory form of the release of such jurisdiction from such Lodge or its Grand Lodge, nor then until the residence requirement in Section 1. of this Article is fulfilled.

No Lodge shall receive the petition of a brother who shall have previously received a part of the degrees in another Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction without first having obtained the consent of such Lodge, if the same be still in existence. If the Lodge of origin in this jurisdiction is extinct such petition may be received if the procedure in connection with extinct Lodge in this jurisdiction is followed.

Section 3. Each petition shall, when received, be referred to a committee of three members of the Lodge, who shall make strict inquiry into the truth of all the matters contained in the petition, and the moral character and qualifications of the applicant, and report to the Lodge the result of its investigation. All three members must sign the report without disclosing how its individual members report as regards "favorable" or "unfavorable". The committee will simply report "all favorable", or "all unfavorable"; or two one way and one the other. One member of the committee cannot report for any other member. It is not necessary for the committee to be present in the Lodge when reporting, or when the report is read, but the Master is charged with the responsibility of protecting any unfavorable report from the committee. An unfavorable report of a member of the investigating committee has the character of a black ball. No discussion on an applicant shall be had except for purposes of identification. Letters received pertaining to the applicant's worthiness may be read in open Lodge.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

Extension of time for the committee's report shall be given upon request of any member thereof in order that a full investigation be made of the applicant's character. Failure of the investigating committee to act, or to work cooperatively, shall empower the Master to appoint another member or members and they shall be given at least two weeks in which to make investigation and report to the Lodge.

A petition received by a Lodge and referred to a committee is not affected by its loss or destruction. It must be reported on and submitted to the ballot, and a duplicate obtained for the records.

Section 4. When the committee has reported, if four weeks have elapsed since the petition was received, and on no consideration before that time, the Lodge shall immediately proceed to ballot on the application, whether the report of the committee is favorable or unfavorable, which ballot must be unanimous in his favor, or the petitioner shall be declared rejected: provided that, should but one negative ballot appear, a second ballot shall be taken immediately, without any members present leaving the Lodge room, in order that any mistake, if one occurred, may be corrected; but in no case shall an unfavorable ballot be reconsidered, nor shall any attempt be made, in any manner, to discover the brother who shall have cast a negative ballot. At least five members of the Lodge shall be present when a ballot is taken, and all the members present shall be required to vote.

A Collective Ballot Is Not Permissible.

Before the ballot is spread, the ballot box shall be prepared and presented in turn to the Junior Warden, Senior Warden and Master who shall each determine that it is properly prepared in accordance with the Edicts of the Grand Lodge and contains the minimum number of white balls and black cubes (24 white balls and 7 black cubes). After the ballot has been spread, the ballot box shall again be presented in turn to the Junior Warden, Senior Warden and Master for their examination and each shall announce in an audible voice after his examination, one of the following as the case may be:

I find the ballot clear, or

I find the ballot dark, there is one black cube, or

I find the ballot dark, there is more than one black cube.

The Master shall also, as the case may be, either declare the applicant elected, if the ballot is clear, or immediately order a new ballot if there is one black cube on the first ballot, and declare the applicant rejected if there is one or more black cubes on the second ballot. Two or more black cubes reject immediately and there can be no further ballot. However, one having balloted, knowing that error has been made, shall immediately bring the error to the attention of the Worshipful Master, who shall remedy this situation forthwith, by inspection of the ballot, west of the Altar, by the three Principal Officers and the Brother raising the objection; if no error is found, the ballot shall stand as announced; if an error be found, the ballot shall be declared null and void and a new ballot taken. This shall be an exception to the secrecy of the ballot, and not subject to discipline.

General Regulations

Section 5. If the ballot is unanimously favorable, the candidate shall be declared elected to receive all three degrees without further ballot. The Fellow Craft and Master Mason Degrees are not to be conferred until after the petitioner's proficiency in the preceding degree has been accepted by the Lodge and no objection to his advancement has been made.

An objection made by one, who is or is not a member of the Lodge conferring the degrees, after a candidate has been elected to receive the degrees, must come before the Lodge conferring the degrees, stating the reasons therefor. The Lodge shall then decide whether to accept the objection or to form a committee to investigate the matter and report its findings to the Lodge. A decision may then be rendered on the worthiness of the candidate in question.

After an applicant has been elected to receive the degrees, he shall have one year in which to present himself for initiation. After the conferral of the Entered Apprentice Degree, he shall have one year in which to present himself for examination, which examination shall be on the entire catechism and in open Lodge, or, at the option of the Worshipful Master, in private before a committee of three Master Masons appointed by the Worshipful Master, which committee shall report to the Master, in open Lodge, their recommendation pertaining to all assigned examinations. The Lodge membership in attendance shall vote on the proficiency of the catechism in either event. When the examination is accepted by the Lodge, he shall have one year in which to present himself for the Fellow Craft Degree. The same time limits and procedure shall be applicable for advancement of a Fellow Craft.

If an applicant does not present himself for the Entered Apprentice Degree within one year from the date of his election, or if he moved to another Grand Jurisdiction after his election for the degrees but before receiving any, the fee must be returned to him and he may apply to any Lodge when he can comply with its requirements.

The fee for the degree must be returned to an applicant who is rejected or against whom an objection is made before the degree is conferred.

If an applicant dies before being balloted upon, or receiving the degree, the Lodge shall refund the fee to his family or legal representative.

Section 6. Each petition for advancement must be in writing, signed by the applicant, on forms approved by the Grand Lodge, and shall be presented in the same manner and take the same course as a petition for initiation. The ballot must be secret and must be unanimous for election.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

An applicant who has received the Entered Apprentice Degree or the Fellow Craft Degree, shall have the right to sit in the Lodge of his degree for the period of one year after receiving the degree; to visit other Lodges of his degree with the consent of the Lodge for the same period; and to receive instruction in the lecture thereof until he is proficient in the same; but, if he permits one year to elapse before presenting himself for examination, it shall be necessary for him to petition for advancement. If the candidate is elected for advancement, he shall be reinstated to the same rights and privileges as when first receiving the degree. If the candidate is rejected he shall have the right to petition for advancement after six months. No Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft shall be permitted to sit in a Lodge of his own or an inferior degree, nor to give or receive instruction in any degree after he has been rejected for advancement, until he has petitioned for advancement and has received a favorable ballot.

Section 7. Any Lodge by conferring the Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft Degree, or both, upon a candidate, acquires and permanently retains jurisdiction to advance him, unless duly waived by a majority vote of those present at a stated communication. Permanent removal of such a brother into any other Grand Jurisdiction shall not affect such right.

Section 8. Should the applicant for initiation or advancement be rejected, he shall not reapply to any Lodge under this Grand Jurisdiction before the expiration of six months from the date of the rejection, nor then in any other Lodge than the one in which he first applied unless the Lodge shall waive the same by a majority vote of those present at a stated communication.

Section 9. Should any brother prefer charges against a brother who has received a portion only of the degrees to which he has been elected, he shall not be allowed to proceed until the charges are investigated and the brother acquitted. The trial of such charges must be had in the Lodge opened in the highest degree to which the brother has advanced, and conducted in all other respects as is hereinafter provided for the trial of members of the Lodge. (Only Master Masons are eligible to participate in trial proceedings.) Should he be convicted, and suspended or expelled, he cannot be advanced until after the punishment is remitted or has expired, nor then without a favorable ballot by the Lodge. Should he be acquitted, the time from the submission of the charges until the date of acquittal shall not be counted as a part of the twelve months granted the candidate to present himself for examination on the degree.

1977

1977

General Regulations

Section 10. Each petition for affiliation must be in writing on forms approved by the Grand Lodge, signed by the applicant, contain the name of the Lodge in which the applicant received his degrees, and shall be presented in the same manner and take the same course as a petition for initiation. The ballot must be secret and must be unanimous for election. No ballot may be taken on a petition for affiliation until the Lodge shall have thoroughly investigated the applicant's standing in the Lodge in which he was last affiliated.

6102

2019

Except as otherwise provided in Section 13 hereof relating to plural memberships, any brother who is a permanent resident of the State of Louisiana may petition for affiliation in any Lodge of the State of Louisiana, regardless of where his actual residence is located. He shall present with his application for affiliation a duly attested certificate of his standing in the Lodge of which he is a member; if he is elected, he thereby becomes a member of the Lodge with which he filed his petition for affiliation and the Secretary of said Lodge shall certify to the fact of such election to the Lodge issuing the certificate of good standing and the petitioner shall thereupon be dropped from the roll of membership of such issuing Lodge and his membership then shall be terminated as if by demit. The certificate provided for shall bear the date of issue and the seal of the Lodge of such issue and shall be good for the purpose therein specified until the end of the calendar year for which such certificate is issued, and such newly affiliated brother shall not be required to pay any dues to the Lodge with which he affiliated for the remainder of the calendar year during which said affiliation occurred, provided that his dues and assessments must be paid before a certificate is issued.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent any member from applying for a demit and presenting it with a petition for affiliation. No other kind of written instrument can be substituted for a demit or certificate of good standing. Methods of transferring membership authorized in this section must also be used for the transfer of membership between Louisiana Lodges and Lodges in another Grand Jurisdiction. A petitioner whose application for affiliation has been rejected cannot apply again to the Lodge that rejected him for a period of six months, but the Lodge must return his demit or certificate of good standing and he may apply immediately to another Lodge. In every case the application must take the full course provided for in the first paragraph in this Section.

Section 11. Applications for initiation, advancement or affiliation, shall be received at stated meetings only. A Lodge by majority vote of the members attending such stated meeting, has the right to refuse to accept a petition for initiation, advancement or affiliation.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

Section 12. Applications for initiation, advancement or affiliation may be withdrawn by permission of the Lodge upon application in writing, and the Secretary shall so inform the investigating committee. Such requests for withdrawal shall be made prior to the report of the investigating committee. If the Lodge permits the withdrawal of the application the fees collected shall be refunded.

Section 13. Plural Memberships: This Grand Lodge permits plural memberships. Any brother who is a member in good standing of a regular Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana or of a regular Lodge under the jurisdiction of a sister Grand Lodge which allows plural memberships within other Grand Jurisdictions, may petition for membership in any Lodge in the State of Louisiana and retain his membership in his original Lodge, provided he attaches to his petition a certificate of good standing from such Lodge. All such petitions shall take the usual course of petitions for initiation or affiliation. Any brother who is a member in good standing of regular Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana may petition for membership in a regular Lodge under the jurisdiction of a sister Grand Lodge, if plural membership is permitted by the Grand Lodge and subject to its regulations.

If a plural member is suspended or expelled for unmaasonic conduct; suspended for non-payment of dues; or dropped for residence unknown in any regular Lodge wheresoever dispersed, he shall be suspended for the same reason in the Lodge or Lodges of this jurisdiction in which he holds membership and the same penalty shall be assessed against such member. Such suspended or expelled member desiring reinstatement, must make application to the Lodge which first suspended or expelled him, and, if reinstated, does not automatically resume membership in the other Lodge or Lodges.

He shall make application to such Lodge or Lodges for reinstatement, which must be on forms approved by the Grand Lodge, and the usual procedure appropriate to the kind of suspension or expulsion shall be followed, provided that Grand Lodge approval for reinstatement in these additional Lodges shall not be required. Should the vote not be sufficient for reinstatement of the member in the additional Lodge or Lodges, then the member shall be given a demit from plural membership by the additional Lodge or Lodges that failed to reinstate him, which can not be used for purposes of affiliation. Dues and assessments required to accompany the petition for reinstatement shall be retained by the Lodge.

Withdrawal from plural membership can be accomplished only by obtaining a demit which can not be used for purposes of affiliation.

2004

2004

2015

2015

1983

1983

General Regulations

ARTICLE VII.
Trials, Punishments and Appeals.

Section 1. - Preamble

a. Every Member's Duty:

- (1) Every well regulated institution, especially this of ours, requires a means to expel those members who have brought discredit to our fraternity. Likewise, it is the duty of every member of a Lodge to report the unmaasonic conduct of a brother and any member witnessing the performance of any such conduct who refuses or neglects to file charges against the brother involved shall be severely censured by the Master.

b. Brother Must Be Tried in Own Lodge: Exceptions

- (1) Any accused member of a Louisiana Lodge, including any Past Master thereof, must be tried by his own Lodge, even if he commits an offense in another area in the state. In the case of a plural member, the Grand Master shall decide which of his Lodges has jurisdiction.
- (2) While a Lodge has exclusive control of discipline of its members as the court of first resort, it does not have the right to discipline or suspend a member for unseemly conduct in or out of the Lodge room, unless charges are filed and trial held. No member of a Lodge may be suspended (except for non-payment or dues and/or assessments) nor expelled, without a trial.
- (3) A Sojourning brother, member of another Grand Jurisdiction, may be tried by a Louisiana Lodge in whose vicinity he has committed a Masonic offence. The Lodge of which he is a member must be sent a copy of the charges before trial and be advised of the date thereof, its result and the sentence, if the accused is convicted.
- (4) The following cannot be tried by a constituent Lodge:

A member of a Lodge under a Foreign Jurisdiction if the offense was committed outside the vicinity of the constituent Lodge.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

An interdict or insane member, even if suspended or demitted or in jail for a crime. The Master, Past Master or Warden of a Lodge, for acts performed while acting as Master thereof, and any officer of the Grand Lodge, for acts performed while acting as an officer thereof, who can be tried only by the Grand Lodge

c. Rights of Brother Pending Lodge Trial:

- (1) Even though a brother has had charges filed against him, he has the right to visit his Lodge until trial and conviction. If charges are filed against an officer of a Lodge, he continues to fill his station until the Lodge takes final action thereon.
- (2) While no charges can be made against a Mason for an offense committed before his initiation, all provisions referring to charges, trial, punishment and appeals shall apply to former members who have demitted or been suspended for non-payment of dues, as well as any Entered Apprentice or, Fellow Craft Mason rejected for advancement on account of moral unfitness or any other Masonic offense. During such trials, which shall be held in regular manner, the accused shall have the right to be admitted to the Lodge room. A Lodge cannot avoid trying a brother under charges by dropping him from the rolls. The trial must proceed and the absent brother shall be represented by a member appointed by the Master.

d. Trial After Acquittal by Lodge:

- (1) A member acquitted on any charge may be tried again on new charges, growing out of the same transaction but essentially different from the original charges, but a Lodge cannot retry a case properly handled, unless additional charges are filed; but confession in court by an accused of his guilt, after his acquittal by the Lodge, gives the Lodge the right to try him a second time.

e. Policy While Charges Pending in Court of Law:

- (1) It is the policy of the Masonic Fraternity, to suspend action against a brother while charges against him are being investigated in Court of Law in order that there be no appearance of influencing the results of due process of the Law.

General Regulations

f. Trial By Lodge After Brother Is Convicted by Court of Law:

- (1) If the brother has been convicted of a crime and sentenced to penal servitude, the verdict should establish a prima facie case, but the Lodge must bring charges, hold a trial, and if the member is found guilty, properly sentence him. The Lodge may disregard the verdict in any court trial which does not always prove guilt or innocence in a Lodge trial. A Brother may be guilty of gross un-masonic conduct and yet be acquitted in Court, for there are many offenses that violate the moral law that do not violate the criminal law. The evidence in the Court may be presented at the Lodge trial, but the accused has the right to offer proof of mitigating circumstances, absence of moral turpitude and even innocence; all of which the Lodge should consider in arriving at its decision on guilt and degree of punishment.

Section 2.-Filing of Charges for Unmasonic Conduct:

a. Requisites:

- (1) Except as otherwise provided in this Article VII, the charges must be:
 - (a) in writing
 - (b) clearly specify the offense or offenses complained of
 - (c) signed by complainant
 - (d) contain the names and residences of the witnesses
 - (e) presented to the Master of the Lodge of the accused

b. The Master's Duty After Receiving Written Charges:

- (1) Except as provided in Article VII, Section 1e, when the Master receives written charges, he shall appoint a secret committee of three members of the Lodge who shall investigate the matter to determine if the charges are of a personal nature or whether the charges are of such a nature as to require a trial by the Lodge.
- (2) If the charges are of a personal nature, then the committee should endeavor to reconcile the parties involved.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

- (3) If the charges are of a personal nature and the committee is unsuccessful in reconciling the parties or if the charges are of such a nature as to require a trial by the Lodge, then the committee shall so report to the Master.

c. The Master's Duty After Receiving Oral Charges:

- (1) The Master, upon receipt of oral charges, may appoint a secret committee of three members of the Lodge to investigate as provided in Article VII, Section 2 b.
- (2) Except as provided in Article VII, Section 2d and 2e, the committee shall report to the Lodge in writing the charges and its findings. If the Lodge in open meeting accepts the charges, there can be no later challenge that the charges were not in writing originally.

d. Dismissal of Charges by the Master:

- (1) If the investigating committee appointed under Article VII, Section 2b, and 2c, reports to the Master that all differences that gave rise to the charges have been reconciled or that their findings are favorable to the accused, the Master has the right to dismiss the matter without bringing it before the Lodge.

e. When a Brother is Convicted of a Crime and Sentenced to Penal Servitude:

- (1) When the Master has been apprised that a member of his Lodge has been convicted of a crime and sentenced to a penal institution, he shall direct the Junior Warden to prepare written charges against him.

Section 3.-Pre-trial Procedure:

a. Report of the Committee:

- (1) If the secret committee reports to the Master that a trial is necessary, the Master must report the same to the Lodge at a stated meeting and direct the Junior Warden to prepare formal charges against the brother. The Junior Warden may accept the written charges previously filed by an accuser if they are in proper form, or the written charges prepared by the committee when the charges were oral charges originally.

General Regulations

b. Junior Warden's Duties:

- (1) It is the Junior Warden's duty to see that all charges are properly prepared and deliver them to the Secretary while the Lodge is at labor at a stated meeting.
- (2) If the Junior Warden fails to comply with the order of the Master to prepare charges or cause the same to be done, he shall be subject to Masonic discipline and another member of the Lodge may be appointed to prepare the same.
- (3) It is also the duty of the Junior Warden to act as prosecutor during the trial of the accused; however, the Junior Warden, with the consent of the Master, may be assisted by any member of the order in good standing; provided that no fee shall be charged for the services.

c. Secretary's Responsibilities:

- (1) Upon receipt of the formal charges from the Junior Warden, the Secretary of the Lodge shall serve upon the accused, in person or by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, a copy of the charges, the names and addresses of the witnesses relied upon to prove the same, and notify the accused to answer the charges in writing within ten days of the service thereof, and to furnish the names and residences of his witnesses. The written or oral answer of the accused to the Lodge to the charges must be courteous and not denunciatory or abusive. If oral, it must be written down by the Secretary or by a reporter representing him.
- (2) The Secretary must make an entry into the minutes of the Lodge the date he received the charges from the Junior Warden.
- (3) The Secretary must notify the Lodge at the first stated meeting of the Lodge after the expiration of the ten days, provided in Section 3 c. (1) above, whether the accused has received the notice and whether he has answered or not.
- (4) It shall be the duty of the Secretary to notify the accused, and all witnesses who are Masons, of the trial date when it is set as provided herein.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

- (5) The Secretary shall notify the accused and prosecutor of the time and place of taking of testimony of a witness that is unable to attend the trial.

d. Profane Witnesses:

- (1) Should there be witnesses that cannot attend the trial, the Master shall appoint a committee of three members to take testimony of such witnesses.
- (2) Should it be necessary to take testimony outside of the vicinity of the Lodge, a committee from another Lodge may be used to take such testimony. The committee taking any testimony shall give due notice to the accused of the time and place of taking such testimony, shall reduce the testimony to writing and cause it to be affirmed by the party giving it.
- (3) The Accused must receive notice from the Secretary of the taking of testimony outside of the Lodge and must be permitted to hear all of it in and out of Lodge. He shall also have the right, either personally or through his representative, to question all witnesses. If other witnesses than those on the list submitted to the accused later appear, it shall be proper for them to testify and further time shall be granted to take the testimony of all new witnesses, but all of the same must be committed to writing. Any witness may be recalled to testify again.
- (4) Testimony taken in Court in the presence of the accused is permitted to be used in the Lodge, but admissions made by the defense attorney shall not be presented. A certified copy of Court record may be introduced as evidence in a Lodge trial.
- (5) Members of the committee on investigation prior to the filing of charges may serve on committee to take testimony of non-members.

1982

1982

General Regulations

e. Rights of the Accused:

- (1) Charges prepared by the Junior Warden against a brother by order of the Master and delivered to the Secretary are before the Lodge and cannot be withdrawn without the consent of the accused. After a trial has been set, the charges cannot be withdrawn without consent of the Lodge.
- (2) The accused may be defended by himself or any other member of the Order in good standing to be selected by him. Attorneys who are not Masons are not permitted to represent the accused in a Masonic trial. No fee shall be charged for the services of the defense attorney.
- (3) If the accused shall fail to be present or have a representative present at any examination of any witness or at the trial, the Master shall appoint a brother to act for him.

1982

1982

1982

1982

1982

1982

f. Setting Trial Date: Notification

- (1) The Lodge will set the trial date at its next regular meeting following the expiration of ten days after the accused received the charges, whether he answers or not; provided, however, if he answers and names profane witnesses, or if the prosecutor has profane witnesses, then the trial date will be set by the Lodge at its first regular meeting after the taking of the testimony of all profane witnesses.
- (2) The Secretary shall notify the accused and witnesses, except profane witnesses, in writing either by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, of the time and date that the trial will be held.

Section 4. Form of Trial. The By-Laws of a Lodge shall determine whether the trial is to be Lodge or Commission form. In the Lodge form, all members of the Lodge who are present at the trial and competent to serve, shall comprise the Trial Panel; in the Commission form, eleven members present and competent to serve, shall compose the Trial Panel, all as hereinafter provided.

2013

2013

a. Commission Trial:

- (1) At the same meeting at which the Lodge fixes the date of the trial, it shall be the duty of the Master, Senior Warden

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

and the Junior Past Master present at the Lodge at said time to select from the membership of the Lodge the names of seventy-five members of the Lodge, excepting therefrom the first five elective officers and those not residing within hail.

- (2) The Secretary shall cause these seventy-five names to be placed upon separate slips of paper of uniform size and color and there upon placed in a secure box or receptacle which shall at all times be in charge of the Master.
- (3) In Lodges having less than seventy-five members residing within hail, the names of all qualified members, excepting the first five elective officers and those not residing within hail, shall be placed in the box or receptacle.
- (4) The Secretary shall summon the selected brethren to appear at the Lodge on the date of the trial.

b. Lodge Trial:

- (1) The Secretary shall summon all the members of the Lodge within hail to be present on the date of the trial.

Section 5. Procedure on Trial Date:

a. Commission Form of Trial:

- (1) The Secretary shall call the roll of those brethren whose names were placed in the secure box in the Master's charge. This box is to be known as the "Master's Box".
- (2) As the names are called, the Master may excuse a member because he is ill, not qualified, or for any good and sufficient reason that such brother would not be able to serve if chosen. Relatives of the accused or of the accuser or of the wife of either, have the right to serve the same as any other brother.
- (3) The names of those brethren who are present and not excused by the Master shall be placed in a separate box to be known as the "Secretary's Box".
- (4) The Secretary shall draw twenty-five slips (all if less than twenty-five), from the Secretary's box and record the names written thereon in the minutes of the Lodge. These slips are to be placed in another box to be known as the "Commission Box".

General Regulations

- (5) The accused and the Junior Warden may file not more than five challenges each against those names placed in the Commission Box. No reason need be given for any challenge made.
- (6) After the challenges, if any have been exercised, the Master shall draw eleven names from the Commission Box and designate one of the selected as chairman.

b. Lodge Trial:

- (1) The Secretary shall call the roll of the Lodge and the Master may excuse a member because he is ill, not qualified or for any good and sufficient reason that such brother would not be able to vote, if required to vote. Members of the Lodge who are relatives of the accused or of the accuser, or of the wife of either, have the right to take part and vote in the trial, the same as any other brother.
- (2) The vote shall be by written, secret ballot.

Section 6-Trial Procedure:

a. General Provisions:

- (1) The Secretary shall record the testimony of the trial and may use tape recording equipment to aid him.
- (2) The Junior Warden or his representative shall be the prosecutor; provided, however, the Master, for just reason, may replace the Junior Warden at any time with another member of the Lodge.
- (3) The Master shall preside over the trial and he may invite any member of the Order in good standing to advise him during the trial proceedings. If he recuses himself for any valid reason, then the Senior Warden shall preside, and if the Senior Warden cannot preside, then the Master shall appoint a Past Master of the Lodge to preside.
- (4) It shall be the duty of the Master to:
Instruct the brethren in the correct law. Clear their minds of false impressions that may have been given to them during the trial.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

Prohibit the introduction of quibbling technicalities or sophistical arguments designed to influence the verdict, one way or another.

Allow all latitude to bring forth the whole truth.

Rule out all hearsay evidence and matters not related to the issue and the charges.

Warn the brethren against permitting a plea of ignorance to influence a verdict favorable to the accused.

Assert that past high position and long and valuable services to Masonry do not give the accused the right to violate the law or be an excuse and should not lessen the punishment if he is guilty.

Prevent any attempt on the part of the prosecution to show general bad character of the accused, unless he has introduced evidence of good character.

State the question to the Lodge and charge the members as to their duties in accordance with the evidence and Masonic Law and usage before the ballot on the question of innocence or guilt is taken.

- (5) The Master or Junior Warden shall recuse himself if:

Any relationship exists between himself and the accused or accuser; either by blood or marriage. He has any personal interest, one way or another, in the verdict.

b. Opening Trial and Closing:

- (1) The trial shall commence with the reading of the charges and the answer.
- (2) The Junior Warden and the accused, or their representatives, may make an opening statement.
- (3) The Junior Warden may call only those witnesses which the accused had been notified would be called. Likewise, the accused may call only those witnesses which he had previously notified the Junior Warden that he would call. If the trial is by

2015

1982

2015

1982

General Regulations

commission, then each member of the commission is entitled to ask questions of the witnesses during trial. If the trial is by the Lodge, then any member of the Lodge may ask questions of the witness.

- (4) After all evidence is in, then the Junior Warden and the accused, or their representatives, may argue the case with the Junior Warden having the privilege of opening and closing the argument.

c. Evidence When Accused is Convicted of a Crime:

- (1) If a brother has been convicted of a crime and sentenced to penal servitude, the Lodge need only introduce a certified copy of the charges, verdict and sentence, which establishes a prima facie case and relieves the Lodge of offering further proof. Should the request of the Lodge for a certified copy of the Court record be refused, then a written certification of the Court charges, verdict and sentence by a brother may be introduced in lieu of the Court copy.

1983

1983

d. Voting

- (1) Lodge Form:
 - (a)The accuser and the accused shall retire from the Lodge before voting.
 - (b) The Lodge shall proceed to vote on the guilt or innocence of the accused.
 - (c)All members present must vote provided that no brother shall be entitled to vote who was not Present during the entire trial and a majority vote cast shall convict.
 - (d)Each member shall deposit his own written vote.

1980

1980

2013

2013

- (2) Commission Form:

(a)The commission, after being instructed by the Master, shall retire to vote. All members of the Commission must vote, provided no member thereof shall be entitled to vote who was not present during the entire trial. A majority vote cast shall convict.

2013

2013

(b)The commission, may send the Chairman or, as a body, request further instructions from the Master in open Lodge.

(c)After voting on conviction and sentence (if found guilty) the commission shall reduce its findings to writing and return to the Lodge. The chairman shall give the verdict to the Master who shall announce the findings of the commission.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

(3) Voting on Sentence After Conviction:

- (a) The vote on the sentence shall be taken in the following order for the different degrees of punishment.

First, expulsion, for which a three-fourths vote shall be necessary; second, indefinite suspension, for which a two-thirds vote shall be necessary.

- (b) Should the convicted brother not be suspended or expelled, he shall stand sentenced, without any further vote, to reprimand in open Lodge.

e. Imposing Sentence:

- (1) All sentences shall be effective immediately.
- (2) If the sentence is to reprimand, then the accused shall be immediately reprimanded by the Master, or at his option, by the presiding officer at the trial.
- (3) If the accused is not present at the trial, he shall stand suspended until such time as he presents himself for reprimand in open Lodge. He shall be notified within five days by registered or certified mail, returned receipt requested, of the judgement of the Lodge. At the same time the Grand Secretary shall also be notified.
- (4) If the convicted brother is an officer of a Lodge, his office is immediately vacated and a new appointment must be made or an election held on dispensation from the Grand Master.

Section 7-Appeals:

a. Appeals are Automatic:

All trial proceedings are automatically referred to the Appeals and Grievance Committee, for their review and recommendation to the Grand Lodge for final action.

b. Right of Appeal:

General Regulations

The accused, or any member of the Lodge, shall have the right of appeal to the Grand Master, provided that the Secretary of the trial Lodge shall be given due notice.

c. Appeals do not Suspend Sentence:

The conviction and sentence appealed from shall remain in full force and effect until action by the Grand Lodge at the first Grand Communication held after the appeal has been filed, unless a new trial is ordered by the Grand Master for reasons given in Article VII, Section 8.

d. Guilty Plea; Right to Appeal:

If a brother pleads guilty and throws himself on the mercy of the Lodge, he still has the right of appeal.

e. Appeal By Lodge:

If a brother is tried and found not guilty and subsequent developments show that he was guilty, the Lodge has the right of appeal to the Grand Lodge.

Section 8-New Trial:

a. A New Trial Shall Be Held if:

- (1) The accused has been convicted without having been served with a copy of the written charges or notified of the trial date: provided, he shall establish to the satisfaction of the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge that he had no knowledge of the charge or trial date.
- (2) The accused is convicted after illegal testimony has been introduced in the trial proceedings.
- (3) A continuance was refused when an important witness on either side was absent; provided, that applicant must certify that the testimony of such witness would have been essential to applicant's case.

b. Refusal of New Trial:

Except as provided above, a new trial shall be refused when accused has been furnished a copy of the charges and been duly notified of the trial date.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

c. Action by Grand Lodge:

Final action by the Grand Lodge on an appeal prevents the holding of a new trial.

Section 9-Post Trial Procedure:

a. Forwarding Transcript:

Within 30 days after the conclusion of the trial the Secretary of the Lodge shall transmit to the Grand Secretary, whether an appeal is taken or not, eight copies of the complete transcript of all the proceedings, together with original documents introduced in the case, and together with the minute entries pertaining to the trial, to be reviewed by the Committee on Appeals and Grievances.

b. Grand Secretary to Review for Completeness:

Should the Grand Secretary find the transcript incomplete, he shall, under the instructions of the Grand Master, order the Lodge to complete the transcript within a designated period of time.

c. Failure to Complete:

In case the Lodge shall neglect to send up the transcript within the time required, or shall refuse or neglect to complete the transcript within the time specified by the Grand Lodge, the Master of the Lodge shall be held guilty of contempt and be punished accordingly.

Section 10- Grand Lodge Review:

a. Committee on Appeals and Grievances:

This Committee shall review all trials as provided in Article III, Section 4, and make a recommendation to the Grand Lodge.

b. Action by Grand Lodge:

The Grand Lodge may affirm the Lodge's action or amend any sentence or reverse or annul a sentence of expulsion or suspension. Annulment of a sentence of expulsion or suspension immediately restores the brother to membership in his Lodge as of the date of his expulsion or suspension.

General Regulations

c. Increase Penalties:

In case the Grand Lodge has in the past increased the penalty or sentence imposed by a Lodge, the Grand Lodge, itself, may thereafter, upon recommendation of the Committee on Appeals and Grievances, reinstate the brother as a "Mason-at-Large." If such brother does not succeed in affiliating with a constituent Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction before the next Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge, he shall revert to the status possessed by him before the last action of the Grand Lodge.

Section 11-Reinstatement Procedure:

a. General Provisions:

2009

A brother who has been expelled or indefinitely suspended cannot be restored to Masonic privileges except by the Grand Lodge on the recommendation of the Lodge which expelled or indefinitely suspended him. Applications for reinstatement shall be received at stated meetings only. The Lodge, by appropriate motion upon majority vote of the members present at such stated meeting, has the right to refuse to accept an application for reinstatement. The applicant shall be notified of such action of the Lodge.

2009

b. Procedure of Applicant:

1978

(1) The application for reinstatement, which shall be in writing on a form approved by the Grand Lodge, shall be read at a stated meeting, be referred to an investigating committee of three members, which shall report at a stated communication of the Lodge not earlier than four weeks after the application was received.

1978

1978

(2) Upon report of the committee, notice shall be sent to all members of the Lodge within hail that a vote/ballot will be taken at the next stated communication of the Lodge.

1978

2011

(3) An expelled Mason shall not be recommended for reinstatement until he has received a favorable ballot, and not then until three years have elapsed from the date of his expulsion by the Grand Lodge duly assembled; an indefinitely suspended Mason shall not be recommended for reinstatement until he has received a favorable vote of two thirds (2/3) of the members present and entitled to participate and not then until a full six (6) months have elapsed from the date of his suspension by the Grand Lodge duly assembled.

2011

c. Unfavorable Vote:

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

If the application is voted upon unfavorably, the brother may not apply again until six months after such Lodge action.

d. Favorable Vote:

If the vote of the Lodge is favorable, the Secretary shall, within thirty (30) days after the favorable vote, transmit to the Grand Secretary eight (8) copies of each of the following:

- (1) The Petition for Reinstatement;
- (2) The Minutes of the Lodge reflecting the appointment of the Investigation Committee;
- (3) The Minutes of the Lodge reflecting the report of the Investigating Committee;
- (4) The Minutes of the Lodge reflecting that all members within hail were notified that a vote would be taken at the next stated communication of the Lodge; and
- (5) The Minutes of the Lodge reflecting the number of members present and the results (number favorable and number unfavorable) of the vote.

1996

1996

Section 12-Miscellaneous:

a. Interference With Court Prohibited:

Masons have no right to interfere with the officers of any Court in the performance of their lawful duty. It is, therefore, not proper for a Lodge to request any other Lodge, in this or any other Grand Jurisdiction, to assist in the securing of an acquittal of a member of the first lodge who has been charged with a felony.

b. Master May Not Set Aside Sentence:

The Master has no power to change or set aside the sentence imposed by the Lodge, but the Grand Master may set aside a conviction and order a new trial, if the trial was not conducted according to Masonic Law.

c. Grand Master's Authority If Present During Trial:

Neither the Grand Master nor his duly authorized representative has any right to interfere in a trial, but, if present, acts only as a spectator. He can, however, give an opinion on a ruling by the Master during the progress of the trial only if abuse or usurpation of power, or violation of duty and authority, may prevent a fair and impartial trial.

d. Visitor Objected to:

The objection of a member of the Lodge prevents any visitor from attending a Masonic trial, except the Grand Master or his duly authorized representative, and except as provided in Article VII, Section 3b, (3), 3e, (2) and Section 6a (3).

1993

1993

General Regulations

Section 13-Grand Lodge report:

The annual Proceedings of the Grand Lodge shall carry a report of the expulsions and/or suspensions resulting from trials as a part of the subject matter pertaining to each Lodge.

Section 14-Lodges to Supply Information:

Each Lodge shall, on request, supply information to collateral Masonic bodies regarding standing of any member who is also a member of such collateral bodies.

ARTICLE VIII.
Grand Lodge Cemetery.

Section 1. The Grand Lodge Cemetery shall be placed in charge of a committee to be known as the "Board of Directors of the Grand Lodge Cemetery." It shall have entire control of the physical property of the Masonic Cemetery for the purpose of administering the revenues, operation, and maintenance of the facility, subject to any provisions that may be contained in the "Act of Purchase" and any Regulations and Edicts of the Grand Lodge.

1997

1997

Section 2. The Board of Directors of the Grand Lodge Cemetery shall be comprised of nine (9) members, namely, the Grand Master, who shall be Chairman, the Deputy Grand Master, who shall be Vice Chairman, the Grand Senior Warden, and the Grand Junior Warden, the four of whom shall be ex-officio members; Grand Treasurer, the Grand Secretary, and three Master Masons from the New Orleans area who shall be elected by the Grand Lodge. To begin, one shall be elected for one year, one for two years, and one for three years. Each year thereafter one member shall be elected for a term of three years, which election shall take place at the same time and under regulations now provided for the election of other officers.

1997

1997

All members shall continue in office until their successors are duly elected, and in the case of a vacancy caused by death, resignation or any other cause, the Grand Master shall appoint a member to fill such vacancy until the next Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge, which shall then fill the vacancy for the unexpired term by an election as herein provided.

Section 3. A majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum and the Board shall elect its own Secretary.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

Section 4. The Board shall have authority, and it shall be its duty, to manage and administer the Masonic Cemetery; provided that the Board shall not contract any debts except such as may be indispensably necessary in the operation of the Masonic Cemetery; the Board shall make no capital investments such as major renovation of a multi-crypt tomb or the construction of a mausoleum; the Board shall maintain the property and make all necessary repairs and shall have full power to sell crypts in the mausoleum, enter into perpetual maintenance agreements, collect payments therefor, and effect insurance; the Board shall keep accurate records including its transactions and proceedings.

1997

1997

Section 5. The Board of Directors may make such regulations for its government, the keeping of its accounts, and the particular administration of the cemetery not inconsistent with the Constitution, General Regulations, Resolutions and Edicts of the Grand Lodge, as it shall deem necessary. It shall make a full report of its proceedings at each Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge. The Board shall prepare a budget based on the anticipated revenue derived from operation of the cemetery.

1997

1997

General Regulations

**ARTICLE IX.
Relief Lodges.**

Section 1. The Charter granted to Louisiana Relief Lodge and issued on the 1st of July, 1854, is hereby perpetuated and is to continue so long as two constituent Lodges located in New Orleans shall desire to retain it. The members of said Lodge shall consist of its officers who may be selected from its constituents at large, and Masters and Wardens in office (or their proxies) and the Past Masters of such Lodges as shall hold office in, or be charged with the handling of the relief work, of the said Louisiana Relief Lodge.

Section 2. The officers of this Lodge and their duties shall correspond, so far as may be, with the regulations for the government of the constituent Lodges. The Lodge may more particularly prescribe the duties of its officers and members and make such other regulations as it may deem necessary to better accomplish the ends of its creation.

Section 3. It shall remain invested with all the property, rights credits, effects and revenues, of whatsoever nature, which it now possesses, and have the power to receive donations, and to raise means for its support and maintenance, and to invest or expend the same in any manner it may deem best and most conducive to the accomplishment of the ends of its creation, and under such regulations as itself shall determine.

Section 4. The said Lodges shall have no right to confer degrees, nor to representatives in the Grand Lodge, nor shall it be required to pay any dues, fees or other charges to this Grand Lodge. It shall annually make return of its officers and members, and the Lodges they represent, and report to the Grand Lodge, at each Annual Grand Communication a synopsis of all its transaction during the year and such other matters as it shall deem of interest to the Grand Lodge or to Freemasonry generally. It shall also be required to make monthly reports to the Grand Master, giving details of receipts and disbursements.

Section 5. The Grand Master shall be empowered to grant a dispensation to organize a Relief Lodge upon application by two or more Lodges located in the same community. Each Relief Lodge shall take the name of the community or locality of its domicile, to which shall be added the term "Relief Lodge" and shall be numbered consecutively, beginning with number 2.

Relief Lodges shall be modeled after, and adopt by-laws similar to Louisiana Relief Lodge Number 1: shall be subject to the provisions of Section 1, 2, 3, and 4 of this Article: and shall continue as long as two constituent Lodges shall retain the Charter of each.

Funds for the activities of such Relief Lodges shall be raised from among the Lodges sponsoring each, and the Grand Lodge shall not be liable or responsible for any financial outlay, allowance or contribution for the chartering or operation of any such Relief Lodge.

**ARTICLE X.
Masonic Charities.**

Section 1. The body heretofore designated as the Board of Trustees for Masonic Home Properties and Charities shall hereafter be known and designated as the Board of Trustees for Masonic Charities.

Section 2. The Seven (7) elected members of the former Board of Trustees for Masonic Home Properties and Charities shall, ipso facto, become members of the Board of Trustees for Masonic Charities and shall so serve until the expiration of the term for which each such member was originally elected. At each Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge a member shall be elected to fill the vacancy created by the expiration of the term of a member. The member so elected or re-elected, as the case may be, shall serve for a term of seven (7) years. Should a vacancy be caused by death, resignation or otherwise, the Grand Master shall appoint a member to fill said vacancy until the next Annual Grand Communication at which time a successor shall be elected to serve for the unexpired term of the member being replaced. The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Senior Warden and Grand Junior Warden of the Grand Lodge shall serve as ex-officio members of said Board of Trustees during their respective term of office.

Section 3. The said Board of Trustees shall, from its own membership elect a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary and Treasurer and is hereby empowered and directed to adopt by-laws, regulations and rules of procedure for the conduct of its business and the discharge of its duties.

Section 4. The seven (7) elected members of the Board of Trustees for Masonic Charities, together with the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Senior Warden and Grand Junior Warden of the Grand Lodge, during their respective terms of office, shall serve as members of the Board of Directors of the Masonic Home Educational Foundation, Incorporated, a corporation heretofore organized and existing under the laws of the State of Louisiana for the purpose of gathering and investing funds from various sources, the income from which is to be used for furthering and completing the education of children with educational needs who meet the qualifications specified by the Foundation and Grand Lodge. The possession and management of said funds and the use of the income therefrom for educational purposes shall be vested solely in the discretion and judgement of said Board of Directors, who shall possess all powers enumerated by the articles of incorporation of said corporation or granted by the laws of the State of Louisiana.

Section 5. In addition to the duties and powers referred to in Section 4 hereof the Board of Trustees for Masonic Charities is authorized and empowered to sell, alienate, lease and otherwise deal with property and / or real estate (outside of Alexandria, Louisiana) held by their charities on terms deemed by the Board to be in the best interest of the Grand Lodge without prior approval of the Grand Lodge, and shall make detailed reports of all such transactions at the following Annual Grand Communication. Nothing contained in this section will impinge, in any way, on the Masonic Learning Center of Louisiana or other Grand Lodge Charities.

Section 6. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to authorize said Board of Trustees to contract any indebtedness against this Grand Lodge.

Section 7. The said Board of Trustees shall file an annual printed report to the Grand Lodge of all its acts during the previous year, with a full detailed financial statement of all receipts and disbursements and its recommendations, for the consideration of the Grand Lodge.

ARTICLE XI

MASONIC LEARNING CENTER OF LOUISIANA

Section 1. There is hereby created a Board of Trustees of the Masonic Learning Center of Louisiana consisting of seven (7) members and four (4) ex-officio members.

Section 2. The four ex-officio members of the Board shall consist of the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Senior Warden and Grand Junior Warden of the Grand Lodge.

Section 3. The Seven members shall be initially appointed by the Grand Master as follows: one member for one year, one member for two years, one member for three years, one member for four years, one member for five years, one member for six years, and one member for seven years. Thereafter, each year as the term of a member expires, a member shall be elected by the Grand Lodge, at the same time that it holds the annual election of its officers. Such election shall be for a term of seven (7) years. In the event of a vacancy caused by death, resignation or cause other than expiration of term, the Grand Master shall appoint a member to fill that vacancy until the next Annual Grand Communication at which time the Grand Lodge shall elect a member to complete the unexpired term of the member whose cessation of service created the untimely vacancy.

Section 4. The said Board of Trustees shall, from among its members, elect a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and a secretary; the said Board shall have full and complete control of the Dyslexia Training Program of the Masonic Learning Center of Louisiana, including the discretion and power to establish units thereof at such time(s), such place(s) and under such conditions as it deems proper; it is hereby authorized and empowered to adopt policies, by-laws, rules and regulations in connection with the administration of the said Dyslexia Training Program and the management of the Masonic Learning Center of Louisiana and the various units thereof; it shall have the power to select, hire and discharge employees at its pleasure, to enter into contracts, to purchase supplies, equipment and services and generally to do all things necessary to carry out, to the fullest extent possible, the purpose of the Grand Lodge in establishing and operating the program for training of dyslexic children under the auspices of the Masonic Learning Center of Louisiana.

Section 5. The seven [7] appointed and/or elected members of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Learning Center of Louisiana, together with the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Senior Warden and Grand Junior Warden of the Grand Lodge, during their respective terms of office, shall serve as members of the Board of Directors of the Masonic Learning Center of Louisiana, Inc., a non-profit, non-stock corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Louisiana for the purpose of directing the affairs of the Dyslexia Training Program together with other philanthropic activities including the solicitation, acceptance and disbursement of funds for such philanthropic purposes.

Section 6. Nothing herein contained shall, however, be construed to authorize said Board to contract indebtedness against this Grand Lodge in excess of the available revenues of the Grand Lodge for purposes of this program, either on hand or reasonably anticipated from assured sources for the then current year. Indebtedness for routine expenses, capital expenditures or other costs or charges which are in excess of said revenues shall be incurred only upon the basis of prior approval of the Grand Lodge.

Section 7. The Grand Lodge shall provide the revenues for the maintenance, support and expansion of the Dyslexia Training Program in such manner as it may deem proper. Provided, however, that, inasmuch as the Dyslexia Training Program has been established as the primary philanthropy of this Grand Lodge, it shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary and the Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge to make available to this Board, to the extent the same may be required and requested, revenues from investments, member contributions, funds or income from securities which are designated for charitable use, and not dedicated to other continuing uses, as well as donations from whatever sources that may be made for the benefit of this program and Masonic Learning Center of Louisiana.

Section 8. The said Board of Trustees shall file an annual written report to the Grand Lodge of all its acts during the previous year, with a full, detailed financial statement of all receipts and disbursements and its recommendations for the consideration of the Grand Lodge.

*The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana***ARTICLE XII.**
Particular Provisions.

Section 1. A demitted Mason is deemed in good standing for a period of one year after the demit is issued. In the event he does not affiliate with a regular Lodge within the said one year, he becomes an unaffiliated Mason possessing no right except to apply for affiliation. A Lodge may, however, conduct a Masonic Funeral over a demitted Mason.

A demitted Mason may petition for affiliation as provided in Article VI, Section 10, of these General Regulations. If his petition for affiliation is rejected, he cannot apply again to the Lodge that rejected him for a period of six months, but the Lodge must return his demit and he may apply immediately to another Lodge.

A demitted Mason who resides outside of the State of Louisiana, holding a demit from a Louisiana Lodge, may petition for re-affiliation in the same Lodge from which he holds his demit regardless of where his actual residence is located.

A brother desiring to withdraw from a Lodge must apply in writing for a demit. The granting of a demit upon oral request is null and void. A letter of resignation may be accepted as a request for a demit if the Lodge determines that such was the intent of the brother.

An application for a demit may be withdrawn by the brother who requested it, prior to the action of the Lodge, by consent of the members present.

The granting of a demit in error by a Lodge shall be corrected by the adoption of a motion declaring the former procedure null and void.

A demit issued by a regular Lodge recognized by this Grand Lodge must be accepted as evidence that the demitted Mason received the degrees regularly in his original Lodge.

A Lodge cannot refuse to grant a demit to a brother in good standing who has paid his dues and assessments provided no charges of un-masonic conduct in a Lodge, or charges in a Court, are pending. The certificate of demit granted by a Lodge must be issued promptly by the Secretary on form approved by the Grand Lodge. A duplicate certificate of demit shall be issued upon request of a demitted member who claims that the original was never received, or has been lost or destroyed. No charges shall be made for a demit.

A Lodge shall refuse to grant a demit to:

- a. A member who has not paid all dues and assessments for which he is liable (including the year in which the demit is granted), less any amount which may be remitted by the Lodge.
- b. A member who has committed an offense and is charged in Court.
- c. A member charged with un-masonic conduct until after he is cleared.

Section 2. Constituent Lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction may, upon one month's notice given at stated meeting, drop from their rolls, by a majority vote of

General Regulations

those present, the name of any member who shall have been absent from the Lodge for one year, whose residence or whereabouts is unknown, and who shall be owing for one year's dues and/or assessments to the Lodge. Any member thus dropped shall occupy the same status in relation to the Lodge as a Mason suspended for nonpayment of dues and/or assessments.

A Lodge may drop from the rolls for "Residence Unknown" a delinquent member to whom a summons for non-payment of dues and/or assessments was mailed and returned "unclaimed." Such a member must apply for reinstatement in the same manner and under the same conditions as one suspended for non-payment of dues and/or assessments.

Section 3. Constituent Lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction shall pay all Grand Lodge dues and assessments on its members as provided in Article VIII, Section 1, of the Constitution, even if the Lodge remits part, or all, of any member's dues and/or assessments.

A member who has not paid all dues and/or assessments to his Lodge on or before September 1st. shall be deemed to be indebted for the full year's dues and/or assessments, less any amount previously paid thereon. If he fails to do so, he may be summoned by the Lodge, by written notice, giving the amount due, and directed to pay the amount within three months, or to show in person, or writing, satisfactory cause why the same has not been done. After the expiration of the said three months, should he fail to appear or satisfactorily respond, then, at a stated meeting of the Lodge, on proof being made of the said indebtedness and failure to comply with the order of the Lodge, he may, with due consideration being given to his physical, mental and financial condition be suspended from all his rights and privileges by a two-thirds vote of the members present: If such a member is not suspended and becomes indebted to the Lodge for the second year's dues and/or assessments, the Lodge at any stated meeting not later than the one immediately prior to September 1st of such second year, shall follow the procedure provided for hereinabove, and must suspend the member, unless the Lodge, by a two-thirds vote, remits the dues and grants additional time for payment of the balance, or accepts part payment and grants remission of the balance.

The effective date of suspension for non-payment of dues may, by resolution, be delayed until December 31st., of the current year contingent on the member satisfying the Lodge on or before said date, but a member owes dues and/or assessments to the effective date of his suspension.

A brother suspended for non-payment of dues and/or assessments may be reinstated, on written application, at any stated meeting of the Lodge held within one year from the date of such suspension, by a two-thirds vote, on payment, or remission, or part payment and part remission of the amount due at the time of suspension, plus dues and assessments for the current year, provided no charge be then pending against him. An investigating committee is not required in connections with reinstatement within one year after a brother is suspended for non-payment of dues and/or assessments.

If a brother has been under suspension for non-payment of dues and/or assessments for more than one year, he shall be required to submit a written application for reinstatement, on form approved by the Grand Lodge, first paying to the Lodge all amounts as prescribed by it. His application must be presented at a stated meeting and shall, when received by the Lodge, be referred

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

to an investigating committee of three members, who shall report to the Lodge not earlier than four weeks after the application was received, after which a vote shall be taken and the applicant declared reinstated if he receives a favorable vote of two-thirds of the members present; such reinstatement to become effective upon the applicant paying to the Lodge full dues and assessments owed the Lodge, including the current year.

If the application is rejected, the suspended member must wait six months before making another application for reinstatement, and any money paid by him to the Lodge to discharge his indebtedness in connection with his application for reinstatement belongs to the Lodge, and is not refundable.

Reinstatement of a brother for non-payment of dues and/or assessments is the exclusive prerogative of the Lodge and cannot be accomplished except by its action at a stated meeting. No committee or group or individual officer can act for the Lodge and the Grand Master cannot order such reinstatement. A Lodge may appoint a committee to seek reinstatement of its members who have been suspended for non-payment of dues and/or assessments, but each application for reinstatement must be acted on individually.

A member suspended for non-payment of dues and/or assessments may apply for reinstatement even if he has been convicted of a crime, but the Lodge must prefer charges against him and try him, whether or not he is reinstated.

Section 4. The modus operandi mentioned in Section 3., i.e., notice of indebtedness, summons to pay in three months, or give satisfactory excuse, proof of indebtedness and time, and vote of two-thirds at a stated meeting, shall be deemed a full trial in cases of non-payment of dues and/or assessments. No dues shall be charged during the time a member is dropped from the roll or is suspended.

Section 5. The Grand Secretary shall, under the supervision of the Grand Master, as soon as possible after the close of the Annual Grand Communication, cause to be published a sufficient number of copies of the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge with the returns of the constituent Lodges to supply to each constituent Lodge one copy and one copy to each Grand Lodge in correspondence with this Grand Lodge, and such additional number of copies as may be necessary for the Grand Lodge Library and for the use of the Grand Lodge.

Section 6. The Grand Master, may draw warrants on the Grand Treasurer, during the recess of the Grand Lodge, for such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of the Constitution, these Regulations, or the Resolutions and Edicts of the Grand Lodge, and for the incidental expenses of the same.

Section 7. All resolutions presented to the Grand Lodge shall be properly signed and delivered in writing to the office of the Grand Secretary at least sixty days before the date of the Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge, and all constituent Lodges shall be immediately furnished by the Grand Secretary with the copies of the same.

The Grand Lodge may receive resolutions without such previous notice by a two-thirds favorable vote of the members present at any session of a

General Regulation

Grand Communication. All resolutions must be received by a majority vote of the Grand Lodge and be referred to the appropriate committees before being voted upon at subsequent session.

The Grand Secretary will only be required to print the name of the author of the resolution with the total number of brethren supporting same.

The Grand Secretary at least 90 days before each Grand Lodge Communication, notify each constituent Lodge concerning Board elections to be held at the next Grand Lodge Communication and specify the names of brethren whose terms are expiring on said Boards.

No member may speak in the Grand Lodge for more than ten minutes on one and the same subject, except when additional information is necessary, or with the permission of the Grand Master.

Section 8. The Grand Secretary may issue Grand Lodge diplomas, over the signature of the Grand Master, with the seal of the Grand Lodge attached, to any brother who shall present a certificate of his good standing as a member of a constituent Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction, for which shall be paid by the said brother the actual cost of said diploma. The Lodges under this Grand Jurisdiction may provide all their members who are raised to the third degree with the said diploma, either at the expense of the Lodge or the brother, as the Lodge may decide.

Any brother unable to speak and write on account of paralysis, or loss of his vocal cords and both hands may visit Lodges in Louisiana if he presents a diploma issued by the Grand Secretary of his Grand Jurisdiction, or a letter of identification under the signature of the Secretary and the seal of his Lodge, with his photograph attached thereto. The space for the member's signature shall be filled in with the words "Physical Disability."

Section 9. All Lodges under this Grand Jurisdiction are prohibited from employing any itinerant lecturer to instruct them in the rituals and ceremonies of the Order.

Section 10. The use in any Masonic Hall, or our Grand Lodge Hall, of any spirituous, vinous or malt liquors by any constituent Lodge is hereby prohibited, and no constituent Lodge shall permit the use thereof in any Masonic Hall of this Grand Jurisdiction, or our Grand Lodge Hall, or in any room or any building occupied by or under the control of any such Lodges, provided that this shall not affect space that may be leased out for commercial purposes.

Section 11. A Lodge shall exist under the direction of this Grand Lodge which shall be dedicated to conducting and disseminating Masonic research.

The Research Lodge of Louisiana, shall have a set of By-laws and shall conduct itself in a manner following the General Regulations and Edicts of this Grand Lodge. The officers of this Lodge and their duties shall correspond so far as may be practicable, with the regulations for the government of the constituent Lodges. The Lodge may more particularly prescribe the duties of its officers and members and make such other regulations as it may deem necessary to better accomplish the ends of its creation.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

The said Lodge shall have no right to confer degrees, nor to representatives in the Grand Lodge, nor shall it be required to pay any dues, fees or other charges to this Grand Lodge. It shall annually make a return of its officers and members and report to the Grand Lodge at each Annual Grand Communication a synopsis of all its transactions during the year.

This Lodge will fund its activities from dues from its members and will not require any financial assistance from the Grand Lodge of Louisiana. The Research Lodge of Louisiana shall meet at least twice a year. This Research Lodge shall maintain fraternal relations with other research Lodges, wheresoever dispersed, and shall maintain its records in the Grand Lodge Library.

Section 12. All undesignated gifts, whether cash, real estate or other property, received by the Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana shall be deposited in or credited to the Grand Lodge Endowment Fund and in the event that the said undesignated gift is in the form of real-estate or other real property, any funds received from the rent or sale thereof, shall be deposited in or credited to the account of the Grand Lodge Endowment Fund.

ARTICLE XIII.
Consolidation of Lodges.

Section 1. When two chartered Lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction, during recess of this Grand Lodge, find it to their mutual best interest to consolidate, each Lodge interested shall appoint a committee of three members from its own membership, which committee shall meet jointly and prepare an agreement of consolidation in which they shall specify the terms and conditions of the consolidation, reasons therefor and such other matters of mutual interest to the Lodges as the said committee shall deem necessary. When the said agreement shall have been drawn up and properly signed by both of said committees, the same shall be submitted to the Grand Master for his consideration and approval; and if approved by him, they may then be submitted to the respective Lodges for their consideration and approval.

Section 2. When the approval of the Grand Master shall be obtained to the agreement of consolidation between the two Lodges, the Master of each Lodge shall give at least four weeks notice in writing to each and every member of their respective Lodges that the same will be duly considered at a specified meeting of each of the Lodges, giving in substance the purpose of the meeting and the date.

Section 3. When the meeting of the Lodge shall be held as provided for in Section 2, the agreement, unanimously signed by the committees, shall be read in full and, after due consideration, shall be voted upon by the respective Lodges and the same must be adopted by a three-fourths vote of each Lodge membership present at the meeting for the ratification of the agreement.

Section 4. When the agreement shall be ratified by the required three-fourths vote, as provided herein, the Lodge that is to be absorbed by the other Lodge, as set forth in the agreement, shall submit to the other Lodge a complete roster of its membership, giving the name, residence and occupation of each of its members. All of said members of the merged Lodge shall immediately become members of the Lodge which absorbed same, with the same standing as existed in their former Lodge, as to dues and assessments.

General Regulations

Section 5. All of the property and assets of the Lodge that has been merged shall become the property of the new Lodge absorbing the same, including its jewels, paraphernalia and other property; and the Lodge that has been absorbed shall transmit its Charter to the Grand Secretary, and the Lodge which continued its existence, in making its annual returns to the Grand Lodge, shall account for each and every member of the former Lodge that it has absorbed and pay dues and assessments thereon, the same as the other Lodge would have paid had it continued to exist.

Section 6. When the proceedings shall have been completed, the Secretary of the continuing Lodge shall make up a complete transcript of the entire proceedings and transmit the same to the Grand Secretary's office for final approval of the Grand Master, and the consolidation shall be in full force and effect from the date the members of the consolidated Lodge shall be received into the other Lodge and the approval of the Grand Master shall be retroactive to that date, and he shall report the same to the Grand Lodge at its next Annual Grand Communication.

Section 7. The Lodge which has absorbed the merged Lodge shall continue under its own Charter with the same name and number, and have the same rights and privileges that it possessed before the said merger took place.

ARTICLE XIV.
Extinct Lodges.

Section 1. No Lodge shall surrender its Charter without the consent of the Grand Lodge, while seven of its members (who, in the opinion of the Grand Lodge, possess the necessary qualifications to conduct the Lodge properly) desire to retain the same.

Section 2. When a Lodge or a majority of its members wish to surrender its Charter, they may petition the Grand Lodge to receive its Charter, provided a meeting be held to consider the matter, and all the members (within hail) be notified of the time and object of said meeting; said petition shall be signed by all those desiring the surrender, and shall fully set forth their reasons therefor, and shall be accompanied by a list of all the members of the Lodge, at that date, and the amount due by each to the Lodge; also a list of its books, jewels, furniture and property, with amount of its funds, and a list of its indebtedness (if any). The same shall be forwarded to the office of the Grand Secretary.

If seven members have voted against the proposal to surrender the Charter and, in the opinion of the Grand Master, they are qualified to conduct the Lodge, the surrender shall not be put into effect. The action of members who attempt to dissolve a Lodge, declaring its charter canceled, and then attempt to form themselves into another Lodge of the same, or any other name, is null and void. The members who have voted for dissolution remain members of the Lodge until they legally withdraw.

Section 3. In case of the surrender of a Charter or of the forfeiture of the same, it shall be the duty of the Master and officers of the Lodge to forward to the office of the Grand Secretary the Charter, books, papers, jewels and all its funds and assets, together with a list of the furniture and property belonging to the Lodge; nor shall a certificate of good standing be issued to an officer or member of such Lodge until the same is properly accounted for, and the party applying for a certificate shall have paid his pro rata of dues and

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

assessments to the Grand Lodge and the amount he was owing to the Lodge, except in cases especially provided for by the Grand Lodge; provided, that the property and assets of said Lodge shall, in case its indebtedness exceed its assets, be only held by the Grand Lodge in trust for the benefit of the creditors of the Lodge until the same can be properly distributed among them according to law; and in no event shall the Grand Lodge be liable for any indebtedness of any constituent Lodge, unless authorized by the Grand Lodge.

Section 4. After three months shall have elapsed from the date of the forfeiture, or the acceptance of the surrender of the Charter of a Lodge, no member borne on its rolls shall be deemed in good standing until a certificate of good standing shall be issued to him by the Grand Secretary. Members not indebted to the Lodge at the time of forfeiture or surrender of the Charter shall automatically become members of Grand Lodge Lodge No. 999 and receive a dues card as evidence of good standing without charge; but all members indebted to the Lodge at such date shall be required to pay the amount of their indebtedness to the Grand Lodge Lodge No. 999, before being issued a dues card in said Lodge. In order for a member to remain in good standing he shall pay a fee, annually, equal to twice the current Grand Lodge Per Capita amount to the Grand Lodge Lodge No. 999. A current dues card for said member in the Grand Lodge Lodge No. 999 will be issued annually upon payment of this annual fee.

Section 5. A member of any constituent Lodge of this Grand Lodge whose Charter has been surrendered, forfeited or arrested, and who may have been suspended for non-payment of dues or dropped by said Lodge prior to the surrender or forfeiture of its Charter shall not be deemed to be in good standing, but may petition to the Grand Master for reinstatement, and, on payment of the amount due at the time of his suspension or being dropped, or, if the same cannot be ascertained, then upon the payment of the sum of ten dollars, a Grand Lodge certificate of good standing may be issued to him by the Grand Secretary on the approval of the Grand Master.

If a member of such extinct or defunct Lodge has been suspended or expelled for un-masonic conduct, then he can be reinstated only by the Grand Lodge after a proper application has been made for same and a report made thereon by the proper committee of the Grand Lodge.

ARTICLE XV.

Masonic Library/Museum Foundation.

Section 1. There is hereby created the Masonic Library/Museum Foundation to be governed by a Board of Trustees of the Masonic Library/Museum Foundation consisting of five (5) members.

Section 2. The five (5) members of said Board shall be initially appointed by the Grand Master as follows: One member for one year, one member for two years, one member for three years, one member for four years and one member for five years. Thereafter, each year as the term of a member expires, a member shall be elected by the Grand Lodge at the same time that it holds the annual election of its officers. Such election shall be for a term of five (5) years.

In the event of a vacancy caused by death, resignation or cause other than expiration of term, the Grand Master shall appoint a member to fill that vacancy until the next Annual Grand Communication at which time the Grand Lodge shall elect a member to complete the unexpired term of the member whose cessation of service created the untimely vacancy.

General Regulations

Section 3. The said Board of Trustees shall, from among its members, elect a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary; the said Board shall have full and complete control of the library and museum operated by the Masonic Library/Museum Foundation, including full and complete power to determine contents, times of operation and such other matters as may be necessary and proper; it is hereby authorized and empowered to adopt policies, by-laws, and regulations in connection with the operation of a Masonic library and museum complex; it shall have the power to select, hire, supervise and discharge employees at its pleasure, to enter into contracts, to purchase supplies, equipment and services, to represent the Masonic Library/Museum Foundation before appropriate bodies and governmental agencies and generally to do all things necessary to expedite and carry out, to the fullest extent possible, the purposes of the Grand Lodge in establishing, maintaining and operating a Masonic Library/Museum for the use and benefit of the general public and the members of the Masonic fraternity. The said Board of Trustees shall have full and complete control of all books, documents, portraits, art, relics or other items of whatsoever nature or kind comprising the library and museum heretofore maintained by the Grand Lodge of Louisiana.

Section 4. Nothing herein contained shall, however, be construed to authorize said Board to contract indebtedness against this Grand Lodge in excess of the available revenues of the Grand Lodge for purposes of this program, either on hand or reasonably anticipated from assured sources during the then current fiscal year. Indebtedness for routine expenses, capital expenditures or other costs or charges which are in excess of said revenues shall be incurred only upon the basis of prior approval of the Grand Lodge.

Section 5. It shall be the duty of the Board to exert every reasonable effort to establish the Masonic Library/Museum Foundation as an entity; to qualify said Foundation as a tax-exempt charity under the provisions of Section 501 (c)(3) Internal Revenue Code and to attempt to obtain tax-exempt contributions for use in establishing and operating said library and museum. The said Board may, however, request funds from the Grand Lodge, when needed in addition to contributions received, to be paid from whatever discretionary or expressly budgeted funds may be available and the Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer and members of the Board of Budget and Control are encouraged and directed, within reason, to make funds available for the establishment and operation of the library and museum.

Section 6. The said Board of Trustees shall file an annual written report to the Grand Lodge of all its acts during the previous year, with a full detailed financial statement of all receipts and disbursements and its recommendations for the consideration of the Grand Lodge.

Section 7. The members of the first Board of Trustees shall be deemed to have completed one (1) year of service as of the date of the conclusion of business at the Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge in the year 2010. Thereafter, the time elapsing from one (1) Annual Grand Communication to the next shall constitute one (1) year of service.

**PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP BOARD
ARTICLE XVI.**

Section 1. The Perpetual Membership Program of the Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana shall be managed by a Board of Directors to Manage Perpetual Membership consisting of five (5) members who shall initially be appointed by the Grand Master as follows: One member for one year, one member for two years, one member for three years, one member for four years, and one member for five years. Thereafter, as the term of a member expires each year a member shall be elected by the Grand Lodge at the same time that it holds the annual election of its officers. Such election shall be for a term of (5) years. Should a vacancy occur, for any reason other than the expiration of term, the Grand Master shall appoint a member to fill the vacancy until the next Annual Grand Communication at which time the Grand Lodge shall elect a member to complete the unexpired term of the member whose untimely cessation of service created the untimely vacancy. The members of the first Board of Directors shall be deemed to have completed one (1) year of service as of the date of conclusion of business at the Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge in the year 2013.

2013

2013

Thereafter, the time elapsing from one (1) Annual Grand Communication to the next shall constitute one (1) year of service.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall, from among its members, elect a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary.

Section 3. The said Board shall be charged with the responsibility of administering the Perpetual Membership Program heretofore established for this Grand Lodge with the assistance of the Grand Secretary. It shall appropriately enroll participants in the Program, issue certificates, and assist the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer in disbursing funds due the Lodges. It shall, with the assistance of the appropriate Boards and Committees of the Grand Lodge, insure that the funds generated by said Program are appropriately invested in such a manner as to insure, as nearly as possible, both safety of investment and maximum yield.

2013

2013

Section 4. The said Board of Directors shall file an annual written report to the Grand Lodge of its acts during the previous year, with a detailed financial statement of all receipts and disbursements and its recommendations for the consideration of the Grand Lodge.

2013

**ARTICLE XVII.
Amendment**

Section 1. These General Regulations may be amended, altered, or repealed and new ones adopted, when the requisite quorum is present, at any Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge, provided the proposition to amend, alter or repeal shall have received the sanction of a majority present at the time of its presentation, and shall have laid over from one session to another of the same Grand Communication, before it is finally acted upon, and then receives a favorable vote of two-thirds of those present. If there is not a session of the Grand Communication subsequent to the introduction of the amendment, then it must lay over until the Annual Grand Communication when it may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of those present.

DIGEST OF EDICTS
THE GRAND LODGE

Digest of Edicts
EDICTS
OF
THE GRAND LODGE
of The
State of Louisiana
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
ADMINISTRATOR

Neither the Grand Lodge nor a constituent Lodge can become nor act as Executor or Administrator of the estate of a deceased brother; or curator of an interdict; or Tutor of a minor.

ADVANCEMENT

No candidate shall be advanced until examined on the entire catechism of the preceding degree in open Lodge, or by a committee of three Master Masons, appointed by the Worshipful Master, whose recommendation on proficiency shall be accepted or rejected by the vote of a majority of the membership in attendance, in either event. If he is not declared proficient, he must be sufficiently instructed and re-examined.

ADVERTISING

Advertising space may be sold in Lodge news bulletins and other Masonic publications except for political or undignified and/or illegal purposes. No Masonic badge or emblem, or the word "Masonic", shall be used for commercial advertising purposes or for display in commerce, or on sign boards, business cards, or letter heads. Members violating this prohibition must be warned to discontinue the practice immediately under the penalty of being charged and tried for un-masonic conduct. Masons should refuse to patronize them and warn the public against them.

AGE REQUIREMENTS

If a Lodge receives an application for the degrees at a meeting before the petitioner is eighteen years old, elects him and confers a degree because he has become of legal age in the meantime, all of the proceedings are null and void. He must be stricken from the rolls and the fees returned to him. He has the right to reapply when of full age and, if elected, must have the degree again conferred upon him.

Digest of Edicts

There is no maximum age limit for the degrees in Masonry. Fitness for admission, after one is eighteen years old, depends upon one's mental capacity to act with freedom and responsibility. Dotage is a condition of imbecility or loss of understanding by reason of old age, but every old man is not a dotard.

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATIONS

In general, anonymous communications should be ignored; however, any anonymous communication, rumor or report reflecting on the character of a member should cause the Master to make a quiet and secret investigation.

APRONS

An appropriate apron shall be presented to each newly installed Grand Master, to be used by him while in office, and becomes his personal property when his successor is elected and installed.

The apron presented to an Entered Apprentice Mason at the time of his initiation shall remain in the custody of the Lodge until the candidate has received the Master Mason Degree at which time it shall be inscribed with the dates of his initiation, passing and raising, properly certified by the Secretary, and delivered to the brother.

The apron shall be worn so as to always be visible in its entirety, and indicate the last degree which the brother has received. The apron shall be worn in the Lodge room whether the Lodge is at labor or refreshment; provided, however, this requirement may be suspended during the preparation and/or consumption of food and drink.

AUDITS AND ACCOUNTS

The books and accounts of each constituent Lodge shall be audited in detail, at least annually, by the Finance Committee or by a competent accountant appointed by the Master, and the complete financial statement shall be available for inspection by the Grand Master or his official representative. No person may audit the books and accounts of a constituent Lodge in which that person had authority to authorize receipt or disbursement of any funds of that Lodge or to make any entry in the books and accounts of that Lodge for the period being audited.

The Treasurer must give the Secretary a receipt for all funds turned over to him. All delivery requirements shall be considered complied with when the Secretary deposits funds of the Lodge in the proper bank to the credit of the Treasurer and deliver a duplicate slip to him, retaining a copy for himself.

It is the duty of the Constituent Lodges to arrange for their own fidelity bonds, liability, casualty and hazard insurance.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

Any Lodge member has the right to be informed of all Lodge disbursements, including those of the Relief Committee, and be given the names of the beneficiaries. Contributions for any charity case declared by majority vote of the members present to be unmeritorious shall be immediately discontinued.

Funds resulting from a collection taken up by the Lodge for its purposes belong to it and may be spent for any proper cause; provided that Lodge funds in excess of operating and building costs are dedicated to charitable purposes.

AUTHORIZED GROUPS OF MASONS**Maritime Square Club.**

This Grand Lodge recognized the Maritime Square Club of New Orleans, Inc.

Masonic Building Companies.

A Lodge may incorporate a Masonic Building Association or Company, selling members shares for funds to be used in building a Lodge Hall or paying outstanding indebtedness on the same. The Lodge may be issued shares to equal its equity in the property and has the power to purchase shares owned by the brethren when available funds permit the same.

Although the representatives of the Lodges who are members of the governing groups of corporations used by Lodges for Lodge Hall ownership have full authority to administer the corporate affairs without prior approval or later ratification of the Lodges, they must secure proper authority from their respective Lodges before voting on any proposals dealing with the following:

Buying or selling property, furniture and fixtures.

Changing, altering or adding to improved property, excluding ordinary repairs and upkeep.

Pledging or mortgaging any property or other assets.

Signing any financial obligations.

Making any permanent allocation or reservation of the funds or assets.

Digest of Edicts

Any Lodge may, by resolution adopted at a regular communication after due notice, waive these requirements where the amount of a transaction is within a maximum figure fixed by the Lodge, and subject to lawful change from time to time.

AVOUCHMENT AND EXAMINATION OF VISITORS

The presentation of a life membership certificate, or a receipt for dues, by itself, or attendance at a session of any other Masonic organization or club is not sufficient grounds for being vouched for.

A brother may vouch for another only when one of the following conditions is met:

He has personal knowledge by having sat in a Lodge with him.

He has acceptable information from one or more brother Masons.

He has given the other strict trial and examination.

The test oath has been administered and examination completed.

Examination of a visitor should not be conducted without evidence of membership attested by current dues card; and due caution should be exercised.

BALLOTING AND VOTING

Every Lodge must have a regulation ballot box having two compartments. One compartment shall contain sufficient white balls, the minimum being twenty-four, and black cubes, the minimum being seven to permit all members present to vote. This compartment shall have an opening through which the voter's hand may be inserted and the ballot cast in secrecy through another opening into the second compartment, which must be a drawer or have a hinged cover to permit the ballot to be displayed to the proper officers at the right time.

Balloting must be held on only one candidate at a time and is always on the worthiness of the applicant.

Any Brother who exposes, or otherwise violates the secrecy of this ballot, except as otherwise provided for correction of error made, shall be subject to Masonic discipline.

Although every member of the Lodge present at a meeting is required to vote on a candidate, the inadvertent failure to observe this requirement does not nullify the ballot.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

A ballot shall be illegal and, therefore, null and void, and the members present shall be summoned and another ballot taken, if:

A collective ballot is taken.

A black cube is overlooked by the officers and their attention is called to it.

A suspended brother is present at the meeting and voted.

The ballot box is not properly prepared with the required number of white balls and black cubes.

The ballot is improperly exposed.

The members present are not fully informed as to the object thereof.

BALLOTING AND VOTING procedures should not be confused. Balloting is the act of passing on the worthiness of an applicant for the degrees, the worthiness of a Brother applying for affiliation or the question of the Lodge recommending the reinstatement of an expelled Mason. Use of the ballot box is required, and election is by unanimous consent of the members present. Voting is the act of deciding all other business matters coming before the Lodge, when the Lodge possesses that prerogative. Voting may be accomplished by any of the usual methods: voice, raising of hands or standing, or by a secret method, such as the use of slips of paper. Under no circumstances should the ballot box be used in voting.

The Master shall call for a secret vote when, in his opinion, the peace and harmony of the Lodge might be disturbed by an open vote.

A secret vote shall be taken when requested by any member of the Lodge.

Where a two-thirds vote is necessary, it refers to two-thirds of those present.

If exactly twice as many, or more, vote for a proposal as those who vote in the negative, the matter is approved.

A simple majority vote of members present shall prevail except as otherwise provided for.

The Master is entitled to vote on every question in his Lodge. If, after his vote, the result is a tie, he cannot decide the issue. Voting by proxy in a Masonic Lodge is illegal.

*Digest of Edicts***BUSINESS ENTERPRISES**

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana does not recommend, sponsor nor guarantee any life insurance or any other business enterprise; nor does it take or accept jurisdiction over contracts of any business nature entered into by another member of the Fraternity with any individual or institution.

BY-LAWS

The Model Form of the By-Laws, heretofore adopted by this Grand Lodge, as changed from time to time, shall be used by all Lodges thereafter chartered. All amendments to existing by-laws shall conform to the model form, with permission to make such changes as the individual Lodge needs for its own administration.

The By-Laws shall fix the amount of dues to be paid at a dollar amount to be paid to the Lodge plus such sums as may be required by the Grand Lodge for per capita tax and assessments and shall specify whether said dues are to be paid annually or annually in advance. The By-Laws must, however, accord to each member the option of paying in accordance with Perpetual Membership.

Quotations from Constitution, General Regulations and Edicts of the Grand Lodge cannot be made part of the By-Laws of a Lodge, but their provisions must be observed, and any part of the By-Laws of the Lodge, in conflict with the Constitution, General Regulations and Edicts of the Grand Lodge becomes null and void from the moment of the Grand Lodge's action.

In sending notices to the membership of a constituent Lodge that an amendment to its By-Laws will be voted on, it is not necessary that the notice contain the exact wording of the resolution proposing such change.

The provision covering amendments in the Lodge By-Laws must be followed and notices should contain the date, the time and the place of the meeting at which the amendment will be voted on and a summary statement giving the intent of the proposed change. There shall be delivered to the Grand Secretary four copies of all new By-Laws or of revised or amended By-Laws, and these copies shall be supported by certificates, each giving the date of introduction, date of notice to members and date of final action thereon, except when there is a deviation from the model form of the By-Laws, then eight copies would be required. Once the By-Laws and their amendments have been adopted by a Lodge, they cannot be suspended for any period of time, however short, for any purpose whatever, and not even the Grand Master can set them aside. Articles in the By-Laws can be abrogated or annulled or changed only by the due process of repeal, or amendment, subject to the approval of the Committee on Masonic Law and Jurisprudence or the Grand Master.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

Although each brother, newly raised or affiliated, should sign the By-Laws, failure to do so does not deprive him of any rights or privileges, nor release him from the necessity to abide by them.

If the By-Laws of a Lodge contain a provision that the Master shall decide all questions not contained therein, he nevertheless shall not have the right to make laws. He must interpret existing law according to general usage and permit the Lodge, by majority vote, to decide questions before it.

Any article of the By-Laws of a Lodge shall be null and void:

That attempts to authorize any officer other than the Master to name any appointive officer.

That makes a brother still on the rolls ineligible to hold office because he is in arrears for dues and/or assessments.

That permits any elective officer to be a member of the Finance Committee.

That provides for automatic suspension of a member without due notice and action by the Lodge.

That deprives any member of any right or privilege without trial and conviction.

That permits a visitor to sit in the Lodge merely on presentation of a membership card, without being vouched for or being examined.

CENTENNIAL LODGE PLAQUE

The Grand Master or his representative, shall present to each constituent Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction an engraved metal plaque, or an appropriate certificate, in commemoration of its one hundredth anniversary.

CERTIFICATES OF GOOD STANDING

Transfer of membership by a certificate of good standing takes effect only when acted upon by the Lodge to which such transfer is being made. If the calendar year changes during such action a new certificate of good standing must be obtained before the transfer can be accomplished.

A certificate of good standing must not be furnished to a member who is indebted to the Lodge for any unpaid or unremitted dues and/or assessments. Such a certificate, issued erroneously, cannot be used for transfer of membership.

A certificate of good standing must be accepted as evidence that the member received his degrees regularly in his original Lodge.

All certificates of good standing and demits must be issued on forms specified by the Grand Lodge and must be signed by the Secretary and the Master under the seal of the Lodge.

The Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge is authorized to issue 25 and 50 year Membership Certificates to all members in good standing in the Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction, when they have attained 25 or 50 years of cumulative, but not necessarily continuous, good standing in the Masonic Fraternity. These Certificates may be presented at any time during the anniversary calendar year.

CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY

A. The Permanent Committee on Work (PCOW) will administer a Ritual Proficiency Program for the Lodges in Louisiana to ensure more uniform and standardized excellence in Ritual Proficiency by offering three (3) levels of Certification. Each level will be supervised by the District Grand Lecturers (DGL) who may appoint Ritually Proficient Brothers to examine those seeking to attain a level of Certification. Only Brothers qualified and holding the appropriate current level of Proficiency may serve on an examination committee of the level being examined.

2016 1. Level One Certificates will be issued to those Master Masons declared Proficient who can Open & Close the Lodges in all Three Degrees in all stations. 2016

2016 2. Level Two Certificates will be issued to those Master Masons declared Proficient who can Open & Close the Lodge in all Three Degrees in all stations and can recite the Questions and Answers for the catechisms of all Three Degrees. 2016

3. Level Three Certificates will be issued to those Master Masons declared Proficient in all of the esoteric Work.

B. All Current holders under the current Program of Certificated of Proficiency shall be declared holders of Level Three Certificates; however the dates of expiration, if after January 1, 2016, shall require the Master Mason to be re-examined at Level Three to be declared Proficient in the Work and maintain Level Three Certificate of Proficiency.

C. All Members of the PCOW and all who are appointed to be DGL must hold a Level Three Certificate.

2016 D. A Certificate of Proficiency for Level One, Level Two, or Level Three will be issued for a two-year period, after which re-examination for the particular Level must be held prior to re-issuance of a new Certificate. 2016

E. After twenty-five years of Proficiency at the Level Three, the PCOW may declare the Master Mason "Proficient in the Work for Life", and issue him a Gold Certificate of Proficiency.

F. An examination committee composed of at least three who hold current Certificates of Proficiency shall conduct any examination for Levels One, Two and Three certificates. The DGL in the particular District shall certify the qualification of the examination committee.

2016

1. Those Master Masons seeking a Level Three Certificate shall be examined by a committee composed of at least three who hold a current Level Three Certificate. Only those who hold a current Level Three Certificate may examine a Master Mason seeking to qualify for a Level Three Certificate.

2016

2. Those Master Masons seeking Level Two Certificate may be examined by a committee composed of at least three who hold a current Level Two Certificate but the examination must have a current Level Three Certificate Mason as chairman of the examination committee.

3. Those Master Masons who seek to hold a Level One Certificate may have an examination committee composed only of those who hold at least a current Level Two or current Level Three Certificate, and a current Level Three Certificate Mason must be the examination chairman. Alternatively, the DGL may examine and certify a Master Mason for a Level One Certificate singly, acting in his official capacity.

2016

G. THE STANDARD WORK of the GRAND LODGE of the State of Louisiana, F & A.M., issued on August 2006, and any subsequent authorized update thereto, shall be the definitive guide for determining Proficiency within this Grand Lodge. The addition of the FLOOR WORK GUIDE for the STANDARD WORK, issued in November 2012, and any subsequent authorized update thereto, shall be used only as a guide when a Master Mason shall stand examination for any level Proficiency.

2016

CHARITY

The dispensing of charity to wives, widows, orphans, mothers, sisters and daughters of the brethren, wheresoever dispersed, is a sacred obligation and duty of all Masons and all Lodges. This is not to imply that Masonic charity must be restricted to those with Masonic connections. Lodge funds in excess of operating and building costs are dedicated to charitable purposes.

If the financial condition of a Lodge prevents its extending adequate relief, its Master is permitted to solicit funds from the Lodge members.

The Relief Committee of the Lodge may disburse funds as provided by the Lodge By-Laws, but the Lodge also has the right to act in any and all matters of relief.

CIRCULARS AND PUBLICATIONS

Every communication from the Grand Master, the Grand Secretary, and other authorized Grand Lodge officers, to the Lodges and to the brethren must be read in open Lodge at the first regular meeting after the receipt of the same.

The sending of messages or circulars addressed to all Master Mason by an individual Mason or by a Masonic Lodge and the publishing thereof, or bringing Masonic matters before the public by circulars or otherwise, shall not be done without the consent of the Grand Master.

Circulation of controversial literature at meetings in the Lodge room or on the Lodge premises, or making therein of controversial addresses is forbidden; but the mere belief in unusual political theories or religious teachings is not a Masonic offense.

1978

No constituent Lodge shall permit the names of its applicants or candidates to appear in any publications or be sent to its membership, except as a part of the necessary notice to sister Lodges.

1978

2018

The most current version of the Hand Book of Masonic Law in its entirety shall be available to all members of this Grand Lodge in electronic format on our Grand Lodge website via the member portal.

2018

CLAIMS

Lodges shall not be used as collection agencies. Financial transactions among the members should be honorably concluded without calling on the Lodge to adjust differences.

No brother or Lodge possesses a claim against any brother or Lodge for money expended in the performance of any Masonic duty, or the extension of relief, unless previously instructed to do so by the other brother or Lodge.

*Digest of Edicts***CLANDESTINE**

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana, together with every other Grand Lodge, exercises the right to ascertain and declare what institutions and bodies are of the true body of Masonry and what are fraudulent, spurious or irregular.

One made a Mason in a clandestine Lodge cannot petition for affiliation in a Louisiana Lodge. He must petition for the degrees as a profane in the usual manner to become a member of a Louisiana Lodge.

COMMITTEES

The Master appoints all Committees of the Lodge except as provided in the Lodge By-Laws for the Relief Committee and the House Committee.

1978 Standing committees appointed by the Master continue in office until the next annual election of the Lodge, or until discharged by the Master. 1978

Special committees continue in office until their duties are completed, or until discharged by the Master.

A member may hold membership on two or more committees of a Lodge at the same time.

1976 An elected officer of a Lodge cannot serve on the Lodge Finance Committee. 1976

CONFERRING DEGREES

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana recognizes only the three degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason.

No candidate shall receive more than one degree at one and the same communication without a special dispensation from the Grand Master.

On the Petition for the Degrees in Masonry, the name of a member of the Lodge shall not be used in more than one place.

If degrees are to be conferred at a time when a district meeting is being held, a dispensation must be obtained from the Grand Master authorizing the holding of a joint meeting of the various Lodges under the auspices of one of the Lodges comprising that Masonic District.

Undignified, comical, or rough and abusive interpolations in the conferring of any degree are prohibited. If such occurs, the member presiding in the Lodge at the time, and all members responsible

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

therefor, shall be subject to discipline by the Grand Master or by his representative. Immediately before the conferring of any degree, this Edict shall be called to the attention of the members present.

The presiding officer, whether, the Master or Warden, may permit any qualified Master Mason present to confer a degree.

The Entered Apprentice Degree may be conferred on a candidate at the same meeting at which he was elected to receive it, but, under no circumstances, after the expiration of one year from date of such election.

Before the Entered Apprentice Degree is conferred upon a candidate, he must satisfactorily answer the indispensable questions required by the Grand Lodge, which shall include: "Have you ever applied to and been rejected by any other Masonic Lodge?"

The first section of the Entered Apprentice Degrees shall be conferred upon only one candidate at a time; and no candidate who has not already received the Northeast Corner Lecture and the Lesson of Caution shall be permitted to witness any part of the initiation of succeeding candidates. No more than five candidates may be obligated in the Fellow Craft or Master Mason Degree at one time. Any number of candidates may receive the second section of the Fellow Craft Degree at the same time, but only one candidate may receive the second section of the Master Mason Degree at the same time, and not more than five Fellow Craft Masons shall be raised to the Master Mason Degree at any one meeting of a Lodge.

A suitable second section lecture must be given in the conferral of the Fellow Craft Degree. A suitable explanatory or interpretive lecture on the meaning of the degree must be given at the conclusion of the conferral of the Entered Apprentice and Master Mason Degrees.

One who, having truthfully answered the questions in his petition for the degrees, and having answered the indispensable questions, has received one or more degrees in a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, shall not lose any rights or privileges should it be discovered that some irregularity occurred through no fault or responsibility of the candidate. The question of jurisdiction, or any other irregularity, shall be referred to, and be decided by, the Grand Master, and proper correction shall be made between the Lodge which conferred the degree and any other Lodge having an interest therein.

Members participating in the conferral of any of the three degrees are prohibited from wearing the regalia, or costume, of other organizations.

Digest of Edicts

1977 Degree teams in this Grand Jurisdiction must have approval of the Grand Master to confer a degree or degrees in another Grand Jurisdiction. 1977
 1977 Degree teams of another Grand Jurisdiction must also have the approval of our Grand Master to confer a degree or degrees in this Grand Jurisdiction.

CONTRIBUTIONS

In order to encourage gifts to the Masonic Philanthropies and Fraternal support funds, including the Masonic Home Endowment Fund, the Masonic Learning Center of Louisiana and the Grand Lodge Endowment Fund, to be made in memory of a deceased brother or other person, the Chairman of the Board or Committee or the Grand Secretary or other person as designated by the Grand Master, is authorized to forward to the bereaved family of the departed brother or other person an engraved card expressing condolence and stating that a donation has been made IN MEMORIAM.

No Lodge can seek contributions from other Lodges, either before or after building a Lodge Hall, unless permission of the Grand Master is obtained.

While a brother may address any Lodge on behalf of a community chest or other community benevolent or patriotic organization, there must be no solicitation or collection of funds in the Lodge Hall; neither can a Lodge be represented by any of its officers, nor in any other official way, in any other body, group or organization dispensing charity.

Donations by a Lodge, for whatever purpose, made to an organization without Masonic connection may be made only upon unanimous vote of the members present at a meeting held after due notice; donations to the 1990
 1990 appendant, concordant and Masonically-related bodies may be made only upon the favorable vote of two-thirds of the members present at a meeting held 1990
 1990 after due notice; provided that these restrictions and notice requirements shall not apply to Grand Lodge projects or Grand Lodge funds, Grand Master's projects, projects of the Lodge which may incidentally benefit others, or to the support of its own District Lodge.

CORNER STONES

Only the Grand Lodge has the right to perform the ceremony of laying a Corner Stone.

The Grand Lodge shall not officiate in the laying of a corner stone, dedication, or consecration of a building unless:

It is of undoubted Masonic, sacred or public character. There shall be a real stone of form and size appropriate to the structure to be served, on an exposed face of which shall be carved:

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

“Laid by the Grand Lodge of the Sate of Louisiana, Free and Accepted Masons” the year and the date.

There shall be a receptacle placed inside or behind the stone designed for the best and longest preservation of records and relics.

The Grand Lodge is authorized on invitation, and in lieu of the traditional corner stone, to place a slab, plaque or marker in the wall of the buildings of undoubted Masonic, sacred, or public character with suitable ceremonies; provided that such slab, plaque or marker bears on its face the approved inscription and behind it a suitable “casket” containing records and relics.

Marble or metal tablets, or slabs, containing the names of members of building committees may be placed on the walls of the Lodge rooms, without any ceremonies held in connection therewith.

COURTESY WORK

A request for the degree or degrees to be conferred by another Lodge, to which a candidate shall have been elected, shall be in written form and signed by the Secretary of the Lodge of origin with its seal affixed thereto. The Lodge conferring the degree or degrees shall, after conferring each degree, cause the candidate to be instructed, examined and found proficient before conferring the next degree. All requests for courtesy work between Lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction and Lodges of foreign Grand Jurisdiction must be accomplished through the respective Grand Lodge offices.

Courtesy work should be done without charge. The fee for the degree conferred by courtesy belongs to the Lodge to which the candidate made application, and in which he was elected.

The Master of a Lodge, in an emergent situation, may take candidates 1977
 1977 who have been elected to receive the degrees to another Lodge to have the degrees conferred on them and/or to be examined in the catechism 1977
 1977 for proficiency, provided that he shall make full report of the action to his Lodge at the next meeting thereof.

No Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction shall confer the Entered Apprentice Degree by courtesy for a Lodge of another Grand Jurisdiction upon a candidate who has resided in the State of Louisiana for twelve months. Such candidate must apply to a Louisiana Lodge for the degrees. No Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction shall confer the degrees by courtesy on a candidate from another Grand Jurisdiction, if that candidate would not be eligible for the degrees under Louisiana Masonic Law, were he a resident of this state.

A Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction may refuse to confer a degree by courtesy for any other Lodge, and if a member of the Lodge doing the work objects to the candidate, shall not confer a degree by courtesy until the Lodge which elected the candidate, has passed on the objection and determined its own course of action.

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK

Each Lodge Secretary shall make suitable arrangements for obtaining a Criminal Background check on each candidate for the degrees in Masonry. Two executed Waiver and Consent forms shall be required of each petitioner and, in addition to all other charges, there shall be collected from the petitioner an appropriate non-refundable, charge to cover the cost of the background check.

When the report is received it shall be immediately transmitted to the members of the Investigation Committee which will submit its report to the Worshipful Master and make its recommendation to the Lodge. Thereafter, the Lodge Secretary shall in every instance, return the completed background investigation report to the Candidate taking his receipt for the same, which receipt shall be retained in Lodge records. The Secretary shall verify on the petition that such check was completed and specify by whom it was done.

Such background investigation shall be completed in connection with each petition for degrees and, unless such check was completed within one (1) year prior to the petition, in connection with each petition for plural membership or for affiliation.

Such a Criminal Background check shall also be completed for any member who is Petitioning for Reinstatement after having been suspended for any reason, for a period of time greater than one (1) year, if such Criminal Background check has not been completed within one (1) year of the time of petitioning.

DISBURSEMENT OF GRAND LODGE FUNDS

Funds on deposit in any account in the name of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana may be disbursed by check signed by two authorized signatories which shall be the current Grand Master, Grand Treasurer and the Grand Secretary, provided that the Grand Treasurer or Grand Secretary, or both, may designate a Master Mason in good standing as proxy to sign on his behalf which proxy or proxies shall serve at the pleasure of the Grand Master. Said five persons shall be the only signatories on the Grand Lodge accounts. The Grand Treasurer may, for budgeted periodic and recurring operating expenses such as, but not limited to, payrolls, payroll taxes, utilities and insurances, use electronic banking payment methods. A monthly report of electronic banking payments shall be generated and distributed to the signatories on the accounts for their review and oversight.

DOMICILE OF LODGE

A Lodge can have only one domicile, but may legally move it in the following manner:

Select a building pronounced by competent authority to be suitable for exclusive use by the Lodge.

Amend the provision in the By-laws fixing the Lodge's domicile, which must be done according to the rules describing how amendments may be made.

Secure the written approval of the amendment from the Grand Master.

DUES CARDS AND LIFE MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Uniform receipts or dues cards, furnished by the Grand Lodge and signed by the Secretary, under seal of the Lodge, must be used by every constituent Lodge. The phrase "In God We Trust" shall be printed on the front of the card immediately below GRAND LODGE OF LOUISIANA, F.& A.M.

A dues receipt is not the equivalent of, nor can it be used for a certificate of good standing.

Life membership cards shall be issued only for each current year.

DUES, FEES AND ASSESSMENTS

The annual dues, fees and assessments to be paid by constituent Lodges to the Grand Lodge are as follows:

For the Grand Lodge:

Thirteen Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$13.50) per capita dues for the year 2008, the amount to be increased One Dollar (\$1.00) per year during each of the next ten (10) years commencing in the year 2009, said amount to be paid for each member borne on the rolls during the year, except those exempted by Article VIII, Section 1 of the Constitution.

Two dollars and fifty cents for each member borne on its roll during the year, except those exempted by Article VIII, Section 1 of the Constitution for the Grand Lodge Magazine.

Three (\$3.00) Dollars per member, except 50-year Masons and perpetual members, carried on their roll at the beginning of the year, for the Board of Trustees for Masonic Charities. Such dues, fees and assessments collected for Masonic Charities shall be placed in an escrow or special account and transferred to the Board of Trustees for Masonic Charities in such increments and at such times as may be required for support of the Dyslexia Training Program of this Grand Lodge and the Masonic Learning Center of Louisiana or for the payment of other necessary and properly documented expenses incurred during the year. The remainder of said funds not used by the Masonic Learning Center of Louisiana or for expenses, shall be retained in escrow by the Grand Secretary and the Grand Treasurer until the last day of December of each year at which time the unused balance of said funds shall be used to make up any deficit in the Fraternal Account. The remaining balance of said fund, if any, shall then be transferred to the Grand Lodge Endowment Fund and thereafter only the interest and/or dividends accrued from the investment thereof shall be available for use as required by the Grand Lodge.

Fifty (\$0.50) cents per member carried on the roll at the beginning of the year, except 50-year Masons and perpetual members, beginning in the year 2012, be assessed and dedicated to the Masonic Library/Museum of Louisiana, with said funds to be used at the discretion of the Board of Directors of the Masonic Library /Museum Foundation of Louisiana, Inc. for the operation and maintenance of said facility.

Two dollars per degree for each degree conferred during the year.

Five dollars for each Master Mason Degree conferred during the year for the Grand Lodge Special Purposes Fund.

Five dollars for each Entered Apprentice Degree Conferred during the year for Masonic Charities.

Five dollars for each Entered Apprentice Degree conferred during the year for the George Washington Masonic National Memorial at Alexandria, Virginia.

One dollar per degree for each degree conferred during the year for Masonic Charities.

An application for the degrees or advancement, shall be accompanied by the appropriate Lodge fee (minimum \$90.00 for the three degrees, Article VIII, Section 3, of the Constitution); and in addition thereto the funds for Masonic Charities and the Grand Lodge Special Purposes Fund assessments where applicable.

Digest of Edicts

The same fees for the degrees must be paid by each candidate and no remission shall be granted to anyone.

Assessments levied by a Lodge shall apply equally to every member thereof, except 50-year Masons, and shall become delinquent at the same time dues become delinquent.

A Lodge has the right to make concessions, or remissions, and to accept any amount tendered for amounts due by a member, even when issuing a certificate of good standing or demit.

The Grand Master has no authority to remit, suspend, or delay collection of the dues, fees, and/or assessments of a Lodge or of members of existing or extinct Lodges. Only the Grand Lodge has this right as to Lodges and only the Lodges have this right as to their members.

If a member is charged, tried and found not guilty by his Lodge and pays dues and assessments beyond the date of the next Grand Lodge Communication, at which time the action of the Lodge is reversed by the Grand Lodge, no portion of the dues and assessments paid shall be refunded to him.

EDICTS

Edicts issued by the Grand Master are binding only during his term in office, unless approved by the Grand Lodge.

ELECTIONEERING

No Brother should seek office, but this Grand Lodge cannot presume to prohibit individual Masons from discussing among themselves the merits of prospective officers in the local Lodge or the Grand Lodge.

ESOTERIC WORK

The catechism of the three degrees, including parts of the work thereof, orally taught by the District Grand Lecturers is adopted as the work of the York Rite Blue Lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction. Any change therein shall be approved by a two-thirds favorable vote at any session of the Grand Lodge.

This shall not in any way interfere with the work of the Scottish Rite Blue Lodges in Louisiana or other work of other Blue Lodges authorized by the Grand Master to work in the Scottish Rite Ritual.

The use of written or printed coded memory aids prepared by the Permanent Committee on Work are allowed in teaching the rituals of catechism, opening, conferral and closing the Lodge in each of the three degrees, but not for use during opening and closing of the Lodge, in any degree and/or the conferring of degrees.

FEMALE RELATIVES

The Grand Lodge does not take cognizance of the Wife and Daughter Degree. This Grand Lodge does not permit any secret mode of recognition for the mothers, wives, daughters and sisters of Master Masons. A Master Mason's daughter may base her claims upon permanent blood relationship and does not lose any claims by marrying a profane and is therefore at all times entitled to relief and charity. This also applies to a girl, legally adopted by a Master Mason as his daughter. The word daughter in the Master Mason's Obligation includes step-daughter.

1976
1985
2007
2006
2012

1976
1985
2007
2006
2012

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

FLAG

The Flag of the United States of America shall be displayed from the highest elevation in the Lodge and to the right of the Master during every communication of every Lodge under this Grand Jurisdiction. The salute to the Flag shall be given by placing the right hand over the heart. It shall be given when the National Anthem is played or when the Flag is passing, in addition to which all shall face the Flag. The pledge of allegiance must be given at all meetings and all members of this Grand Jurisdiction shall stand, salute, and recite the pledge.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE LODGES

The Grand Lodge of Louisiana grants Dispensations and Charters to hold symbolic Lodges, working in various languages without any other deviation from Masonic usage; therefore, a Lodge may require in its by-laws that all business of the Lodge, including the conferring of degrees, shall be conducted in a particular language.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

It is the sense of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana that efforts be made to establish fraternal relations with all Grand Lodges of the world, organized and constituted in accordance with the fundamental laws and usages of Ancient Craft Masonry, practicing and inculcating the principles of brotherly love, relief and truth, and the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, and teaching a due observance of the ancient charges and landmarks, without reference to particular forms, rituals or ceremonies of introduction. This Grand Lodge is in favor of an exchange of representatives and the Grand Master is authorized to appoint representatives of this Grand Lodge to other Grand Lodges with which we are in fraternal correspondence.

The Grand Lodge of Louisiana agrees that should a matter of contention arise between her and some sister Grand Lodge, if not soon amicably adjusted, it will be referred, her sister Grand Lodge consenting thereto, to arbitration for final determination, and without any issuance of any edicts of nonintercourse.

The Grand Lodge of Louisiana will not establish fraternal relations with any Grand Jurisdiction that refuses to recognize the territorial jurisdiction of the several Grand Lodges of the United States.

One who is a member of a Lodge under the jurisdiction of a Grand Lodge not in fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Louisiana, shall not be permitted to visit any of the Lodges of Louisiana.

1986

Digest of Edicts

The Grand Lodge of Louisiana exercises the right to ascertain and declare what institutions or bodies claiming to be Masonic or calling themselves Masonic, are really Masonic, and of the true body of Masonry, or fraudulent, spurious or clandestine; and to warn the Craft of Louisiana against such as are not legitimate and true; even by prohibitive edicts, if necessary.

Louisiana Masons, when traveling to other Grand Jurisdictions which are recognized as "Regular" by the Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana, F. & A.M. and with which this Grand Lodge has established fraternal relations may, with the consent of the host Lodge or Grand Lodge, visit a tiled communication in any Lodge recognized as Regular by the Grand Lodge of Louisiana, F. & A.M. within that jurisdiction and, during the course thereof, exercise Masonic visitation with the Brethren who are recognized as Regular by that Grand Jurisdiction.

FUNERALS

When neither of the three principal officers can be present for a funeral, any qualified brother may be authorized to conduct same.

A Lodge, by proper resolution at a regular meeting, may open a Lodge of Sorrow for the purpose of conducting funeral ceremonies.

At Masonic Funerals, or Memorial Services if a physical body is not available, the Officers of the Lodge performing the ceremony shall wear the badges or jewels of their respective offices.

The Masonic Funeral or Memorial Service may be performed only at the prior request of a deceased Brother or of his family. The Master of the Lodge should advise the family that a Masonic Service is available.

Any Mason in good standing at the time of his death, by his prior request or at the request of his family, is entitled to receive Masonic burial, although his death may have been due to improper excesses or indulgences, and even after religious rites have been concluded by any other organization opposing our Fraternity.

Although a member demitted over a year, or one suspended for non-payment of dues, has lost his right to a Masonic funeral, the Lodge has the right to conduct such services, which may be done even subsequent to the burial of the former member; but one who is otherwise suspended or expelled shall not, under any circumstances, receive Masonic burial.

Non-members of the Masonic Fraternity may act as pallbearers at Masonic funeral services.

Appropriate variations in the funeral ceremony, such as the reading of a poem of merit, may be made by a Lodge of Sorrow.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

A portion of the Masonic Funeral service may be held at the residence or funeral parlor, including the placing of the apron and evergreen and giving the public honors, but the commitment must be made at the grave.

When it is impossible to perform the funeral services at the time of burial, the ceremonies may be held at the grave at a later date.

Masonic Lodges shall not conduct funeral services jointly with any other organization, secular, religious or military, but may perform the same after the other organization has concluded. After the Masonic Lodge takes charge no other service shall intervene until the Masonic service has concluded except that, at the grave, religious services may precede or follow the final Masonic service.

The refusal of the Roman Catholic Church to permit a Lodge to bury a brother in a cemetery owned by the Church cannot be protested by either a Lodge or the Grand Lodge.

Any Lodge-owned cemetery must be self-supporting; Lodge funds shall not be used to support the cemetery. Lodges owning one or more plots in the New Orleans Masonic Cemetery, or in any other cemetery, shall be financially responsible for the condition and maintenance of the same.

Only the Lodge has the right to decide whether or not it shall permit the burial of the widow of a Master Mason beside her husband in its plot.

GENERAL GRAND LODGE

The Grand Lodge of Louisiana is opposed to the organization of a General Grand Lodge of the United States, or of a Supreme or National Grand Lodge.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES

Should any Grand Representative of another Grand Lodge near the Grand Lodge of Louisiana fail to attend three consecutive Annual Grand Communications of this Grand Lodge, his office as Grand Representative shall be automatically vacated and the Grand Master shall recommend another Brother to the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge in question for appointment as Grand Representative near this Grand Lodge.

HEALING

A Mason who received the degrees in a Lodge under a jurisdiction not recognized by this Grand Lodge, or irregularly in a regular Lodge, cannot visit a Lodge in Louisiana and can be healed only under authority of the Grand Lodge; after healing, he may apply for affiliation.

*Digest of Edicts***HONORARY MEMBERSHIP**

A Lodge may elect to Honorary Membership a member in good standing of another Lodge by a three-fourths vote of the members present at a stated meeting, and such membership may be recalled in the same manner. An Honorary Member shall not vote, hold office, nor pay dues or assessments in the Lodge which has elected him to such membership.

The Grand Lodge will not object to a particular Lodge conferring an Honorary Perpetual Membership on a distinguished and revered living or deceased Master Mason of this or another Grand Jurisdiction recognized by the Grand Lodge of Louisiana which must be by three-fourths vote of the members present at a stated meeting and such membership may be recalled in the same manner. If recalled, all funds credited, as principal, to his account shall be returned to him or his beneficiary.

INTRODUCTION IN GRAND LODGE

In deference to the authority of the Grand Master no one shall be presented to him for introduction during the Annual Grand Communication wearing headdress symbolic of authority.

JEWELS

Members of the Grand Lodge, when in attendance at the Grand Lodge, must wear the jewel of the office which each fills, including Past Grand Masters. The Grand Lodge shall furnish the District Deputy Grand Masters and District Grand Lecturers with suitable jewels, to be worn by them while visiting in their official capacity, and to be returned to the Grand Secretary at the expiration of their term of office.

JURISDICTION, RESIDENCE AND WAIVER

Twelve months continuous residence in Louisiana is required to make a person eligible to apply for the degrees in Masonry and one who has resided continuously for twelve months in the State of Louisiana and has established his legal domicile herein, is under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana. Citizenship thus acquired shall not be lost by temporary absences from the State of Louisiana if the person did not acquire and never intended to acquire domicile outside the State of Louisiana or is a member of the armed forces of the United States who is assigned elsewhere or a federal or state employee who is assigned elsewhere, provided the absentee has not come under the jurisdiction of any other Grand Lodge. The residence requirement set forth herein shall not apply to a mariner without fixed place of residence or to a member of the armed forces of the United States who is assigned to duty within the State of Louisiana and who is not subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of any other Grand Lodge. The requirement of residence in the State of Louisiana, except as set forth herein, cannot be waived by the Lodge or even by the Grand Master.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

If one has lived in the State of Louisiana for twelve continuous months and then moves away from Louisiana, announcing his intention to remove permanently, and then returns, he must establish residence as a newcomer.

One who was initiated in a Lodge in Louisiana remains under the jurisdiction of that Lodge until it has granted a waiver of jurisdiction on him. He may apply for advancement to any other Lodge in the State, but the Lodge receiving such petition must secure a waiver of jurisdiction on the candidate before processing the petition. Similar procedure must be followed in the case of one who has received the Fellow Craft Degree.

A waiver of jurisdiction must never be issued to a candidate; it must be issued to the Lodge requesting it.

One who has received one or two degrees in another Grand Jurisdiction must reside in Louisiana for twelve months before he can petition for advancement in a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, and then only after the Lodge receives a release from his original Lodge, approved by its Grand Jurisdiction.

A waiver of jurisdiction must be properly signed by the Secretary, under the seal of the granting Lodge, and must be delivered only to the Lodge requesting it.

Any waiver of jurisdiction granted by a Louisiana Lodge to a Lodge in another Grand Jurisdiction must be handled through the Grand Lodge office.

Every application for a waiver of jurisdiction must be acted upon separately.

No Lodge has the right to question the refusal of any other Lodge to grant a waiver of Jurisdiction over any candidate, but the application for waiver may be resubmitted as often as desired.

No Lodge shall adopt a resolution declaring that it will never grant a waiver of jurisdiction.

LIABILITY

The Grand Lodge is not responsible for the debts of the constituent Lodges.

Individual members are not personally liable for the debts of the Lodge, except when they act as individual guarantors of its financial obligations, but they are always liable for assessments legally imposed.

*Digest of Edicts***LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

A Lodge may grant Life Membership to a member in good standing, for meritorious services rendered to it, who has been a Master Mason for twenty-five years or more; and then only by resolution introduced in the Lodge at a stated meeting setting forth the services; and it shall lie over to another stated meeting and can be adopted only by a three-fourths vote of the members present at the time it is acted upon, each case being considered separately. A Life Member shall pay all Grand Lodge dues and assessments under penalty of forfeiture of his membership.

A Life Member, although exempt from the payment of dues to his Lodge, shall be subject to all other charges and assessments that may be levied by the Lodge against all of its members, but a Lodge cannot impose a special assessment against Life Members as a separate class.

The right to confer Life Membership should be exercised by the Lodge with great care and discretion and always subject to the laws of the Grand Lodge and the continued obligation of the Lodge to pay all Grand Lodge dues and assessments.

A Lodge must require a Life Member to surrender his card before granting him a demit.

A Life Member, dropped from the rolls on account of residence unknown, or suspended for non-payment of dues or assessments, shall not, if reinstated, resume his former status.

A Lodge may rescind its former action in creating Life Memberships, and may repeal that provision in its by-laws, after which no additional members can be created such under any conditions.

LODGE BUILDINGS AND HALLS

Lodges must present plans and specifications, prepared by a qualified person and approved by the State Fire Marshal, together with financial statements, to the Grand Master in order to obtain his permission to build a Lodge Hall, and there must be included a bank statement showing the amount of funds on hand dedicated to the building contract and an irrevocable commitment from a financially responsible source based on prior approved title and all other formalities, unconditionally making available a loan to cover the balance of the cost of the building.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

The permission of the Grand Master must be obtained, after plans and specifications are submitted, where any obligation is to be incurred in repairing, remodeling or rebuilding any portion of a Lodge Hall. If the amount to be borrowed exceeds \$2,000.00 there must also be submitted to the Grand Master complete information in regard to the obligation, the special assessment to be levied, and the repayment plan.

Lodges shall not delay nor neglect the requirements relative to building or remodeling Lodge Halls, and it is the duty of the District Deputy Grand Master, to promptly report any violations to the Grand Master.

Constituent Lodges may build one story buildings with minimum standards or specifications and architecture, plans of which are to be submitted to the Grand Master in advance for his approval.

In the construction of every Lodge building, provision shall be made for an adequate corner stone which shall be laid with appropriate Masonic Ceremony.

Lodge rooms must be duly dedicated and consecrated in accordance with Masonic usage before Lodge meetings are permitted to be held therein. If the Lodge refuses to have this done, steps must be taken to take up its charter.

A Lodge is authorized to accept space, if donated in perpetuity, that conforms in all respects to Grand Lodge requirements, even if the space is also to be used by other organizations, provided they are not unfriendly to Masonry.

1994 | When a Lodge owns a building jointly with another organization, the | 1994
1994 | Lodge rooms must not in any manner be connected, and must be separated | 1994
by other rooms.

Lodge Halls are defined as the room in which Masonic meetings are held and the ante-room, preparation room and Tyler's room. These are dedicated to Masonic purposes and decorum and dignity must prevail therein.

Digest of Edicts

The preparation room, where the candidate receives his first impression of the Lodge premises, must be kept clean and attractive; also, it must be so located that the candidate enters the Lodge room without having to pass through any other room or hall.

1977

All appendant bodies of Masonry are permitted to use Lodge Halls with the consent of the Lodge.

Pictures of Past Masters may be hung in the Lodge room, and upon approval of the Lodge, photographs of Eastern Star members selected by the Chapter may appear on the walls of the Lodge room.

That portion of the Lodge building, not used as the Lodge room, may be used as a public school room, upon dispensation from the Grand Master.

In times of national emergency, when facilities are mobilized for public safety and welfare, a Lodge has the right, without a dispensation, to make its building and facilities available to the Civil Defense Authorities.

Where the lower floor of a Lodge building is rented to others, the Master has the authority to cancel the lease upon terms and conditions satisfactory to the Lodge and to the tenant.

LODGE MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

There must be present at least five members of the Lodge, which must include at least one of the principal officers, for the transaction of all business of the Lodge; however if all three principal officers are absent, the lodge may be opened by a Past Master of that Lodge, after securing the permission of the appropriate District Deputy Grand Master to do so. A copy of the minutes of the meeting must be signed by the three principal officers in attendance at the meeting, embossed with the lodge seal, and forwarded to the District Deputy Grand Master for his examination, prior to the next communication of the said Lodge. A Lodge may be opened with less than five of its members present provided that one of the three principal officers or a Past Master is present and no business of the Lodge is transacted until a quorum is present.

2017

A Lodge cannot be opened in regular meeting on any other day, nor at any other hour of the regular day, than that fixed in the by-laws; provided, however, that the Lodge may be opened in regular meeting at an earlier hour if no business is transacted prior to the regular meeting time.

A Lodge must be opened on the Master Mason Degree to transact business and must give due and timely notice to its members before taking action upon investments, increasing its debts, disposing of property, making any appropriation, or transacting business of any unusual nature; provided that a Lodge may be opened on the Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft Degree at a special meeting called for the purpose of conferring the Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft Degree, or for conducting a Lodge trial in accordance with Article VI, Section 9 of the General Regulations.

1978

1978

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

Each Lodge shall maintain an alphabetical list of the members of the Lodge, giving the history of each brother, including the dates he received the degrees, and the date of demission, suspension or death.

Each Lodge shall provide a register in which, at each communication, every attending member and visitor shall sign his name before entering the Lodge meeting.

The work and transaction of the Lodge shall be properly recorded in its Minute Books.

The minutes of Lodge meetings must:

Be signed by the Master and Secretary.

Include names of the officers but not necessarily members and visitors.

Show that the Lodge was tyled while at labor, giving the name of the Tyler, even if not one of its members.

State that the investigating committee reported without naming individuals.

Record the results of the ballot, but shall not show the number of black cubes cast in balloting.

Record when labor is dispensed with in a degree and resumed in another degree, and that all present of inferior degrees had been dismissed.

Mention the reception and reference to committees of petitions for affiliation and degrees.

Explain documents submitted, the originals of which must be kept in the Lodge's archives.

Include such part of receipts and disbursements as ordered by the Lodge.

Include all routine matters as they occurred.

Digest of Edicts

If any change is made in an original act of a Lodge, the original minutes shall not be changed. Both the original act and the resolution changing or rescinding the same shall appear in the proper minutes.

A motion, made seconded, debated and carried, is the law of the Lodge until rescinded. It cannot be declared null and void by the Master. If the action is claimed to be unlawful, the Master shall appeal to the Grand Master.

Any resolution of a constituent Lodge in conflict with the laws of the Grand Lodge is null and void.

If the minutes of a meeting are defective in regard to the conferring of a degree, a certificate of the Lodge shall be issued upon positive proof that the brother who received the degree is the same person mentioned in the minutes of the Lodge meeting.

All communications of constituent Lodges shall be opened and closed in due and ancient form. After a Lodge of Master Mason is regularly opened, it may dispense with labor and resume labor in a subordinate degree on a descending scale. The Lodge cannot be opened in a subordinate degree and proceed with business on an ascending scale. The only business that can be done in a Lodge at labor in a subordinate degree is the conferring of the degree, hearing the examination of the candidate, and disciplining one of that degree only. The proficiency of the candidate can be considered only in a Lodge of Master Masons.

A stated meeting, falling on a holiday, cannot be called off, and Grand Master has no power to grant a dispensation therefor.

No Masonic services or meeting shall be held between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon on Sundays, so as not to interfere with the members of the Fraternity attending their regular church services.

All Lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction are prohibited from holding any communications (funerals excepted) during the session of the Grand Lodge.

The Master has the power to call special or emergent communication only after due notice, in advance, to the members, within hail, has been given, stating the purpose of such meeting. No business shall be transacted except that for which the meeting is called.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

No stated or special meeting of a Lodge can be called to refreshment, or called off the same day or night, until another date of meeting. No Lodge can remain open indefinitely, but must be closed when the business of the meeting has been completed (Lodge of Sorrow excepted).

When the Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana, F. & A.M., opens in Emergent Communication for the dispatch of business, a Constituent Lodge in the area where the Grand Lodge opens shall be granted dispensation to open for the special purpose of recording the minutes of Emergent Communication as an additional historic record of the event.

A special meeting called to confer the Entered Apprentice or the Fellow Craft Degree may be opened and closed on the degree conferred.

Examination of a candidate at a called meeting without proper notice to the Lodge members is null and void.

Profanes cannot be admitted into a Lodge at labor. The Lodge must first be opened on the Master Mason Degree, then called to refreshment, after which profanes may be admitted and the public program and activities completed, immediately after which the public may be dismissed, and Lodge tiled and closed in due and ancient form.

All activities in the social rooms, reception rooms and other separate rooms shall be under the sole and exclusive jurisdiction and control of the Lodge. These rooms may be used for wedding receptions for members, for dancing, for parties, for banquets, and for the purposes of civic and patriotic organizations such as the Red Cross, Community Fund, and the like.

A Lodge shall not meet outside its Lodge Hall without a dispensation from the Grand Master.

A Lodge may conduct affairs for entertainment and social purposes, such as fish fries, barbecue parties, dances and receptions, but the Lodge may not hold, or pay for, any affair at any place where gambling takes place in any part of the building, or in the same part of any building where liquor is dispensed or sold.

Any Lodge or affiliated Masonic entity that desires to conduct a raffle under the laws of the State of Louisiana must first obtain a dispensation from the Grand Master.

Such request for dispensation must be made in writing, state the location where it is to be held, state the date and time of the event, the price of each ticket, the number of tickets expected to be sold and the nonprofit to which the proceeds will be donated. The request for dispensation must be accompanied by a copy of the application for permit to conduct a raffle made to the State of Louisiana or the actual permit, if already obtained.

Should there be additional permits required from Parish or Municipal governments, those applications or actual permits must accompany the request for dispensation, which shall not unreasonably be denied.

Digest of Edicts

1983 Members of the Lodge, individually or as a group, may give a bazaar, 1983
box supper, or other form of entertainment for the benefit of the Lodge.

1994 A Lodge may participate in outside activities with a non-Masonic 1994
organization, when such participation is sanctioned by a dispensation from
the Grand Master.

Members in Masonic regalia cannot join in a procession with secret non-Masonic organizations, nor can any outside organization participate in any Masonic ceremony, except that they may appear in a procession in their regalia at a ceremony of laying a cornerstone provided they take on part in our Rite.

LODGES UNDER DISPENSATION

The chartering of a Lodge under Dispensation does not change the status of any of its activities, which continue without interruption, including disposition of pending petitions and all business proceedings.

Lodges Under Dispensation have the right to initiate, pass and raise candidates for admission into Masonry, require its members to pay dues, and adopt by-laws. They may not accept petitions for affiliation nor issue demits.

The signers of an application for Dispensation for a new Lodge under certificates of good standing remain members in good standing in their original Lodges, exercise the right of membership therein, and can vote in both Lodges until they sign the Charter of the new Lodge which immediately makes them member of the same. Such members may retain their membership in their original Lodges as plural members; otherwise payment of annual dues and Grand Lodge charges are handled as a transfer of membership from one Lodge to another in this Grand Jurisdiction.

Masons holding and presenting proper demits less than one year old, or certificates from the Grand Secretary, are qualified to sign an application for Dispensation for a new Lodge and become members of the Lodge Under Dispensation.

Any signature on an application for the Dispensation for a new Lodge is null and void if not accompanied by a certificate of good standing or a demit issued by a regular Lodge, wherever located. If such brother later signs the petition for a Charter, he does not become a member of the new Lodge.

Any meeting held by a Lodge Under Dispensation after the expiration of the Dispensation and before its organization under Charter is illegal; the minutes thereof must be stricken from the records; and the actions thereat are null and void and must be performed again as if the meeting had not been held.

*The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana***MARINER**

A Mariner is not subject to the requirements of residence; and the three degrees may be conferred upon him at one and the same communication upon dispensation of the Grand Master, who should, however, grant the same only in extraordinary cases.

A Mariner is a sailor or a seaman, but not all who go to sea or serve on ships are mariners. One who has a necessary duty in connection with navigation may be classed as a mariner. An engineer, a boatswain's mate and sailor in the United States Navy are clearly mariners; but members of the Marine Corps., or employees on ships plying inside waters or limits to costal operations, cannot be so classified.

MASON AT SIGHT

No man can be made a Mason regularly in Louisiana except by a regular Lodge working under a Charter and Dispensation from this Grand Lodge, hence no Grand Master has the power or the right to create a Mason at Sight or at Will.

MASONIC EMBLEMS AND/OR NAMES

The Square and Compasses may be used on Lodge printed matters, on publications devoted exclusively to Masonry and on Lodge halls and doors; and may be placed on the graves of deceased brethren, even when suspended for non-payment of dues.

1986 It is permissible to place Masonic Emblems on caps, shirts, and garments 1986
worn in public places; provided that the Masonic emblem shall not be placed 1986
on garments used in contact sports where the emblem may be soiled in any 1986
manner; nor shall the Masonic emblem be used in any commercial enterprise.

No social, athletic or other club shall use the name "Masonic" in its title unless it is authorized by the Grand Lodge.

1991 It shall be permissible to place Masonic Emblems, along with the Lodge 1991
name and Meeting Dates, on sign boards adjoining highways entering the 1991
town, village or city in which the Masonic Lodge is located.

Digest of Edicts

MASONIC LAW

The Constitution, General Regulations and Edicts of the Grand Lodge must be obeyed. When the law is plain neither the Grand Master, nor the Committee on Masonic Law and Jurisprudence, shall be called upon to interpret it.

The Master is sufficient in power for all rules of order in his Lodge but possesses no powers except those expressly and clearly delegated to him by Masonic Law.

A brother, desiring a ruling on Masonic Law, shall first apply to the Master of his Lodge and, if not satisfied, he may then appeal to the Grand Master.

The Grand Master is sufficient in power for all rules of order but possesses no powers except those contained in the Constitutions of Masonry, and those expressly and clearly delegated to him by the brethren, and shall not grant a dispensation for any purpose where the existing law is definite.

The Grand Master has the duty of interpreting the law fairly and of upholding it in the spirit and in the letter; but he does not have the power to suspend it except in grave emergencies caused by disaster or distress.

MASONIC MONITOR

The Louisiana Masonic Monitor is the official handbook for rituals and procedures of this Grand Jurisdiction. It is under the direct supervision of the Permanent Committee on Work, who shall have full authority to correct and revise the same. It shall not conflict with any provision of the Handbook of Masonic Law.

MASONIC OFFENSES AND UNMASONIC CONDUCT

Every violation of the moral law, the laws of the land, or the Masonic Law, even without a direct violation of the obligations of the degrees in Masonry, is a Masonic offense if moral turpitude is involved. It is the duty of every Lodge to punish the moral offenses of its members brought to its notice, regardless of Court action and the result thereof.

No officer or member of a Lodge who converts funds of a Lodge to his own use shall be permitted to avert a trial by giving his note or other obligation for repayment. He must be tried for the offense and any other action of the Lodge shall be null and void.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

A member cannot excuse his violation of any part of the Master Mason obligation by claiming ignorance of the Masonic connection of the other party.

A Lodge has no right to adopt a resolution declaring any particular act an offense; but the following are definitely Masonic offenses:

- Violations of the laws of the land.
- Violating the moral law.
- Conducting a disreputable business.
- Embezzlement.
- Habitual intoxication.
- Provoking a fight.
- Swearing profanely, or speaking evil.
- Disregarding the expressed will of the Lodge when a Vote has been held.

Un-Masonic conduct emanating from the use of alcoholic beverages in Lodge meetings, parades, or public places.

Public announcements or written invitations from any Masonic Body relative to the consumption of alcoholic beverages.

It is not a Masonic offense to be unable to pay a debt; but the non-payment thereof, connected with fraud or misrepresentation justifies charges in the Lodge.

It is not a Masonic offence for a member to be reconciled with his wife who has been immoral; rather, must such act be deemed one of charity as well as love.

No Lodge shall offer financial reward for the apprehension of a criminal; such is not a Masonic act.

No Lodge shall adopt a resolution appealing to any government officer, group, Court or body for clemency for anyone who has been convicted of a crime, either before or after being sentenced.

MASONIC OLD FOLK’S HOME

This Grand Lodge has authorized the creation of a fund to establish a Masonic Old Folk’s Home for the care of our aged and disabled brethren and their dependents. Such fund shall be established by receiving donations in any amount in cash or in the form of anything of value which any donor desires to give, and shall, together with the home, when established, be under the absolute and exclusive control of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home Properties, and Charities, except that no debt shall be incurred in the connection therewith without the consent of the Grand Lodge.

*Digest of Edicts***MASTER OF A LODGE**

The Master is Chairman of all committees, except the finance committee, and cannot be deprived thereof by any action of the Lodge. He is superior to and independent of every committee provided or authorized by the Lodge except the finance committee.

The Master of a Lodge has the authority, and it is his duty, to:

Instruct the brethren in the work of the Order and the moral lessons of the symbols.

Summon the members when necessary or advisable.

Assist and supervise the investigating committee in the performances of their duties.

Vote unfavorably on a candidate adversely reported on by the investigating committee.

Rule out of order matters tending to disturb the peace and harmony of the Lodge, or that violate its by-laws or Masonic Law.

Rule out of order a motion that the Grand Master be requested to give an opinion.

Reverse his former ruling upon his own decision that it was incorrect, in which case he must make the announcement to the Lodge.

The Master does not have the right to:

Declare null and void a motion that has been properly introduced, seconded, debated, and carried.

Grant a demit.

Reprimand a brother without trial.

Appropriate and/or spend Lodge funds except by authorization of the Lodge.

MASTER RITUALIST PROGRAM

The Permanent Committee on Work (PCOW) shall administer a Master Ritualist Program for the Lodges in Louisiana to encourage increased participation not only in the esoteric work of conferring the Three Degrees, but in the inclusion of all the lectures associated therewith.

All degree lectures must be utilized during actual degrees being conferred in a regular lodge.

The program shall have three levels, Ritualist, Senior Ritualist, and Master Ritualist.

The PCOW shall issue a certificate and appropriate recognition for each level reached by a member.

All other details of the program shall be explained in Certificates of Ritual Proficiency.

*The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana***MEDAL FOR OLDEST MASON**

The Grand Master is authorized to designate from time to time the oldest Mason in Louisiana, who has been affiliated with a regular Lodge in this jurisdiction and present him with a medal to be worn by him during his lifetime and retained by him.

From time to time the leadership of each Constituent Lodge may present to its member, who has been a Master Mason in good standing for the longest number of years, "The Fidelity Medal of the Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana." The Fidelity Medal to be worn by him during his lifetime and retained by his family and or heirs after his death. The Fidelity Medal is to be purchased from the Grand Lodge Service Committee.

MEMBERSHIP LISTS

Other Masonic bodies and collateral organizations are given the right to obtain membership lists from, and to circularize, the Lodges and the members of the Lodges of this Jurisdiction for those purposes which may from time to time be approved by the governing bodies of the applicants, provided permission is first obtained from the Grand Master of this Grand Lodge; but no Masonically connected organization is permitted to mail tickets to Masons without submitting to the Grand Master a copy of their financial report.

NAME

No Lodge shall be named after a living person.

One who has legally changed his name must apply under his new name for the degrees, reinstatement or affiliation, and must explain his name change. A Lodge cannot change the name of a member on its roll before it has been legally changed.

NOTICE

Where written notice is required by law, regular mail is deemed sufficient, except as otherwise provided by law. Notice of a special meeting, giving the purpose thereof, published in the press in ample time to be read by the membership prior to the time of the meeting is, under ordinary conditions, a legal call permitting the business specified to be transacted. Announcements at a stated meeting shall be sufficient notice of a special meeting to examine candidates and/or confer degrees. Notification by E-mail or other electronic notification systems is approved and effective, provided that the recipient thereof has previously consented thereto. If a Secretary of a Constituent Lodge uses an electronic notification system and provides the Grand Lodge with his system address, that Secretary is deemed to have consented to receive notice sent to him by either the Grand Lodge or a Constituent Lodge via such system address.

Digest of Edicts

OATH

1978 The oath shall not be required of Masons in Lodge and/or Grand Lodge 1978
trial procedure.

OBLIGATION

A candidate who refuses to repeat every word of the obligation, exactly as uttered, shall not continue to have the degree conferred on him.

OFFICE IN GRAND LODGE AND CONSTITUENT LODGE

An officer of a constituent Lodge may hold office in the Grand Lodge at the same time.

PAST MASTER

2003 A brother, elected and installed as Master of a Lodge, is entitled to the 2003
honors and privileges of a Past Master even if he dies while in office, or is forced to relinquish his office for medical reasons, certified by his attending physician to the Grand Master, but his resignation or abandonment of the office for any other reason deprives him of the same.

A Past Master of a Lodge who demits and affiliates with another Lodge does not become a Past Master of the second Lodge unless it adopts a resolution recognizing him, and carrying him as such on its rolls.

PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP

Perpetual Memberships are authorized in Louisiana Masonic Lodges subject to the following terms and conditions:

2011 A. Any member in good standing and possessing a current dues card in a 2011
particular Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction may become a Perpetual Member in that Lodge pursuant to the provisions of this section.

B. The member desiring a Perpetual Membership shall apply to the Secretary of his Lodge during the first quarter of the calendar year, for such membership on forms prescribed by the Grand Lodge and shall tender therewith a minimum of twenty (20) times the annual dues for his Lodge at the time of application, but in no event less the twenty (20) times the minimum dues. The Lodge Secretary shall complete his part of the application and shall forward the same together with the full fee due, to the Grand Secretary. The date of the application shall be the date the Grand Secretary certified he received the application.

The application may be made subsequent to the first quarter of the calendar year but, if so made shall not become effective during that calendar year and, if the application is made later than the end of the first quarter of the calendar year, the member shall owe Lodge dues for the year following the year in which the application is made.

2011 C. Alternatively, a member may pay the fee for fully paid Perpetual Membership 2011
via his personal credit card. Should the member choose that opportunity, the same formula stated in paragraph one (1) of Section B shall be used with the inclusion of a transaction fee at the prevailing rate based on the purchase price. The credit card is called in to the designated Grand Lodge Perpetual Membership Administrator to conclude the transaction.

D. The Perpetual Membership fee may optionally be paid in five (5) equal annual installments in addition to regular Lodge dues. Use multiplier of 4.0 X annual Lodge dues at the time of application to determine the installment payment.

Example: One January 1, 1990 Lodge dues are \$25.00. Multiply \$25.00 X 4.0 to determine that the annual fee will be \$100.00 for five (5) successive years, plus lodge dues.

2011 When purchased under the five (5) year option, a Member becomes Perpetual 2011
when the final installment is paid. Annual installments shall be due and payable on or before the tenth day of December in successive years. After enrolling under this option, a Member may revert to the single payment method at any time. Failure to pay any installment due by December 10th in the year due constitutes voluntary withdrawal from the program. After the initial payment, a Member may suspend participation and subsequently re-enroll in the program with credit for payment made, but on the basis of new calculations using dues structure at the time of re-enrollment.

- E. The application shall be signed by the applicant and have the certification of the Lodge Secretary. The application shall not become effective until the applicant's record has been certified by the Grand Secretary. The application shall contain thereon the computation upon which the Perpetual Membership fee is predicated. If the Grand Secretary determines that the minimum fee, tendered by the applicant is in excess of that required, he shall have the power to correct the application and the Lodge Secretary's computations of the fee, accept the application as corrected and refund any excess fee to the applicant through the particular Lodge Secretary. If the fee tendered is insufficient, the Grand Secretary shall return the application and fee to the constituent Lodge Secretary for correction and resubmittal. A copy of the completed and accepted Perpetual Membership application and a certificate of Perpetual Membership shall be furnished to the applicant and his Lodge by the Grand Secretary when appropriate. The provisions shall be construed so as to permit the Grand Secretary to use computerized records.
- F. Any payment toward the Perpetual Membership fee shall not be refunded except under circumstances determined by the Grand Secretary to be mistakes of fact rendering the applicant ineligible for Perpetual Membership as of the date of application.
- G. After the applicant's Perpetual Membership has been accepted by the Grand Secretary, the Perpetual Membership fee shall be paid over to the Grand Treasurer as required in Article II, Section 3, of the General Regulations. The funds shall be placed collectively in restricted Perpetual Membership accounts. These funds shall be accounted for on an individual Lodge basis, listing the amount to a person paid into the fund for both Lodge dues and per capita and any assessments in effect. The funds shall be accounted for separately, by the Grand Treasurer; from all other Grand Lodge funds. The annual accounting for said funds shall comply with generally accepted accounting principles for review and auditing purposes.
- H. To protect the Lodge from future Grand Lodge per capita tax increases on Perpetual Members, the per capita tax will be replaced with a proportionate ratio payment based on Lodge annual dues and Grand Lodge per capita tax. The proportionate ratio is fixed at the time a Brother becomes a perpetual Member.
- I. A Perpetual Member shall owe no further dues to the Lodge of which he is a member after the effective date of his Perpetual Membership. A dues card shall be issued annually to every Perpetual Member in good standing by the Lodge Secretary which shall denote that his dues have been paid in perpetuity.
- J. The Perpetual Membership fee shall be considered principal and shall never be spent except as provided hereinbelow. Interest derived from the funds collectively invested, less administrative charges and adequate reserves, shall be paid annually to each Constituent Lodge on a prorated basis for each Perpetual Member prior to January 15 of the ensuing year, provided that no distribution shall be made for the Perpetual Member who purchased the membership later than the end of the first quarter of the year, during the year following the year of the purchase. Total proportionate ratio payments shall not exceed a rate of return of five (5%) per cent. Administrative charges covers cost of operation of the program including certificates, forms, accounting, auditing and advisor's fee.

2011

2011

2011

2011

2011

2011

- K. When purchased under the five (5) year option, all earnings on payments made toward the perpetual membership fee will be retained in the Reserve Fund created herein, with distribution being made only when the Perpetual Membership fee is fully paid, and the participating member no longer pays dues. In the event a participating member dies, demits is suspended or expelled or withdraws from the program prior to making the fifth (5th) or final installment, only the earned interest, less administrative fees, and contributions to reserves, shall be distributed under the proportionate ratio formula not to exceed a rate of return of 5% in any event.
- L. There is hereby created a reserve fund to offset future interest shortfall, funded by interest in excess of five (5) percent on all investments of Perpetual Membership funds, as calculated on June 30th of each year. Reserves shall be deemed adequate when said fund reaches an amount equal to 10% of total fund principal. Payout of funds in excess thereof shall be paid as a dividend on a pro-rata basis on the next regular payment date.
- M. The obtaining of Perpetual Membership in one Lodge by a plural member shall have no effect on his membership in the other Lodges to which he belongs. Plural memberships are permitted. A Perpetual Member may transfer his Perpetual Membership to another Lodge of which he is a plural member. If the Lodge to which the Perpetual Membership is transferred has lower dues, including per capita tax, than the Lodge from which Perpetual Membership is transferred the entire amount paid for the Perpetual Membership shall nevertheless, be transferred. If the Lodge to which the Perpetual Membership is transferred has higher dues, including per capita tax, than did the originating Lodge at the time of purchase of the Perpetual Membership, the member shall remit an amount equivalent to the difference between the original cost of the existing Perpetual membership and the cost of a Perpetual Membership in the Lodge to which it is transferred, computed as of the date of the transfer. If the member wishes to retain his plural membership in the Lodge from which he transfers his Perpetual Membership, he shall pay the Lodges' regular dues and per capita tax for the year in which the transfer is made and any subsequent years so long as he retains his plural membership.
- N. A Perpetual Member may affiliate under Article VI, Section 10, 11, and 12 of the General Regulations. If the affiliation is within this Grand Jurisdiction, the entire Perpetual Membership fee originally paid shall be transferred to the account of the Lodge to which he affiliates. If the affiliation is outside of this Grand Jurisdiction the entire Perpetual Membership fee shall remain with the Lodge of which he was a Perpetual Member.
- O. Any certificate of good standing issued to a Perpetual Member shall have endorsed thereon the fact that the holder is a Perpetual Member, and the amount of the Perpetual Membership fee shall be transferred to the particular Lodge in Louisiana with which he affiliates.
- P. If a Perpetual Member shall be suspended, expelled or demits and is subsequently restored to good standing, or re-affiliates from out of state; his Perpetual Membership shall be deemed also be restored.

2011

2011

2011

2011

2011

2011

- Q. If a Lodge consolidates, surrenders its charter or has its charter arrested, the funds credited to the Lodge in the Perpetual Membership fund shall follow the members according to the relevant sections of the Handbook of Masonic Law dealing with consolidations, surrendering and arrest of charters.
- R. An Honorary Perpetual Membership may be purchased by any person in honor of a living or deceased Master Mason, who is or was an honorary member or who is a regular member of a Constituent Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana F.&A.M. An Honorary Perpetual Membership shall not relieve a dues-paying member of his obligation to pay dues nor shall it impose upon the honoree any additional obligation to pay dues. The minimum fee for an Honorary Perpetual Membership is two hundred and forty dollars (\$240.00). The proportionate ratio distribution for an Honorary Perpetual Membership is fixed at 9/12ths, or 75% for the constituent Lodge and 3/12ths, or 25% for the Grand Lodge.
- S. A Memorial Perpetual Membership may be purchased by any person for a deceased Master Mason of a Louisiana Lodge by following the same procedures as outlined in this section. The purchase fee for a Memorial Perpetual Membership is (\$240.00). The proportionate ration distribution for a Memorial Perpetual Membership is fixed at 9/12ths, or 75% for the Constituent Lodge and 3/12ths, or 25% for the Grand Lodge.
- T. A Perpetual Memorial may purchased by any person for a deceased Master Mason from another Grand Jurisdiction, or in the memory of any deceased relative or friend, regardless of gender or place of residence, by following the same procedure as outlined in this section. The purchase fee for a Perpetual Memorial is (\$240.00). The proportionate ratio distribution for a Perpetual Memorial Membership is fixed at 9/12ths, or 75% for the constituent Lodge and 3/12ths, or 25% for the Grand Lodge.
- U. A Brother, at a future time, may add any amount to his Perpetual Membership fee through his local Lodge Secretary.
- V. Applications for Perpetual Membership shall be on forms prescribed by the Grand Lodge, and the Grand Secretary shall provide all forms required for the implementation of this section.
- W. Where Perpetual Members have not been heard from for more than seven (7) years, the Worshipful Master shall direct the Lodge Secretary to report the names of such missing brethren to the Grand Lodge on the monthly membership report as being deceased. Their names shall then be transferred to the rolls of deceased Perpetual Membership. But this action shall have no effect on the amount of money paid the Lodge and Grand Lodge for that Perpetual Member as set forth in sub-section H. through L. hereof.
- X. There shall be no separate cost to the constituent Lodge for administration of this program by the Grand Lodge.

2011

2012

2011

2011

PHOTOGRAPH

A suitable cut shall be made from a photograph of the Grand Master and printed in the proceedings of the year in which he was elected.

POLITICS

A Lodge, as a body, cannot endorse the holding of an election; it has the right to remind members of their civic duty to register as voters, but political discussions are prohibited in Lodge meetings.

Lodges shall not circulate petitions among its members nor adopt resolutions of any kind to be presented to any outside group or body, such as a federal or state Court or Legislature, or any federal or state official, such as a judge or governor, appealing either for or against any action, or approving or condemning the same. This prohibition does not affect members of Lodges when they act individually.

PRINTED PROCEEDINGS

The annual historic tables of Lodges, in proceedings of the Grand Lodge, shall include the names of non-existing Lodges, their numbers, domiciles, dates of creation, dates of disappearance and cause thereof, and information in regard to the reviving of the old numbers.

A roster of the membership of each constituent Lodge shall be included yearly in the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge, only if the Grand Lodge shall vote in the adoption of the Budget to include said roster in any given year.

The names of applicants rejected by the constituent Lodges shall not included in the yearly Proceedings of the Grand Lodge.

The annual proceedings of the Grand Lodge and roster shall be available in both traditional printed matter for the cost of printing including but not limited to shipping, and by printable electronic media at no charge to all regular Masons. Additional copies may be purchased from the Grand Lodge Service Committee. Copies of the annual proceedings sent to others, including our sister Grand Jurisdictions, shall be by electronic media.

PUBLIC DEDICATION OF LODGE HALL

The Grand Master may authorize Lodge Hall dedication ceremonies to be made open to the public after the Lodge is opened on the Master Mason Degree and then called to refreshment.

2019

*Digest of Edicts***PUBLIC EDUCATION**

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana reaffirms its belief in, loyalty to, and support of the “public school system” as the most potent agency for the preservation of our Government, and affording equal opportunities to the masses. It further believes that schools should be non-sectarian in character, and that members of the Fraternity should take a most earnest interest in seeing that they are liberally supported by the national, state and local governments, and kept under proper control of state and local authorities.

The programs of Americanism and Education, sponsored by the Grand Commander of the Supreme Council of the A. & A. S. R. of America, are endorsed by this Grand Lodge: and all Lodges and members in this Grand Jurisdiction are urged to support the same in order to maintain religious, political and civil freedom of men everywhere.

PUBLIC INSTALLATION CEREMONIES

Public installation ceremonies, including those held jointly with the Order of the Eastern Star, may be held without dispensation from the Grand Master, but the Master cannot be seated in the Oriental Chair nor can the usual procession be had. The Lodge must be opened on the Master Mason Degree and then called to refreshment, after which the public may be admitted.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following are eligible to receive the degrees in Masonry in this Grand Jurisdiction:

One, irrespective of religion, who believes in Deity.

One of sound mind, able to participate in proper form in the ceremonies of all the degrees and, in reasonable manner by the use of natural or artificial members to give all the signs, grips and steps, and who is self-supporting.

One born out of wedlock, possessing all other necessary qualifications.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

One is not necessarily disqualified because:

He is subject to epileptic or similar spells.

He has been confined to an asylum, but never interdicted, and has been cured.

His wife or daughter is not respectable.

The following are not qualified to receive the degrees in Masonry in this Grand Jurisdiction:

One who cannot speak, understand, read and write the language of the Lodge and may be, therefore, incapable of understanding our teachings.

One likely to become a charge upon our Order because of physical or mental condition from any cause whatever.

One under interdiction at the time of his application.

It is the Lodge’s responsibility to determine the possession of all necessary physical, mental and moral qualifications by the applicant. The application and fee of one physically or mentally disqualified must be returned to the applicant without balloting.

One applying for the degrees should be temperate, possess the necessary amount of fortitude, be prudent in his relations with mankind in general, and be strictly just.

One who has received one or two degrees, and then is confined to a mental institution and discharged as cured, should either be advanced or permanently stopped.

The application of one who manufactures or sells alcoholic beverages where it is lawful to engage in such business, may be received by a Lodge. No one, after receiving the degrees, engaging in such business in a lawful manner, can be subject to charges on that account.

The reception of any application from an ex-convict is not prohibited; but the Lodge, when voting, should consider the effect of accepting for membership one who has already violated the laws of the land and suffered criminal penalty.

*Digest of Edicts***RECOMMENDATION**

A recommendation made by a Grand Master, not approved by the Grand Lodge, does not become an Edict.

RECORDS LOST OR DESTROYED

An applicant who received his degrees in another Grand Jurisdiction, in a Lodge whose records have been lost or destroyed, must file a petition as a profane, provided the interested Grand Lodge or the candidate cannot provide satisfactory proof of the degrees conferred.

REDEDICATION AND RE-OBLIGATION CEREMONIES

The Grand Lodge recommends that a “ceremony of rededication and re-obligation” be held annually at a stated or emergent communication, either individually or by joint meeting of two or more Lodges.

REFRESHMENT AND RECESS

The word “refreshment” is used exclusively in Masonry to indicate a suspension of normal functions in Grand Lodge and constituent Lodges.

“Refreshment” satisfies both ritual and symbolism; therefore, the word is used in Masonry to indicate a temporary cessation from labor, or the relaxing of certain ritualistic and procedural requirements. This refreshment period may be used for several purposes; one being the admission of non-Masons as guests of the Grand Lodge or constituent Lodge.

A constituent Lodge cannot be called from labor to refreshment with intent to resume operations at a later date. In Grand Lodge the refreshment period extends from one session to another, even into another day. Between Annual Grand Communications the Grand Lodge is referred to as being “in recess.”

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

During the refreshment periods in constituent Lodges, the arrangement of the Great Lights remains the same as when the Lodge is at labor.

REINSTATEMENT

The required vote of the members present for reinstatement is as follows:

Expulsion—a favorable ballot.

Indefinite suspension—two-thirds.

Suspension for non-payment of dues—two-thirds.

REJECTED APPLICANTS FOR THE DEGREES

The Secretary shall promptly notify an applicant for the degrees of his rejection and return the fee. No information as to the names of the committee members, the nature of the report or the members attending the meeting shall be given by any brother, under penalty of Masonic discipline.

If an applicant for the degrees, answering the indispensable questions, admits that he was once rejected, the work cannot proceed. Proper information, or a waiver, must be obtained from the Lodge that rejected him, together with a corrected petition which must take the proper course as if he had not petitioned before.

If a petitioner for the degrees stated in his application that he formerly was rejected by a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, but its records, and those of the Grand Lodge, fail to show this fact, he has the right to apply to any Lodge.

One rejected for the degrees by a Lodge, now extinct, does not need a waiver of jurisdiction, but must assert the facts in his petition.

An applicant, rejected for the degrees in this Grand Jurisdiction, acquiring residence in another Grand Jurisdiction, is no longer in our jurisdiction.

An applicant, rejected for the degrees in another Grand Jurisdiction, may apply for the degrees in this Grand Jurisdiction after acquiring legal residence.

Digest of Edicts

RELIGION

The only requirement in regard to religious belief connected with a petitioner is that he profess his belief in a Supreme Being. No question of religious denomination shall be asked.

RENUNCIATION

The name of one who has renounced Masonry must be stricken from the roll of the Lodge and he shall stand expelled by this Grand Lodge.

A letter of resignation in response to a notice for delinquent dues shall not be considered a renunciation unless it is ascertained that such was the member's intention.

RESIGNATION

The Grand Master has the right to resign and be relieved of further duty, whereupon he is deprived of the honor of the title of Past Grand Master.

The resignation of a Master or Warden, after installation, is not effective until accepted by the Grand Master.

ROLL CALL

Calling the roll at the Grand Lodge sessions shall be by Lodge number.

RULINGS

The rulings of the Grand Master are binding only as long as he is in office, unless approved by the Grand Lodge.

The rulings of the Grand Master, and the enactments of the Grand Lodge, cannot be protested by a brother. He has the right to appeal to the Grand Lodge, but must submit and obey until final action is had on his appeal.

SCOTTISH RITE LODGES

Since 1921, it has been the policy of Grand Lodge to limit the number of Scottish Rite Lodges to ten, those working under the Scottish Rite Ritual. This number of constituent Scottish Rite Lodges may be maintained at that number of ten to preserve the historical and traditional Scottish Rite Masonic District.

In addition to the ten Lodges of the Sixteenth Masonic District of Louisiana working under the Scottish Rite Ritual, the Grand Master may, upon specific request of a Lodge, allow the requesting Lodge to use, in addition to its York Rite Ritual, the Scottish Rite Ritual for the conduct of its Masonic Communications, including the conferral of the three symbolic degrees of Freemasonry, provided that no more than one Lodge in each of the eighteen remaining Masonic Districts shall be granted such authority.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

SEAT IN THE EAST

Only the Master of the Lodge, the Grand Master and his authorized representative have the right to sit in the East. The presiding officer may invite other members to sit in the East.

SECRECY

All business of the Lodge must be kept secret and not publicly discussed, especially the results of a Masonic trial. It is not improper, however, to discuss the expulsion of a member with a profane, especially if the offense has been notorious.

SOLICITATION OF FUNDS

Lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction and other Masonic bodies and collateral organizations recognized by this Grand Lodge, may, with the approval of the head of such Lodge or body, apply to the Grand Master for permission to solicit funds, by circularization or otherwise, from other Lodges and their members for charity and other purposes. The Grand Master shall determine the worthiness and propriety of the solicitation; and, if he approves the request, shall permit the applicant to obtain the necessary list of members pending receipt by the Grand Master of a copy of their financial report.

Requests of any organization, Masonic or otherwise, not recognized by this Grand Lodge, or of the members of such organization, for permission to circularize or solicit funds from constituent Lodges, or members thereof, shall be denied in every case.

SOLICITATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Solicitation of any profane for the degrees of Masonry is prohibited. "There is no objection to a neutrally worded approach being made to a man who is considered to be a suitable candidate for Masonry. After the procedure of obtaining membership in a Lodge is explained, the potential candidate must be left to make his own decision and come of his own free will."

SPONSORSHIP

A constituent Lodge may sponsor a Chapter of the Order of DeMolay, an Assembly of Rainbow Girls or a Bethel of Job's Daughters but may not sponsor any other organization except upon dispensation from the Grand Master.

SUMMONS

A summons should be issued only in matters of great importance, but may be issued for any good reason. Under ordinary conditions a summons is ordered by the Master, gives the cause thereof, bears the signature of the Secretary, under the seal of the Lodge, and it must be obeyed; even if it emanates from a Lodge other than the one of the membership of the brother receiving it, provided in the event of hardship the brother may appeal to the Grand Master whose ruling shall be final.

When necessary, the Master may issue a written or oral summons effective immediately.

When members are notified that they must explain their failure to obey a summons, a reasonable excuse given to the Master shall be sufficient.

*Digest of Edicts***SUSPENSION AND SUSPENDED MASONS**

A brother suspended in one Lodge for any cause is automatically suspended from any other Lodge or Masonic Order of which he is a member. Immediately following the Annual Grand Communication the Grand Secretary shall send a list of all dropped and/or suspended members for the preceding year to each constituent Lodge and other Masonic Orders.

Loss of membership in a constituent Lodge within this Jurisdiction automatically results in the loss of membership in any appendant, concordant, or related Masonic bodies or associations, including the Shrine.

Jerusalem Temple, El Karubah Temple, Habibi Temple, Barak Temple and Acacia Temple, shall not permit a Shriner who is under suspension or expulsion from any constituent Lodge, regardless of the reason therefor, to retain membership in the respective temples or sit in a tiled meeting of the Temple.

A Mason, within this Grand Jurisdiction, shall not sit in a tiled Shrine meeting if there is present an individual who has been suspended or expelled by a Lodge of any Grand Jurisdiction.

No Mason, shall engage in any Masonic relationship, business, interchange, discourse, or Masonic communication with any Shrine Temple or any of its units, clubs or other organization if the Temple permits a Mason who is suspended or expelled in this or any other Jurisdiction, to retain membership in the Temple.

Any violation of this Edict shall constitute un-Masonic conduct and subject the Brother who violates the same to all of the penalties of Masonic Law.

It is the duty of the Master and all other officers of the Lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction to inform themselves in the laws, customs, procedure and ritualistic work of this Grand Lodge: the Grand Master may suspend them from office for failure to do so.

The Grand Master has the right to suspend from the exercise of his duties any officer of a constituent Lodge or any appointive officer of the Grand Lodge.

The Master has the power to suspend from office any elective or appointive officer of the Lodge except the Wardens who can be suspended from office only by the Grand Master. After such suspension, the Master may appoint a member to the appointive office, or a temporary successor to the elective office until a dispensation is obtained from the Grand Master and an election held. The Grand Master has the power on his own initiative to suspend a Master from office.

If any officer of a Lodge is tried and suspended, or expelled, he loses his membership until the trial is reviewed by the Grand Lodge. His office is immediately vacated and a new appointment must be made, or an election held on dispensation from the Grand Master.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

The Grand Master has the power to suspend from membership a member of any Lodge under this Grand Jurisdiction for:

Renunciation of Masonry.

Violation of any of the provisions of the Constitution, General Regulations or Edicts of this Grand Lodge.

Insubordination to the Grand Master.

Insubordination to the Master of his Lodge.

If no action is taken by the Grand Lodge, this suspension expires at the conclusion of the next Annual Grand Communication thereof, and the brother shall be restored to membership as of the date of such suspension.

A suspended Mason has the right to apply for reinstatement, which must be done personally, in writing, to the Lodge which suspended him, if it is still in existence. If the Lodge has in the meantime been consolidated with another Lodge, the application for reinstatement must be made to the consolidated Lodge. In the case of a sojourning brother from a sister Grand Jurisdiction, tried, convicted and suspended for un-masonic conduct by a Louisiana Lodge, subsequently, applying for reinstatement to his own Lodge and to the Louisiana Lodge by which he was tried, the Louisiana Lodge should be governed by the requirements of the Grand Lodge of the sister Grand Jurisdiction.

The status of a brother suspended for any cause, whose application for reinstatement has been rejected, is that of an un-affiliated Mason.

A brother suspended for any cause, who becomes insane, cannot apply for reinstatement until restored to sound mind.

A suspended Mason cannot be reinstated after his death.

VISITATION

A Mason does not possess any inherent right to visit any Lodge other than his own, neither has a visitor any right to object to sitting with another visitor.

Every member has the right to object to the admission of a visitor (the Grand Lodge Officers excepted) whose presence may be deemed to disturb the peace and harmony of the Lodge, but no objection should ever be made for frivolous reason, such as not approving the wearing apparel of the visitor, and the like. The Master cannot overrule the objection of the member.

Digest of Edicts

1977 One who is a member of a Lodge under the jurisdiction of a Grand 1977
Lodge not in fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Louisiana, shall
not be permitted to visit any of the Lodges of Louisiana.

2010 Louisiana Masons, when traveling to other Grand Jurisdictions which 2010
are recognized as "Regular" by the Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana, F.
& A.M. and with which this Grand Lodge has established fraternal relations
may, with the consent of the host Lodge or Grand Lodge, visit a tiled
communication in any Lodge recognized as Regular by the Grand Lodge of
Louisiana, F. & A.M. within that jurisdiction and, during the course thereof,
exercise Masonic visitation with the Brethren who are recognized as Regular
by that Grand Jurisdiction.

AMENDMENT

1977 These Edicts may be amended, altered, or repealed and new ones 1977
adopted, when the requisite quorum is present, at any Annual Grand
Communication of the Grand Lodge; provided the proposition to amend, alter
or repeal shall have received the sanction of a majority present at the time of
its presentation, and shall have laid over from one session to another of the
same Grand Communication, before it is finally acted upon, and then receives
a favorable vote of two-thirds of those present. If there is not a session of
the Grand Communication subsequent to the introduction of the amendment,
then it must lay over until the next Annual Grand Communication.

APPENDIX

**FORMS FOR THE USE OF
MASONIC LODGES
IN LOUISIANA**

Form No.	Page
1a. Model Form of By-Laws	112
1b. Certification for By-Laws.....	118
2. Petition for Degrees in Masonry	119
3. Petition for advancement	123
4. Petition for Affiliation by demit.....	125
5. Certificate of demit	127
6a. Petition for Affiliation by Transfer.....	128
6b. Notification of Affiliation by Transfer of Membership	130
6c. Certificate of good standing for Calendar year	130
7. Petition for Affiliation by Plural Membership	131
8. Petition for Reinstatement.....	134
9. Summons to show cause why a member should not be.....	
suspended for non-payment of dues	136
10. Notice of suspension for non-payment of dues.....	136

Trials—Forms or Formats

11. Charges (Format)	137
12. Summons to accused (Format).....	138
13. Notice for fixing case for trial (Format).....	138
14. Certificate of service (Format	139
15. Summons to members (Form)	140
16. Commission to take testimony (Format).....	141
17. Notice to commissioner to take testimony (Format).....	142
18. Summons to witness (Format).....	143
19. Notice of appeal (Format).....	143
20. Transcript (Format).....	144
21. Certificate of the secretary (Format).....	146
22. Notice of suspension or expulsion for un-Masonic conduct (Format) ...	146
23. Petition Notice (Format).....	147
24. Notice to Candidate to Receive Degrees (Form)	148
25. Master Mason Certificate (Form).....	149
26. Notice of Rejection (Form).....	150
27. Notice of Dues (Form).....	151
28. Investigation Committee appointment (Form).....	152

The following forms or formats must be used by each Lodge and Forms are available through the Grand Lodge Office. (Service Committee).

Sundry Forms

(Form No. 1a.)

MODEL FORM OF BY-LAWS

BY-LAWS OF LODGE NO. F. & A.M.

**ARTICLE I
NAME AND DOMICILE**

Section 1. This Lodge shall be known as.....

Lodge No., Free and Accepted Masons, under the Jurisdiction
of the Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana, F. & A.M.

Section 2. The domicile of this Lodge is hereby fixed at the City (or
Town) of....., Parish of,
State of Louisiana.

**ARTICLE II
COMMUNICATIONS**

Section 1. The stated communications shall be held on the

(Insert day or days)of each month at.....(Insert time).....
from.....through.....and at..... (Insert
time)from.....through.....

Section 2. By favorable vote of a majority of the members present at any
regular meeting, the meetings of the Lodge may be suspended for not more
than any three months during the calendar year.

Section 3. Special communications may be called by the Worshipful Master
whenever he may deem the same necessary. The business to be transacted
shall be in accordance with the General Regulations of the Grand Lodge.

**ARTICLE III
OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS**

Section 1. The elected officers shall consist of a Worshipful Master, Senior
Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer and Secretary, who shall be elected by
written ballot in the months of November or December of each year and
installed on or before the twenty-seventh day of December. A majority of
votes shall be necessary to elect in each case.

Section 2. The Worshipful Master shall appoint the following officers:
Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Master of Ceremonies, Chaplain, Stewards,
Marshal and Tyler. They shall be installed with elective officers.

Section 3. All officers shall serve until their successors shall have been
duly elected or appointed and installed.

Section 4. All officers must be members of the Lodge except the Tyler.

91016

2016

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

ARTICLE IV

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master to preside
at all communications of the Lodge; to appoint all standing and special
committees. He shall be Chairman of the Relief Committee and Ex-Officio
member of all other committees, except the Finance Committee. He shall
promote the advancement of all Masonic activities within the Lodge and
community; shall encourage a more perfect performance of the Esoteric
Rites of the order; shall, unless conditions make it impossible, attend the
annual meeting of the Grand Lodge and shall perform all other duties as
usually pertain to the office of Worshipful Master under Masonic Law and
Tradition. Nothing hereinabove contained shall be construed as restricting
or conflicting with the rights and prerogatives of the Worshipful Master.

Section 2. The Senior Warden, in absence of the Worshipful Master,
shall preside at all communications and perform such other duties as pertain
to that office and as may be delegated to him by the Worshipful Master.

Section 3. The Junior Warden, in the absence of the Worshipful
Master and the Senior Warden, shall preside at all communications, and shall
perform such other duties as pertain to that office, and as may be delegated
to him by the Worshipful Master.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all moneys
belonging to the Lodge and deposit the same in the official depository
designated by the Lodge, in his official capacity as Treasurer of the Lodge,
promptly after receiving the same; but he shall not be liable for the funds of
the Lodge while the same are in said depository.

At the last stated communication in December of each year or as
soon thereafter as possible the Treasurer shall make, in writing, a detailed
financial statement showing all funds which are in his hands, or which may
have passed through them during the fiscal year, accompanying his report
with all vouchers.

Section 5. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep full and
correct minutes of all the transactions of the Lodge proper to be recorded;
to keep suitable and complete books of accounts; to keep a full register of its
members and a book of returns to the Grand Lodge; to keep the seal of the
Lodge and to affix it wherever necessary. He shall collect all dues, receive
all moneys paid to the Lodge and pay the same over to the Treasurer, taking
his receipt therefor. He shall file and preserve all communications, reports
and correspondence, and shall give prompt notices to all committees, to
sister Lodges, and carry on all correspondence necessary. He shall generally
perform all duties appertaining to his office.

He shall make a report of transactions of his office at each regular
communication of the Lodge.

At the last stated communication in December annually or as soon
thereafter as possible he shall make a full report in writing of all receipts and
disbursements, income and expense, and shall exhibit a financial statement
of the Lodge, showing all amounts due the Lodge by any member thereof.

Sundry Forms

He shall receive sufficient compensation, and be subject to remission of dues, as may be determined by the Lodge.

Section 6. The Tyler shall be responsible for all the jewels, regalia and furniture of the Lodge, and not permit them to be removed from the Lodge without permission of the Worshipful Master. He shall have custody of the visitor's book and see that the names of all visitors are registered in their own handwriting, together with the number and location of their Lodges. He shall make an exact inventory of all property of the Lodge and at the end of his term of office turn over to his successor all of said property. He shall make an annual report to the Lodge at the meeting next preceding the annual election. He shall deliver all summonses and notices that may be required by the Lodge. His compensation shall be fixed by the Lodge.

Section 7. All other officers shall perform the duties incident to their respective offices.

**ARTICLE V
COMMITTEES**

Section 1. The Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens shall constitute the standing Committee on Relief and shall have authority to draw upon the Treasurer for a sum not exceeding dollars for any one object. The committee shall report at each stated meeting of the Lodge what relief it has granted since its last report.

Section 2. The Worshipful Master shall appoint at the first stated meeting in January, or as soon thereafter as practicable, a Finance Committee composed of three members, none of whom had authority to authorize receipt or disbursement of any funds of that Lodge or to make any entry in the books and accounts of that Lodge for the period being audited, which shall examine the account of the Treasurer and Secretary, and all fiscal matters of the Lodge. It shall report as the Lodge may deem necessary, and make an annual report at the close of each fiscal year or as soon thereafter as possible.

2017
2

2017

SPECIAL PROVISION TO BE USED ONLY WHEN A HOUSE COMMITTEE IS REQUIRED:

Section 3. House committee: The Worshipful Master shall, during his term of office be Chairman of the House Committee to be created by election of four additional members, one of whom shall serve for one year, one for two years, one for three years and one for four years, after which one member shall be appointed or elected each year when the other officers are elected and appointed, to serve for four years. Any vacancy on this Committee shall be filled only up to the date of the next election of officers, by appointment by the Worshipful Master, and the remaining term of the vacancy shall then be filled in the manner provided hereinabove.

No member of this Committee shall serve more than terms. The duties of the House Committee shall consist of the care, maintenance and administration of the real estate and building, furniture and fixtures of the Lodge, and in the performance of these duties, the House Committee shall have authority to make necessary expenditures for the purchase of supplies, the making of necessary repairs, the payment of wages for services of a janitor, caretaker and other employees, the placing and payment of insurance, and the like.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

If any portion of the premises be rented for commercial purposes, the lease shall first be approved by the Lodge, and all rents and income shall be collected by the Secretary of the Lodge.

No change or alteration, or addition to any improvements shall be made, unless the Lodge at a regular meeting, or a special meeting called for that purpose, approves the same in advance.

The House Committee shall not, under any circumstances, have power or authority to buy or sell the property of the Lodge, or to pledge or mortgage any of it, or to sign any financial obligation in behalf of the Lodge.

The House Committee shall render a quarterly report of its financial transactions to the Lodge at the first meeting in January, April, July and October of each year.

**ARTICLE VI
FEES AND DUES**

Section 1. Fees required by this Lodge shall be as follows:

For degree of Entered Apprentice	\$
For degree of Fellow Craft.....	\$
For degree of Master Mason.....	\$
For Affiliation.....	\$

The fee for each degree shall accompany the petition therefor and no exception shall be permitted. If application be rejected the fee shall be returned. In addition to the above, each candidate before he shall receive the Entered Apprentice degree shall make a donation of \$5.00 for Masonic Charities which shall accompany the petition and \$5.00 donation to the George Washington Masonic National Memorial at Alexandria, Virginia. If the petition is for the Fellow Craft degree, or the Master Mason degree, and the candidate has received the Entered Apprentice and/or the Fellow Craft degree in another jurisdiction, and has not made the donation of \$5.00 for Masonic Charities, the same shall accompany the petition for the Fellow Craft degree or the Master Mason degree, as the case may be.

2017

2017

In addition to the above, each Lodge shall collect from each candidate, before he receives the M.M. Degree, the sum of \$5.00 for the benefit of the Special Purposes Fund of the Grand Lodge, and pay the same to the Grand Secretary at the time the annual returns are made.

Section 2. Each member of the Lodge shall pay annually/annually in advance (strike the one not applicable) the sum of \$.....and, in addition thereto such sums for per capita tax and assessments as the Grand Lodge may require, as dues, provided that each member shall have the option of paying dues in accordance with the requirements of Perpetual Membership.

2017

2017

Section 3. No assessment shall be levied on the membership of the Lodge except for the benefit of the Lodge or strictly Masonic purposes, and not then

Sundry Forms

unless the resolution providing for same shall be introduced at a stated meeting of the Lodge and lie over for at least two weeks and all the membership within hail be notified and the same be adopted by a two-thirds vote of those present at that meeting.

Section 4. Life and/or honorary membership may be created only in accordance with the General Regulations and Resolutions of the Grand Lodge.

**ARTICLE VII
FUNDS**

Section 1. The members of the Lodge, at a regular meeting, shall designate a bank as the official depository wherein to deposit all the moneys of the Lodge.

Section 2. All checks drawn against the funds of the Lodge shall be signed by the Worshipful Master and the Treasurer; or in the absence or inability of the Worshipful Master, the Senior Warden; and in the absence or inability of the Treasurer, by the Secretary; and no check shall be drawn against any funds in the bank except upon a proper warrant drawn by the Secretary or by the Standing Committee on Relief.

If the Lodge elects to do so, it may use a check signed by the Worshipful Master, the Secretary and the Treasurer in lieu of issuing a warrant and a check as above provided.

Section 3. All bonds and other evidences of debt, other than money deposited in bank shall be certified by the Secretary as the property of the Lodge and deposited in some Safety Deposit Vault designated by the Lodge, and in the name of the Lodge, and shall be withdrawn only by the Treasurer and Worshipful Master of the Lodge together, or, in the absence or inability of the former, by the Secretary and the Worshipful Master together, or, in the absence or inability of the Worshipful Master, by the Treasurer and Senior Warden together.

Section 4. No appropriation except as provided for Relief Committee, may be made from the funds of this Lodge, unless same has been submitted at a stated communication and the brethren within hail duly notified; provided, this shall not apply to the ordinary expenses of the Lodge.

Section 5. The money of the Lodge shall not be loaned to members of the Lodge for any purpose whatsoever. When there is a surplus in the treasury, the Master, with the approval of the Lodge, may invest such surplus in Municipal, State or U.S. Government bonds or securities guaranteed by the faith of a Masonic institution or placed where they are insured by an instrumentality of the United States Government for the account of the Lodge, or such other types of investment which they as prudent men may wish to make.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

**ARTICLE VIII
TRIALS AND PUNISHMENTS**

Section 1. All trials and punishments shall be strictly in accordance with the requirements of the General Regulations and Edicts of the Grand Lodge, and this Lodge hereby adopts the Lodge (optional: Commission) form of trial.

(Note. Strike out the form of trial not desired).

**ARTICLE IX
ORDER OF BUSINESS**

2019 | Section 1. The following order of business should be followed: | 2019

1. Reading of Minutes.
2. Communications from Grand and Sister Lodges.
3. Report of Relief Committee.
4. Report of other Committees.
5. Reception and Reference of Petitions.
6. Reports of Committees on Petitions.
7. Balloting on Petitions.
8. Unfinished Business.
9. New Business.
10. Conferring Degrees.
11. Remarks for "Good of the Craft."

The Worshipful Master may, at any meeting, transpose the order of business.

**ARTICLE X
SIGNING BY-LAWS**

Section 1. Every member of this Lodge should sign the by-laws, giving his address to which all notices and summonses shall be sent, and shall immediately notify the Secretary of any change in said address.

**ARTICLE XI
AMENDMENT, ALTERATION OR REPEAL**

Section 1. Proposals to amend these by-laws shall be offered in writing at a stated communication and shall be laid over without debate for at least two weeks, and each member within hail shall be notified at least 7 days prior to attend the meeting fixed for the consideration of such amendments; and it shall require the favorable votes of two-thirds of the members present at such meeting to adopt said amendments; and they shall become effective only when approved by the Committee on Masonic Law and Jurisprudence and the Grand Master, or by the Grand Master as provided for in Section 4 of Article III of the General Regulations.

Section 2. In no case shall these by-laws be suspended.

ARTICLE XII

Section 1. All matters brought before the Lodge not provided for in these by-laws shall be governed by the Constitution, Regulations and Edicts of the Grand Lodge.

(Note. Strike out the form of trial not desired).

Sundry Forms

(From No. 1b.)
CERTIFICATION FOR BY-LAWS

Submitted at stated communication of
(Date)

All members within hail notified
(Date)

Laid over until stated communication of
(Date)

Adopted by Two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of members present at
communication of
(Date)

(Lodge Seal)

.....
Worshipful Master

ATTEST

.....
Secretary

APPROVED DATE
COMMITTEE ON MASONIC LAW & JURISPRUDENCE

.....
Chairman

APPROVED-DATE.....

.....
Grand Master

ATTEST-DATE.....

.....
Grand Secretary

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

PETITION FOR DEGREES IN MASONRY
(Lodge Secretaries Order From Service Committee)

_____ 20_____

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of _____

_____ Lodge No. _____

2004
“Having read the statement on the reverse of this petition, I respectfully represent that unbiased by the solicitation of friends and uninfluenced by mercenary motives. I freely and voluntarily offer myself as a candidate for the mysteries of Freemasonry. I am prompted to solicit this privilege by a favorable opinion conceived of the Institution, a desire for knowledge and a sincere wish to be serviceable to my fellow creatures, to subdue my passions and improve myself in Masonry. I promise, if I am elected, that I will yield obedience to the ancient customs and laws of the fraternity. I pledge on my honor that no unworthy motive, selfish consideration, persuasion or influence has induced me to make this application”.

1. Do you believe in God? _____

2. Are you a citizen of the United States ? _____

3. What is your full name? (Please Print) _____

4. What is the date of your birth? _____ Birthplace? _____

5. Are you Married? _____ Single? _____ Widower? _____ Divorced? _____

Wife's Name? _____

6. What is your residence address? _____

Phone No? () _____

7. Where have you resided during the past five years?(Give dates and locations)

8. What is your occupation? _____

Name of Employer? _____

9. What is your business address? _____

Phone No.? () _____

10. By whom and where have you been employed during the past five years?

(Give dates)

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

11. Do you speak, read and write the English Language? _____

12. Do you have any infirmities, disabilities or physical defects? _____
If "yes" explain _____

13. Have you ever been given a citation, arrested and/or been a defendant in a criminal case? _____ Yes _____ No. If yes, make full disclosure as to the place, date, nature of the offense and the disposition of the case.

14. Have you ever applied to any Lodge of Masons? _____

If "yes" state name, number, location of Lodge and date: _____

15. Have you ever been rejected by any Lodge of Masons? _____
If "yes" state name, number, location of Lodge and date: _____

16. Give name, addresses and phone numbers of three references who personally know you _____

17. a. What is your Social Security No. ? _____

b. What is your Drivers License No. ? _____

18. Will this present a hardship to you or your family? ___ Yes ___ No ___

7102 "I declare on my honor that the above answers are true and I hereby authorize the Lodge to conduct a full investigation of my moral and financial standing, criminal background and social media accounts."

Signature

Mailing Address

"We declare on our honor as Master Masons that we know, or we have received Masonic information relative to, the above named petitioner and we recommend him as qualified for membership in the Lodge."

Bro _____ Bro _____

Referred _____ Elected _____ Rejected _____

NOTE: SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

INFORMATION FOR PETITIONER

Read carefully before completing the petition:

- 1. The fee for the first or Entered Apprentice Degree is \$..... plus \$5.00 as a donation to Masonic Charities which must accompany this petition and \$5.00 for donation to the George Washington Masonic National Memorial at Alexandria, Virginia. The fee for the Second or Fellowcraft Degree is \$, and the fee for the Third or Master Mason Degree is \$ plus \$5.00 special Grand Lodge Assessment.
- 2. The annual dues of the Lodge are \$payable each year in advance; or a member may become a Perpetual Member and as such shall owe no further dues to the Lodge of which he is a member, and shall be issued a dues card denoting that his dues have been paid in perpetuity. A Perpetual Membership may be paid in full by paying a sum of twenty (20) times the annual dues at the time of purchase; or it may optionally be payed in five (5) equal annual installments. Use the multiplier of 4.52 times the annual Lodge dues to determine the annual installment payment. Ask the Lodge secretary for more detailed information.

One time full pay \$..... of Five (5) equal payments \$

- 3. Petitioning for the Degrees of Masonry is a matter requiring very serious consideration. Since you have expressed a desire to do so, it is advisable that certain information be given to you which may affect your decision to apply.
- 4. In all ages Freemasonry has insisted that each man must come to its door unsolicited, entirely of his own free will and accord and without any hope of material gain or selfish personal aggrandizement.
- 5. Freemasonry has for its foundation the vital basic principles of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. Therefore no atheist can be a Mason.
- 6. Patriotism and undivided loyalty to one's country are essential qualifications of a Freemason. Freemasonry abhors Communism and a Communist is ineligible to apply. Should any Mason become a member of the Communist Party, he will be expelled.
- 7. Freemasonry is not in any way an insurance society nor does it pay benefits in case of sickness or death. You should so advise your family.
- 8. A universal custom requires that through oral instruction, certain of the Degree work must be memorized after each Degree and before being advanced to the next Degree.
- 9. Each petitioner must be recommended for admission to the Lodge by two members in good standing.
- 10. An investigation committee composed of three members of the Lodge is appointed to determine the moral qualifications and eligibility of each petitioner, and to report to the Lodge. You will be contacted by the Committee members in the near future.
- 11. This petition is made with full awareness that any information about petitioner from any legal source may be obtained.

2008

2007

2017

Sundry Forms

CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY OF THE LODGE

I hereby certify that notice of the reception of this petition was given on
...to:..... all Lodges within a radius of 25 miles
of the residence of the applicant.
.....
(Date)

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE

We the undersigned members of the Investigation Committee declare on our
honor as Master Masons, that we have made strict inquiry into the truth of
all matters contained in the petition, have investigated the moral character
and qualifications of the petitioner, have jointly considered his eligibility and
beg to report to the Lodge as follows:

..... FAVORABLE UNFAVORABLE
State Number State Number
.....Signed. Signed. Signed

Table with 4 columns: RECORD, ELECTED, DEGREE, EXAMINATION. Rows for E.A., F.C., M.M. with sub-column CONFERRED under DEGREE.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

(Form No. 3)
PETITION FOR ADVANCEMENT

.....,LA.,.....20.....

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of.....
Lodge No. F. & A.M.

I respectfully petition for advancement to the.....Degree in your
Lodge. Should this petition be granted, I will cheerfully conform to all the ancient
established usages and customs of the Fraternity, and the By-Laws of the Lodge.
My full name is.....My age is.....

I was born on.....day of.....year.....

in the city of.....State of.....

I reside at.....

My occupation is that of.....

I am at present employed by or at.....

I have been employed during past five years as follows:.....

.....

I received the Entered Apprentice Degree in.....

Lodge, No. F. & A.M., on (Date).....

I received the Fellow Craft Degree in.....

Lodge, No. F. & A.M., on (Date).....

Have you every been rejected by any Lodge?.....

If rejected, state when rejected, name, number and location of Lodge.....

.....

Are you married?.....Single?.....

I live with.....

Will the fact of your joining the Lodge prove a hardship to you or your family?

.....

I declare on my honor that the above answers are true and I hereby authorize the
Lodge to conduct a full investigation of my moral and financial standing.

Sundry Forms

.....
Signature Mailing Address

We declare on our honor as Master Masons that the above named petitioner is well known to us and we recommend him as qualified for membership in the Lodge.

Bro..... Bro.....

Referred.....Elected.....Rejected.....

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE

We the undersigned members of the Investigation Committee declare on our honor as Master Masons, that we have made strict inquiry into the truth of all matters contained in the petition, have investigated the moral character and qualifications of the petitioner, have jointly considered his eligibility and beg to report to the Lodge as follows:

..... FAVORABLE UNFAVORABLE
State Number State Number

.....
Signed

.....
Signed

.....
Signed

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

(Form No. 4)

PETITION FOR AFFILIATION BY DEMIT

..... LA.,..... 20.....

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of.....

Lodge no. F. & A.M.

I respectfully Petition for affiliation in your Lodge. Should this petition be granted I will cheerfully conform to all the ancient established usages and customs of the Fraternity, and the By-Laws of the Lodge.

My full name is My age is

I was born on day of..... year in
the city ofState of.....

I reside at.....

My occupation is that of

I am at present employed by or at.....

I have been employed during the past five years as follows:.....

I am at the present time regularly demitted from.....

Lodge No. at

(The demit from a Regular Lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana must be attached to this petition.)

Have you been rejected by any Lodge?

If rejected, state when rejected, name, number and location of Lodge

Are you Married?..... Single?

I live with

Will the fact of your joining the Lodge prove a hardship to you or your family?
.....

Sundry Forms

Have you ever been given a citation, arrested and/or been a defendant in a criminal case? YES ___ NO ___ . If "yes" make a full disclosure as to place, date, nature of offense and disposition of the case. _____

MASONIC HISTORY:

Initiated..... Passed.....

Raised.....

in..... Lodge No..... at.....

Other Blue Lodge history, if any. _____

I declare on my honor that the above answers are true and I hereby authorize the Lodge to conduct a full investigation of my moral and financial standing.

Signature Mailing Address

We declare on our honor as Master Masons that the above named petitioner is well known to us and we recommend him as qualified for membership in the Lodge.

Bro..... Bro.....

Referred..... Elected..... Rejected.....

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE

We the undersigned members of the Investigation Committee declare on our honor as Master Masons, that we have made strict inquiry into the truth of all matters contained in the petition, have investigated the moral character and qualifications of the petitioner, have jointly considered his eligibility and beg to report to the Lodge as follows:

.....FAVORABLEUNFAVORABLE
State Number State Number

Signed Signed Signed

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

(Form No. 5)
CERTIFICATE OF DEMIT

To all Free and Accepted Masons, Greeting:
The Master and Secretary of..... F. & A.M.,
working under a regular and lawful Charter From the Grand Lodge of the State
of Louisiana, where of M:W:.....is now
Grand Master, do hereby certify that Brotherwho has
written his name below on this certificate, is a MASTER MASON in good and regular
standing, and having discharged all dues against him, and being free from all charges,
is hereby, at his own request, and by vote of the Lodge, discharged from membership
in our Lodge.

In testimony whereof, we have hereunto subscribed our names, and caused the
seal of our said Lodge to be affixed at

Parish of..... and State of Louisiana, this
.....day ofA. D., 20.....A.L., 60.....
.....Master

Attest:.....Secretary

Was INITIATED.....PASSED.....RAISED.....,
by.....Lodge No.at

Affiliated with this Lodge, 20.....
having demitted from.....Lodge No.
at.....

Signature of Member

I hereby certify thatLodge No.

Is regularly constituted and held under the authority and jurisdiction of the Grand
Lodge of the State of Louisiana.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the aforesaid Grand Lodge, this
day of A.D.,20A.L., 60

Seal

Grand Secretary

Sundry Forms

(Form No. 6a.)

PETITION FOR AFFILIATION BY TRANSFER

_____, La., 20, _____

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of _____

Lodge No. _____ F. & A.M.

I respectfully petition for transfer of membership to your Lodge. Should this petition be granted I will cheerfully conform to all the ancient established usages and customs of the Fraternity, and the By-Laws of the Lodge.

My full name is My age is

I was born on day of year, in the city

of State of

I reside at

SS# DL#

Tel. # (H) () (0) ()

My occupation is that of

I am at present employed by or at

I have been employed during the past five years as follows:

.....

I am at the present time a member of

Lodge No. at

.....

(Certificate of good standing for current calendar year must be attached.)

Have you ever been rejected by any Lodge? Yes.....No.

If rejected, state when rejected, name, number and location of Lodge.

.....

Are you married? Single?

I live with

Will the fact of your joining the Lodge prove a hardship to you or your family?

.....

Have you ever been given a citation, arrested and/or been a defendant in a criminal

case? Yes. No.

If Yes, make full disclosure as to the place, date, nature of the offense and the

disposition of the case

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? YesNo.

If Yes, make full disclosure as to the place, date, nature of offense and disposition

of the case

.....

MASONIC HISTORY:

Initiated Passed Raised

in Lodge No.

at Other Blue Lodge History, if any

"I declare on my honor that the above answers are true and I hereby authorize the Lodge to conduct a full investigation of my moral and financial standing, criminal background and social media accounts."

2017

2017

.....

Signature

Mailing Address

We declare on our honor as Master Masons that the above named petitioner is well

known to us and we recommend him as qualified for membership in the Lodge.

Bro..... Bro.....

Referred..... Elected..... Rejected.....

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE

We the undersigned members of the Investigation Committee declare on our honor as Master Masons, that we have made strict inquiry into the truth of all matters contained in the petition, have investigated the moral character and qualifications of the petitioner, have jointly considered his eligibility and beg to report to the Lodge as follows:

..... FAVORABLE UNFAVORABLE

State Number

State Number

Signed Signed Signed

Sundry Forms

(Do not detach until petition has been voted upon)
(Form No. 6b)

NOTIFICATION OF AFFILIATION BY TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

(This notice must be sent to parent Lodge immediately after election to membership. If out of State Jurisdiction, notice must be processed through Grand Secretary of Louisiana.)

Hall of Lodge No.F. & A.M.

City and State Dated Elected.....

To the Master, Wardens, and Brethren of.....

Lodge No. F. & A.M. Located at.....

Brother, a member of your Lodge was, in accordance with the provisions of Section 10, Article VI, of the General Regulations of the Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana, F. & A.M., elected to membership in our Lodge. You are hereby requested to drop him from the roll of membership of your Lodge, his membership to be terminated on the above date as if by demit.

.....Secretary

Seal..... Mail Address.

..... City and State.

(Form No. 6c)

CERTIFICATE OF GOOD STANDING FOR CURRENT CALENDAR YEAR

Hall of Lodge NoF. & A.M.

City and State.....Date

This is to certify that

Brother is a member in good standing of this Lodge, having paid his dues in full to the end of this current calendar year.

.....Worshipful Master

..... Secretary Seal

..... Mail Address

..... City and State

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

(Form No. 7)

PETITION FOR AFFILIATION BY PLURAL MEMBERSHIP

....., La20.....

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of.....

Lodge No. F. & A.M.

I respectfully petition for Plural membership in your Lodge. Should this petition be granted, I will cheerfully conform to all the ancient established usages and customs of the Fraternity, and the By-Laws of the Lodge.

My full name is My age is.....

I was born on day of year in the city of

..... State of.....

I reside at.....

My occupation is that of

I am at present employed by or at.....

I have been employed during the past five years as follows:.....

.....

I am at the present time a member of

Lodge No. at

Also a member of.....

Lodge No. at

If I should be received into membership in your Lodge, it is my desire to retain membership in the Lodges named above.....

(Attach Certificates of good standing in all Lodges for current year.)

Have you ever been rejected by any Lodge?

If rejected state when rejected, name, number and location of Lodge

.....

Are you Married?..... Single?

I live with

Sundry Forms

Will the fact of your joining the Lodge prove a hardship to you or your family?
.....

Have you ever been given a citation, arrested and/or been a defendant in a criminal case? YES___ NO___. IF "yes" make a full disclosure as to place, date, nature of offense and disposition of the case. _____

MASONIC HISTORY:

Initiated..... Passed..... Raised.....

In..... Lodge No. at.....

Other Blue Lodge history, if any.....

2017 "I declare on my honor that the above answers are true and I hereby authorize the Lodge to conduct a full investigation of my moral and financial standing, criminal background and social media accounts." 2017

.....
Signature

.....
Mailing Address

We declare on our honor as Master Masons that the above named petitioner is well known to us and we recommend him as qualified for membership in the Lodge.

Bro..... Bro.....

Referred..... Elected..... Rejected.....

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE

We the undersigned members of the Investigation Committee, declare on our honor as Master Masons, that we have made strict inquiry into the truth of all matters contained in the petition, have investigated the moral character and qualifications of the petitioner, have jointly considered his eligibility, and beg to report to the Lodge as follows:

..... FAVORABLE UNFAVORABLE

.....
Signed

.....
Signed

.....
Signed

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

(Send this notice to Grand Lodge office when petition has been voted upon.)

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION TO PLURAL MEMBERSHIP

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana, F. & A. M.
5746 Masonic Drive
Alexandria, LA. 71301-2632

Brotherof.....

Lodge No.F. & A.M., Located at.....was elected to plural membership in our Lodge on.....

.....
(Date Elected)

.....
Secretary

Seal

..... Lodge No. F. & A.M., at:....., Louisiana.

(Send this notice to parent Lodge when petition has been voted upon.)
NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION TO PLURAL MEMBERSHIP

[This notice must be sent to all Lodges interested, immediately after election to membership.]

Hall of.....Lodge No. F. & A.M.

.....
City and State

.....
Date Elected

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens, and Brethren of.....

Lodge No. F.& A.M. Located at.....

Brother, a member of your Lodge was elected to Plural Membership in our Lodge on.....

.....
Secretary

Seal

..... Mail Address

..... City and State

Sundry Forms

(Forms No. 8)

PETITION FOR REINSTATEMENT

.....,La20.....

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of.....

Lodge No F. & A.M.

I was suspended for (N.P.D. - Un-masonic conduct)..... on

....., inLodge No F. & A.M.
(Date)

I respectfully petition for reinstatement to full membership in your Lodge. Should this petition be granted, I will cheerfully conform to all the ancient established usages and customs of the Fraternity, and the By-Laws of the Lodge.

My full name isMy age is.....

I was born on..... day of..... year..... in

the city ofState of.....

I reside at.....

My occupation is that of

I am at present employed by or at.....

I have been employed during the past five years as follows:.....

.....

Have you ever been rejected by any Lodge?

If rejected, state when rejected, name, number and location of Lodge

.....

Are you married?Single?.....

I live with.....

MASONIC HISTORY:

Initiated Passed Raised.....

inLodge Noat.....

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

Other Blue Lodge History, if any

.....

2017 | "I declare on my honor that the above answers are true and I hereby authorize the Lodge to conduct a full investigation of my moral and financial standing, criminal background and social media accounts." | 2017

.....
Signature Mailing Address

We declare on our honor as Master Masons that the above named petitioner is well known to us and we recommend him as qualified for membership in the Lodge.

Bro..... Bro.....

Referred..... Elected..... Rejected.....

Dues and assessments of \$ must accompany this petition.

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE

We, the undersigned members of the Investigation Committee, declare on our honor as Master Masons, that we have made strict inquiry into the truth of all matters contained in the petition, have investigated the moral character and qualifications of the petitioner, have jointly considered his eligibility, and beg to report to the Lodge as follows:

..... FAVORABLE UNFAVORABLE

.....
Signed Signed Signed

Sundry Forms

(Form No. 9)

SUMMONS TO SHOW CAUSE WHY A MEMBER SHOULD NOT BE SUSPENDED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES

Hall of Lodge No. F. & A.M.
....., Louisiana.

To Brother

In accordance with the General Regulations of the Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana, you are hereby officially notified that you are due this Lodge the sum of.....Dollars(\$)for dues and assessments for the year(s) 20....., and you are hereby SUMMONED to pay said amount, or to show cause, in person or in writing, satisfactory reason why the same has not been done within THREE MONTHS from this date.

After the expiration of three months should you fail to appear or satisfactorily respond, then at a stated meeting of the Lodge, after such failure to comply with this order of the Lodge, you may be suspended for NON-PAYMENT OF DUES and from all of your rights and privileges.

Done by order of the Lodge on thisday of, 20.....

(Seal)

.....
Secretary

(Form No. 10)

NOTICE OF SUSPENSION FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES

Hall ofLodge No.
....., Louisiana.

To Brother

Dear Sir:

You are hereby notified that at a Stated Communication of this lodge held on theday of, 20.....you were suspended for non-payment of your dues according to Masonic Law.

By order of the Lodge.

(Seal)

.....
Secretary

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

TRIALS

The following formats, or forms in substance, should be used in Masonic trials and appeals to the Grand Lodge:

(Format No. 11)

CHARGES

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brothers of _____

Lodge No., F. & A.M.

I hereby charge Brother.....a member

of this Lodge, (or “of Lodge No.” or “a non-affiliated Mason residing within the jurisdiction of this Lodge.” as the case may be) with un-Masonic conduct, to-wit:

Specification 1: In that the said Brotheron or about

the day of, 20....., atdid
(here describe in plain and concise language the facts constituting the offense, which must be charged with certainty, and the time, place and all particulars distinctly specified. A general charge of un-Masonic conduct without specifications shall not be entertained. If charges involve matter not proper to be written, it should be so stated, and the accused, at the time of arraignment, should be orally informed of the specific facts, to which the trial must then be confined.)

Specification 2: In that the said Brother..... on or about the

..... day of, 20....., did
(State particulars as above outlined).

(Other specifications, if any).

Dated, 20.....

.....
(To be signed by accuser)

(If the Junior Warden signs the charges, he should do so officially. Charges should be delivered to the Secretary, who shall mark the same:

“Filed this.....day of, 20....., Secretary”

Sundry Forms

(Format No. 12)
SUMMONS TO ACCUSED

You are hereby notified that on theday of, 20....., charges were filed against you in this Lodge, copy of which charges and specifications are hereto attached.

You are further notified to answer the charges in writing within ten days of the service hereof and to furnish the names and residences of your witnesses.

Witness my hand and the seal of Lodge No.
F. & A.M. this..... day of....., 20.....

.....
Secretary

(Seal) Lodge No. F. & A.M.

(Format No. 13)
NOTICE OF FIXING CASE FOR TRIAL

You are hereby notified that a meeting held on the day of, 20..... Lodge No.

..... F. & A.M. fixed the hour of o'clock

..... M., on the day of....., 20.....

as the time, and the Hall of this Lodge as the place, for the trial of the charges filed against you in this Lodge on the day of 20....., and you are hereby summoned to appear at said time and place to make your defense thereto.

Witness my hand and seal of..... Lodge No.
F. & A.M. this..... day of....., 20.....

(Seal) Secretary

..... Lodge No. F. & A.M.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

(Format No. 14)
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
(To be endorsed on Summons to Accused)

I hereby certify that on day of....., 20....., at, State of,

I served the foregoing citation and copy of charges and specifications therein referred to upon.....therein named.

(a) By delivering a copy thereof to said.....Personally;

(b) By depositing in a United States post office at.....,

State of Louisiana, a copy of said citation, together with a certified copy of said charges and specifications, in a sealed envelope, the letter duly registered, and the address of the said.....

properly written thereon, and upon which envelope was endorsed an order to postmaster to return the same to the Secretary of this Lodge if not delivered

within ten days. Said letter was addressed to the last known address of said

his usual place of abode being unknown to the undersigned, after due and diligent search to discover same;

(c) I have been unable, after due and diligent search and effort to find the abode of accused, or any information relative to his whereabouts. (Here state any

other facts, such as accused secreting himself, being a fugitive from justice, or any fact showing why he cannot be found. If he cannot be found, and his last

known address is secured, then make a certificate as provided under (b) above.

Dated thisday of, 20.....

Secretary (or Member) of.....Lodge No.

Note: The Secretary or member serving the summons will use the form (a),

(b), (c), according to the manner of service and omit the other paragraphs so marked.

Sundry Forms

(Form No. 15)

SUMMONS TO MEMBERS

.....Lodge No.,
Louisiana,, 20.....

To Brother

You are hereby summoned and required to attend as a member of this Lodge (or Trial
Commission selected) in the trial of Brother _____
to be held in the Hall of..... Lodge No.....,
ato'clock.....M. on theday of,
20.....; failure to obey this summons will subject you to discipline.

.....
Master

Attest:
Secretary

(Seal)

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

(Format No. 16)

COMMISSION TO TAKE TESTIMONY

.....Lodge No.,
.....,Louisiana, 20.....

Brother:

ofLodge No.F.&A.M.

Whereas, on the day of.....,20

charges were preferred against Brother

a member of Lodge No., F. & A.M. a copy of which is hereto attached;
and;

Whereas (copy names and addresses of witnesses) are material witnesses in said
trial:

Now, therefor, you are hereby appointed a Commissioner to take the testimony of said
(Names of Witnesses) at your office (or other place designated) in the City of

....., on the

day of,20, atM. The day set for that purpose.

.....
Master

Attest:
Secretary

(Seal)

Sundry Forms

(Format No. 17)

NOTICE OF COMMISSIONER TO TAKE TESTIMONY

.....Lodge No., F. & A.M.
, Louisiana, 20

Brother

You are hereby notified that (name of Commissioner) of.....
 Lodge No., at the City of.....

Has been appointed a Commissioner to take the testimony of (Names of Witnesses)
 at his office (or other designated place) in the City of.....
on the.....day of,
 20....., at.....o'clock.....M. Said testimony is intended to be used
 against you at your trial on theday of,
 20..... You can, therefore, attend and cross-examine
 said witnesses if you so desire.

.....
Master

Attest:
Secretary

(Seal)

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

(Format No. 18)

SUMMONS TO WITNESS

....., Louisiana, 20.....

To Brother

You are hereby summoned and required to attend as a witness at the Hall of
Lodge No., F. & A.M., at
o'clock.....M., on theday of,
 20....., then and there to testify to what you may know in the matter of the
 charges now pending against Brother.....
 in said Lodge.

.....
Secretary

(Seal)

.....Lodge No.

(Format No. 19)
NOTICE OF APPEAL

....., Louisiana,20.....

To the Worshipful Master of

Lodge No., F. & A.M.:

You are hereby notified that the undersigned appeals to the Grand Lodge of the State
 of Louisiana from the decision and sentence of the Lodge or Trial Commission
 rendered against the undersigned on the day of
,20.....

.....
Signature

Sundry Forms

(Format No. 20)

TRANSCRIPT

[Note: This is a form of transcript to be made by the Secretary which is to cover the entire records of the proceedings of any trial.]

Stated Communication ofLodge No.F. & A.M., held in Masonic Hall at, Louisiana, on the.....day of, 20.....

..... Master
..... Senior Warden
..... Junior Warden
..... Treasurer
..... Secretary
..... Tyler

Members present:.....
Lodge opened on the Master Mason Degree.

The following charges were presented and read at a stated meeting of.....
..... Lodge No. on the day of

A.D. 20.....
(Copy charges in full).
(Copy of summons to accused and notice of fixing case for trial.) The following is a copy of the citations and returns therefor:
(Attach same.)
(If the return shows that the accused secretes himself so that citation cannot be served on him or that he has absconded or that he is a fugitive from justice, or that

his residence is unknown.) The Master appointed Brother.....
..... as proxy for the accused.

The Lodge set the Day of..... at, Louisiana, as the time for the trial. On the

day of, the Lodge was opened in due and ancient form on the Master Mason degree, all members, required by law, having been duly summoned to attend the trial. The roll was called and notation made of all those present and those excused were so recorded.

The charges were then read in full and the answer or plea of the accused to the same likewise read to the Lodge. Brother.....

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

represented the Lodge and Brother
represented the accused. The accused having announced ready for trial, the evidence was then introduced and presented as follows:
(Here copy the evidence, or enclose the evidence as taken.)

A list of all the evidence taken by Commission outside the Lodge was likewise read to the Lodge.

After the evidence had all been submitted the Master gave instructions to the Lodge (or Trial Commission) in regard to the Law applicable in the case without any comment upon the evidence itself. The Lodge decided to cast a vote viva voce, or secret ballot, as the Lodge itself may select, stating which. The statements were then made by the accuser and the accused or through their representatives after which the accused retired. The Lodge then proceeded to vote upon the guilt or the innocence of the accused and the vote taken showedvotes guilty and votes not guilty.

(Note: If the accused is found "not guilty", that ends the trial, and the transcript of the proceedings must be sent to the office of the Grand Secretary. If the accused is found "guilty", the Lodge will then proceed to vote upon the penalty.)

The vote of the penalty was taken as follows:
For Expulsion (required three-fourths vote)
Against Expulsion

If this fails then vote is taken on Indefinite Suspension
For Indefinite Suspension (Requires tow-thirds vote)
Against Indefinite Suspension.....

If this fails, he shall stand sentenced without any further vote, to reprimand in open Lodge.

It requires a majority vote of those present to convict; three-fourths vote to expel; two-thirds vote to suspend indefinitely.

The accused may take an appeal to the Grand Lodge. Whether appeal is made or not, it is the duty of the Secretary to make up a complete record of the case and send to the office of the Grand Secretary for the use of the Grand Lodge, as all cases are reviewed by the Committee on Appeals and Grievances. The accused or his representative may appear before that Committee.

No further business appearing, the Lodge closed in due and ancient form.

Sundry Forms

(Format No. 21)

CERTIFICATE OF THE SECRETARY

I hereby certify, as Secretary ofLodge No.

F. & A.M., ofLouisiana,
that the above and foregoing contain a true and complete transcript of the charges,
service, trial, minutes and proceedings of the Lodge in the case of

.....Lodge No.F. & A.M.

versus Brother

Given under my hand and seal of the Lodge officially this

day of, 20.....

(Seal)

.....
(Signed) by the Secretary

(Note: If the Lodge uses the Lodge form of trial, the above and foregoing is the correct form to be used. If the Lodge uses commission form of trial as provided in its By- Laws, then the transcript should conform to show the selection of the Commissioners to try the case; but the Master and the Secretary should read over the General Regulations of the Grand Lodge dealing with the subject of trials and thoroughly inform themselves as to the provisions of the law and follow the same.)

(Format No. 22)

**NOTICE OF SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION
FOR UN-MASONIC CONDUCT**

Hall ofLodge No.

....., Louisiana,, 20.....

To

Dear Sir:

You are hereby notified that at a Trial held before this Lodge on the

.....day of, 20.....you were
suspended (or expelled) for un-Masonic conduct.

By Order of the Lodge.

(Seal)

.....
Secretary

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

(Form No. 23)

....., 20.....

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of

.....*Lodge No.*.....

BRETHREN: - It is my duty to inform you that the following persons
were, this evening, proposed for initiation in this Lodge and the Order:

Name	Name
Age	Age
Birthplace	Birthplace
Residence	Residence
Profession	Profession
Recommended by	Recommended by
Committee	Committee

Name	Name
Age	Age
Birthplace	Birthplace
Residence	Residence
Profession	Profession
Recommended by	Recommended by
Committee	Committee

Faternally,.....

.....
Secretary

This notice must be sent to all Lodges within the radius of twenty-five (25) miles.

(See Sec. 1, Art. 6, Gen. Reg.)

Sundry Forms

(Form No. 24)

NOTICE TO CANDIDATE TO RECEIVE DEGREES

_____ , 20 _____

To _____

Dear Sir:

I take pleasure in informing you that you have been elected to receive the _____ degree in this Lodge. Fee _____

Please present yourself at our next communication on _____

_____ evening, _____ , 20 _____

at _____ o'clock sharp, to receive the above mentioned degree.

If you are unable to be present, kindly phone the Secretary.

Sincerely,

.....
Secretary

Entered Apprentice Degree

Fellowcraft Degree.....

Master Mason Degree

Dues per annum,

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

(Form No. 25)

FROM THE EAST

FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

To all ancient Free and Accepted Masons throughout the Globe

Fraternal Greetings:

In the name and by authority of _____

We do Hereby Certify That Brother _____

has passed a satisfactory examination in open Lodge in the work of the

MASTER MASON DEGREE, and that he was made a MASTER MASON in

this Lodge on the _____ day of _____, 20 _____

In Testimony Whereof This certificate is issued to him on this _____

day of _____ A.D., 20____ A.L., 60_____

MASTER

Attest:

Secretary

SUNDRY FORMS

**(Form No. 26)
NOTICE OF REJECTION**

_____, 20____
Mr. _____

Dear Sir:

Please be advised that at a Stated Communication of this Lodge, held on

_____, 20____
you were balloted for and rejected.

The amount of \$_____, which accompanied your
petition at the time of presentation, is returned herewith.

By order of the Lodge.

Respectfully,

Secretary

**Service Committee, The Grand Lodge
of the State of Louisiana**

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

**(Form No. 27)
NOTICE OF DUES**

FROM

_____ Lodge No. _____ F. & A.M.
_____, Louisiana
_____, 20____

To Brother _____

Dear Sir and Brother:

You are hereby notified that you are indebted to this Lodge as follows:

Dues _____ *Ending* _____ 20 _____ \$ _____

Dues _____ *Ending* _____ 20 _____ \$ _____

Your early attention to the above is respectfully solicited

Fraternally yours,

.....
Secretary

_____ Lodge No. _____ F. & A.M.

Sundry Forms

_____ Lodge No. _____ F.&A.M.

(Form no. 28) (R-1988)

INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

_____, LA., _____, 20____
Bro. _____, Chairman
Bro. _____
Bro. _____

You have been appointed a Committee of Investigation to inquire into the character, moral qualifications and fitness for the Degrees of Masonry of:

Mr. _____
SS# _____ Driver Lic.# _____ and to
verify the following information contained in his petition:
Date of Birth _____ Birthplace _____ Residence _____
Address _____ Phone _____
Occupation _____ Name of Employer _____
Business Address _____ Phone _____

Previous residence and/or business addresses during the past five years:

_____ He states that he speaks, reads and writes the English language, has no infirmities or physical defects, has never been a defendant in a criminal case in any court, has never applied to or been rejected by any Lodge of Masons, except as follow:

His references are:.....

He is recommended by Bro.....and Bro.....

Your report is due_____. Please discharge your obligation to the

Lodge promptly. Do not delay your investigation and report.

.....
Secretary

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

YOUR DUTY—PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

1. Grand Lodge law requires that each petition must “be referred to a committee of three members of the Lodge, who shall make strict inquiry into the truth of all matters contained in the petition, and the moral character and qualifications of the applicant and report to the Lodge the result of **their investigation**. You have a solemn obligation to Masonry and the Lodge expects you to discharge it promptly and thoroughly. You must be able to positively state of your own knowledge (not opinions of others) whether the petitioner is worthy or unworthy to be admitted. Remember the injunction: “It is better that no workman be added to the roll than that one unworthy foot be allowed to cross the threshold of the Lodge.”
2. You must verify all of the above information which the petitioner furnished on his petition. If any of it is false, you should advise the Worshipful Master immediately.
3. You **must serve jointly** as a Committee, discuss, together the results of your **individual** investigations and make your committee report to the Lodge in writing on the prescribed form on the reverse of the petition in the hands of the Secretary.
4. You **should** visit the petitioner at his residence (at least two of you **must** do so) to ascertain:
 - (a) The conditions of his home life and habits
 - (b) If he lives with his family and how he treats them
 - (c) Whether his wife is in sympathy with his joining the Fraternity
 - (d) If divorced, the circumstances
 - (e) The names of any relatives who are (or were) members of the order
 - (f) That he thoroughly understands the serious character of the Fraternity, its aims and purposes, and that he (and his family) are aware that he (or they) cannot expect any pecuniary benefits thru his membership.
5. You must satisfy yourselves that the petitioner possesses the physical qualifications and be able to conform to the requirements of the Degrees; that he can afford to spend the necessary amounts of fees and dues, without depriving himself or his family of any comfort they ought to have.
6. In general you must convince yourselves of the petitioner’s worthiness and that you would be glad to bear the relationship of a brother to him.

INDEX

(Revised Thru March 19, 2001)

-A-

	Page
Abandonment of Office.....(GR,V,1).....	26
Absence of an Elected Officer from Community(GR,V,1).....	26
Activities Away From Lodge Hall (Lodge Meetings and Activities).....	92,93
Acts of Legislature.....Preface	v
Administrator of an Estate Not Permitted.....	66
Advancement(GR,VI,2,5-9,11,12) 28,30,	32-34,35,36,66
Advancement of Candidate Acquitted of Charges(GR,VI,9)	33
Advancement of Candidate After one Year from Date of Degree.....(GR,VI,6)	32-33
Advancement of Candidate from Other Lodges	
.....(GR,VI,7-8).....	33
(Jurisdiction, Residence and Waiver).....	8
Advancement, Status of Applicant Elected for(GR,VI,6)	32-33
Advertising.....	66
Affiliation(GR,VI,1-12).....	34-35
Age Requirements for Candidate.....(GR,VI,1)	28,66
Amendments to Constitution(C,IX,1-3).....	10,11
(Amendments To Edicts)	110
Amendments to General Regulations(GR,XVII,1).....	64b
Annual Returns of Chartered Lodges(GR,V,9).....	27
Annual Returns of Lodges Under Dispensation	
.....(GR,V,10).....	28
Anonymous Communications.....	67
Appeal, Rulings.....	106
Appeal, Trials.....(GR,VII,7).....	47-48
Appendix, Forms.....	111-153
Applicant's Name Must Not Be Published (Circulars and Publications).....	74
Application for Degrees, Affiliation and Advancement(GR,VI,1-13).....	28-30
Application False or Erroneous Statement(GR,VI,1)	29
Application, Lodge May Refuse to Accept(GR,VI,11)	35
Application, Withdrawal of.....(GR,VI,12)	35

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

Page

Applications Received at Stated Meetings Only(GR,VI,11).....	35
Applications for Reinstatement.....(GR,VII,11).....	50
.....(GR,XI,3).....	59
Apron	67
Apron, How Worn.....	67
Apron, Presented to E.A.....	67
Assessments, Dues and Fees.....(C,VIII,1-3)	9-10
.....(GR,XI,3).....	58
Assessments and Dues Delinquent At Same Time (Dues, Fees and Assessments).....	79-81
Audits and Accounts	67-68
Audits of Books of Lodges (Audits and Accounts).....	67-68
Authority of Grand Lodge(C,III,1).....	2
Authorized Groups of Masons	68-69
Avouchment and Examination of Visitors	69

-B-

Ballot Box(GR,VI,4).....	31
(Balloting and Voting).....	69
Balloting and Voting(GR,VI,4-5).....	31-32
.....	69-70
Boards and Committees, Grand Lodge.....(GR,1,2-4).....	13-15
.....(GR,III,1-12).....	19
Boards, Grand Lodge:	
Budget and Control.....(GR,1,2)	13
.....(GR,III,3)	20
Charities and Benevolence.....(GR,1,2)	13
.....(GR,III,10)	22
Grand Lodge Cemetery.....(GR,VIII,1-7).....	52-54
Library /Museum Foundation(GR,XV, 1-7)	63
Masonic Charities(GR,X,1-7).....	55-56
Masonic Home Educational Foundation.....(GR,X,8)	56
Perpetual Membership(GR,XVI,1-4).....	64a-64b
Bonds, Fidelity, Constituent Lodges (Audits and Accounts).....	67-68
Bonds, Fidelity, Grand Lodge.....(GR,II,8)	17-18
Building Plans (Lodge Buildings and Halls)	87-88
Business Enterprises, Not Sponsored	71
By-Laws.....	71-72
By-Laws, Model Form.....	112-118

-C-

Catechism, Esoteric.....	81
--------------------------	----

Index

	Page
Catechism Must Be Given in Entirety	
.....(GR,VI,5).....	32
.....(Advancement).....	66
Cemeteries and plots (Funerals).....	83-84
Centennial Lodge Plaque.....	72
Certificate of Good Standing Cannot Be Issued if Assessments Not Paid.....	73
Certificate of Good Standing Good For Calendar Year Only.....	73
Certificate of Proficiency.....	73-73b
Certificates of Good Standing.....(GR,VI,10).....	34
.....(GR,VI,13).....	35,73
Certificates, 25 and 50 Year Masons.....	73
Charges in Constituent Lodges.....(GR,VI,9).....	33
.....(GR,VII,1-8).....	36-48
Charges in Grand Lodge.....(GR,IV,1-8).....	23-25
Charges of a Freemason.....Preface.....	viii
Charity.....	74
Charters of Constituent Lodges.....(C,VII,6-3).....	9-10
.....(C,VII,2).....	8
.....(GR,V,11).....	28
.....(GR,XIII,1-5).....	62
Circulars and publications.....	74
Claim Against Lodge or Brother for Relief Extended.....	74
Claims, Lodges Not Collecting Agencies.....	74
Clandestine.....	75
Committees and Boards, Grand Lodge.....(GR,I,2-4).....	13-15
.....(GR,III,1-13).....	19-23
Committees, Constituent Lodges.....	75
Committees, Grand Lodge:	
Appeals and Grievances.....(GR,1,2).....	13
.....(GR,III,4).....	20
Credentials.....(GR,1,2).....	14
.....(GR,III,7).....	21
Foreign Correspondence.....(GR,1,2).....	14
.....(GR,III,1).....	19
History.....(GR,1,2).....	14
.....(GR,III,13).....	23
Louisiana Freemason.....(GR,1,2).....	14
.....(GR,III,11).....	23
Masonic Education.....(GR,1,2).....	14
.....(GR,III,8).....	22
Masonic Law and Jurisprudence.....(GR,1,2).....	13
.....(GR,III,5).....	21

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

	Page
Membership Development.....(GR,1,2).....	14
Necrology.....(GR,1,2).....	14
.....(GR,III,13).....	23
Permanent Committee on Work.....(GR,1,2).....	14
.....(GR,III,14).....	23
Research Lodge of Louisiana.....(GR,XI,11).....	61
Service.....(GR,1,2).....	14
.....(GR,III,9).....	22
State of Order.....(GR,1,2).....	23
.....(GR,III,13).....	23
Work.....(GR,1,2).....	14
.....(GR,III,13).....	23
Work and Returns.....(GR,1,2).....	13
.....(GR,III,2).....	20
Conferring Degrees.....	75-77
Conferring Degrees, District Lodge Prohibited (C,VII,11).....	9
Conferring Degrees at District Meeting.....	75
Consolidation of Lodges.....(GR,XII,1-7).....	62-63
Constituent Lodges.....(C,VII,1-10).....	7-9
.....(GR,V,1-11).....	25-28
Constitution.....	2-11
Contributions.....	77
Contributions, Lodge Not Allowed for Community Chest, etc.....	77
Contributions, Lodge Cannot Seek Without Dispensation.....	77
Contributions, Masonic Home.....	77
Contributions to Other Organizations.....	77
Corner Stones.....	77-78
Courtesy Work.....	78-79
Criminal Background Check.....	79
-D-	
Death of Petitioner.....(GR,VI,5).....	32
Declaration of Principles.....Preface.....	iii
Degrees, Dispensation for More Than One (Conferring Degrees).....	75
Degrees, Three Degrees Recognized.....	75
Degrees, Time Allowed After Election to Receive.....(GR,VI,5).....	32
Degrees, Time Allowed For Examination.....(GR,VI,5).....	32
De Molay Chapter, Lodge May Sponsor.....(Sponsorship).....	107
Demits and Demitted Masons.....(GR,VI,10).....	34
.....(GR,XI,1).....	57-58
Demit, Request Must be in Writing.....(GR,XI,1).....	57
Diplomas for Members with Disability.....(GR,XI,8).....	61
Disbursement of Grand Lodge Funds.....	79
Discussion in Grand Lodge Limited.....(GR,XI,7).....	61
Dispensation.....(C,VII,5,6).....	8
.....(C,VIII,2).....	10
.....(GR,II,1).....	15
.....(GR,V,10).....	28

Index

	Page
Dispensation	
For Degrees in District Meeting (Conferring Degrees)	75
For Election.....(GR,V,1)	25
For Meetings Outside Lodge Halls (Lodge Meetings and Activities).....	92
For Lodges, U.D.(C,VII,5-6)	8
.....(C,VIII,2)	10
.....(GR,II,1)	15
.....(GR,V,10).....	28
For More Than One Degree (Conferring Degrees).....	75
Not Permitted Where Law is Definite (Masonic Law)	95
Disqualifications for Degrees (Qualifications).....	102-104
Dissolution of a Lodge.....(GR,XII,1-5)	63-64b
District Lodges.....(C,VII,11)	9
.....(GR,II,9).....	18
District Grand Lecturers	(GR,II,79,74).....19
Domicile of Lodge.....(GR,II,9).....	79
Donation (Contribution).....	77
Donations Can Be Received by Lodge.....(C,VII,10)	9
Dropping From Rolls to Avoid Trial	
Not Permitted.....(GR,VII,1).....	37
Dropping From Rolls, Residence Unknown..(GR,XI,2)	58
Dues Cards and Life Membership Cards	79
Dues, Fees and Assessments	(C,VII,1-3)
.....(GR,XI,3)	58-60
.....	80-81
Dues Not Refunded After Trial	80-81
-E-	
Edicts.....	66-110
Edicts By Grand Master.....	81
Election of Constituent Lodge Officers.....(GR,V,1)(C,VII,3)	8, 25-26
Election of Grand Lodge Officers.....(C,IV,1-4)	3-5
Electioneering	81
Emblems (Masonic).....	94
Entertainment and Public Programs(Lodge Meetings)	92-93
Esoteric Work.....	81
Examination of Candidates.....(GR,VI,2,5-9,11,12,30,32,34,35,93)	
Advancement	66
Examination of Visitors	(Avouchment).....69
Extinct Lodges	(GR,XIII,1-5)
	62-63

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

	Page
-F-	
Fees Not Remitted (Dues, Fees and Assessments)	80
Fees Returned.....(GR,VI,1)	30
.....(GR,VI,5)	32
.....(GR,VI,12).....	35
Female Relatives.....	81
Fidelity Medal.....	98
Flag	82
Foreign Language Lodges.....	82
Foreign Relations	82
Forfeiture of Charter	(GR,XII,1-5)
Forms, Appendix.....	111-153
Funds, Charity.....	73-74
Funds of Lodge (Audits and Accounts)	67-68
Funerals.....(GR,V,8).....	27, 83-84
-G-	
General Grand Lodge	84
General Regulations	13-64b
Grand Lodge:	
Communication and Quorum.....(C,VI,1-2).....	13-64
District Deputy Grand Masters	(C,IV,1)
.....(GR,II,9).....	19
Fees for Charter.....(C,VIII,2)	10
Fees for Dispensation.....(C,VIII,2)	10
Grand Lodge Lodge No. 999	(GR, XIV,4).....63
Officers.....(C,IV,1).....	3
Officers, Powers and Duties	(C,V,1-4)
.....(GR,II,1-9)	15-19
Of Whom Composed	(C,II,1-2)
.....	2
Organization and Order of Business	(GR,I,1-5).....13-15
Powers of Grand Lodge	(C,III,1)
.....	2
Quorum	(C,VI,2)
.....	6-7
Special Meetings.....(C,V,1).....	5
Style and Title	(C,I,1).....2
Grand Master, Authority to Close Meeting in	
Summary Manner.....(GR,II,1).....	16
Grand Master, Line of Succession	(C,V,3)
.....	6
Grand Representatives	84
-H-	
Healing.....	84-85
Honorary Membership	85
Honorary Perpetual Membership	85-100C

Index

-I-	Page
Initiation(GR,VI,1-12)	28-35
Insurance, Constituent	
(Audits and Accounts).....	68
Introduction in Grand Lodge	88
Investigating Committee, Applicants.....(GR,VI,3-4).....	30-31
Investigating Committee, Charges.....(GR,VII,1).....	36-38
Investment of Lodge Funds	116
Investment, Notice Required to Act On (Lodge Meetings and Activities).....	90
-J-	
Jewels.....	85
Joint Activities Not Permitted	
(Lodge Meetings and Activities).....	93
Joint Installation With O.E.S.	
(Public Installation Ceremonies).....	102
Joint Meeting With District Lodge	
(Conferring Degrees)	75
Joint Use of Lodge Hall	
(Lodge Buildings and Halls).....	88
Junior Past Grand Master.....(C,V,3).....	6
Jurisdiction Over Candidate Before Receiving E. A. Degree.....(GR,VI,5)	32
Jurisdiction, Residence and Waiver	28-32
.....(GR,VI,7-8).....	33
.....(GR,VI,10).....	85-86
-L-	
Landmarks Recognized by Grand Lodge	IVA
Law, Masonic (Masonic Law)	95
Lawful Masonic Information (Avouchment).....	69
Lectures (Itinerant) Prohibited.....(GR,XI,10).....	60
Liability.....	86
Life Membership.....	87
Liquor Prohibited on Lodge Premises	60
Lodge Buildings and Halls:	92
Joint Ownership	88
Must Be Dedicated.....	88
Must Have Corner Stone.....	88
Notice Required to Dispose of (Lodge Meetings and Activities).....	90

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

	Page
Other Uses.....	88-89
Permission Required for Building Plans.....	89
Permission Required for Remodeling Plans	88
Lodge Meetings and Activities	(GR,V,1-2).....25-26
Lodge Meetings, Regular.....	89-93
Lodge Meetings, Special.....	89-93
Lodge Not Collection Agency (Claims)	74-75
Lodges Under Dispensation.....(C,VII,5-6)	8
.....(C,VII,2).....	10
.....(GR,II,1).....	15
.....(GR,V,10).....	28
.....	93-94
-M-	
Mariner	(GR,VI,1).....94
Mason At Large.....(GR,VII,10).....	50
Mason At Sight	94
Mason, Regular.....(C,VII,4).....	8
Masonic Burial Service (Funerals)	(GR,V,8).....27
.....	83-84
Masonic Districts	(C,VII,11).....9
.....(GR,II,9).....	18-19
Masonic Emblems and/or Names	94
Masonic Home Properties and Charities.....(GR,X,1-8)	55-56
Masonic Home Educational Foundation.....(GR,X,8)	55-56
Masonic Law.....	95
Masonic Law, Master Cannot Make	95
Masonic Learning Center of Louisiana	(GR,XI,1-8).....56a
Masonic Monitor.....	95
Masonic Offenses and Un-masonic Conduct.....	95-96
Master of Lodge.....	97-98
Master Ritualist Program	97
Masonic Old Folks Home	98-99
Medal for Oldest Mason	98
Meetings, Constituent Lodges	(GR,V,1-2).....25-26
(Lodge Meetings and Activities).....	89-93
Members of Constituent Lodges	(C,VII,2).....8
Members of Grand Lodge.....(C,II,1-2)	2
Membership List	(GR,VII,13).....52, 98
Membership, Plural.....(GR,VII,13).....	35
Minutes of Lodge Meetings	90-91
Motions in Grand Lodge.....(GR,XI,7)	60-61

Index

-N-

	Page
Name	98
Name Change.....	98
Name of Grand Lodge(C,I,1).....	2
Name, Lodge Cannot Be Named for Living Person.....	98
Names of Candidates Must Not Be Published.....	
(Circulars and Publications).....	74
Nominations for Office:	
Constituent Lodges Prohibited.....(GR,V,1).....	25
Grand Lodge(C,IV,1).....	3
Notice to Consider Reinstatement(GR,VII,11).....	50-51
Notice, Regular Mail.....	98
Notice, Electronic Mail.....	98
Notice, Required for Business of Unusual.....	
Nature (Lodge Meetings and Activities).....	90
Notice, Special Meetings	98

-O-

Oath Not required of Masons in Trial	99
Objection Has the Character of a Black Ball(GR,VI,5).....	32
Obligation Must Be Repeated.....	
Exactly as Uttered.....	99
Office in Grand Lodge and Constituent Lodge.....	99
Officers, Constituent Lodges.....(C,VII,3).....	8
.....(GR,V,1).....	25-26
Officers, Grand Lodge.....(C,IV,1).....	3
.....(C,V,1-4).....	5-6
.....(GR,II,1-9)	15-19

-P-

Parliamentary procedure (Masonic Law).....	95
Past Master.....	99
Past Master, Seat in Grand Lodge(C,II,2).....	2
Perpetual Membership	71,100
Petition for Advancement	
Must Be in Writing.....(GR,VI,6)	32-33
Petition for Affiliation	
Must Be in Writing.....(GR,VI,10)	34
Petition, False Statement.....(GR,VI,1)	29
Petition, Fee Must Accompany.....	80
Petition, Loss of.....(GR,VI,3)	31

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

Page

Petition, May Be Refused(GR,VI,11)	35
Petition, Received At Stated Meeting Only ... (GR,VI,1)	28
Petition for Reinstatement Must Be In Writing:	
..... Suspended N.P.D.(GR,XI,3)	58-59
..... Suspended Unmasonic Conduct....(GR,VII,11).....	50
Petition Rejected for Affiliation(GR,VI,10).....	34
Petition Rejected for Initiation or Advancement (GR,VI,8).....	33
Petition, Withdrawal of.....(GR,VI,12)	35
Photograph of Grand Master.....	101
Pictures in Lodge Halls.....	89
Plural Membership.....(GR,VI,13)	35
Plural Member Suspended in All Lodges(GR,VI,13)	35
Plural Member Suspended, Reinstatement ... (GR,VI,13)	35
Plural Officers in Constituent Lodges.....(GR,V,1)	25
Politics.....	101
Powers of Grand Lodge(C,III,1)	2
Printed Proceeding.....(GR,VII,13).....	52,101
Proxies in Constituent Lodges Prohibited....(GR,V,1).....	25
Proxies in Grand Lodge(C,VII,8).....	9
.....(GR,V,5)	25
Public Dedication of Lodge Halls.....	101
Public Education	102
Public Installation Ceremonies	102
Public Procession (Lodge Meetings and Activities).....	93

-Q-

Qualifications for Membership(GR,VI,1)	28
.....	102-104
Qualifications for Degrees of Other Masonic Orders	104
Quorum In Grand Lodge(C,VI,2)	6-7
Quorum for Lodge Meetings(GR,V,2)	26
(Lodge Meetings).....	89

-R-

Recommendation By Grand Master.....	104
Records in Constituent Lodges.....(GR,V,3).....	26
Records Lost or Destroyed (Petition)(GR,VI,3)	31,104
Rededication and Re-obligation Ceremonies.....	104

Index

	Page
Refreshment and Recess	104
Register of Attendance at Lodge Meetings Required	
(Lodge Meetings and Activities).....	90
Reinstatement, Convicted Member.....(GR,VII,11).....	50
Reinstatement, Convicted Sojourner	
(Suspensions and Suspended Masons).....	109
Reinstatement, Suspended N.P.D.....(GR,XI,3)	59-60
Reinstatement, Suspended N.P.D., Committee Not	
Required Within One Year.....(GR,XI,3)	59
Reinstatement, Vote Require.....	105
Rejected Applicants and Candidates.....(GR,IV,10).....	34,105
Relief Committee in Constituent Lodges.....(GR,V,6).....	27
Relief Lodges.....(GR,IX,1-5).....	54-55
Religion.....	106
Remission of Dues and Assessments	
(Dues, Fees and Assessments)	81
Removal of Officers by Grand Master.....(C,V,1).....	5
.....	108-109
Renunciation of Masonry.....	106
Reports, Annual.....(GR,V,9).....	27-28
Reports, Monthly	27-28
Research Lodge.....(GR,XI,11)	61
Residence, Jurisdiction and Waiver	28-30
.....(GR,VI,78,0)	33-34
.....	85-86
Resignation From Office.....	106
Resolutions conflicting with Grand Lodge Law,	
(Lodge Meetings and Activities).....	91
Resolution Delivered to Office of Grand Secretary	
60 Days Prior to Grand Communication (GR,XI,7).....	60-61
Resolutions, Grand Lodge May Receive by	
Two-thirds Vote.....(GR,XI,7)	60-61
Roll Call At Grand Lodge.....	106
Rulings of Grand Master.....	106
-S-	
Scottish Rite Lodges	106

The Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana

	Page
Seals of Constituent Lodges.....(GR,V,4).....	26-27
Seat in the East.....	107
Secrecy.....	107
Sojourning Masons, Trial.....(GR,V,70)	27
.....(GR,VII,1).....	36
Sojourning Masons, Reinstatement	109
Sojourning Mason, Trials.....(GR,V,7).....	27
.....(GR,VII,1).....	36
Solicitation for Funds	107
Solicitation for Membership	107
Sponsorship.....	107
Summons.....	107
.....(GR,VII,4).....	43
.....(GR,XI,3)	58
Suspension of Lodge Charter.....(C,V,1).....	5
Suspension N.P.D.....(GR,XI,2-4).....	58-60
Suspension and Suspended Masons.....(C,V,1).....	5
.....(GR,IV,1,3).....	24
.....(GR,XI,2-4).....	58-60
.....	108
-T-	
Trials, Constituent Lodges	33-34
.....(GR,VII,1-4)	36-52
Trials, E.A., F.C., Suspended N.P.D. and.....	
Demitted Masons	37
Trials, Grand Lodge	24
Trials, Grand Master May Set Aside.....	
Conviction.....(GR,VII,8).....	48
-U-	
Uniformity in Work.....(C,VII,9).....	9
Un-masonic Conduct	95-96

Index

NOTES

-V-

Page

Vacancy in Office:

- Constituent Lodge.....(GR,V,1).....25
- Grand Master(C,VI,4)..... 5
- Other Grand Lodge Officers, Boards and Committees
-(GR,II,1).....15-16

Visitation109-110

- (Foreign Relations)82

Voting and Balloting(C,II2)..... 2

-(GR,VI,4-5).....70

-W-

Waiver, Jurisdiction and Residence(GR,VI,1)28-30

-(GR,VI,7-8,10).....33-34

Waiver, Rejected Candidates to Another Jurisdiction.....105