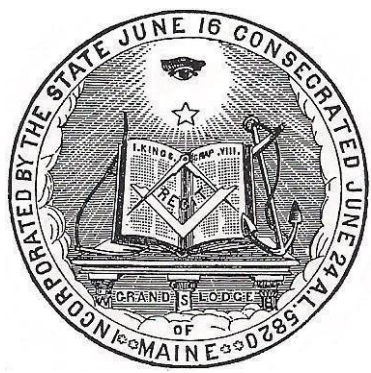
MASONIC CODE

—CONSTITUTION—
—STANDING REGULATIONS—
—DIGEST OF DECISIONS—
OF

THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE
OF
ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE



Published by order of the Grand Lodge

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

SOURCES OF MASONIC LAW

(See MAINE MASONIC TEXT BOOK—Chapters XIV – XVII for an in-depth study)

UNWRITTEN LAW

The unwritten law of Masonry consists of those time-honored customs and uses of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons, of general recognition, which are not repugnant to the written law of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

LANDMARKS

Landmarks are those ancient and universal fundamental principles of the Craft, which no Masonic authority can alter or repeal.

(See S.R. 29; Appendix D)

ANCIENT CHARGES AND REGULATIONS

Six 'Charges' and 'The Old Regulations' as presented in London in 1721.

CONSTITUTION

The written statement outlining the basic principles and laws by which the Grand Lodge is governed. The Constitution is referenced by Section.

STANDING REGULATIONS

A Standing Regulation is a rule adopted by the Grand Lodge governing particular instructions relative to matters involving laws and practices to be followed by the lodges and by the officers and members of the Grand Lodge. A standing regulation is effective only so far as it conforms to existing laws and Grand Lodge interpretation of such laws. Standing Regulations remain in force until rescinded or a modification of the law renders them inoperative. Standing Regulations are referenced by Number.

DECISIONS OF GRAND MASTERS

These are formal clarifications made for the purpose of interpreting written laws where uncertainty exists, and determining their application to particular situations which may develop from time to time.

Decisions, with such other propositions of Masonic law as seem to be useful in the work of the lodge, are set forth in alphabetical order in a Digest following the Standing Regulations. The Digest should be examined in conjunction with the Constitution and Standing Regulations in determining all the Maine Masonic law on a given subject.

Decisions found in the Digest are referenced by the [year and page(s)] of Proceedings in which they are found. Where no reference is made the proposition is one of general Masonic law.

ORDERS • EDICTS • DIRECTIVES

Formal authoritative commands issued by a Grand Master or the Grand Lodge.

BY-LAWS

A set of rules —subsidiary to those of the Grand Lodge— that govern the internal affairs of a lodge. The by-laws legally adopted by a lodge bind the lodge so long as they are in force.



In the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty.

An Act To Incorporate The Master, Wardens And Members Of The Grand Lodge Of Maine.

SECT. 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled,* That WILLIAM KING, SIMON GREENLEAF, WILLIAM SWAN, NATHANIEL COFFIN, their associates and successors, are incorporated into a body politic, by the name of the Master, Wardens and Members of the Grand Lodge of Maine; with power to sue and be sued; to have a common seal, and to change the same; to make any by-laws for the management of their affairs, not repugnant to the laws of this State, nor to ancient Masonic uses; to take and hold for charitable and benevolent uses, any real estate and any personal estate and to give and grant, or bargain and sell the same; and with all the privileges usually granted to other societies instituted for purposes of charity and beneficence.

SECT. 2. *Be it further enacted,* That the first meeting of said corporation shall be held at such time and place, and be notified in such manner, as the majority of the persons herein named may direct.

SECT. 3. *Be it further enacted* that the powers granted by this act may be enlarged, restrained, or repealed, at the pleasure of the Legislature.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, June 15, 1820.

This bill having had three several readings, passed to be enacted.

BENJAMIN AMES, *Speaker.*

IN SENATE, June 16, 1820.

This bill having had two several readings, passed to be enacted.

JOHN CHANDLER, *President*

June 16, 1820.—Approved. WILLIAM KING.

Copy from Original:

Attest: ASHUR WARE, *Secretary of State.*

HISTORICAL NOTES ON THE CORPORATION

Seeking autonomy from Massachusetts, delegates for Statehood in Maine held a Constitutional Convention in October, 1819. Their ensuing petition was ratified by the United States Congress on March 4, 1820, as part of the Missouri Compromise, and Maine was admitted to the Union as the 23rd State on March 15, 1820.

With Maine's pursuit of Statehood it also became inevitable that a new Grand Lodge be formed here under the acknowledged principles of Masonic law; as such, the several lodges in the District of Maine called for a Masonic Convention, which was held in Portland on October 14, 1819. That Convention adopted a respectful 'Memorial' addressed to the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, seeking an amicable separation. The Masons of Massachusetts acquiesced, giving their full approbation to the formation of an independent Masonic Grand Lodge in Maine.

On June 1, 1820, delegates from twenty-four lodges assembled at Masons' Hall in Portland, and proceeded to organize a Grand Lodge. By Special Act of the Maine State Legislature, the MASTER, WARDENS AND MEMBERS OF THE GRAND LODGE OF MAINE received Charter No. 18200000ND, on June 16, 1820 —that done under Chapter 4, Private and Special Laws of 1820— and on Saint John the Baptist's Day, June 24, 1820, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Maine was solemnly consecrated and its officers installed in ample form. As the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts was unable to attend, a delegation from the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of New Hampshire presided over the ceremonies.

Further State Legislation affecting the Corporation

Amended in 1935 to permit holding of real estate to the value of $250,000 and personal estate to the value of $750,000.

Further amended by the adoption of Chapter 7, Private and Special Laws of [Maine] 1961.

Since 1977:

A nonprofit corporation operating under Maine Revised Statute Title 13-B:

also-known-as

MAINE

NONPROFIT CORPORATION ACT

Internal legislation affecting the Corporation

The original "By-Laws for the Government and Management of the Master, Wardens and Members, of the Grand Lodge of Maine" [Appendix A], adopted January 11, 1821, were superseded in 1848 by a Constitution and set of supplemental Standing Regulations, which were much amended over time. In 2015, by vote of Grand Lodge, those regulations were extensively codified and renumbered as part of the Code which follows.

—CONSTITUTION—

OF

THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE
OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF THE STATE OF MAINE

PART FIRST; THE GRAND LODGE

PREAMBLE

We, the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Maine, in order to form perfect fraternal union, establish order, insure tranquility, provide for and promote the general welfare of the Craft, and secure to the Fraternity the blessings of Masonic privileges, do ordain and establish this Constitution.

DECLARATION

Freemasonry is a charitable, benevolent, educational, and religious secret society, adhering to its own peculiar ancient landmarks. Its methods of recognition and of symbolic instruction are secret, and thereby a test of membership is provided though a Brother is traveling in foreign countries and among those who would otherwise be strangers.

It is religious in that it teaches monotheism, the Volume of the Sacred Law is open upon altars whenever a lodge is in session, worship of God is ever a part of its ceremonial and to its neophytes and Brethren alike are constantly addressed lessons of morality; yet it is not theological.

(See DIGEST—Bible)

It is educational in that it teaches a perfect system of morality, based upon the Sacred Law, by a prescribed ceremonial; and it also provides libraries and opportunities for study therein.

It is benevolent in that it teaches relief of the poor and distressed as a duty, and exemplifies the duty by relief of sick and distressed Brethren by caring for the widows and orphans of the Brethren, by maintaining homes for the aged and distressed Brethren and their dependents, and by providing for the education of orphans.

It is charitable in that none of its income inures to the benefit of any individual, but all is devoted to the improvement and promotion of the happiness of mankind.

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 training, of worship, and of charity.

In ancient times, the Brethren met in General Assembly for the ordering of the affairs of the Craft. With growth in numbers, however, it became necessary, in 1717, to adopt a representative form of government, since which time the Brethren have met in lodges and each lodge has sent its delegates to a legislative body known as the Grand Lodge.

PART FIRST; THE GRAND LODGE

Style and Title

SEC. 1 The style and title of this Grand Lodge shall be, "THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE STATE OF MAINE."

(See § 67)

Officers and Members — Rank and Title

SEC. 2.1 The Grand Lodge shall consist of the following officers and members. Their rank in processions, style and title, shall be as listed.

(See §§ 5 – 7.2a; DIGEST—Masonic Titles, Permanent Members)

Elected Permanent Members

Most Worshipful – Grand Master;
Right Worshipful – Deputy Grand Master;
Right Worshipful – Senior Grand Warden;
Right Worshipful – Junior Grand Warden;
Most Worshipful – Past Grand Masters;
Right Worshipful – Past Deputy Grand Masters;
Right Worshipful – Past Grand Wardens;
Right Worshipful – Grand Treasurer;
Right Worshipful – Grand Secretary;
Right Worshipful – Past Grand Treasurers;
Right Worshipful – Past Grand Secretaries;

Appointed Officers

Right Worshipful – District Deputy Grand Masters;
Right Worshipful – Grand Lecturer;
Right Worshipful – Assistant Grand Lecturers;
Worshipful – [and Reverend if ordained] Grand Chaplain;
Worshipful – [and Reverend if ordained] Assistant Grand Chaplains;
Worshipful – Grand Marshal;
Worshipful – Grand Senior Deacon;
Worshipful – Grand Junior Deacon;
Worshipful – Grand Stewards;
Worshipful – Grand Sword-Bearer;
Worshipful – Grand Standard-Bearer;
Worshipful – Grand Pursuivants;
Worshipful – Grand Organist;
Worshipful – Grand Historian;
Worshipful – Grand Librarian;
Brother – Grand Tyler;

Other Members

Brother – Members of the Grand Lodge Committee of Finance;
Very Worshipful – District Education Representatives;
Worshipful – Masters of the several chartered constituent lodges;
Brother – Wardens of the several chartered constituent lodges.

[2019 p. 24]

Of Electors and Proxies

2.2 The aforesaid officers and members shall be entitled to vote in the Grand Lodge, and each shall have one vote —and one only— in his own right. Electors are subject to the following provisos:

1. It shall be the duty of each regularly chartered lodge under this Jurisdiction to be represented in each Grand Lodge Annual Communication by at least the Worshipful Master or one of the Wardens, or a proxy legally commissioned as per Sections 71.1 – 73. If the Master and both Wardens are present, each is entitled to their vote, as above. However, under this provision for proxies, if but two of these officers are present the superior officer shall have two votes and the other one; if only one of these officers is present he shall have three votes; and if all three named officers are absent the lodge's proxy shall, upon presentation of his commission signed under the lodge's seal, have the three votes.

(See §§ 5, 44—9, 75.1b – 75.2; DIGEST—Proxy)

2. No brother shall represent more than one lodge at the same time, either as representative or proxy; nor shall a brother holding office in Grand Lodge [or serving as a District Education Representative] represent a lodge.

(See §§ 5, 71.1 ¶ 2, 72)

3. A Permanent Member of the Grand Lodge cannot be represented therein by proxy; and any former Grand Officer who is a Permanent Member, when representing his lodge as Master, Warden or proxy at a Grand Lodge communication, shall relinquish his Permanent Member ballot at said communication, it being listed as a duplicate vote.

Time and Place of Meetings

SEC. 3.1 The Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge shall be held at Portland, on the first Tuesday in May at 9:00 A.M.; provided however, that Grand Lodge may vote at any Annual Communication to hold the next on some other date or at some other place.

3.1a The Committee on Credentials will be in session at 7:30 A.M. on the first day of said Annual Communication, and the lodges shall be given notice of such in the summons.

3.2 Special Communications may be called as the Grand Lodge or Grand Master may direct.

Powers of the Grand Lodge

SEC. 4 The Grand Lodge, by the ancient Constitutions and uses of the Fraternity, is invested with certain original, essential and unalterable powers and privileges belonging to the ancient craft, and has powers especially:

First — To enact and enforce all laws and regulations for the government of the Fraternity, and to alter, amend and repeal the same at pleasure.

Second — To constitute new lodges by granting dispensations and charters under Seal; and, for good cause, to suspend, revoke or annul the same at pleasure.

Third — To establish and preserve a uniform mode of working and lectures in accordance with the Ancient Landmarks and customs of Masonry.

(See §§ 21, 36—13, 44—21, 85)

Fourth — To assess and collect from the several lodges under its jurisdiction such sums of money as may be deemed necessary for the benefit of the craft.

(See §§ 74.1 – 74.7)

Fifth — To hear and determine all questions of dispute between two or more lodges.

Sixth — To hear and decide all cases of appeal from the decisions of subordinate lodges.

Seventh — To demand and receive such fees and charges for granting dispensations, charters, certificates and diplomas as may be reasonable.

Eighth — To hear and decide all charges and complaints against any officer of the Grand Lodge or Master of a lodge, and to inflict such punishment on the delinquent and guilty as may appear just and proper.

(See §§ 45, 51—1)

Ninth — To exercise all such powers and perform all such acts, as by custom are exercised and performed by Grand Lodges within the Ancient Constitutions and Landmarks of Freemasonry.

Qualifications of Grand Officers

SEC. 5 No brother shall be eligible to the office of Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Warden, or District Deputy Grand Master unless he shall have been regularly elected and duly installed Master of a duly constituted lodge, and shall have faithfully discharged his duties in such office for one term. And any such Past Master, notwithstanding he may be, at the time being, the Master or Warden of a lodge, shall be eligible to any office in the Grand Lodge; but upon installation into either of the offices above named, vacates his said office in the lodge. And no one of the officers above named during his continuance in office shall be Master, Warden or proxy of a lodge.

(See DIGEST—Past Master; Vacancy)

SEC. 6 No brother having been duly elected and installed in either of the stations of Grand Warden shall again be elected a Grand Warden.

Of Elections and Appointments

SEC. 7.1 The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Wardens, Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary, shall be chosen by ballot at the Annual Communication, as shall vacancies incurring or occurring on the Committee of Finance, and Board of Trustees of the Masonic Charitable Foundation. Ballots shall be printed by the Grand Lodge for all who have made their candidacy for the above positions known in writing to the Grand Secretary previous to the election but not later than March 15th. The election shall commence at 2:00 P.M., and a majority of the votes collected shall be necessary for a choice. If a majority is not obtained for any office a further ballot shall be collected as soon as convenient, the election taking priority over all other matters. [2019 p.26]

(See §§ 9, 35.1, 44—20, 63)

7.2 All Grand Lodge Officers and committee members not herein designated for election [or named ex officio] shall be annually appointed by the Grand Master.

(See §§ 20 – 33.1, 36 – 43, 53.1 – 53.2, 63)

7.2a If in the course of the year a vacancy occurs in any office ranking below that of Junior Grand Warden, the Grand Master shall fill the vacancy by appointment for the remainder of the term and cause the appointee to be installed as provided in Section 10.

Provisions for Installation

SEC. 8 No officer can be installed by proxy. The officers of the Grand Lodge shall be installed as soon after their election or appointment as may be done, and if present shall be installed in open Grand Lodge at the Annual Communication. The Grand Master shall be installed by his immediate predecessor, or by such Past Grand Master as the retiring Grand Master may appoint, and in the absence of the retiring Grand Master by such Past Grand Master as the Grand Master-elect may select.

(See TEXT BOOK—Chapter X)

SEC. 9 In case the Grand Master-elect be absent at the time of installation, he may be installed at such time and place and by such person as the Grand Lodge may specially authorize and appoint; and if he decline the acceptance of said office, the Grand Master shall call a special communication of the Grand Lodge to elect his successor.

SEC. 10 Any elected or appointed Grand Officer not installed at the Annual Communication shall receive from the Grand Secretary an extract of this Section, to wit he may be installed in any open subordinate lodge by some brother specially authorized by the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master, and such installing officer shall cause a certificate of the installation to be transmitted to the Grand Secretary, who shall note the same on the installed officer's record.

SEC. 11 The several Grand Officers, previous to their installation, shall make the following declaration:

"I solemnly promise upon the honor of a Mason, that in the office of _____, I will, according to the best of my abilities, strictly comply with the Constitution and Regulations of this Grand Lodge, and all other ancient Masonic uses, so far as the same shall come to my knowledge."

SEC. 12 All Grand Officers, elected or appointed, when installed, shall be proclaimed by the Grand Marshal and shall hold their respective offices until their successors are duly installed.

SEC. 13 No elected officer of the Grand Lodge, or of any lodge, shall act as such, until he is duly installed.

Of the Grand Master

SEC. 14.1 The Grand Master may convene the Grand Lodge at pleasure, giving reasonable notice to the lodges and members of the time and place intended for the meeting, and stating therein the object of it.

(See §§ 3.2, 9, 44, 124.2; DIGEST—Communication–*Grand Lodge*, Grand Master; TEXT BOOK—Chapters XI – XIII)

14.2 He may convene any lodge within his jurisdiction, preside therein (with his officers or otherwise), inspect their proceedings, and require their conformity to the regulations and edicts of the Grand Lodge.

14.3 During the recess of the Grand Lodge, he has power and authority to grant dispensations to new lodges to continue in force until the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge; to arrest for good cause the dispensation or charter of any lodge until the next Annual Communication when he shall present the reason for such arrest in writing; and to proceed in matters of Masonic discipline as required of him under Sections 51 – 52.

(See §§ 69, 121, 124.1)

14.4 He may, *in the event of any civil emergency or disaster*, grant a dispensation permitting a change of time or date for stated communications of a constituent lodge, provided that such dispensation shall expire whenever the by-laws of the constituent lodge have been amended to meet the situation; the civil emergency or the results of the disaster have ceased; the next regular Communication of Grand Lodge; whichever shall first occur.

(See §§ 82.1 – 82.2; S.R. 7)

14.5 He may grant dispensations for processions, and for conferring degrees, and do all other acts and deeds that are warranted and required of him by the regulations and ancient customs of the Fraternity.

(See §§ 82.3, 103, 109.1 ¶ 2, 114.3, 129 – 130; S.R. 6, 9, 30)

14.6 The Grand Master has authority from time to time, as he may think for the good of Masonry, to divide the State into districts and assign their limits. The number and size of the districts are left to his discretion, but once formed remain as formed until changed by the Grand Master.

14.6a For each such district he shall annually appoint a District Deputy Grand Master.

14.6b Every newly constituted lodge shall be assigned by him to some district, and notice given to the District Deputy of the same.

Of the Deputy Grand Master

SEC. 15 It shall be the duty of the Deputy Grand Master to attend all the communications of the Grand Lodge and render to the Grand Master such assistance as may be required of him.

(See §§ 17.1 – 17.2, 36—15 ¶ 2, 63)

Of the Grand Wardens

SEC. 16 It shall be the duty of the Grand Wardens to assist the Grand Master in the Grand Lodge and, when required, they are to attend in the examination of any particular lodge and act as his Wardens.

(See §§ 17.1 – 17.2, 63)

Order of Succession

SEC. 17.1 During the temporary absence of the Grand Master the Deputy Grand Master may, by and with the advice and consent of the Grand Wardens, call special meetings of the Grand Lodge should the interest of the craft in their opinion require it.

17.2 In the absence of the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master shall preside in Grand Lodge and perform such duties and possess such

authority while presiding as appertain to the Grand Master. In case of the death or removal from the State of the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master shall, ex officio, exercise all the powers and perform all the duties of the Grand Master, as herein provided, until the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge.

In the absence of the Grand Master and the Deputy Grand Master, or if both these offices are vacant, the Senior Grand Warden shall preside over the Grand Lodge; and in his absence, the Junior Grand Warden; and in the absence of all these, then the Past Grand Masters, Past Deputy Grand Masters, and Past Grand Wardens, according to seniority; and if no such officer be present, the Senior Past Master is to preside, unless he waive his right to another brother who is a Past Master. In any of these cases, the presiding officer, unless he is a Past Grand Master, shall wear the jewel of the Deputy Grand Master.

Of the Grand Treasurer

SEC. 18.1 The Grand Treasurer shall receive and have the custody and charge of all the property and funds of the Grand Lodge.

18.2 He shall have in his care all charters, records, seals and regalia returned to the Grand Lodge, and all charters and dispensations for constituting new lodges; keep a record of the office equipment, paraphernalia, regalia and other property of the Grand Lodge, showing the cost or estimate value thereof, and shall annually on the first Thursday in May file with the Grand Secretary a copy of an inventory as of that date, showing the property of all kinds on hand; also that acquired or disposed of during the preceding twelve months.

(See §§ 34.4a – 34.6)

18.3 He shall deposit Grand Lodge funds in such depositories as shall be approved by the Grand Master and Committee of Finance, and disburse said funds for bills approved by the Committee of Finance, or for appropriations made by the Grand Lodge or the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Charitable Foundation, attested by the Grand Secretary.

(See §§ 35.2, 61 – 62)

He shall annually render to the Committee of Finance a statement of his accounts with vouchers and a schedule of the funds of the Grand Lodge; and on the first day of the Annual Communication lay before the Grand Lodge a statement of his accounts exhibiting the amounts received and paid out for each account, with respective dates of receipts and disbursements.

18.4 He shall, before he enters upon the duties of his office, give bond with surety or sureties to the satisfaction of the Grand Master and Committee of Finance, conditioned for the faithful discharge of his trust, and shall deliver to his successor in office the funds and other property of the Grand Lodge, taking duplicate receipts therefore, one of which he shall deposit with the Grand Secretary.

Of the Grand Secretary

SEC. 19.1 The Grand Secretary shall keep a list of all lodges under this Jurisdiction according to seniority.

19.2 He shall receive all petitions, applications and appeals, and lay them before the Grand Master.

(See §§ 23, 54—c, 83)

19.3 He shall give notice of all communications of the Grand Lodge by addressing a circular to the several Officers, Permanent Members and standing and special committees thereof, and one to each lodge.

19.4 He shall attend upon the communications of the Grand Lodge; observe and record the proceedings thereof and preserve the same in suitable books kept for that purpose; and record all reports of committees, which may be accepted by the Grand Lodge.

19.5 He shall, as soon as may be after its several communications, forward to each member of the Grand Lodge such number of copies of the edicts and regulations of the Grand Lodge, including a list of the Grand Officers for the time being, as shall be directed by the Grand Master; and all such other transactions of the Grand Lodge as may be necessary for the information and regulation of the subordinate lodges.

19.6 He shall furnish the chairman of every committee with a copy of the vote of their appointment, and attend all committees with the records and papers of his office, when required.

(See §§ 36—2, 65)

19.7 He shall cause a transcript of the journal of the proceedings of the Grand Lodge to be readied as soon after the annual communication as the same can be done. The Grand Secretary shall make available an electronic copy to each of the Grand Lodges of the United States and such other jurisdictions as are recognized by this Grand Lodge, each Officer and Permanent Member of this Grand Lodge and each Lodge. A paper copy may be obtained by request in writing to the Grand Secretary by a deadline he determines with proper notice.

[amended 2022 p. 212]

19.8 He shall make available official forms, including applications for the Charity Fund; blanks for returns with a circular stating when the returns must be made and the Grand Lodge per capita taxes and assessments paid; and diplomas from his office directly to the lodges.

(See §§ 75.1, 75.4 – 75.5, 91; S.R. 5)

19.9 He shall have the custody of the Seal of the Grand Lodge and shall engross, attest, and affix the Seal to all warrants, charters, commissions, diplomas and certificates, when ordered by the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge.

(See DIGEST—Seal)

19.10 Except as may be otherwise ordered by the Grand Master, all inter-Jurisdictional correspondence having reference to official business of the Grand Lodge or of the subordinate lodges under this Jurisdiction shall be conducted through the office of the Grand Secretary.

19.11 During intervals between communications of the Grand Lodge he shall, at his discretion, answer all correspondence addressed on the subject of Masonry.

Of District Deputy Grand Masters

SEC. 20 The District Deputy Grand Masters are the personal representatives of the Grand Master, and it is their duty to visit the several lodges in their respective districts at least once in every year; preside in the same when officially present; inspect the charter or certificate of charter, by-laws, records and mode of working, and make report thereof to the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary immediately after each inspection, in such manner as required by the Grand Master or the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge, using Official Form No. 1. If unable to visit any lodge, they may appoint some suitable brother to perform that duty.

(See §§ 14.6a – 14.6b, 36—9, 51—1, 76, 126, 129; S.R. 1, 8—2, 25 ¶ 2; DIGEST—District Deputy)

They shall communicate to the lodges all such edicts and regulations of the Grand Lodge as may be received by them from the Grand Secretary.

They shall attend in Grand Lodge during their term of office, and are enjoined to use their best endeavors to see that all of their several lodges are represented at every communication of the Grand Lodge, by impressing upon them the importance of attendance by the first three officers or a proxy. They are also to use their best endeavors to see that the lodges in their respective districts are well represented at the schools of instruction each year.

They shall annually, before the first day of April, make report of their doings to the Grand Master.

They shall be reimbursed their necessary expenses in visiting the lodges at inspections, their accounts being first examined and passed by the Committee of Finance.

(See § 35.2)

Of the Grand and Assistant Grand Lecturers

SEC. 21 The Grand Lecturer shall exemplify the work and lectures in Grand Lodge or at some other place if required, and impart instruction to the officers and brethren of lodges in 'Schools of Instruction' held for that purpose at such times and places as shall be directed by the Grand Master.

(See §§ 4—*Third*, 44—21, 33.2)

In addition to the Grand Lecturer, the Grand Master shall also annually appoint not more than six Assistant Grand Lecturers to assist in imparting instruction to the officers and brethren of lodges.

Of the Grand and Assistant Grand Chaplains

SEC. 22 The Grand Master shall annually appoint a Grand Chaplain and not more than six Assistant Grand Chaplains who shall attend the communications of the Grand Lodge and perform such duties as may be suitable to the occasion and as are established by Masonic usages. Furthermore, they shall serve as a Committee on Memorials to deceased Grand and past Grand Officers, and report thereof at the Annual Communication.

[2007 p. 638]

Of the Grand Marshal

SEC. 23 The Grand Marshal shall direct the organization of the Grand Lodge before it is opened; collect from the members and petitioners in the

Grand Lodge all communications and place them before the Grand Secretary; introduce visitors; direct the formation of and conduct processions; call the lodges when required, and execute all commands of the Grand Master.

Of Grand Deacons

SEC. 24 The Grand Deacons shall carry messages and attend the Grand Master in processions.

Of Grand Stewards

SEC. 25 The Grand Master shall annually appoint four Grand Stewards, who shall attend the communications of the Grand Lodge and perform such duties and ceremonial functions as are required of them by the Grand Master.

Of the Grand Sword-Bearer

SEC. 26 The Grand Sword-Bearer shall rank as Assistant Grand Marshal and in his absence perform the duties of Grand Marshal.

Of the Grand Standard-Bearer

SEC. 27 It shall be the duty of the Grand Standard-Bearer to carry the Grand Banner of the Order in processions and public ceremonies.

Of Grand Pursuivants

SEC. 28 The Grand Master shall annually appoint two Grand Pursuivants. Their place shall be at the inner door of the Grand Lodge, and it shall be their duty to attend to the officers, members and visitors to see that they appear in Grand Lodge suitably clothed and, under the direction of the Grand Marshal, that all take their proper stations and places. In all public processions of the Grand Lodge they shall precede and assist the Grand Marshal.

Of Grand Organists

SEC. 29 The Grand Master shall annually appoint not more than six Grand Organists, who shall attend the communications of the Grand Lodge and play suitable music at appropriate times.

Of the Grand Historian

SEC. 30 It shall be the duty of the Grand Historian to keep and maintain an up-to-date narrative history of the Grand Lodge and, when called upon by the Grand Master, to report thereon. [1987 p. 443]

Of the Grand Librarian

SEC. 31 The Grand Librarian shall act as curator of the Grand Lodge Library and Museum. It shall be his duty to gather materials and maintain the collections, seeing that all books and artifacts are properly catalogued, referenced, and displayed. He shall direct all requests for the funding of new acquisitions, maintaining the collections, etc., to the Masonic Charitable Foundation, in writing.

(See § 60 ¶ 3)

He shall make detailed report, not later than March 15th of each year, to the Trustees of the Charitable Foundation, on the number and title of the publications added to the library, with a listing of all such articles having historical or sentimental value connected directly or indirectly with Freemasonry or Freemasons presented or collected for the museum. He shall

provide at each Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge a written report, of a general nature, on the Library and Museum.

Of the Grand Tyler

SEC. 32 The Grand Tyler shall duly guard the outer door and see that none, except the Grand Officers and members, enter without permission of the Grand Master.

Of D.E.R.s and D.R.I.s

SEC. 33.1 For each district, a District Education Representative (D.E.R.) shall be annually appointed by the Grand Master. Said D.E.R. will work under the direction of the Masonic Education and Lodge Services (MEALS) Committee, and work with the District Deputy to encourage and promote candidate and general Masonic education throughout his district. Annually he shall report to the MEALS Committee, in writing, on the status of Masonic education in his district; and may also recommend one lodge in his district to the MEALS Committee for consideration for the Raymond Rideout Award.
(See § 36—10)

33.2 A District Ritual Instructor (D.R.I.) will be appointed annually by the Grand Master for each Masonic District. The D.R.I. shall, under the direction of the Grand Lecturer and his staff, ensure the correct mode of work and lectures within the several districts. He shall be entrusted with such materials as are necessary to provide accurate instruction, and shall attend all such Schools of Instruction as are provided for in his District. He shall make periodic reports to the Lecturer assigned to his District as may be required by the Grand Lecturer.

Clothing in Grand Lodge

SEC. 34.1 The clothing of the Grand Officers shall be as follows. Aprons shall be of white lambskin, lined with purple with purple edging, having the emblem of office embroidered in the center with other suitable embroidery on the edgings thereof. The emblem of the Grand Master shall be the Compasses extended to 45 degrees with the segment of a circle at the points, and in the center of which is represented an eye eradiated, with a triangle also eradiated; that of the Deputy Grand Master the Compasses and Square united, with a five-pointed star in the center; the Senior Grand Warden, the Level; the Junior Grand Warden, the Plumb; the Grand Treasurer, Crossed Keys; Grand Secretary, Crossed Quill Pens; District Deputy Grand Masters, the Compasses with Quadrant and Crescent Moon in the center; Grand and Assistant Grand Lecturers, the Seal of Solomon; Grand and Assistant Grand Chaplains, Holy Bible, open; Grand Marshal, Crossed Rods; Grand Senior Deacon, Square and Compasses with the Sun in the center; Grand Junior Deacon, Square and Compasses with Crescent Moon in the center; Grand Stewards, Cornucopia; Grand Sword-Bearer, Crossed Swords; Grand Standard-Bearer, Banner; Grand Pursuivants, a Rod and Sword, crossed; Grand Organist, Lyre; Grand Historian, Scroll with Quill Pen; Grand Librarian, the Lamp of Knowledge with an Open Book; Grand Tyler, Sword.

The collars of the Grand Officers shall be of purple velvet, suitably embroidered or garnished with decoration in gold chain. Pendant from the collars shall be jewels patterned upon the emblems of office.

34.2 An officer of a lodge shall wear white or figured apron trimmed in blue. The collar of a lodge officer is of blue velvet, trimmed with silver lace or silver metal. A silver jewel of office may be suspended from the collar. (See DIGEST—Clothing; TEXT BOOK—Chapter XIII–Miscellaneous–Clothing)

34.3 The aprons of the District Educational Representatives shall be of white lambskin lined with purple with purple edging. Embroidered in the center shall be a point within a circle bordered by two perpendicular lines with an open book atop the circle, and on the flap the flame of knowledge. The jewel shall be styled upon the center emblem on the apron.

34.4 Each Past Grand Master, Past Deputy Grand Master and Past Grand Warden may be distinguished by the jewel prescribed for the office he has filled, with this difference; that such jewel shall be fixed within a circle or oval of gold or metal gilt. It shall be worn over the left breast. [1896 p. 64]

34.4a Each Grand Master, upon leaving office, shall receive from the Grand Lodge a jewel as above, said jewel to be inscribed "Property of the Grand Lodge of Maine A.F. & A.M.", and an apron suitable to the dignity and importance of the great office of Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine. The Grand Treasurer is authorized to appropriate from the Grand Lodge treasury funds to purchase such regalia, as needed.

Additionally, a Past Grand Masters' Medallion may be worn, suspended from a collar; and a Past Grand Masters' Lapel Button may be purchased through the Grand Lodge business office.

34.4b That other past officers who are Permanent Members may have distinctive clothing at Masonic functions, the Grand Treasurer shall make available past grand officer aprons similar to those worn while in office. These may be purchased through the Grand Lodge business office at cost.

34.5 That Past District Deputies may have distinctive clothing to wear at Masonic functions, the Grand Treasurer shall make available past District Deputy Aprons in the style of an active officer, but without the gold braid, fringe and tassels. These may be purchased from Grand Lodge at cost.

34.6 It shall be a part of the duty of the Grand Treasurer to keep and maintain a permanent record or file, with complete descriptions or sketches of all jewels and aprons approved by the Grand Lodge.

Furthermore, he shall have on file the signed and dated instrument of every Grand Officer, past Grand Master, or other consignee who takes into his personal possession and care any regalia or other property belonging to the Grand Lodge; such instrument to be in the form and substance, as follows:

To the Grand Treasurer, Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Maine:

I _____ acknowledge that the following property has been delivered into my possession and care:

_____

_____.

I promise to surrender up the same at the Annual Communication that coincides with the expiration of my term of office or constitutional need, or when otherwise directed, to the Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of Maine; and in default thereof I promise to pay to said Treasurer the full value of said property."

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

Committee of Finance

SEC. 35.1 There shall be a Committee of Finance consisting of five members chosen by ballot for three year terms, their several elections staggered over three years so that two shall be elected the first year; two the second year; and one the third year. This cycle of election and service shall repeat, provided however that in case of the absence from the State or disability of a member, the Grand Master may appoint a member pro tempore to serve during the continuance of such absence or disability; or if a vacancy is incurred, the Grand Master may appoint a substitute to fill such position until the next Annual Communication where any unexpired part of that term shall be filled through the usual election process. Also, any elected member that shall fail to attend two or more scheduled meetings of said Committee, without having been previously excused by the Chairman, shall be removed and the vacancy filled as above.

[2001 p. 63, 2005 p. 111]

(See § 7.1)

35.2 It shall be the duty of this Committee to examine and pass all bills against the Grand Lodge; audit or cause to be audited by a public accountant, as may be directed by the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master, the accounts of the Grand Treasurer and the accounts of any other officer or committee entrusted with funds of the Grand Lodge; to examine the records of the Grand Secretary and see that they are properly kept; and to report to the Grand Lodge at each Annual Communication and before the election of officers the result of the audits of receipts and expenditures of the preceding year. They shall also, with the Grand Master, designate proper depositories for the funds of the Grand Lodge.

(See §§ 20 ¶ 5, 43, 44—4)

35.3 It shall also be the duty of the Committee of Finance to annually prepare and distribute to the Permanent Members and constituent lodges, during the month of February, a 'draft budget'; this to afford the Brethren the opportunity to comment on the same in writing or in person during the months of March and April. Such draft must be accompanied by supporting documentation explaining, justifying and analyzing its recommendations, and a disclosure of all motions, other than acceptance of the report itself, which will be presented by the Committee at the Annual Communication. Provided, however, that such draft shall not be construed to prohibit the committee from altering the 'final report, budget or motions' during the interval between the draft's distribution and the Annual Meeting;

provided further that the Committee shall prepare and distribute to the delegates to Grand Lodge within a reasonable time before the first day of the Annual

Communication, a final proposal for an operating budget for the ensuing year, together with a proposed per capita tax to support that budget.

35.4 No member of the Committee of Finance may serve at the same time as a trustee of the Masonic Charitable Foundation or the head of any appendant or concordant Masonic body in the State of Maine. [2011 p. 607]

The Appointed Standing Committees

SEC. 36 There shall be appointed after the installation of Grand Officers and before the close of the Annual Communication the following committees, each composed of three members excepting those on Masonic Education and Lodge Service, Ritual, and The Maine Masonic College, whose memberships are noted in situ.

1. On Credentials

The Committee on Credentials at any communication of the Grand Lodge, where a ballot is to be had, shall attend and make a proper record of the Grand Officers, Permanent Members, Masters, Wardens and Proxies of lodges, and any duplicate electors in attendance; distribute voter materials to eligible electors; and before the ballot report the names of lodges not represented and the number of votes in Grand Lodge. At the Annual Communication they shall also make a record of the Grand Representatives of other Grand Jurisdictions in attendance, and report on the same.

(See §§ 3.1a, 44—20; S.R. 15)

2. On Returns

The Committee on Returns, of which the Grand Secretary shall be ex officio a member and chairman, shall prepare and report in tabular form an abstract of the returns of the several lodges and submit such other statistical data relative to the work of the lodges as may be of interest to the membership of the Grand Lodge.

3. On Grievances and Appeals

The Committee on Grievances and Appeals shall have referred to it all grievances and matters of controversy; all appeals from the recommendations of the Board of Commissioners of Trials, as per Section 55.1; and all petitions or applications for reinstatement or restoration to Masonry, as per Section 56.1.

[1994 pp. 1040 – 1041]

4. On History of Masonry in Maine

The Committee on History of Masonry in Maine shall have referred to it the histories of the several lodges as compiled, and shall review and file the same in the office of the Grand Secretary.

(See § 75.3)

5. On Dispensations and Charters

The Committee on Dispensations and Charters shall examine the work and records of lodges working under dispensation and make such recommendations on the petition of a lodge working under such a dispensation for a charter as appears to be in the interests of the craft and the petitioners. It shall also have referred to it all matters concerning suspension and revocation of charters.

6. On Amendments to the Constitution

It shall be the Committee's duty to:

1. Examine all proposed amendments to the Constitution and Standing Regulations in an impartial manner, without regard to opinion as to their bearing or merit. (This does not preclude a member from speaking, apart from the committee and report, on any amendment in his own right as a voting member).
2. Examine all proposed amendments to ensure that they do not conflict with any other portion of the Masonic Code.
3. Ensure that any proposed amendment is clear and concise, without any ambiguous wording that would knowingly render the amendment itself, or any existing provisions of our Masonic Code, open to differing opinions.
4. Determine if the Constitutional amendment being offered addresses the correct section and/or subsection.
5. Stand ready to assist any brother in drafting new legislation.

[2019 p. 25]

7. On Masonic Jurisprudence

The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence shall have referred to it all acts of the Grand Master involving questions of Masonic law and practice and shall report on such other matters as are referred to it for consideration. The report of the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence shall be read immediately after the reading of the Address of the Grand Master. [2011 p. 608]

(See §§ 14.3 – 14.5, 52)

8. On Fraternal Relations

The Committee on Fraternal Relations shall review the proceedings and documents emanating from other Grand Masonic Jurisdictions and report thereon; also make recommendations in cases where other Grand Jurisdictions ask fraternal recognition by this Grand Lodge.

(See DIGEST—Recognition)

9. On Condition of the Fraternity

The Committee on Condition of the Fraternity shall examine the reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters and the returns of the lodges and make such suggestions and recommendations as may be in the interests of the subordinate lodges and the Grand Lodge.

(See §§ 20 ¶ 1, 75.1)

10. On Masonic Education and Lodge Service

This Committee shall be composed of seven members. It is tasked with producing and conveying Masonic information to the subordinate lodges, particularly as regards Masonic educational programs, including methods and means of candidate instruction.

Furthermore, the Committee shall publish to the lodges such bulletins and multimedia presentations on Masonic subjects as may be approved by the Grand Master; recommend speakers and organize a Speakers Bureau; and render such assistance as may properly come under the scope of the committee to anniversary and special programs of all sorts.

Inasmuch as the District Education Representatives are the primary conduit between this Committee and the lodges, the Committee shall also recommend, to the Grand Master's consideration, candidates for service as D.E.R.s.

(See § 33.1) [1996 p. 1555; 2005 p. 111]

11. On Doings of Grand Officers

The Committee on Doings of Grand Officers shall have referred to it the addresses and reports of the Grand Officers and shall refer all matters contained therein to the committees especially charged with particular duties under this Constitution and the Regulations of the Grand Lodge.

12. On Unfinished Business

The Committee on Unfinished Business shall examine the printed proceedings of the previous communication and report at the first session of the Grand Lodge all matters therein pending and undetermined; also, before the close of the Annual Communication, submit a report that all matters of business presented at the communication have been acted on.

13. On Ritual

The Committee on Ritual shall be charged with the preservation of the Ritual and the perpetuation and continuity of accurate interpretation. Its membership shall be commensurate with its workload, but never less than three.

14. On By-Laws

This Committee shall, upon receipt thereof, examine all proposed by-laws or changes to the by-laws of constituent lodges and make a determination as to their conformity to Masonic code. As soon as may be they shall forward the same, with their recommendations, to the Grand Master to be disposed of as per Section 83. This Committee shall annually report to the Grand Lodge the number and type of by-law changes requested, with a synopsis of their recommendation and reasoning for any rejected.

15. On the Maine Masonic College

The Maine Masonic College has been created and organized to provide an extended opportunity for Brethren to explore the nature and purpose of Freemasonry and its wider mission in promoting the well-being of all human kind. The Grand Lodge of Maine herein endorses the efforts of this college and recognizes it as a provider of opportunities for the further enlightenment of the Craft within this Grand Jurisdiction. [2005 p. 130]

The College shall be governed by a Board of Regents consisting ex officio of the Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master, and nine members elected to serve staggered terms of three years. Election to the Board, governance of the College, and its mission, shall all be in accordance with By-laws (Appendix B) voted by the Board and approved by the Grand Master.

The College shall be subject to Section 35.2, but not to Sections 37 – 42.

16. On Investments

The Committee on Investments shall develop and approve investment policies for Grand Lodge and, after consultation with the Committee of Finance and Grand Treasurer, direct the investment of available Grand Lodge funds, including the purchase and sale of stocks, bonds and other appropriate financial instruments. Section 41 (which requires that all committee members be Past Masters) shall not apply to this committee.

Of Standing and Special Committees

SEC. 37 All vacancies in the appointed standing committees shall be filled as soon as convenient after the opening of each Annual Communication

of the Grand Lodge, and the members of such committees shall hold office until the close of the next Annual Communication.
(See § 7.2)

SEC. 38 The Grand Master may refer to any of those committees, during the recess, any matter for their consideration.

SEC. 39 The appointment of these committees shall not preclude the Grand Master or Grand Lodge from commissioning special committees whenever it is deemed expedient to which any matters may be referred.

All special committees shall be appointed by the Grand Master, or in his absence by the presiding officer, unless otherwise ordered by the Grand Lodge.

SEC. 40 The first brother chosen or appointed on a committee shall be the chairman and shall duly notify each member of the committee of the time and place of meeting; unless the Grand Master who, ex officio has a right to act as a member and chairman of every appointed committee, shall see fit to act, and he or the chairman may call the committee together, if deemed expedient.

SEC. 41 No brother, not a member of the Grand Lodge or Past Master of a subordinate lodge, shall be appointed on any committee. This, however, is not intended to militate against the right of the Grand Master to commission any brother in writing for a specific purpose.

SEC. 42 Drafts of all committee reports containing recommendations requiring approval of Grand Lodge shall be made available to the Craft no later than March 15th of each year and, in all cases in which it is practicable, said committees shall be in readiness to report on the first day of the Annual Communication.

SEC. 43 The necessary expenses of all committees shall be paid by the Grand Lodge.
(See § 35.2)

Procedural Rules for Grand Lodge Sessions

SEC. 44 The Grand Master [or presiding Grand Officer] shall direct the business of the Grand Lodge according to his own judgment, except as specially provided in the following rules:
(See § 17.2)

1. None but members of the Grand Lodge, officers or past officers of other Grand Lodges excepted, shall be present at the opening of the same, nor shall any visitor be admitted during the session except by permission of the presiding Grand Officer or by vote of the Grand Lodge.

2. Members and visitors shall keep the seats assigned them, except the Grand Marshal and officers whose duties may call them about the Lodge.

3. No brother shall leave the Grand Lodge during the session, without permission of the presiding Grand Officer.

4. The report of the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence shall be presented immediately after the reading of the Address of the Grand Master; that of the Committee of Finance, previous to the election of Grand Officers.
(See §§ 7.1, 35.2) [2011 p. 608]

5. While the presiding Grand Officer is addressing the Grand Lodge or putting a question, or a brother is speaking, no member shall entertain any private discourse or pass between the speaker and the chair.

6. All resolutions shall be submitted in writing, as shall all motions, if the presiding officer or any brother desire it.

7. Every member who speaks shall rise and remain standing while addressing himself to the presiding Grand Officer. He shall not be interrupted, without his consent, except by a call to order from the presiding Officer or from some member of the Grand Lodge.

8. No brother shall speak more than twice upon the same question, unless to explain, without permission of the Grand Lodge if any member object.

9. Each member shall vote on all questions, except where he is personally interested, unless excused by the Grand Lodge; and no member can delegate his right of voting to another.

10. All questions shall be decided by a show of hands, unless five members shall call for the yeas and nays, in which case the members shall vote in executive session as provided for in Rule 20, upon the call of the roll; at the request of any ten members, the yeas and nays shall be recorded, the representatives of lodges by the number of their lodge, and the other members by name or the title of their office.

11. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received except to lay on the table, to commit, to postpone, or to amend, which motions shall take precedence in the above order named.

12. A motion to amend, until decided, shall preclude all other amendments of the main question.

13. Any member may call for a division of the question, where the same will admit of it.

14. No new motion, which totally changes the subject matter on which the original motion was intended to operate, shall be admitted under color of amendment as a substitute for the motion under debate.

15. After a motion is stated by the presiding Grand Officer it shall be deemed to be in the possession of the Grand Lodge and shall not be withdrawn by the mover, against the objection of any member, without the consent of the Grand Lodge.

16. There shall be no debate upon any question after it has been put by the presiding Grand Officer.

17. A motion for reconsideration may be made on the same day the decision was made and not afterwards, and no member except one of the majority which decided the question shall be allowed to move for reconsideration. [2012 p. 881]

18. All motions and reports may be committed at the pleasure of the Grand Lodge.

19. All matters not finally disposed of at the close of the Grand Lodge, unless in the hands of a committee or postponed to the next communication, are lost.

(See § 36—12)

20. When the hour for balloting for the elected Grand Officers and committeemen arrives, the Grand Lodge shall go into an executive session for that purpose, and none but members of the Grand Lodge shall be present without the consent of the presiding Grand Officer in each case. Previous to balloting, the Committee on Credentials shall announce the number of votes in Grand Lodge. Only those ballots printed by the Grand Lodge and distributed by the Committee on Credentials shall be cast; if other ballots than those provided are cast, they shall not be counted.

(See §§ 3.1a, 7.1)

While voting is proceeding, the brethren shall remain seated; moreover, unless in case of emergency, they shall not leave the hall until all contests are decided. At the discretion of the presiding Grand Officer, committee reports of a non-debatable nature may be read and received while ballots are being counted. [1990 p. 87]

Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, election of any officer may be by acclamation if there shall be but one candidate for that office and if Grand Lodge shall unanimously approve such method of election.

When more than three candidates are running for election to a Grand Lodge office and a candidate does not receive a majority of the votes on the first ballot, all candidates but the three having the highest number of votes on the first ballot shall withdraw; if on the second ballot, a candidate does not have a majority of the votes cast, the candidate with the least number of votes shall withdraw.

21. The presiding Grand Officer at every Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge may, at his discretion, give or cause to be given one section of the lecture of each degree or an exemplification of the work in one or more degrees, or designate such other ceremonial of a Masonic character as he may deem advisable.

(See §§ 4—*Third*, 21)

Discipline—Irregular or Unmasonic Conduct
Power to Try and Punish

SEC. 45 The Grand Lodge has exclusive power to try and punish its own officers for any offense; also it may punish summarily, as for contempt, any offense committed in its presence or by any member while in attendance upon a communication thereof.

(See § 4—*Eighth*)

SEC. 46 The Grand Lodge has power to try and punish any Mason residing within its jurisdiction —whether a member of one of its lodges or not— for any offense committed by him.

SEC. 46.2 During unusual circumstances such as pandemics, wars, local, state, and federal mandates - when the craft does not have the opportunity to meet at an annual communication - the Grand Master shall have the authority to render decisions on non-ratified disciplinary actions without the craft's ratification. The Grand Master will report his decisions to the craft at the next annual communication or special assembly. [2022 p. 212]

Penalties for Irregular or Unmasonic Conduct

SEC. 47 A lodge or brother offending against any law or regulation of the craft —to the breach of which no penalty is attached— shall be subject to admonition, suspension, or expulsion.
(See DIGEST—Punishment)

SEC. 48 The suspension or expulsion of a brother from any other Masonic organization shall not operate as a suspension or expulsion from the lodge of which he is a member.

SEC. 49.1 A Mason suspended by the Grand Lodge of Maine loses absolutely his membership in any lodge in this Jurisdiction in which he holds membership, and his status becomes that of a nonaffiliated Mason. A suspension from Masonry imposed by the Grand Lodge excludes a Mason from all Masonic privileges, and prohibits all Masonic intercourse between him and his brethren during the period of his suspension.
(See §§ 50, 120; DIGEST—Suspension)

49.2 A Mason expelled by the Grand Lodge of Maine loses his membership in the Order. Expulsion from Masonry is the highest Masonic penalty that can be imposed and excludes a Mason from all Masonic rights and privileges forever, unless he is restored by the Grand Lodge.
(See § 50; DIGEST—Expulsion)

SEC. 50 No subordinate lodge under this Jurisdiction shall publish the suspension or expulsion of any of its members, *unless* by authority of the Grand Lodge.

Procedural Jurisdiction

SEC. 51 Every lodge shall have original jurisdiction to entertain proceedings against a member thereof, excepting:

1. That it shall have no legal authority to entertain proceedings against its Master, *however*, any five members of the lodge or the District Deputy Grand Master may impeach him before the Grand Master who shall order an investigation of the charges and, if in his opinion they are well founded and of a character to justify the proceedings, he may suspend the delinquent and summon him to appear at the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge to show cause why he should not be dealt with according to the regulations and uses in such cases established. Moreover, the Grand Master without such impeachment may proceed in the same manner.
(See § 4—*Eighth*)

2. If it becomes known to a lodge that a member of another lodge residing in this Jurisdiction is liable to charges for unmasonic conduct, it becomes the duty of that lodge to complain to the lodge of which the accused is a member; and if that lodge refuses or neglects to proceed against him, it should proceed to try him itself. The lodge which first commenced proceedings would have jurisdiction in the case.
(See §§ 46, 87 – 88)

3. That nothing herein contained shall be deemed to prevent the Grand Lodge from taking original jurisdiction in any case and proceeding according to

any method which it may adopt. Therefore, a lodge or brother aggrieved by the failure of a lodge to determine that the charges require investigation may appeal to the Grand Master, who may in his discretion cause the charge to be transmitted to the Chairman of the Commissioners of Trials; or if a member of a lodge in this Jurisdiction shall be convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction of an offense involving moral turpitude, and accusation shall not be made against him therefore in the lodge, it shall be the duty of the Grand Master to prefer and forward such accusation to the Grand Secretary who shall transmit the same to the Chairman of the Commissioners of Trials.

(See §§ 100.2, 101.3, 132.2 – 135; DIGEST—Charges, Conduct; TEXT BOOK—Chapter XVIII)

SEC. 52 For dereliction of duty or other unmasonic conduct, the Grand Master may suspend a brother or lodge until the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge when he shall present the reason for such arrest or suspension in writing.

When the Grand Master shall suspend a brother and present the reason of such suspension, the Commissioners of Trial shall take jurisdiction and act upon such reason as upon an accusation duly transmitted to it as under Section 54—c. When a lodge is tried, all its members are tried. [1863 p. 302]

Appointed Jurists

SEC. 53.1 The Grand Master shall annually appoint a board of five past or present masters of lodges, to be styled Commissioners of Trials; but he may in his discretion appoint a special Board of Commissioners for the trial of any given cause. The first named of said Board shall be the Chairman thereof and three members shall constitute a quorum. In the absence of the Chairman, the Board shall elect a chairman pro tempore.

The Commissioners shall receive for their services and for necessary expenses in each case, such compensation as the Grand Master shall determine and allow upon the certificate of the Commissioners and the same shall be paid from the funds of the Grand Lodge.

53.2 The Grand Master may also appoint a Past Master of a lodge to be styled Judge Advocate - to perform such duties as may be delegated to him by the Grand Master, and who shall receive for his services and for necessary expenses such compensation as the Grand Master shall determine. When disciplinary action must be preferred against a member of the fraternity by the Grand Master, the Grand Master shall not be entitled to appoint himself as Judge Advocate. Doing so is in direct conflict with fair and due process. It also diminishes the confidence placed in the appointed Judge Advocate and the Commissioners of Trials. [2022 p. 213]

Procedural Rules

SEC. 54 Whenever a Brother shall be accused of any offense which, if proved, might subject him to expulsion or suspension from the rights and privileges of Masonry, the proceedings in the premises shall be conducted agreeably to the following rules:

a. The accusation with specifications of the offense shall be made in writing, under the signature of one or more Master Masons, and delivered to the Master who shall thereupon summon his lodge to act upon the accusation.

It shall be the duty of the Junior Warden of any lodge under this Grand Jurisdiction to prepare specifications and prefer charges against any member of the lodge, or a Mason sojourning within its jurisdiction, at the request of any member of such lodge, upon reasonable evidence of a Masonic offense having been committed.

b. Lodges may, by a two-thirds vote, refuse to entertain charges presented after a lapse of four years from the time of the commission of the alleged offense, unless the reasons for delay in presenting charges grow out of the absence of the accused from this Jurisdiction, the absence of material witnesses or the concealment of the offense, *or* be decided by the Grand Master to be sufficient.

c. If the lodge by a majority vote of its members present determines that the charges require investigation, the accusation shall be forwarded to the Grand Secretary who shall, under the direction of the Grand Master, transmit the same to the Chairman of the Commissioners of Trials.

d. Charges may be tried or dismissed, but no one is authorized to erase them from the record.

e. The accused shall be served with an attested copy of the charges by the Grand Secretary.

i. Upon the receipt of the attested copy of the charges, the accused shall respond by certified mail to the Grand Secretary within fourteen days whether he contests the charges and whether he wishes to have a hearing on the charges or upon the disposition [final determination] to be recommended if the charges are admitted.

ii. Any accused, or his lodge, may request a hearing solely upon the disposition to be recommended by the Commissioners.

iii. If the accused does timely respond and request a hearing, the accused shall be served with a summons to appear at a time and place to be named in said summons. The summons shall be served upon the accused fourteen days, at least, prior to the return day thereof. [2003 p. 585]

iv. If the accused does not respond within fourteen days, the accused will be considered in default and plead no contest to said charges and his suspension by the Grand Master shall be automatically affirmed *except* that charges which are a felony under the laws of the State of Maine or of the United States of America shall result in an automatic expulsion from the rights and privileges of Masonry.

f. No action shall be taken against any Brother *whose address is known* without reasonable notice to him and an opportunity to appear and be heard in person or by Masonic Counsel. If known and out-of-State, a summons shall be sent him by mail or otherwise, thirty days at least before the time appointed for his appearance. The service and return thereof shall be according to regulations to be made by the Commissioners and, when so made, shall be conclusive.

If the residence of the accused is unknown, the Commissioners may proceed to examine the charges and accusation ex parte.

g. The examination upon the charge and accusation shall be had at some convenient place and time to be designated by the Commissioners not later than

sixty days prior to the next communication of the Grand Lodge, of which said place and time due notice shall be given, and no visitors shall be admitted except as counsel or witnesses. A single member may take testimony. Unless otherwise ordered by the Commissioners the testimony may be taken by the Chairman —or any member designated by him— who shall reduce the substance of the same to writing to be submitted to the Board. Witnesses if Masons shall testify on their honor as such; other witnesses shall be duly sworn before their testimony is taken. [2003 p. 585]

(See DIGEST—Evidence, Witness)

h. Each Commissioner shall have the power to issue a summons to any member of the Fraternity then being or residing within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge commanding him to appear at said time and place and testify as a witness. A summons may be served by copy delivered in hand or by registered mail, return receipt requested. Witnesses, summoned or appearing at the request of the Board or any Commissioner, shall be paid their actual necessary traveling expenses.

i. Any Brother duly authorized may appear as counsel in support of or in opposition to the charges during the taking of the testimony and in the argument of the cause.

j. A report of the proceedings and summary of the facts in each case, including the finding and recommendation of the Commissioners thereon, shall be signed by the Commissioners acting in such case and shall be sent by registered mail to the accused at his last known address, within thirty days of hearing such case, together with a notice that he may appear the recommendations of said Commissioners, as set forth in the following section.

Appeals

SEC. 55.1 Pursuant to Section 36—3, any Brother may appeal the finding of the Board of Commissioners of Trials [in his case as outlined above] to the Committee on Grievances and Appeals, which will hear said appeal, review the proceedings and findings of the Commissioners of Trials, and make appropriate recommendation to the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge.

(See DIGEST—Appeal)

Said appeal must be filed with the Grand Secretary within fifteen days of the Brother receiving the report the Commissioners of Trials. Upon receipt of notice of appeal, the Grand Secretary shall forthwith file with the Chairman of the Committee of Grievances and Appeals the report, and findings and recommendations made by said Commissioners. Failure to file an appeal within the time provided for herein shall terminate any right of appeal, and findings and recommendations of the Commissioners of Trials shall be reported directly to the Grand Lodge for review and final determination.

55.2 The Grand Lodge shall hear all appeals upon the record as sent up, unless for special reasons it shall determine to hear other testimony; and, according to its immemorial usage, may confirm, modify or reverse the proceedings appealed from, and it may give such final judgment and sentence as it deems just.

It shall also review the proceedings in all cases in which the penalty of suspension or expulsion is inflicted, with the same power of confirmation, modification or reversal, as above.

55.3 When the Grand Lodge reverses or abrogates the judgment suspending or expelling a brother, he is *restored* and shall at once be entitled to all his Masonic rights and privileges, including membership in his lodge.

Petitions for Restoration of Membership in the Order

SEC. 56.1 A petition for restoration of a Mason expelled or suspended by the Grand Lodge of Maine shall only be entertained if presented in writing and filed in the office of the Grand Secretary, not less than sixty days before the date of the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge at which its consideration is requested, and restoration upon such a petition shall not take effect until confirmed by the Grand Lodge. Provided however, that before action shall be taken by the Grand Lodge upon a petition for restoration, a copy thereof shall be filed at a stated communication of the lodge of which the petitioner was formerly a member; lay over until the next communication and a favorable recommendation made thereon to the Grand Lodge; and after review and report to the Grand Lodge by the Committee on Grievances and Appeals.

(See §§ 19.2, 36—3, 105.6)

56.2 If a lodge of which an expelled or suspended Mason was formerly a member has ceased to exist, a petition for restoration may be made direct to the Grand Lodge, on a favorable recommendation made thereon by five or more Master Masons in good standing.

SEC. 57 Whenever the Grand Lodge shall release a Mason from a penalty of expulsion or suspension, he shall not thereby be restored to membership within any lodge of which he was formerly a member; reinstatement therein requires the lodge's consent, expressed by a unanimous ballot.

Discipline—Nonpayment of Dues

Pretrial Procedures

SEC. 58 Suspension from membership for nonpayment of dues cannot be inflicted without notice and hearing. The member shall be notified of the charges and summoned to appear at a time and place to be named in said summons, and make such answer as he may desire. If he resides in State the summons shall be served upon the member, either in person or by certified mail at his last known address, fourteen days at least before the date of the hearing. If out of State, the notice and summons shall be sent him by certified mail or otherwise, thirty days at least before the date appointed for the hearing. If the residence of the member is unknown, the lodge may proceed to trial ex parte.

(See TEXT BOOK—Chapter XVIII–§ VII Trial for Nonpayment of Dues)

Provisos

SEC. 59.1 No lodge shall suspend or expel a member from the rights of Masonry for nonpayment of dues; the penalty of such delinquency shall be either suspension of membership, or forfeiture of membership. Suspension for nonpayment of dues and forfeiture of membership are not the same. The latter penalty mandates a petition and ballot for *reinstatement*. The former, payment or remission of arrears within three years *restores* the delinquent to

membership, but after three years he must petition for *reinstatement*. When the dues are brought current within three years the Secretary should announce the fact in open lodge, the Master should declare the brother restored to membership, and record made accordingly.

(See § 105.5; DIGEST—Punishment, Reinstatement, Restoration)

59.2 Any brother who has lost his membership in a lodge because of nonpayment of dues shall not be admitted to membership in any other lodge until the same are paid or remitted. The recommendation of the Master and Wardens of the lodge of which the applicant was last a member, should accompany such application.

59.3 A plural member having been suspended for nonpayment of dues from one of his lodges in this Jurisdiction shall not be issued a dues card in any other lodge in this Jurisdiction —even though his dues be current in that lodge— until his dues shall be paid up in the lodge from which he has been suspended; and furthermore he shall be prohibited from attending any lodge meeting in this Jurisdiction until his outstanding dues obligation has been met.

(See DIGEST—Jurisdiction–over a brother suspended N. P. D.

PART SECOND; THE MASONIC CHARITABLE FOUNDATION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF MAINE

Establishment and Scope

SEC. 60 THE MASONIC CHARITABLE FOUNDATION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF MAINE, is a Maine Title 13-B nonprofit corporation dba the Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation (the "Foundation"). As established July 8, 1991, by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Maine, it shall hold in trust in the name of said Corporation the Charity Fund of the Grand Lodge of Maine, and such other funds or other property as are established or accepted for charitable, educational or other specific purposes, which are in accord with Masonic principles and practices.

It shall also conduct the offices relative to any trust funds or special gifts created by will or other instrument in writing accepted by the Grand Lodge or the Foundation, and shall have authority to take, hold and convey title to any such funds or property.

The Foundation may also hold ownership of and maintain property housing the offices of the Grand Lodge of Maine, the Foundation and any associated Masonic entities, through a Maine limited liability company having the Foundation as its sole member.

Further, the Foundation shall have the care, custody, management and administration of the Museum and Library owned by the Grand Lodge of Maine. [2024 p. 629 & 630]

(See § 31)

Disbursements; Charitable, Benevolent and Administrative

SEC. 61 The earnings arising from the charitable funds of the Masonic Charitable Foundation, and such other funds as may be available, may be appropriated in whole or in part for relief and other charitable purposes approved by the Trustees; and for the payment of ordinary expenses necessary for the proper administration of the funds. Any amount over the appropriation for relief and expenses may be added to the Charity Fund. [2024 p. 630]

SEC. 62 Appropriations may be made:

First, in cases where the funds of their own lodges are not adequate to the exigency of the case, to poor and worthy members of lodges under this Jurisdiction, their widows and orphans.

(See DIGEST—Charity, Disbursement Procedures, Widows and Orphans)

Second, to all other worthy causes within and without the Masonic Fraternity: to include charitable, literary, educational, research, scientific or medical purposes or the Trustees of the Masonic Charitable Foundation may deem appropriate and consistent with Masonic principles and practices. [2024 p. 631]

(See S.R. 18; DIGEST—Education–*General*, Funds—Lodge–*Charity Fund*)

Of the Board of Trustees

SEC. 63 The Masonic Charitable Foundation shall be under the management of a Board of Trustees consisting ex officio of the elected Grand Lodge officers, and six directly elected Trustees who are members of the Fraternity, but not acting officers of the Grand Lodge, chosen by ballot by

members of the Fraternity for terms of three years, their several elections staggered over three years; to afford a certain continuity to the Board.

Any vacancy in the members elected at Grand Lodge occurring during the year may be filled pro tempore, by vote of the Board of Trustees, until the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge where any unexpired part of such term shall be filled through the usual election process.

(See § 7.1)

Additionally, no trustee of the Foundation may serve at the same time as a member of the Grand Lodge Committee of Finance.

The custody of the Trustees in such securities and forms of investment as said members may delegate to an investment counsel of their selection the powers. [2024 p. 631]

SEC. 64 Omitted [2024 p. 632]

SEC. 65 Omitted [2024 p. 632]

SEC. 66 The Trustees have the power to adopt such regulations for their own government and proceedings as are not inconsistent with the Constitution of the Grand Lodge.

(See Appendix C)

Style and Jurisdictional Sovereignty of Lodges

SEC. 67 All lodges under this Jurisdiction have a right to convene as Ancient Free and Accepted Masons [A.F. & A.M]. The territorial jurisdiction of such lodges shall be co-extensive with the territorial jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, with all lodges having concurrent jurisdiction therein.

(See § 1) [2001 pp. 58 – 63]

SEC. 68 No lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons can legally assemble in this State under a warrant or charter granted by any foreign Masonic power, and Masters of lodges are required to report to the Grand Master all invasions of this Grand Jurisdiction by lodges of other Jurisdictions, with all the circumstances attending, so far as they may be able. [1869 p. 406]

(See DIGEST—Clandestine–*Lodge*, Recognition)

Specially Chartered Lodges of Masonic Study and Research

SEC. 69 Seven or more Master Masons may unite to form a lodge for Masonic study and research, and adopt by-laws for its government. Such a lodge shall be without power or authority to confer degrees on candidates or to receive members other than by affiliation; nor shall it be entitled to representation or vote in Grand Lodge. Thus limited, a dispensation and charter may be issued without compliance to Sections 70 – 135.

Lodges for Masonic study and research may accept as associate members, Master Masons or lodges of Master Masons in good standing in this or other Grand Jurisdictions in fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Maine, and also organizations recognized as Masonic by this Grand Lodge, and Masonic libraries, under such conditions as its by-laws may provide. [1981 p. 43]

Inherent Rights of Regularly Chartered Lodges

SEC. 70 All regular lodges may adopt by-law; choose officers annually; receive and enter Apprentices, pass Fellow Crafts, raise Master Masons, and establish fees therefore; set and collect such annual dues and assessments as will permit the lodge to meet its obligations respecting its proper operating expenses; establish funds for charitable purposes; and transact all matters appertaining to Masonry, agreeably to their charters, the laws of the Grand Lodge and the ancient uses of the craft.

(See §§ 85, 115; DIGEST—Fees–*Candidate Fees*, Dues and Assessments, Funds—Lodge–*Charity Fund*)

Duty of Master and Wardens, or Proxy, to Attend Grand Lodge

SEC. 71.1 As the Grand Lodge, when congregated, is a representation of every individual member of the Fraternity, it necessarily possesses a supreme superintending authority and power, and in its acts should be assisted by all the light and intelligence of its own members and the whole craft.

It is the duty, therefore, of every regularly chartered lodge to be represented at the communications of the Grand Lodge by its Master and Wardens, or proxy, and that there may be no neglect of this duty each lodge is required, at the stated communication next before any communication of the Grand Lodge (unless it has been previously done), to elect a Master Mason of regular standing in said lodge, not holding office in Grand Lodge, as proxy, and such proxy shall have a right to a seat in the Grand Lodge during the Masonic

year in which he was elected, and to cast the votes of the lodge when neither the Master nor either of the Wardens shall be present.

The proxy shall be duly commissioned under the seal of the lodge and the attestation of the Master and Secretary. Said commission shall be tendered on official Form No. 11, as annually issued by the Grand Lodge, or in a letter in the form and substance as follows, viz.:

(See § 124.3)

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Maine:

BE IT KNOWN: That Brother _____, of _____, having been elected by the members of _____ Lodge, in _____, to represent said Lodge in Grand Lodge the ensuing year, I do in their behalf commission him their representative to appear, and upon all subjects relating to the craft in general and this Lodge in particular, to act and decide as fully as though we were personally present.

_____,
Master

of_____
Lodge.

Confirming the acts of our beloved brother in his capacity, we pray that he may enjoy all the protection and privileges to which we are entitled.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name, and caused the seal of our Lodge to be affixed, this _____ day of _____, A. D. 20____.

Attest: _____ *Secretary.*

71.2 In case of vacancy not filled by the lodge before the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, or the inability of the proxy commissioned by the lodge to attend the Annual Communication, the Master or acting Master may appoint a substitute and give him a certificate under the seal of the lodge; but such substitute can act as proxy only by special vote of the Grand Lodge.

SEC. 72 Every lodge represented by proxy in Grand Lodge shall issue the commission annually. All commissions of proxies of the Grand Lodge shall expire with the closing of the Grand Lodge at its next Annual Communication after such appointment, and no brother shall represent more than one lodge at the same time, either as representative or proxy.

SEC. 73 No informality in the form of the commission shall preclude the Grand Lodge from admitting to a seat any brother who has been duly elected as the proxy of a lodge.

Grand Lodge Per Capita Tax and Assessments

SEC. 74.1 Each regularly chartered lodge shall pay towards the support of the Grand Lodge and its programs, as follows:

(See § 75.1)

74.2 An annual per capita tax on all of its members, including any active members of the lodge who have been granted honorary status by vote or by-law and those absent from the State, but excluding any plural members that are being duly assessed in other lodges in this Jurisdiction.

Said tax shall be an amount as voted at the last Annual Session. That amount may be adjusted in accordance with the report of the Finance Committee as presented pursuant to Section 35.3, but shall not be increased in

any one year by more than an amount equal to 10% of the previous year's tax, rounded to the nearest five cents.

74.3 An annual per capita assessment on all of its members as in Section 74.2 paragraph 1, of two dollars for preparing, printing and mailing The Maine Mason publication to each member. All monies collected for The Maine Mason are to be considered dedicated funds. If the Maine Mason shall cease to be published this levy shall likewise cease. These funds shall be subject to Section 35.2 of the Constitution as any other Grand Lodge fund.

74.4 An annual per capita assessment on all of its members as in Section 74.2 paragraph 1, of one dollar, plus an additional five dollars for every candidate initiated during the year, shall be remitted to the Grand Lodge for donation to The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association for the support of that Memorial.

74.5 Grand Lodge shall arrange for blanket liability coverage for all Masonic Lodges and buildings owned by Masonic-based building associations and related organizations. Each Lodge and building association shall remit the cost of insurance on its members and properties. [2019 p. 23]

74.5a In addition to the coverage afforded by the Grand Lodge blanket liability insurance for Lodges and Masonic building associations, each Lodge or building association shall obtain documentation of suitable liability coverage, including liquor liability coverage, if applicable, from parties leasing or renting Masonic premises, with the Lodge, building association and Grand Lodge named as additional insureds. [2019 p. 24]

74.6 Lodges U. D. (under dispensation) are not required to pay the above per capita tax or assessments *except* if they hold their meeting at a place not otherwise covered by the Grand Lodge Blanket Liability Insurance, they then must pay to be brought under the Grand Lodge policy.

74.7 No per capita tax or assessments will be remitted unless upon the petition of a lodge and a report thereon of a committee of the Grand Lodge. Moreover, Grand Lodge will not remit Grand Lodge dues to subordinate lodges on account of loss by fire of property not insured. [1866 p. 192]

Of Grand Lodge Mandates and Penalties

SEC. 75.1 The lodges under this Jurisdiction shall make returns annually of their officers and members and of all the work done during the year ending on the thirty-first day of December, agreeably to the form established and on the blanks furnished by the Grand Lodge, and the Secretary of each lodge shall, on or before the first day of February, following, send one copy of the return to the Grand Secretary and one duplicate copy of the return and a copy of an abstract thereof, on blanks also to be furnished by the Grand Lodge, and the dues, that is the per capita taxes, assessments and fees listed in Sections 74.2 – 74.5, by check, post office order or bank draft, made payable to the Grand Lodge of Maine, A.F. & A.M., to the Grand Treasurer, who shall receipt for the dues upon the copy of the return and return the copy to the Secretary of the lodge to be preserved in the files of the lodge.

75.1a Any lodge which fails to so transmit its aforesaid returns and dues on or before the first day of February annually, shall be penalized the sum

of five dollars for the delinquency and one additional dollar for each day after the second day of February the said returns and dues are delayed.

75.1b Should any lodge neglect to make its returns and payments to the Grand Lodge for the space of two years, the Master and Wardens of such lodge shall not be permitted to attend, in their official capacity, any meeting of the Grand Lodge, until such returns and payments are made. And should the delinquency continue for three years, the charter, funds and regalia of such lodge may be declared forfeited to the Grand Lodge.

75.2 Any lodge which fails to be represented at any Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge —as required by Section 2.2—1 of the Constitution— shall be penalized the sum of ten dollars for each such failure, said penalty to be paid before July 1 following the date of the Annual Communication when said failure occurs.

75.3 Not later than March 1st annually, each lodge in this Jurisdiction shall prepare its history for the preceding year, permanent copies of which shall be on file with the lodge and Grand Lodge; provided, however, that any lodge whose annual meeting falls in the month of February shall have until April 1st of each year to comply with the above requirements.

(See § 36—4)

And subsequent to 1983, any lodge that fails in any year to complete and submit its history to the Grand Lodge by the day due shall be fined ten dollars for each year in arrears, and each year thereafter on the day due shall be fined an additional ten dollars for each year in arrears. [1987 p. 446]

75.4 Immediately after the installation of the officers of a lodge, the Secretary shall return Official Forms 25 (or transmit an electronic Certificate of Election using the current Grand Lodge membership database system), and 25a to the Grand Secretary, so that the records of all officers may be updated, and the lodge's statistical data collated for publication in the Grand Lodge Proceedings.

[amended 2022 p. 211]

75.5 Deleted [2022 p. 211]

Duty of Lodges to their District Deputy

SEC. 76 The District Deputy Grand Master shall be seasonably notified in writing, by the secretary of each lodge in his district, of each and every meeting of that lodge to be held. [1910 p. 47]

It shall be the duty of every Master or presiding officer of a lodge, when notified of the intended official visit of the District Deputy Grand Master, to convene his lodge, receive him as the representative of the Grand Lodge, resign to him the chair, while making his official communication, and submit to his inspection the by-laws, records and mode of working.

Meetings and General Business of Lodges

SEC. 77.1 A stated communication is a regular meeting of a lodge and must be held on a definite day and at a definite time as provided for in its by-laws. A lodge ought to meet once in each calendar or lunar month, but may with propriety stand closed during any three consecutive months once in any fiscal year, provided its by-laws so provide and the lodge so votes.

(See S.R. 3, 7; DIGEST—Communication–*Stated* and *Special*)

77.2 When allowed by its by-laws, a lodge Master may, when weather conditions cause reasonable concerns for the health and welfare of the brethren of his lodge, postpone a stated meeting for up to forty-eight hours with due notice to the membership.

SEC. 78.1 All general business, such as the election and installation of officers, the discussion of questions relating to the general interest of the Fraternity and the local affairs of the lodge, may be transacted in a lodge of Entered Apprentices, Fellow Crafts or Master Masons, except that which may relate specifically to a particular degree, at the discretion of the Worshipful Master. Provided however, that only Master Masons who are members of the lodge may vote or hold office and those below the degree of Master Mason may debate only with the permission of the Worshipful Master. [2003 p. 587]

78.2 The necessary quorum to transact such business shall be not less than five Master Masons who are members of the lodge. [2023 p. 397]

(See §§ 82.1 ¶ 2, 104.2; DIGEST—Communication–*Quorum*)

SEC. 79 No lodge under this Jurisdiction shall hold more than one stated meeting in each month, at which it can receive petitions and ballot for candidates, except by dispensation.

(See § 82.1 ¶ 3; DIGEST—Moon Lodges)

SEC. 80 No lodge shall call off [suspend labor without closing] from one day to another; but when the business cannot conveniently be completed at one session, a lodge may close to open on another day without further notice, and so on from time to time until the business is completed; and the subsequent communications shall be held to be a continuance of the first communication, but no business shall be transacted except such as was pending on the first day.

(See DIGEST—Calling Off)

SEC. 81 A vote passed by a lodge may be reconsidered at the same communication, and not afterwards; but this shall not prevent the rescinding or repealing of a vote when it can legally be done. Nor can a lodge, at a *special meeting*, alter or expunge any part of the proceedings of a stated one.

Dispensations/Constitutional Abatements and Permits

SEC. 82.1 No lodge can suspend the operation of a by-law, nor can the Grand Master suspend a by-law of a lodge. [1918 p. 45]

However, in the absence of a quorum at a stated communication due to civil emergency or disaster, a lodge may request dispensation from the Grand Master to transact the business of said communication on a day and at a time after the day and time named in the by-laws.

(See §§ 14.4, 78.2); S.R. 7)

Provided further that no action shall be had upon a petition for degrees or for an election of an officer or officers of a lodge under a dispensation from the Grand Master until the expiration of three days from the time the notices calling the communication for action have been issued and mailed.

82.2 In cases of extreme necessity, a lodge may request a temporary, abatement of a constitutional requirement, *if* said section shall provide for it.

(See §§ 14.5, 109.1 ¶ 2; DIGEST—Vacancy)

82.3 The Grand Master may also, by dispensation, grant permits for activities that, under code, require his permission.
(See §§ 14.5, 86; S.R. 16, 20, 30; DIGEST—Outdoor/Offsite Degrees)

82.4 All applications for dispensations must be submitted on the approved forms supplied by the Grand Secretary's office.

By-Laws; Adoption and Amendment

SEC. 83 A lodge endeavoring to adopt or revise by-laws shall forward four copies of all such proposals, made and attested under the signature of the secretary and seal of the lodge on Official Form 14, to the Grand Secretary. These shall be reviewed by the Committee on By-laws and forwarded to the Grand Master, who shall approve or reject, or return the same to the lodge for further revision. One copy of the submitted form shall be retained by the Committee on By-laws; one by the Grand Master for his records; and, on approval, one copy shall be placed in the lodge's permanent folder at the Grand Lodge office and one copy returned to the lodge. By-laws or amendments to by-laws are in effect on the date of approval by the Grand Master, and no lodge shall operate under or record the same in its book of by-laws prior to that approval.
(See § 36—14); DIGEST—By-Laws)

Special Concerns of Lodges

SEC. 84 It shall not be permitted to introduce political or other exciting topics, not connected with Masonry, for discussion in any lodge under this Jurisdiction.
(See DIGEST—Recognition–Standards of)

SEC. 85 No lodge shall encourage, promote, or permit the delivery of any Masonic lectures, which have not been sanctioned and authorized by the Grand Lodge. Nor shall any Mason be permitted to deliver such lectures under this Jurisdiction.
(See § 4—*Third*)

SEC. 86 The apron is a part of the Masonic clothing and cannot be worn in public outside of the lodge room; except to participate in memorial or Divine services, Grand Lodge approved processions, ceremonies to recognize Masonic veterans or to present Grand Lodge approved awards, moreover no lodge shall form a public procession —funeral processions and processions for attendance upon divine service excepted— without dispensation from the Grand Master. Nor is it proper for a lodge, as such, to take part in any public demonstration except to perform some Masonic labor sanctioned by the Grand Lodge.
[2017 p. 48]
(See §§ 14.5, 82.3; DIGEST—Clothing, Cornerstone, Public Appearance)

It is proper however that the Grand Master, as a mark of respect for the Chief Magistrate of the Nation or State, permit lodges to appear in public, either upon occasions of public reception of him or of public mourning for his death.

SEC. 87 It shall not be legal for any lodge to interfere with the business or concerns of another lodge, except as required under Section 88.

SEC. 88 Lodges should take cognizance of Masonic offenses committed within their territorial jurisdiction by *any* brother.
(See § 51—2)

SEC. 89 Any officer below the rank of Junior Warden may resign. Whenever a vacancy occurs in any of said offices, it may be filled at the next or any succeeding stated communication of the lodge.
(See DIGEST—Resignation, Vacancy)

SEC. 90 The Master of any lodge under this Jurisdiction who has faithfully discharged his duties and complied with the laws of the Grand Lodge shall, at the end of his first term, be presented with a Past Masters' diploma similar in style and fitness to the one adopted in 1824.
(See DIGEST—Diploma–*Past Masters'*, Past Master)

SEC. 91 Every Master Mason raised by a constituted lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction is entitled to a diploma which shall be prepared and provided by the Grand Secretary's office.
(See DIGEST—Diploma–*Candidates'*)

SEC. 92.1 It is the privilege of every affiliated Mason in good and regular standing to visit any lodge when not engaged in the transaction of private business unless objection is made by a sitting member of the lodge to the admission of such visitor, in which event such visitor shall not be admitted during that communication.

The Master of the lodge may require of any Mason desirous of being examined for the purpose of visiting his lodge, the production of a Grand Lodge certificate or diploma, or a current receipt for annual dues from the lodge in which the visitor has membership in physical or electronic format; and Masters are enjoined not to allow a visitor to attend their lodge without being properly vouched for by some well-known brother present or being found by strict examination to be a Mason in good standing in a regular lodge duly listed in an edition of LIST OF LODGES—*Masonic,* either electronically or printed with a said edition to be current within three years. [2024 p. 628 & 629]
(See DIGEST—Avouchment, Tyler's Book)

92.2 A visiting brother having satisfied the above requirements shall have the right, if he so desires, to inspect the Charter or Charter Certificate of the lodge.

92.3 Every lodge shall keep and preserve a record of visitors.

SEC. 93.1 It is the duty of a lodge of which a brother Master Mason was a member in good standing, or the lodge nearest, to attend and perform the usual Masonic burial service over the deceased if this was his expressed wish or the request of his nearest relatives; *and* if requested a brother below the degree of Master Mason may be interred with the formalities of the Order, at the Master's discretion. [2001 p. 64 – 65]
(See DIGEST—Memorial Service; TEXT BOOK—Chapter IX)

93.2 A nonaffiliated Master Mason is not entitled to Masonic burial, but it may be voluntarily accorded by the lodge.
(See § 120)

SEC. 94 Deleted [2022 p. 212]

SEC. 95 No lodge, or officer or member of a lodge, shall, under any circumstances, give a certificate or recommendation to enable a Mason to go from lodge to lodge as a pauper, or in an itinerant manner to apply to lodges for relief.

Of Petitioners for Degrees

SEC. 96 No lodge, without dispensation from the Grand Master, shall receive a petition from a candidate for the degrees until he has resided in this State one year, excepting:

(See § 82.2)

1. Seafaring men absent only from the State on a voyage to sea.

2. Candidates in the military or naval service who are stationed and have their domicile in this State during the preceding six months. [2002 p. 317]

SEC. 97 No lodge shall receive a petition from a Candidate until he shall have attained the age of eighteen years. [2003 p. 587]

SEC. 98 By the Ancient regulations, the physical deformity of an individual operates as a bar to his admission into the Fraternity, but as this regulation was adopted for the government of the craft at a period when they united the character of operative with that of speculative Masons, this Grand Lodge authorizes such a construction of the regulations as that, when the petitioner is able to understand and exemplify or explain the arts or mysteries of Freemasonry and his deformity does not amount to an inability honestly to acquire the means of subsistence, the admission will not be an infringement upon the ancient landmarks but will be perfectly consistent with the spirit of our institution.

Blindness alone shall not render a candidate ineligible under the provisions of this section provided he is capable of meeting his Masonic obligations and is otherwise a desirable candidate.

(See DIGEST—Applications–Provisos on Petitions, Physical Disability; Appendix D—No. 3 ¶ 4)

Of Rejected Petitioners

SEC. 99 An applicant whose petition for the degrees is rejected shall be notified by the secretary of the lodge and all fees he has paid shall be returned to him. The notice shall specify the date of rejection, the constitutional period which must elapse before he may present a petition again to the lodge and also the period which must elapse before he may present a petition to any other lodge without consent of the lodge which has rejected his petition.

(See DIGEST—Rejection)

SEC. 100.1 An objection by any member before the initiation is equivalent to rejection by ballot, and must be so recorded. Such objection may be made to the lodge or privately to the Master, and the reasons therefore cannot be required.

(See § 114.2; DIGEST—Objection)

100.2 If any Mason shall declare the name of the objector, or assist in the initiation of any one against whom he has knowledge or information that objection has been made after the acceptance, he shall be liable to be expelled from the Institution.

(See § 46)

SEC. 101.1 No petition for the degrees shall be received by any lodge from any candidate who has been rejected in that lodge within less than six months after the rejection.

101.2 A petitioner for the degrees whose application has been rejected by a lodge shall not be initiated in any lodge under this Jurisdiction other than the one which rejected him, within five years from the date of such rejection, unless the lodge having jurisdiction recommend him to another lodge by a unanimous secret ballot.

101.3 A Mason knowingly assisting or recommending for initiation, to any lodge whatever, any person rejected aforesaid, shall, if a member of a lodge under this Jurisdiction, be suspended or expelled as may be determined after charges and due trial.

(See § 46)

Of Irregularly Made Masons

SEC. 102 An applicant whose petition for the degrees has been rejected in any lodge, who shall within five years after such rejection, be initiated in any lodge under this Jurisdiction, other than the one to which he first applied, without consent of said lodge, shall be declared an irregularly made Mason and all Masonic intercourse with him is forbidden.

(See DIGEST—Irregular Mason)

SEC. 103 Whenever it shall appear to the satisfaction of the Grand Master that any irregularly made Mason is irregular for a reason not attributable to his own fault, the Grand Master in his discretion may cause such irregular Mason to be healed by appearing before the Master of a lodge at a stated communication and be re-obligated in all the degrees, *and* the secretary of the lodge shall issue under seal a certificate of re-obligation of the candidate. The status of a Mason so healed shall remain that of a "nonaffiliated Mason" until such time as he may be regularly admitted a member of a lodge under this Jurisdiction.

(See § 120)

A Mason healed in the foregoing manner may petition for membership in the same manner as with an ordinary petition for affiliation —provided he is not ineligible under any other section of this Constitution or the Common Law of Masonry— and the certificate of re-obligation shall be presented with his application in lieu of a demit or certificate of good standing.

(See § 105.4)

Applications and Balloting

General Provisions

SEC. 104.1 The general rule which governs the Order in the admission of members and candidates is that such admission is to be sanctioned by entire unanimity; and so sacred and fundamental does the Grand Lodge conceive this

rule to be, that no petitioner shall be initiated or affiliated in any lodge under this Jurisdiction without a clear and unanimous ballot in his favor.

104.2 All applications for admission must be made and the ballot thereon taken at stated communications, except by dispensation. No ballot shall be taken unless a legal quorum is present, and every member present shall ballot on the application unless excused by the lodge.

(See § 82.1 ¶ 3; S.R. 11; DIGEST—Applications, Ballot)

104.3 An application should be read in its entirety at the time it is first presented to the lodge. When the application is then presented for balloting the reading of the formal language may be eliminated and the words "an application in the usual form" substituted, but each question and the answer thereto should be read at the time of balloting, together with any additional remarks contained within the application form.

For Degrees and Original Membership

SEC. 105.1 There shall be but one ballot for all the degrees, which must be free and secret; and in balloting for the degrees for membership, if more than one negative vote appear, the balloting shall cease and the candidate be declared rejected. However, if on the first ballot one negative only appears a second balloting shall immediately take place, and if a negative shall appear, the candidate shall be declared rejected.

(See S.R. 11, 12; DIGEST—Ballot)

In balloting upon application for degrees or membership, the ballot shall be taken upon each applicant separately.

No petitioner for the degrees shall be balloted for, in any case, until his application has been referred to a committee and strict inquiry made into his moral character and fitness to be made a Mason.

(See DIGEST—Applications–*Referring Petitions*)

And no petitioner for the degrees shall be balloted for in less than four weeks from the presentation of his application without first obtaining a dispensation therefore.

(See § 82.1 ¶ 3)

105.2 When an application for degrees and membership is presented to a prospective member he will receive a copy of the brochure MAINE FREEMASONRY attached to the application. [1996 p. 1554]

Each such application shall be made on Official Form No. 13, over the signature of the applicant, stating his age, residence, that he has resided in the State one year next preceding the date of his application (except as otherwise provided in Section 96), and whether he has made application and been rejected by any other lodge. This application, together with the included questionnaire, shall be filed in the archives of the lodge for permanent preservation.

(See § 97; S.R. 5)

For Wavier of Jurisdiction

105.3 A candidate receiving part of the degrees in one lodge can make application only by the consent of that lodge to another lodge for the remainder, even if he has removed into the jurisdiction of the second lodge after receiving one or two degrees in the first lodge. [1864 p. 16]

(See § 19.10; DIGEST—Waiver)

Consent to waive jurisdiction and a recommendation to another lodge can be granted only by unanimous vote, taken by secret ballot at a stated meeting, upon an application presented on Official Form No. 31 at the preceding stated meeting. [1876 p. 15]

Moreover, a person residing in this Jurisdiction who has received part of the degrees in a lodge which has ceased to exist, can apply for the remainder in any lodge under this Jurisdiction, with a certificate of the facts from the Grand Secretary of the Jurisdiction in which the extinct lodge was located.
(See § 19.10) [1874 p. 269]

For Affiliation

105.4 A Master Mason holding a demit from any regular lodge, or obtaining a certificate of good standing from the same, may apply for membership to any lodge within this Jurisdiction. All such applications for affiliation shall be made on Official Form No. 9, and must be made in the same manner and take the same course as applications for degrees.
(See § 103; DIGEST—Affiliation)

Any subordinate lodge under this Jurisdiction, on submitting proper by-law changes to the Grand Lodge, and on approval by the Grand Master, may charge a fee for membership through affiliation. [2012 p. 882]
(See § 83)

A Mason who has demitted from a lodge can regain membership therein only in the same manner in which he may become a member of any other lodge.

Brethren raised in a lodge under dispensation, the charter of which is afterward refused, are nonaffiliated Masons in good standing and can apply to any lodge for membership by affiliation. A certificate of good standing from the Grand Secretary will supply the want of a demit. [1898 p. 25]
(See § 120)

For Reinstatement

105.5 A brother suspended from membership for nonpayment of dues will be restored by the payment or remission of the amount due at the time of his suspension at any time within three years thereafter but after that time he can be reinstated only upon his application made on Official Form No. 10, after payment or remission of the amount in arrears, *which shall take the same course as an application for initiation,* and if rejected said applicant shall not again petition until six months after the rejection.
(See § 59.1; DIGEST—Reinstatement)

For Restoration after Suspension or Expulsion

105.6 A petition for restoration of a Mason expelled or suspended by the Grand Lodge of Maine shall be handled as per Section 57.
(See §§ 56.1 – 57; DIGEST—Restoration)

Rules on Candidates

Constraints on the Conferral of Degrees

(See DIGEST—Advancement, Candidates, Outdoor/Offsite Degrees)

SEC. 106 No lodge, in the absence of the Master and Wardens, shall initiate, craft, or raise a candidate, unless a Past Master is present to preside.

SEC. 107 A candidate for the degrees, whose petition has been accepted, who does not present himself for initiation within one year from such acceptance, shall forfeit all right by reason of such acceptance, and shall not be initiated except on a new petition; but any time, if more than three months, such person is temporarily absent from the State shall be deducted.

SEC. 108 No lodge shall permit more than one candidate to be present at a time in the first section of the first, or the second section of the third degree. In addition, no lodge shall confer more than five degrees at the same communication of the lodge, or hold more than one communication upon the same day for the conferring of degrees.

SEC. 109.1 No candidate shall receive the Entered Apprentice degree unless at least fourteen days have elapsed since he was accepted; no candidate shall receive the Fellow Craft degree unless at least fourteen days have elapsed since his receiving the Entered Apprentice degree; nor shall any Fellow Craft be permitted to receive the Master Mason degree until after fourteen days shall have elapsed from the date of his having received the Fellow Craft degree.

Provided that the Grand Master, on being satisfied of the need therefore by conditions of extreme necessity or extraordinary emergency, may issue a dispensation to permit degrees to be conferred in less than the above required time, but never to permit a candidate to be raised to the degree of a Master Mason on the same day on which he has been passed as a Fellow Craft.

(See § 82.2, 114.1)

109.2 A candidate cannot be compelled to seek advancement, nor are there any maximum time limits for taking the second or third degrees.

SEC. 110 No Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft shall be passed or raised in any lodge, without the recommendation of the lodge in which he was first admitted.

SEC. 111 One lodge cannot confer a degree at the request of another lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, unless the requesting lodge waives jurisdiction and the other lodge accepts the candidate in the usual manner and for its usual fee.

SEC. 111.2 This provision may be waived, by dispensation from the Grand Master in cases of special need. When the dispensation is granted, the Master and at least two other officers of the requesting lodge must be present and participate in the degree [2021 p.18]

SEC. 112 If any person, who wishes for initiation in any lodge, resides without the State, he shall first obtain the consent of the lodge within whose jurisdiction he resides, by unanimous vote at a stated communication, and the permission in writing of the Grand Master within whose Jurisdiction he resides, which consent and permission shall be annexed to his application.

SEC. 113 A lodge in this Jurisdiction shall not be permitted to have degrees conferred upon an elected candidate by a lodge in any Grand Jurisdiction with which this Grand Lodge is in fraternal relations, unless at least one degree shall have been conferred by said lodge and the fees for all the degrees paid in full.

Proficiency Requirements

SEC. 114.1 No candidate should be permitted to advance to the degree of Fellow Craft or Master Mason without a sufficient knowledge of the preceding degree to prove himself as a Mason of such degree in the usual manner, unless in a case of absolute emergency.

(See § 109.1 ¶ 2)

114.2 It is the right and duty of the Master to determine when a candidate shall be advanced, except when objection has been made. If any such objection is made to the advancement of any candidate after initiation, it must be made known to the lodge and its sufficiency determined by a two thirds vote. [1915 p. 192]

114.3 Every Master Mason raised shall within ninety days after receiving the Master Mason degree (unless time is granted by the Worshipful Master) pass an examination to the satisfaction of the Worshipful Master on the lecture of the first section of that degree, and so much of the second section as relates to the signs, grips, and words, and it shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master, to inform each brother of this requirement and advise him as to how instruction may be obtained, unless for good and sufficient reason a brother may be excused from this requirement by the Worship Master or the Grand Master. [1999 pp. 634 – 635]

(See DIGEST—Proficiency)

Minimum Fee for Degrees

SEC. 115 The fee demanded by a lodge for conferring the first three degrees in Masonry, shall not be less than thirty dollars, including the fee to the Grand Lodge; and no lodge under this Jurisdiction shall take notes of hand for fees, or grant any time of credit therefore, or permit the fees or any part thereof to be remitted directly or indirectly.

(See §§ 70, 74.4; DIGEST—Fees–*Candidate Fees*)

On Membership

The Members of a Lodge

SEC. 116 Affiliation [membership in a lodge] is a Masonic duty. The members of a lodge, so long as they have signed the by-laws thereof and retain their membership therein, are as follows:

1. Those who were members of the lodge at the time its dispensation warrant, or charter was issued.

2. Those later admitted by affiliation.

3. Those who may acquire membership therein by a consolidation with another lodge.

(See § 130)

4. Those duly elected in and receiving the third degree in that lodge or in some other lodge as a courtesy for the lodge electing them, except that:

(a) This shall not be construed to prohibit any lodge in this Jurisdiction from conferring any degree upon a candidate lawfully elected thereto by a lodge in any other Jurisdiction with which this Grand Lodge holds fraternal relations, on the request under seal from the electing lodge, the identity and standing of the candidate being fully established, in which case the membership

of the brother shall remain in the electing lodge and the fees shall belong thereto.

(b) A candidate lawfully elected to receive the degrees in a lodge under this Jurisdiction, who shall by request of the electing lodge receive the degree of Master Mason in a lodge in a Grand Jurisdiction in fraternal relations with the electing lodge, shall become a member of the electing lodge on receipt of his signature to be attached to the lodge by-laws.

(See DIGEST—Membership)

SEC. 117 The removal of a Brother into another Jurisdiction does not, of itself, authorize his name to be stricken from the roll of the lodge of which he is a member.

Multiple Memberships

SEC. 118.1 A brother in this Grand Jurisdiction may hold active memberships in more than one lodge. Such a 'multiple membership' can be considered to be one of two types; dual or plural.

(Note: Some Jurisdictions prohibit one or both types of multiple memberships, as per the 'Requirements of Grand Lodges' in the LIST OF LODGES MASONIC. See DIGEST—Memberships, Multiple, Tyler's Book)

Dual Membership

A member of this Jurisdiction residing in another Grand Jurisdiction which allows dual membership, who affiliates with one or more lodges under that Jurisdiction —while retaining his membership in this Jurisdiction— becomes a *dual member*; a member of another Grand Jurisdiction that allows dual membership who affiliate with one or more lodges under this Grand Jurisdiction —and retains his membership in such other Grand Jurisdiction— becomes a dual member.

Plural Membership

A member in good standing of a lodge in this Jurisdiction may retain such membership and affiliate with one or more other lodges in this Jurisdiction, or join in a petition for a dispensation for a new lodge and present a paid up dues receipt in lieu of a Demit or Request for Demit, and become a plural member.

(See §§ 59.2 – 59.3)

118.2 A plural member may hold office in each lodge where he is a regular member, according to its by-laws and those limitations imposed by this Constitution. [1996, p. 1554]

(See §§ 2.2—2, 44—9, 72)

Of Demits and Demission from Membership

SEC. 119 A Brother Master Mason that holds membership in a regular lodge may honorably terminate that membership as follows:

(See § 122 ¶ 3; DIGEST—Demission, Demit)

1. Upon application at any stated communication the lodge may, by simple majority, vote a demit at once; either in the form of an honorable discharge from membership, or with a recommendation as it may see fit.

2. Or a member may give notice at a stated communication that at the next he shall apply for a demit, and at such next stated communication, if no charges have been filed and his dues are paid to that time, it is the Secretary's

duty to give him a certificate of honorable discharge from membership. The lodge may also vote him such recommendation as it sees fit. The Secretary shall note on his record the giving of the notice and the issuing of the demit.

Unless a multiple member, with the issuing of Official Form No. 17 [Demit] the Brother's status becomes that of a nonaffiliated Mason.

Of Nonaffiliated Masons

SEC. 120 A Master Mason who has voluntarily remained for more than one year without being affiliated with some regular lodge shall not of right be entitled to any of the benefits or privileges of Masonry, and shall be under the same disabilities as if under suspension for nonpayment of dues.

(See §§ 93.2, 103, 105.4 ¶ 4, 116 ¶ 1; DIGEST—Nonaffiliate)

Chartering, Consolidation and Dissolution of Lodges
Lodges Under Dispensation

SEC. 121 A dispensation for holding a new lodge may be issued by the Grand Master, or the Grand Lodge, on the petition of not less than seven Master Masons of known skill and good standing. The fee for such dispensation shall be twenty-five dollars, to be paid to the Grand Treasurer.

Every dispensation shall be returned to the Grand Lodge at the next Annual Communication, together with a written petition for a charter, an attested transcript of all the proceedings and the by-laws of the lodge and dues. If these be approved by the Grand Lodge, a Charter of Constitution may be issued to the petitioners, bearing even date with the dispensation, for which they shall pay to the Grand Treasurer the further sum of thirty dollars.

If it is desired to work longer under a dispensation without obtaining a charter, the petition should be varied accordingly.

(See § 36—5; DIGEST—Charter)

SEC. 122 Lodges under dispensations have all the rights and powers of chartered lodges, except the election and installation of officers and the rights growing out of election and installation. [2011 p. 608]

The Master and Wardens shall be named by the Grand Master in the dispensation, and may act as delegates to the Grand Lodge but shall have no vote therein. All other officers shall be appointed by the Master of the lodge.

The members of a lodge under dispensation have the same rights and privileges as members of a chartered lodge except the right to demit; they may, however, withdraw their membership at any time before the lodge is constituted —even though they are named in the charter— or thereafter by declining to sign the by-laws.

SEC. 123 A lodge under dispensation should collect dues from its members, and assessment over and above dues may be made to defray the ordinary expenses of the lodge or to pay debts incurred to meet such expense.

Lodges under dispensations also have the right, and power of, to set and collect an affiliation fee for those who wish to hold membership therein. In no event shall said fee be more than three times the amount of the sum of the fees established for a new candidate. [2011 p. 609]

Chartering and Organization of New Lodges

SEC. 124.1 Every newly chartered lodge may work under dispensation until constituted under the charter, unless the Grand Lodge or Grand Master otherwise order.

124.2 Every new lodge shall be solemnly constituted by the Grand Master and his officers, or by some competent brother especially appointed by him for the purpose; and no new lodge is recognized, or entitled to representation in this Grand Lodge, unless it be regularly constituted, solemnly dedicated and registered, and its officers installed.

124.3 Every chartered lodge shall have a seal having some Masonic device and showing the name and number of the lodge and the place where held; and all official documents or papers emanating from such lodge, but not its ordinary correspondence, shall bear the imprint of such seal.

(See §§ 71.1 ¶ 3, 131 – 132)

Of Charters and Charter Certificates

SEC. 125 Every warranted lodge is a constituent part of the Grand Lodge, in which body all the power of the Fraternity resides; and no other authority except that possessed by the Grand Lodge can annul, abrogate or destroy the power of a warrant. If, therefore, the majority of a lodge should determine to leave the institution of that lodge, the constitution or power of assembling remains with the rest of the members who adhere to their allegiance. If the number remaining, however, be reduced to less than seven, the charter shall be returned agreeably to the regulation in such cases provided.

(See § 131)

SEC. 126 No petition for the removal of a lodge from the place in which it is located shall be sustained in Grand Lodge, unless said petition is sanctioned by the District Deputy Grand Master of the District where said lodge is situated and has the approbation of the lodge nearest the place where said lodge is intended to be held, unless such approbation be unreasonably withheld. Nor shall any lodge hold meetings, unless authorized by the Grand Master, in any town other than the one designated in its charter, under the penalty of a forfeiture thereof; nor move its hall more than one-half a mile from where it is located, or where it may be located when the lodge is constituted, without the consent of the Grand Lodge.

(See § 132.2)

SEC. 127 The Master of a lodge has the special charge of its charter, and it is his duty to see that it is carefully preserved. The charter or charter certificate must be present when the lodge is opened.

SEC. 128 Charter certificates may be issued, signed by the Grand Master and attested by the Grand Secretary under the Seal of the Grand Lodge, subject to the following regulations:

I. The charter shall be kept or deposited in such a manner that the Master, upon reasonable notice, can have access thereto and take the same into his possession at his discretion.

II. It shall be the duty of the Master to have the charter present in the lodge at the time of the installation of the Master, into whose custody the same shall be delivered, to be kept or deposited by him as herein before provided.

III. Upon the visitation of the lodge by the Grand Master or the District Deputy Grand Master, or any special representative of the Grand Lodge or Grand Master, the charter shall be produced, provided that notice to that effect shall have been seasonably given.

IV. The life of the certificate shall depend upon and be coexistent with the life of the charter in all respects, the authority of the certificate proceeding from the charter, for which it is merely a physical substitute and evidence that the lodge has, and works under, a regular charter.

SEC. 129 Whenever any lodge under this Jurisdiction shall have lost its charter by casualty or otherwise, it shall be the duty of said lodge to apply for a new charter, which application shall be signed by at least seven Master Masons who are members of said lodge, and sanctioned by the District Deputy Grand Master of the District where said lodge is situated; and if, in the opinion of the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master, a new charter should be granted, the same may be issued by the Grand Master, the lodge applying therefore paying the cost for engrossing the same, which shall be the only fee demanded for said charter.

Consolidation of Lodges

SEC. 130 Any two or more lodges whose territorial jurisdictions are contiguous, may consolidate into one lodge in the manner following:

I. When a proposition to consolidate a lodge with another is made therein, the Worshipful Master shall cause the matter to be laid over to a future meeting, and special notice given to the members of the lodge that the matter will come before the lodge at that meeting for action.

II. If the lodge votes to consolidate, with not exceeding six votes in the negative, the measure shall be deemed to be carried.

III. Concurrent action must be taken in the other lodge, or lodges, at a meeting notified for the purpose, in the same manner and adopted by the same vote.

IV. If both lodges vote to consolidate, the proceedings shall be certified by each lodge to the Grand Master for examination.

V. If he finds the proceedings of the lodges in accordance with these provisions, the lodges may be consolidated under the name, which may be selected.

VI. The senior charter shall be endorsed under the attestation of the Grand Master and Grand Secretary, under the Seal of the Grand Lodge, as the warrant of the consolidated lodge; which shall take rank as of the date of the charter.

VII. The junior charter or charters shall be endorsed in like that they are no longer in force and delivered to the consolidation lodge, if desired, to be preserved in its archives.

VIII. The Grand Master, or such brother as he may specially deputize, shall cause the members of said lodges to be assembled, after due notice of at least 30 days to the Constituent members of each of the lodges being consolidated,

sent by each of those lodges secretary, in the usual manner of giving notice. This notice shall state the purpose of the meeting and further state that the Grand Master or his designee shall conduct the election of new officers and immediately thereafter install those newly elected Officers. Immediately thereafter the Grand Master, or his designee, shall proceed to organize the new lodge by delivering the charter endorsed as above provided. He shall make due return of his proceedings to the Grand Secretary, to be entered upon the records of the Grand Lodge and reported at its next Annual Communication.

IX. The officers of each of these old lodges shall at once deliver and pay over to the corresponding officers of the consolidated lodge all the property, books and monies of each of said lodges, to be the property of the new lodge.

Surrender, Forfeiture and Revocation of Charters

SEC. 131 The Grand Lodge is the legal successor of every demised lodge, and the power to act in its stead is vested only in the Grand Lodge, or in the Grand Master during the recess.

SEC. 132.1 Every charter surrendered to the Grand Lodge whether or not with the intention of being resumed at a future period, shall be accompanied by the by-laws, records, seal, regalia, funds and other property of the lodge of every description; and all the property of a lodge, surrendering its charter with the intention of resuming it, shall be held by the Grand Lodge in trust until such time as the charter shall be restored or the intention of reclaiming it abandoned. The interest arising from said funds and other property shall be made a part of the Charity Fund of the Grand Lodge; and in case of forfeiture the principal shall be disposed of as the Grand Lodge shall direct. No charter thus deposited shall be restored, unless upon the petition of seven Master Masons, of whom four at least of the petitioners for its restoration were members of the lodge at the time of its surrender. In addition, it shall be the duty of the petitioners to notify the District Deputy Grand Master of the District, and the lodge nearest their residence, of their intention to petition for the restoration.

(See § 60 ¶ 4)

132.2 Every charter, when declared forfeited, shall be returned to the Grand Lodge, with the records, by-laws, seal, regalia, funds and other property of the lodge of every description; and all members of a lodge who shall refuse to make such surrender, or who shall vote to divide the funds among themselves or to appropriate them in any other way than is here designated, shall be deemed guilty of a violation of the rules and regulations of Masonry.

(See §§ 75.1b, 126)

SEC. 133 If the Master and Wardens of any lodge be summoned to attend, or to produce the charter, books, papers or accounts of their lodge to the Grand Master, or the District Deputy Grand Master within whose jurisdiction it is located, or to any committee authorized by the Grand Lodge, and shall refuse to comply or to give satisfactory reasons for noncompliance, they may be suspended, and the proceedings shall be notified to the Grand Lodge, when, in case of contumacy, expulsion or revocation of charter shall be the penalty.

(See §§ 4—*Second*, 14.3, 52)

SEC. 134 If at any time it shall be found necessary to suspend or cancel the warrant or charter of any lodge under this Jurisdiction for irregular or unmasonic conduct, the members of said lodge implicated in such irregular or unmasonic conduct, at the time of its having incurred such penalty, shall be disqualified to join or visit any other lodge, without special permission from the Grand Lodge obtained on written petition.

SEC. 135 Any Mason assisting at the work of a lodge, knowing its warrant or charter to have been suspended or cancelled, shall be liable to expulsion from the rights of Masonry.(See § 46)

Sec. 136 ***Lewis*** Jewel The Lewis Jewel may be worn by a Mason, if, at the time of his Initiation his father was a Mason in good standing. The initiate of a deceased father in good standing at the time of his death would also qualify. An in-law, step father/son and Masons legally adopted by their fathers who are Masons would also qualify. It must be purchased from a Grand Lodge of Maine approved vendor at the member's own cost. The Lewis Jewel is suspended from two chains, with two bars. The upper bar contains the name of the father and date of initiation. The lower bar contains the name of the son and date of his initiation. A presentation ritual, additional family members, an approved vendor list and more information can be found on the Grand Lodge website or by contacting the Grand Lodge office.

[2023 pp. 398]

Sec. 137 This Constitution shall not be altered or amended, unless such alteration or amendment be first proposed in writing at a regular communication of the Grand Lodge, when the Grand Lodge shall proceed to consider the question *whether the proposition shall be entertained,* and if decided in the affirmative, the proposed alteration or amendment shall be referred to a committee, entered upon the records, published with the other Proceedings of the Grand Lodge, and sent to the several subordinate lodges for their consideration; and it shall be deemed in order to take up the subject and act upon it definitely at the next Annual Communication, and not sooner. But no alteration or amendment shall be adopted, unless a majority of the members present concurs therein.

(See § 36—6)

[2023 changed to SEC 137 from 136]

—STANDING REGULATIONS—

For guidance on how Standing Regulations are proposed, adopted or altered, see the page on Supplemental Information.

1. *Resolved:* That lodges be allowed to occupy halls with other associations, provided the District Deputy of the district first personally inspect, and in writing approve, the occupation. But this inspection shall not be necessary in cases where other societies seek to have joint occupation of previously dedicated Masonic halls. [1882 pp. 32, 212]

Added: A hall can be built for joint occupancy with another association, provided the plans of such building shall be submitted to the Grand Master, and after his approval, permission may be given to build a building in common. [1891 p. 253]

Voted: That application to a lodge for joint occupation of its hall by another society shall be granted only by a two thirds vote of the lodge, the application having been laid over from one stated meeting to another. *Provided,* however, that in special cases the Grand Master may give permission to act upon such application at any stated or special meeting, if he shall find sufficient cause therefore. [1882 pp. 32, 212]

2. *Resolved:* That, while the Grand Lodge does not desire to interfere with the right of the Fraternity as individuals to attend or promote balls and dancing, the lodges are forbidden to connect Masonic balls, so called, with a lodge, or use the name of a lodge in reference to them, or to advertise them or sell tickets for admission thereto. [1885 p. 225; 1929 p. 40]

3. *Resolved:* That when, under the by-laws of any lodge, its annual meeting falls in a month in which there are two stated meetings, the first shall be deemed the annual meeting; and, when it falls in a month wherein there is no stated meeting, the stated meeting next before such month shall be deemed the annual meeting of such lodge. [1888 p. 47]

4. *Resolved:* That smoking, or the appearance of smoking, in the lodge hall, or in the preparation room when in use for the preparation of candidates, in this Grand Jurisdiction, is hereby forbidden. Violation of this regulation shall be considered a Masonic misdemeanor. [1919 p. 260]

5. *Resolved:* That no 'official' Grand Lodge form —any form used to comply with a constitutional requirement— be added or amended until it has be reviewed and approved by the Committee on Jurisprudence. This requirement shall extend to electronically fillable official forms. [1996, p. 1554; amended 2015]

6. *Resolved:* No building shall be purchased, erected or extensively reconstructed at the expense, in whole or in part, of any lodge in this Jurisdiction until the plans of the same, and the terms and conditions of its construction or acquisition, shall have been approved by the Grand Master. [1922 p. 239]

7. *Resolved:* The hour for holding the stated meetings of lodges shall be 7:30 P.M., unless some other hour is definitely fixed by the by-laws of the lodge. [1961 p. 92]

(See Const. §§ 14.4, 82.1; DIGEST—By-Laws)

8. *Resolved:* That the Brethren of this Jurisdiction may be recognized for their years of service to Masonry, the following awards are herein codified:

1. Maine Masonic Service Buttons

A series of embossed lapel buttons shall be made available, for purchase, from the Grand Lodge business office. Said buttons shall be offered in five year increments from five to forty-five years. These wholly discretionary awards may be presented by a lodge subject to the following provisions:

(a) The recipient must be a member of this Jurisdiction.

(b) Although his years of service need not be consecutive, the recipient must have been a Master Mason in good standing for the full term indicated on the button, and any and all years during which he was under suspension or demitted shall not be counted in arriving at the requisite number of years.

(c) Not less than three years of the recipient's service shall have been as a member of a lodge in this Jurisdiction, and prior to presentation evidence of membership in other Jurisdictions must be obtained through the Grand Secretary's office to establish the recipient's membership during the balance of the full term.

2. Grand Lodge of Maine Veterans' Medal and 50-Year Button

This Medal and lapel button shall be presented to each member in this Jurisdiction who has been a Master Mason in good standing for fifty years, subject to the same provisions as above except that not less than five years of that period shall have been as a member of a lodge in this Jurisdiction. As a gift from the Grand Lodge, this Medal should be presented, when possible, by a Permanent Member thereof or a serving District Deputy Grand Master.

Moreover a bronze star, of the pin or lapel button type, may thereafter be attached to the ribbon of the Medal for each additional five years of active membership. [1955 p. 518; 1967 p. 463; 1970 pp. 340, 342; 2013 p. 59]

9. *Resolved:* That the Grand Master may recognize the efforts of very deserving individuals, the following awards are herein codified:

1. Simon Greenleaf Medal—Meritorious Service

Given for Unusual Contribution to Masonry, this Medal may be awarded by the Grand Master, in his discretion, to Freemasons who have contributed their time, thought and services to Masonry beyond the usual line of duty, which contributions have rendered them worthy to receive this award.

Not more than two such Medals may be awarded annually. [2000 p. 985]

2. Josiah Hayden Drummond Medal—Distinguished Service

Given for Distinguished Service, this Medal may be awarded by the Grand Master, in his discretion, to Freemasons whose outstanding proficiency in the knowledge of Freemasonry, and distinguished service in the successful application of that knowledge for the advancement of the welfare of the Craft, shall have rendered them worthy of such recognition and honor.

Awarding of this Medal is subject to the following provisions:

(a) That not more than two such Medals may be awarded during any Masonic year.

(b) That not more than one such medal may be awarded to a Mason outside of the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge during any Masonic year.

(c) That in addition to the Medals provided for above, the incoming Grand Master may, following his installation and at his discretion, award a medal to the Grand Master whom he succeeds. [1995 p. 1288]

3. Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain Medal

Given at the Grand Master's discretion to a Maine citizen, Mason or non-Mason, who best exemplifies the characteristics of leadership, citizenship, honor and integrity, as repeatedly demonstrated by that great Maine man and Mason, Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain. This Medal is to be awarded, not on an annual basis, but whenever the appropriate recipient is identified, and never more frequently than one per Masonic year. [1995 pp. 1288 – 1289]

4. Grand Master's Certificate of Merit

There are many unsung workers in the vineyards of Masonry whose efforts help the Fraternity in many ways and, inasmuch as these efforts should be recognized, the Grand Master in his discretion may each year at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge award a "Grand Master's Certificate of Merit" to up to ten workers whom he deems worthy of such recognition.

[1979 pp. 377 – 378]

10. *Resolved:* That…

1. This Grand Lodge recognizes no degrees of Masonry except those conferred under the regulations of the regular Grand Lodges of the several States and Territories of the United States of America and the governments throughout the world.

(See Const. § 36—8; DIGEST—Blue Lodge, Recognition)

2. This Grand Lodge admits the following named organizations to be regular and duly constituted Masonic bodies functioning within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, so long as good standing in a Masonic lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of Maine is a requirement for membership in said body; namely: The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Maine, the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Maine, and the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Maine and the several bodies under their jurisdiction, also the several bodies of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite in Maine chartered by the Supreme Council for the Northern Jurisdiction of the United States of America, and the several bodies under the jurisdiction of the Imperial Council of the Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine of North America. [1984 p. 644]

(See DIGEST—Halls, Side Degrees)

11. *Resolved:* That it shall be the duty of the Master and Wardens of every lodge to see that a ballot box, when presented for use, shall contain as many white balls as there are members of the lodge present, and in addition at least six black cubes.

12. *Resolved:* That the casting of a black ball factiously and without just cause is a Masonic offense for which a member is subject to Masonic punishment.

13. *Resolved:* That any Mason who shall confer, communicate, sell, or shall assist in or be accessory to the conferring, communicating, selling, or shall

solicit any person to receive or apply for any degree called, claimed or represented to be Masonic, not recognized by this Grand Lodge as such, may be expelled from all the rights and privileges of Masonry.

14. *Resolved:* That all written or printed notices of lodge communications or other matters of lodge business containing any Masonic information beyond the time and place of stated or special communications shall be mailed in sealed envelopes. Such sealed notice may include the names, address, age, and occupation of a candidate for any of the Degrees, together with the names of the brethren who have recommended him, after his application has been balloted upon and he accepted for the Degrees. [1970 p. 342].

Email or other electronic messaging cannot to be considered 'sealed'. (See DIGEST—Notification)

1. Allowable Topics for Electronic Correspondences

All written or printed notices of lodge communications or other matters of lodge business containing the following information shall only be delivered in sealed envelopes, and shall not be transmitted via electronic correspondences:

(a) Notices of Suspension for non-payment of dues.
(b) Names or identifying information regarding non-Masonic charges made or to be made against a Mason.
(c) Names or identifying information regarding candidates failing to pass a clear ballot.

Sensitive information pertaining to the application of a candidate for the degrees of Masonry should only be provided through electronic correspondences by the candidate.

Electronic correspondences cannot be considered sealed for distributing information on topics within Standing Regulation 14.1 unless approved by the Grand Master or Grand Secretary.

2. Acceptable Origin of E-Mail Addresses

If a lodge chooses to use electronic correspondences, formal correspondences from the lodge shall be addressed to known and valid E-mail addresses in the Grand Lodge membership database.

3. Membership Dues Notices

Electronic messaging may be used to transmit membership dues notices except for such notices required in Sec. 58 and Sec. 59 of the Grand Lodge Constitution.

4. Meeting Minutes

Electronic messaging may be used to transmit meeting minutes, excepting the topics noted within Standing Regulation 14.1.

5. By-Laws

A lodge may use electronic correspondences to transmit proposed and accepted By-Laws changes to Masons with known and valid E-mail addresses recorded in the Grand Lodge membership database. A lodge shall use postal mail to transmit proposed and accepted By-Laws changes to Masons without known or valid E-mail addresses. [2023 p. 34]

15. *Resolved:* That the Grand Master may appoint and commission Representatives of this Grand Lodge near the other Grand Jurisdictions with

which this Grand Lodge is in fraternal relations and may receive in Grand Lodge brethren commissioned to represent such Grand Jurisdictions near this Grand Lodge.

(See Const. § 36—1)

16. *Resolved:* That the lodges in this Jurisdiction be forbidden to hold joint installations of their elective and appointed officers except by consent or permission of the Grand Master, to be granted only subject to all safeguards applicable to a public installation in the offices of a single lodge; namely, that each lodge participating in a joint installation shall be convened in session in its own rooms, that opportunity be given for any member to object to the installation of any particular officer, that the members of each of the lodges participating in such joint installation proceed in order, either on foot or in conveyance, to the place of installation, and that following the ceremony each such lodge shall reconvene in its own lodge rooms for a proper closing.

(See Const. § 82.3; DIGEST—Installation)

17. *Resolved:* That the American Flag shall be displayed in the East at the right of the Master in all lodge communications and shall be carried in all processions, except funerals.

18. *Resolved:* That…

1. Any chartered lodge under this Jurisdiction may vote to become a sponsoring body for a Chapter of the International Order of DeMolay, provided such proposal has been before the lodge one month and notice of the intended vote is included in the summons for the meeting at which said vote is to be taken.

2. Any chartered lodge under this Jurisdiction may vote to use its Charity Funds to contribute to the support of the DeMolay and Pine Tree Youth Foundation, provided the lodge's by-laws so permit and that such proposal has been before the lodge one month and notice of the intended vote is included in the summons for the meeting at which said vote is to be taken. [1970 p. 318]

3. Any chartered lodge under this Jurisdiction may vote to use its general funds to contribute to the support of the International Order of Rainbow for Girls, provided the lodge's by-laws so permit and that such proposal has been before the lodge one month and notice of the intended vote is included in the summons for the meeting at which said vote is to be taken. [1992 p. 586]

(See Const. § 62—*Second*; DIGEST—DeMolay)

19. Replaced. Refer to Section 74.5a [2019 p. 24]

20. *Resolved:* A lodge in this Jurisdiction may with dispensation from the Grand Master, be permitted to make a fraternal visit to a sister lodge within this Jurisdiction for the purpose of conferring a degree on its own candidate, provided, however, the candidate shall have received the Entered Apprentice Degree and shall consent thereto, and the lodge shall so vote. [1967 p. 530]

(See Const. § 82.3)

21. *Resolved:* That any Brother who is a veteran of any war in which the United States has been engaged, or who is on active duty in the United States military, or who has received the Grand Lodge of Maine 50-year Masonic

Veteran's Medal, and whose dues have been remitted or paid by his lodge because of a demonstrated financial need, shall have his case referred to the Committee on Distribution of the Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation for payment of any per capita tax and/or assessment. [1969 p. 131; 2006 p. 380]

22. *Resolved:* That this Grand Lodge hereby create THE GRAND LODGE ADVISORY COUNCIL to consist of the elected Grand Lodge officers, and all the Past Grand Masters.

The purposes of the Grand Lodge Advisory Council shall be:

(a) To assist and advise the Grand Master and other officers of this Grand Lodge who may seek the advice and assistance of the Council.

(b) To give continuity and added strength to Grand Lodge programs and activities.

(c) To encourage and assist in presenting a clearer understanding of Masonry and its significance to Masons and others thereby strengthening the Image of the Fraternity.

The Council shall organize each year by electing a chairman, a vice-chairman, and a secretary at the first regular meeting of the Council following the Grand Lodge Annual Communication. Neither the Grand Master nor the Grand Secretary shall be elected to any of these offices.

The Grand Master shall call the first meeting of the Council.

The officers shall serve for one year and until their successors are elected.

The Council shall hold two regular meetings each year, the first to be held within two months following the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge and the second to be held within one month preceding the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge.

Special meetings shall be held upon call of the Chairman or upon written request of at least five members of the Council to the Secretary of the Council. All said meetings shall be held at such times and places as the Chairman or a majority of the members of the Council shall select. Notice of meetings shall be given in writing at least one week in advance of the meeting and shall state the time; hour and place of said meetings.

The Chairman of the Council or a majority of the members of the Council voting at a meeting may appoint such Committees as are deemed necessary to facilitate and expedite the work of the Council.

The Council may adopt such by-laws for its operation as it may deem necessary and as are not inconsistent with the Grand Lodge Constitution or Standing Regulations. [1970 p. 344]

23. *Resolved:* All lodges that have not segregated life membership funds into a special account shall immediately do so and report to Grand Lodge annually as such and not co-mingle them with general operating funds.

The income from the paid life membership shall be used to pay the dues of the members who purchased the life membership. At the death of a member who has paid a life membership, the principal shall revert to the Charity Fund of the lodge or General Fund of the lodge upon vote of the lodge.

(See DIGEST—Life Membership) [1974 p. 314]

24. *Resolved:* That for the advancement of the work of Grand Lodge and with oversight from the Grand Lodge Committee on Finance, the Grand Secretary shall devote sufficient time, attention and energy in the performance of the required duties of the office to ensure the business of Grand Lodge and all its associated affairs are completed in a proper and timely manner.

[2024 p. 632]

25. *Resolved:* Masonic lodges themselves may not conduct enterprises such as raffles, bean-o, bingo, and any game of chance. However, Masons who are members of any club or other organization whose membership is conditioned in whole or in part, upon membership in or affiliation with, the Masonic Craft may conduct the above mentioned enterprises.

(See DIGEST—Clubs, Gambling)

These enterprises may be conducted in a Masonic building but may not be conducted in the lodge room or rooms. The District Deputy Grand Master must inspect each Masonic Building in his District and certify to the Grand Master that he considers a part of the building suitable in which to conduct the above enterprises. No public advertising of the above activities may be made on or about the outside of the Masonic Building or on or about the premises outside the building. [1981 pp. 41 – 42]

26. *Resolved*: Constituent lodges may hold semi-public Installations on Sunday afternoon or evenings, as long as those ceremonies do not conflict with regularly scheduled Church Services within the Community or Communities comprising the jurisdiction of the lodge. [2000 p. 969]

27. *Resolved*: That the following officer be added to the present line of officers of the several lodges in the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Maine, that officer being "Lodge Librarian."

It shall be the duty of the lodge librarian to gather, keep and maintain the collection of books, audiovisuals and archive material owned by the lodge. The Lodge Librarian shall provide a written report upon the request of the Master of the lodge. [2000 p. 960]

28. *Resolved:* Within this jurisdiction, the use of personal electronic devices in the Lodge Hall, while the Grand Lodge of Maine is in session, shall be regulated as follows:

I. The use of Cellular Phones is not permitted at any time. Cellular Phones are to be turned off or left outside the Lodge Hall.

II. All Personal Paging Devices must be set for a non-audible page or turned off.

III. All Emergency Medical Paging Devices are permitted, and may be worn. The volume of said device is to be at such a level as the member wearing

the device can hear tones or pages without interrupting the business being conducted.

IV. Personal Recording Devices of any kind are not permitted without written dispensation from the Grand Master.

V. All other Personal Electronic Devices not listed above are permitted, providing that no audio sounds are emitted by such device while in use.

[2004 p. 887]

29. *Resolved:* Whereas the MAINE MASONIC TEXT BOOK, which has long been accepted by the Grand Lodge of Maine, and whereas this august body did accept the revised edition of such textbook at the Grand Lodge Session of 1960 which contained Mackey's 25 Ancient Landmarks, it shall therefore continue to print this list of Ancient Landmarks & that they shall be included in every printing hereafter, along with the 7 Ancient Landmarks of Roscoe Pound.

And, whereas the subject of Landmarks is so controversial, and whereas no two men could agree on a number to be accepted; Be it known that this Grand Lodge believes in the words of our esteemed Past Grand Master and renowned authoritarian on Masonic Jurisprudence, M.W. Josiah Hayden Drummond, when he wrote concerning the decision of the Grand Lodge of England in 1723:

'This is an expressed recognition that there are "Ancient Rules" which the Grand Lodge has no power to "break in upon" by amendment or explanation. These "Rules" are the "Ancient Landmarks", deemed by almost all the Craft as unchangeable; it is true that some, viewing Masonic government from a modern stand-point, deny their existence, some because these "Ancient Rules" springing from ancient usages cannot be codified as a complete code any more than that all the usages of the Craft can be enumerated."

Therefore, this Grand Lodge does not "accept" nor "deny" any Ancient Landmark, but leaves them there for future Grand Masters and the brethren of this Grand Jurisdiction to view with their own sense of integrity.

(See Appendix D—Report of the Committee on Landmarks)

[2005 pp. 122 – 126]

30. *Resolved:* Alcohol may be served and consumed on lodge premises and at lodge events held off-premises subject to the following rules, and all applicable provisions of existing insurance policies and the laws and regulations of the State of Maine and local licensing authorities and of the Grand Lodge liability insurance carrier. The following provisions shall govern the serving and consumption of alcohol in or on Masonic property and/ or at Masonic events. The Grand Master may also require prior dispensation for any event where alcohol is served or consumed when he deems such action is warranted.

(a) No alcohol shall be served or consumed two-hours prior to or during any Masonic meeting except for prescribed ceremonial purposes or as hereinafter allowed.

(b) The Masonic building association, by whatever name, holding title to the property and the tenant lodge(s) must each by majority vote to authorize the serving and consumption of alcohol on Masonic property

and at the events of that lodge and may establish additional governance for the use of alcohol on such property and at such events. Grand Lodge rules and standing regulations shall take precedence, followed by rules established by the building association.)

(c) The building association, lodge, other Masonic related organizations and non-Masonic lessees engaged in the serving and consumption of alcoholic beverages must have "host liquor" insurance coverage that is included in the Grand Lodge policy that covers Lodges and participating building associations.

(d) The Grand Master, acting on the advice of the Grand Lodge Standing Committee on Insurance and of the Grand Lodge liability insurance carrier, will require the following items to govern the serving and consumption of alcohol in or on Masonic property and/or at Masonic events.

(1) Where alcohol is to be served by a Lessee, the Building Association shall obtain:

i. A rental agreement. Each building association / lodge is free to develop its own rental agreement, however, every rental agreement shall contain the indemnity language contained in a lease form provided by the Grand Secretary.

ii. A copy of the Certificate of General Liability Insurance Coverage of the Lessor or Lessee naming the Grand Lodge of Maine as an additional insured with such limits of coverage as shall be from time to time provided by the Grand Secretary.

iii. A copy of the Certificate of Alcohol Liability Insurance Coverage of the Lessor or Lessee naming the Grand Lodge of Maine as an additional insured with such limits of coverage as shall be from time to time provided by the Grand Secretary. (In some cases, an insurance carrier may include "Liquor Liability" or "Alcohol Liability" on its general liability Certificate of Insurance in which case only one Certificate of Insurance will be needed.)

(2) Where alcohol is to be sold at a building association / lodge event:

i. The sale of alcohol in a Masonic facility is not permitted except by a duly licensed and insured vendor.

ii. Proof of liquor liability insurance from said vendor must be provided to the Grand Lodge prior to the scheduled event and may be submitted on an annual basis to cover all events occurring during that period at that facility. The Certificate of Liquor Liability Insurance Coverage must name the Grand Lodge as an additional insured. The hosting Lodge or

building association is responsible for producing a valid certificate of insurance prior to any event being held.

(c) A dispensation for a Table Lodge shall not generally be required but may be required at the discretion of the Grand Master. In any event, the lodge shall submit the signed statement of the proposed Grand Lodge Representative. The Grand Lodge Representative at each Table Lodge is authorized to intervene to assure that only two-ounce glasses are used and to personally intervene to halt the dispensation of alcohol to any person of more than the seven two-ounce toasts and to personally prevent any service of alcohol to a minor under any circumstances. The hosting building association or lodge shall designate a Mason to be responsible for monitoring alcohol service and consumption at events governed by this Standing Regulation.

[2021 pp.22-23]

(See DIGEST—Outdoor/Offsite Degrees) [2006 pp. 401-402]

31. *Resolved*: Gender Reassignment/Identity Information

1. Scope

This document has been created to establish a policy regarding the issues raised for Freemasonry by gender reassignment, gender identification, and masonic conformity in this Grand Jurisdiction. It is intended to eliminate ambiguity, reinforce current policy, and help guide Lodges in their decision-making when determining the qualifications for membership in Maine's Masonic Jurisdiction. It imposes binding rules, and although it gives some general guidance, it does not constitute legal advice or any attempt to usurp the Lodges absolute right to decide who shall be a member of a lodge if the candidate meets the qualifications set forth by this jurisdiction. This document does not attempt to address all the issues relating to gender which may arise as gender reassignment and gender transition become more prevalent in a changing society. When they do, they will need to be addressed in accordance with Masonic principles of lawfulness, kindness, and tolerance. We are at the crossroads of gender identity and masonic conformity. The lodges should use this information when membership, masonic conformity, and gender issues arise.

2. General

It is essential that any situation involving gender reassignment of a Freemason is treated with compassion and sensitivity and that the individual is supported in his decision to transition. If a Freemason who is a member of a Lodge wishes to change gender and no longer identify as male, it is expected that the Freemason will receive the non-judgmental support of their brethren. The privacy of the individual should be respected, and there will be no requirement to inform the Grand Lodge about this change or intention to change. Although there is no requirement to inform the Grand Lodge of such a change, if a Mason does change gender and or no longer identifies as a man, he no longer meets the qualifications for admission into the fraternity or to remain a member of the fraternity and is not entitled to the rights and privileges of Freemasonry.

3. Applications for Admission

A candidate for admission to Freemasonry in Maine must be a man. Should a person who has undergone gender reassignment and has become a man apply to become a Freemason, then his application must be processed in the same way as for any other male candidate. Any qualified candidate for admission may be proposed for membership of a Lodge in accordance with the provisions in the Rules contained in the Book of Constitutions. No candidate should be subjected to questions about their gender.

4. Continued Membership

A Freemason who, after initiation, ceases to be a man also ceases to be a Freemason. It is expected that Freemasons will act with compassion and sensitivity towards their fellow Freemasons who make such a decision. No Freemason will engage in unwanted conduct relating to another Freemason's sex or perceived gender reassignment or gender transition. Such conduct is un-masonic and constitutes conduct un ecoming a Mason, especially if it has the
purpose or effect of violating the dignity of or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating, or offensive environment for the mason.

5. Resignation from the Craft

A Freemason who no longer identifies as being a man is required to resign from the Craft. If a person resigns from the Craft, they and their dependents will no longer be eligible for any of the Masonic charities benefits.

6. Exclusion from a Lodge

A Lodge may vote to exclude any member for sufficient cause. The following grounds would constitute sufficient cause:

a. The fact that a member has legally changed their gender from a male.

b. The fact that a member identifies as not being male.

c. The fact that a member is in the process of transition from male to female.

d. The fact that a member's attire is generally accepted as a woman's clothing.

A Lodge may ask a member to resign based on the above grounds.

A Lodge may not at any time require a member to prove that they are legally a man.

7. Amendment

The law and what are considered best practices in this area are developing rapidly. This information may be amended from time to time and so please ensure that you are referring to the latest version.

[2021 pp. 24-25]

The Decisions included in this Digest have been arranged alphabetically, along with such other propositions of Masonic law as seem to be useful in the work of the lodge. No decisions approved by the Grand Lodge of Maine which have been amended or revoked by later decisions or by subsequent amendment or revision of the Constitution and Standing Regulations are included within this Digest.

(See GRAND MASTER)

A

ACCUSATION

(See CHARGES)

ADVANCEMENT

(See CANDIDATE, WORK; Const. §§ 100.1, 106 – 114.2; TEXT BOOK—Chapters III – V)

Advancement denotes the reception of a degree, after the first has been conferred.

A candidate cannot be compelled to seek advancement. [1886 p. 341]

There is no definite time for advancement. [1914 p. 23]

It is the right and duty of the Master to determine when a candidate shall be advanced, except when objection has been made. [1915 p. 192]

(See APPEAL, OBJECTION, PROFICIENCY)

A candidate who had taken his Entered Apprentice Degree more than twenty years ago was desirous of being passed to the degree of a Fellow craft. A brother wished to object to his advancement. The lapse of time is no consideration, there being no limitation of time within which the second or third degree must be taken.

A candidate takes two degrees in 1857 and in 1900 he asks for the Third. This is O.K. While it is necessary for a candidate to appear for the E.A. degree within one year of the date of election, there is no limitation of time within which the second or third degree must be taken.

[1894 p. 20; 1900 p. 19; 1901 p. 198]

The Third Degree can be taken any time after the Second no matter how many years elapse. [1886 p. 341]

An insane candidate should not be advanced. [1873 p. 45]

ADVERTISEMENTS

A lodge may solicit advertising for a magazine it wants to publish only from members of the Craft but not from nonmembers. If a nonmember voluntarily came forward and wanted to place an advertisement, it could be accepted.

[1961 p. 27]

Any advertising aimed at capitalizing on a member's Masonic affiliation is forbidden; Grand Lodge should be notified of any solicitation for such ads. [1935 p. 396]

AFFILIATION

Affiliation means membership.

(See MEMBERSHIP; Const. § 116)

Affiliation is a Masonic duty. [1878 p. 558]

(See APPLICATIONS–*For Affiliation*, IRREGULAR MASON; Const. § 120)

AFFIRMATION

A candidate cannot be obligated by simply listening to the obligation and then saying, "I affirm".

ALCOHOL

(See INTOXICATING LIQUORS)

ALTAR

(See FURNITURE)

AMPLE FORM

(See COMMUNICATION–*Grand Lodge*)

APPEAL

From Master's Ruling or Vote of the Lodge

(See VOTE; Const. §§ 4—*Sixth*, 19.2, 36—3)

Any member may appeal from any ruling of the Master or decision of the lodge. [1861 pp. 160, 208; 1862 p. 252]

Appeal to the Grand Lodge may be made by verbal notice to the lodge or Secretary but it should be in writing. [1863 p. 303]

The work of a lodge cannot be delayed by an appeal from the ruling of the Master. [1870 p. 22]

From Judgment in Cases of Masonic Discipline

(See Const. §§ 19.2, 36—3, 51—3, 54—j – 55.3)

APPLICATIONS

A petition [application] is a formal written request.

(See Const. §§ 96 – 105.6)

A petitioner is a person who makes application to receive the degrees of Masonry, or a Mason who makes application for membership in a lodge.

(See CANDIDATE, MEMBERSHIP, OBJECTION, REJECTION)

A petitioner for degrees or affiliation who alleges that he has received any Masonic degrees in a lodge in a Jurisdiction not in fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Maine shall not be recognized as a Mason by a lodge in this Jurisdiction. A petitioner under such circumstances must apply for all the degrees as conferred in this Jurisdiction, and must also state the conditions surrounding the receipt of the so-called degrees, and that he had taken such degrees under a misapprehension as to the regularity of the lodge conferring the same. [1927 pp. 373 – 374]

(See CLANDESTINE, RECOGNITION; Const. § 36—8, S.R. 10—1)

A petitioner who has joined a clandestine lodge must make all facts known, renounce allegiance to such lodge and sign a pledge on his honor as a man that he will hold no association with any of its members, as such, in the future. Lodges should be extremely careful in investigation of such cases to determine whether or not the applicant knew that he was joining a clandestine lodge at the time he applied for degrees therein, and if it appear that he did know the lodge

was clandestine, it will be a question for the lodge receiving a petition under such circumstances to determine whether the applicant possesses that manly character which should underlie the eligibility and right of any man to become a Mason. [1923 p. 390]

A false statement in the application is ground for charges. Where an applicant has, in his petition, stated that he has never applied to any other lodge for the degrees, and after conferring the degrees it is ascertained that he had made an application to and been rejected by another lodge, charges should be preferred against him, and if on due trial the charges are proved, he should be expelled, notwithstanding the general rule that a Mason cannot be tried for offenses committed before he was a Mason. [1864 p. 15]

(See CONDUCT, OFFENSE)

Receiving and Acting on Petitions

Before an application can be acted upon by a lodge, it must be properly before the lodge. No application can be properly before a lodge unless it was received at a stated meeting except by dispensation from some authorized officer to receive it at a special communication. [1864 p. 14]

Application to be properly before the lodge must be accompanied with a fee. [1920 p. 418]

(See FEES; Const. §§ 70, 115)

Application for membership must be made at a stated meeting, lie over to the next meeting for the report from the Committee of Inquiry and must be approved by secret unanimous ballot. [1875 p. 528]

(See Const. §§ 79, 104.1 – 105.6)

An application should be read in its entirety at the time it is first presented to the lodge. When the application is then presented for balloting the reading of the formal language may be eliminated and the words "an application in the usual form" substituted, but each question and the answer thereto should be read at the time of balloting, together with any additional remarks contained within the application form. [1956 pp. 785 – 786]

Referring Petitions

If the petition shows on its face that the candidate resides in another Grand Lodge Jurisdiction, it should not be referred to the Committee of Inquiry until the permission of the Grand Master in whose Jurisdiction the candidate resides is obtained. [1863 p. 303]

An application must be referred to the Committee of Inquiry at the stated communication at which it was received in order to be acted upon at the next.

(See Committee of Inquiry; Const, § 105.1 ¶ 3) [1884 p. 625]

A lodge "may" vote to refer an application or have the Master simply refer it to the Committee of Inquiry after its initial reading before the lodge. [1986 p. 204]

When a lodge has received an application and voted to refer it, the secretary has no right to return it to the applicant, but shall hold it to carry out the vote of the lodge. [1878 p. 549]

After an application has been referred and delivered to the Committee of Inquiry, it may be reported and balloted upon although mislaid and not present at the time. [1871 p. 223]

When a petition is presented and the Committee of Inquiry is unable to obtain adequate information concerning the candidate, the lodge should take further time; the lodge should require evidence not merely that the petitioner is not objectionable but that he is absolutely worthy. [1862 p. 232]

The application cannot be withdrawn after being referred to the Committee of Inquiry until after the ballot and then only if the ballot is clear and with the consent of the lodge. [1860 p. 104, 1878 p. 549]

Under our Constitution, a petition can in no case whatever be withdrawn after reference to the Committee of Inquiry and before ballot unless it is one of which the lodge has no jurisdiction. [1863 p. 303]

FOR AFFILIATION

A brother may apply for membership by affiliation to any lodge within this Jurisdiction. [1870 p. 22]

An application for affiliation must be made in the same manner and take the same course as applications for degrees. [1875, p. 528]
(See AFFILIATION, BALLOT, FEES; Const. § 105.4)

A demitted member must be file his demit with the petition for affiliation. (See DEMIT) [1915 p. 189]

Where a brother wishes to make application for multiple membership, a certificate of good standing must be presented in lieu of a demit.
(See Const. § 118.1)

A demitted Brother can apply for membership at any time; no limit.
(See Const. § 105.4) [1900 p. 19]

The candidate for membership, by affiliation, even though rejected, can apply as often as he wishes to same or any other lodge. [1900 p. 19]

A demitted Mason may petition for membership in any lodge in any Jurisdiction regardless of his residence or its location. [1915 p. 189]

A Brother who was a member of a lodge not now in existence may become a member of a lodge in this Jurisdiction although he never was demitted from his old lodge. A certificate from the Grand Secretary will supply the want of a demit. [1864 p. 12]

Brethren raised in a lodge under dispensation, the charter of which is afterward refused, are unaffiliated Masons in good standing and can apply to any lodge for membership. A certificate from the Grand Secretary will supply the want of a demit. [1898 p. 25]

FOR DEGREES AND MEMBERSHIP

Provisos on Petitions

Birth, whether legitimate or otherwise, cannot be a test for eligibility to Masonry. [1849 p. 40]

Color is no bar to becoming a Mason. To be freeborn is the only requisite. [1876, p. 15]

No lodge shall receive a petition from a candidate until he shall have attained the age of eighteen years.

Misstatement of age in the application—candidate is a minor—Worshipful Master is justified in rejecting; same as if rejection had been made.

[1919 p. 221]

If it appears upon the face of the application or in any other manner, before rejection or initiation, that the lodge has no jurisdiction over the candidate, either because he belongs to another lodge (and has not the required consent) or has not resided the required time in the State or in the jurisdiction of the lodge, or is mentally or physically disqualified, or has been rejected by another lodge (and has not the required recommendation), or is ineligible for any other cause, the fact should be noted on the record and his application returned without further proceedings. [1861 p. 151, 1862 p. 232, 1866 pp. 156 – 157, 1872 p. 466, 1876 p. 16, 1928 p. 579]

An applicant for the degrees should be recommended by at least one member of the lodge to which he applies. If no member can recommend the candidate as worthy, his application ought not to be received. [1865 p. 85]

A decision approved in 1865, page 85, states that "an application should not be accepted until it is recommended by at least one member of the lodge". If there is no by-law of the lodge requiring the application to be signed by two members of the lodge, then in view of the above decision, only one of the men signing the recommendation need be a member of the lodge. However, if the by-laws of the lodge require that two members sign the application, then that regulation should be followed. [1955 p. 519]

Application without the signature of the applicant is null and void. [1894 p. 20]

A candidate who cannot write is ineligible. A candidate must be able to sign his name; a mark is not adequate. [1870 p. 22, 1876 p. 16]

A candidate who cannot read and is able simply to write his name is not eligible. [1908 p. 22]

A candidate; rejected by a lodge in another State, shall not be received in a lodge in this State without the consent of the rejecting lodge. [1868 p. 200]

APPLICATION FOR REINSTATEMENT

(See Const. § 105.5)

APPOINTMENTS

Grand Lodge

(See Const. § 7.2)

Lodge

A Master of a lodge cannot appoint his officers until he is installed. He may indicate before that whom he intends to appoint, but the record of the appointment should be made after the record of his installation. [1862 p. 233]

APRON

(See CLOTHING)

ASSESSMENT

(See DUES AND ASSESSMENTS)

AVOUCHMENT

(See VISITATION)

Avouchment of visitors. [1860 p. 112]

A Mason cannot properly avouch for another unless he has sat in a lodge

with him or has examined him as one of a committee appointed by the Master for that purpose, or upon the avouchment of a known Mason in the presence of the one avouched for. [1864 p. 15]

B

BALLOT

After the result of the ballot has been formally declared by the Master, no further proceedings can be had, even to correct an alleged mistake.
(See NOTIFICATION, OBJECTION, REJECTION)
[1894 p. 19; 1915 p. 190; 1922 p. 207]

For Degrees or Membership

A vote on a petition for affiliation can be taken only at a stated communication of that lodge. [1970 p. 279]
(See Const. §§ 101.2, 104.1 – 105.1;

Ballot should not be passed without a report from the Committee of Inquiry. If the committee unreasonably delays its report, the proper course is to discharge the committee from further consideration of the petition and refer it to a new committee. [1861 p. 149]

Nor in less than four weeks from the presentation of his petition, for degrees or membership unless by dispensation. [1928 p. 576]

Election to membership requires unanimous ballot. [1879 p. 11]
(See Const. § 104.1)

After an application has been referred to the committee, it cannot be withdrawn until after it is accepted by a unanimous ballot, unless it appears that the lodge has no jurisdiction. [1863 p. 303; 1864 p. 115]

If no jurisdiction is discovered, that fact should be recorded and the petition should be returned. [1876 p. 16]

There must be a ballot on the application of every candidate whether the report is favorable or unfavorable. The only mode by which a candidate is accepted or rejected is by a ballot. [1865 p. 84]

It is improper for a lodge to vote on whether or not to spread a ballot on a petition on which the committee of inquiry has reported. A ballot must be spread unless a petitioner has since deceased or it is discovered that the lodge lacks jurisdiction. Nor can a petition be withdrawn until a ballot is taken.
[1968 p. 680]

A ballot must be taken although an objection has been made. [1876 p. 16]
(See OBJECTION)

Ballot for all degrees at once is proper. [1863 p. 304]

If it is discovered, at any time before the ballot, that the lodge has no jurisdiction over the candidate, or if the candidate has died, the ballot must not be taken. [1861 p. 151; 1866 p. 157; 1870 p. 22; 1872 p. 466; 1876 p. 16]

If the applicant becomes sick before the ballot is taken, the application and fee should be returned if the disability renders him unable honestly to acquire the means of subsistence. [1877 p. 281]

Ballot cannot be in a special meeting without dispensation. Secrecy is

vital. [1863 pp. 303, 305]

The ballot must be secret. [1822 p. 67]

The ballot should never be discussed. [1861 p. 147]

A Brother Mason who makes application for membership and is black-balled has no right to question the lodge or members thereof as to the reason for so doing. [1865 p. 85]

A separate ballot shall be had upon each application. [1904 p. 22, 1907 p. 214, 1918 p. 24]

Any question arising as to order in which ballot shall be taken on candidates shall be decided by Master. [1930 p. 230]

Every member present must ballot on an application for degrees or membership unless excused by the lodge. [1924 p. 590]

The Tyler is not required to ballot but he should have an opportunity to do so if he wishes. [1889 p. 334, 1884 p. 626]
(See TYLER)

No Brother should be excused from balloting except by a unanimous ballot. [1864 p. 15]

A Brother who waits until after the balloting has commenced cannot be excused from balloting. [1865 p. 85]

Our regulations require that but two ballots shall be taken on a candidate but this requirement means two ballots the result of, which is plain. If there is any room for doubt the ballot is defective the Master should order a new ballot. [1929 p. 40]

If the Worshipful Master is in doubt, the ballot can be taken again by order of the Worshipful Master. [1871 p. 224]

Worshipful Master can continue to collect the ballot until he is sure there is no mistake made. [1929 p. 40]

Ballot, if favorable, can be reconsidered. [1861 pp. 153 – 155]

A ballot cannot be taken over after a mistake is discovered after the lodge is closed. [1876 p. 16]

The ballot, once declared by the Worshipful Master, is final even though the wrong ballot box was used and a new ballot is void. [1894 p. 19]

Method of balloting. [1897, p. 635, Correspondence]

The ballot declared clear by the Worshipful Master must stand even if it develops there actually was a blackball cast. The recourse is objection. [1904 p. 22]

In taking the ballot, every honest and reasonable doubt should be resolved in favor of the institution. [1891 p. 16]

Worshipful Master excused a member from voting without a vote of the lodge. This does not make the ballot defective. [1924 p. 590]

A ballot taken when a quorum is not present is void, and it should be taken again at the next stated meeting. [1870 p. 22]

For Readmission After Suspension Or Expulsion

(See RESTORATION; Const. §§ 56.1 – 57)

Misuse of Ballot Box

Abuse of the ballot for personal reasons is unmasonic conduct.
(See S.R. 12) [1923 p. 389, 1939 p. 613]

A blackball is cast by a member who later goes to the Worshipful Master and confesses a wrong motive and asks for a new ballot to be taken. This cannot be done until six months have elapsed from the time the rejection is announced. [1874 p. 268]

The election of a candidate can be declared illegal if there are not enough ballots in the box. [1899 p. 204]
(See S.R. 11)

BIBLE/VOLUME OF SACRED LAW

A Bible is necessary in Blue Lodges in Maine. The Bible was adopted in its entirety as the Great Light in Masonry. [1858 p. 394, 1856 p. 125]

Use of Masonic funds for the translation and distribution of the Bible is set forth in a good article by Simon Greenleaf. [1820 pp. 49 – 51]

The Grand Lodge voted not to use funds for it. [1821 p. 55]

The Bible should not be owned in common with the O.E.S., which is a non-Masonic order. [1922 p. 206]

A non-Christian monotheist must be able to take his Masonic Obligation on the Volume of Literature sacred to his faith or no such obligation would be binding upon him. Accordingly, a Muslim can take his obligation on the Koran. The Koran shall not be placed on top of the Holy Bible, Square and Compasses. In such cases, the Square and Compasses shall be displayed on both the volume on which the Obligation is taken and on the Holy Bible, allowing the candidate's right hand, or hands, to rest on the appropriate volume during his Masonic Obligation. The master, in addressing the candidate, shall make reference to the Koran as the volume on which the Obligation was taken. [2006 p. 357]

BLUE LODGES

The Grand Lodge and its subordinates know of no other lodges than those technically called Blue Lodges and which only confer the degrees of E.A., F.C. and M.M. Any sign, therefore, in which the candidate is instructed is only to be given in the lodge of Master Masons etc.; should not be given in what are called the Higher Bodies. [1865 p. 84]
(See SIDE DEGREES; S.R. 10)

BUILDINGS AND BUILDING ASSOCIATIONS

(See FUNDS—Lodge–Building and Other Funds; S.R. 1, 6; Grand Master's Address, 1953 Proceedings)

Masonic buildings require approval by Grand Lodge. [1951 p. 412, 1952 p. 635]

In a case where the lodge funds are advanced to a building corporation in exchange for its stock or membership certificate which corporation is, in fact, constructing, purchasing or altering the building, approval by the Grand Master

is necessary. Otherwise, the whole purpose of the regulation, which is not only intended to approve the design and arrangement of the building but also to protect the lodge from an unsafe expenditure of its funds, would be lost, and any lodge wishing to proceed without having this approval could simply arrange to set up a corporation and accomplish exactly what this section intends to prevent. [1955 p. 517]

The sale or other disposition of a Masonic building is better left at the local level without the Grand Master's involvement. [2010 p. 355]

(See discussion in 2009 Proceedings and vote on Standing Regulation No. 21 [renumbered in 2015 as No. 6], in 2010 Proceedings as referenced above.

BURIAL

(See MEMORIAL SERVICE)

BUSINESS

(See COMMUNICATION)

BY-LAWS

(See Const. §§ 14.4, 36—14, 82.1, 83, 116; S.R. 7)

By-laws of lodge require Grand Lodge approval. [1864 p. 14]

A by-law is effective when approved by the Grand Master. [1921 p. 20]

The by-laws legally adopted by a lodge bind the lodge so long as they are in force. Should the lodge legally vote to change the by-laws the change does not become effective until approved by the Grand Master. [1905 p. 220]

A member must sign the by-laws before he can be called a member of the lodge. [1986 p. 205]

An affiliated Mason must sign the by-laws before he can be called a member of the lodge. [1986 p. 205]

Unless the member signs the by-laws within six months, he must apply for membership anew. [1879 p. 11]

Circumstances may, however, exist which will preclude all concerned from raising the question as to whether a brother did sign the by-laws. [1880 pp. 297 – 298; 1881 p. 616]

Certain items that the by-laws of a lodge should not provide for. [1861 p. 182]

By-laws cannot be overlooked because of a custom. [1879 p. 11]

A by-law of a lodge cannot be suspended by the Grand Master. [1918 p. 45]

C

CALLING OFF

A technical term in Freemasonry which signifies the temporary suspension of labor in a lodge without passing through the formal ceremony of closing. The full form of the expression is to call from labor to refreshment, and is

usually only used in a certain ceremony of the Third Degree, to avoid the tediousness of closing and opening the lodge; and in Grand Lodge at the Annual Communication, which is opened at the beginning of the session, called off from day to day, and finally closed at its end.

(See Const. § 80)

CANDIDATE

A man becomes a candidate when his petition has been received by the lodge and referred to a committee. [1886 p. 342]

(See ADVANCEMENT, APPLICATIONS, BALLOT, DUES AND ASSESSMENTS–*Lodge*, FEES, MEMBERSHIP, NONAFFILIATE—3, OBJECTION, PHYSICAL DISABILITY, WORK; Const. §§ 69, 79, 96 – 115, 116.4; S.R. 20)

A candidate must live in Maine one year. [1886 p. 342]

The lodge to which a candidate first makes application has exclusive jurisdiction over him. [1866 p. 157]

(See Const. §§ 67, 82.1 ¶ 3, 96 – 101.1, 104.1 – 105.6)

When a lodge has received the petition of a candidate over whom it has jurisdiction, it cannot lose that jurisdiction by anything happening subsequently, except by voluntarily surrendering it. [1867 p. 130]

Unless it is lost by the candidate's failing to receive the degree within the required time after he is accepted. [1873 pp. 29 – 30]

When an accepted candidate who has forfeited his rights by not being initiated within the prescribed time acquires residence in the jurisdiction of another lodge, he may apply there as if he had never made application to any lodge. [1872 p. 465]

A candidate not taking a degree for one year after acceptance may then petition any other lodge. [1873 p. 30]

A candidate should be raised in his own lodge except for extraordinary and pressing reasons. [1897 p. 230]

(See Const. § 116.4b; S.R. 20)

Candidates of a Maine lodge while still residing within jurisdiction of the lodge, must be initiated, passed, and raised by that lodge. [1930 p. 230]

When a lodge finds, before ballot, that a candidate has been rejected in another lodge, the only thing to be done is for the Master to cause to be entered on the record "that it appearing that the lodge has no jurisdiction in the case, the application is ordered to be returned." [1866 p. 157]

A lodge received an application and referred it to the investigating committee. Within three months the applicant left the area and in another three months moved out of State. The application was not signed by the investigating committee. In two and one-half years the applicant returned to the original lodge jurisdiction. The lodge still had jurisdiction over the applicant and could act on his application. [1969 p. 33]

The fact that a candidate whose residence is here is an alien, does not affect his eligibility if he is otherwise eligible. [1894 p. 20]

Consent to waive jurisdiction and a recommendation to another lodge can be granted only by unanimous vote, taken by secret ballot at a stated meeting,

upon an application presented at the preceding stated meeting. [1876 p. 15]
(See WAIVER; Const. §§ 67, 105.3)

A candidate receiving part of the degrees in one lodge can make application only by the consent of that lodge to another lodge for the remainder, even if he has removed into the jurisdiction of the second lodge after receiving one or two degrees in the first lodge. [1864 p. 16]

But a person who has received part of the degrees in a lodge which has ceased to exist can apply for the remainder to the lodge in whose jurisdiction he resides, with a certificate of the facts from the Grand Secretary of the Jurisdiction in which the extinct lodge was located. [1874 p. 269]

An applicant rejected by a lodge under dispensation which did not afterwards receive its charter is placed under jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge and can apply by permission of Grand Lodge or of Grand Master during recess for degrees in a lodge within whose jurisdiction he is, six months after rejection if otherwise eligible. [1898 p. 25]

A candidate receives one degree in a lodge under dispensation in another State. Dispensation was revoked. He comes to Maine. He wants other degrees. This requires permission of the Grand Master of that State. He then petitions to the lodge here for further degrees. [1874 p. 269]

When a lodge legally votes to surrender its charter it thereby vacates its territory, and candidates resident therein, including Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts, should apply to the nearest lodge. [1883 p. 311]

A candidate gets a degree in X lodge—its charter is surrendered—he can apply to the nearest lodge for the next two degrees. Neither lodge nearest the old lodge nor the candidate can act in the procedure without the consent of the Grand Lodge, or during recess, the Grand Master. [1894 p. 20]

A candidate who received his E.A. Degree in another Jurisdiction and moved to Maine wanted to continue to receive his degrees here. He understood but could not speak English. He could not be advanced because if he could not speak English he probably could not understand enough to know what was going on. He should learn enough English to answer the necessary questions in the lesson. [1986 p. 204]

A sea captain gets the Entered Apprentice Degree in a foreign country. On return home to adjoin his lodge, he must apply and pay for all three degrees in his home lodge. [1886 p. 342]

A sea captain having no residence in Maine gives us no jurisdiction over him for the degrees. [1876 p. 17]

"Residence upon the sea" is not recognized in this Jurisdiction. [1900 p. 21]

A Navy or Coastguardsman cannot be considered a "seafaring man," as mentioned in Section 96—1 of our Constitution. He is usually stationed for a year or more in one place and could thereby obtain the necessary residence requirements. [1986 p. 204]

When there are two or more lodges in a town, that lodge to which a candidate first makes application acquires exclusive jurisdiction over him. [1866 p. 157]

A candidate is rejected by a lodge outside the town where he lives but another lodge is formed in the town where he lives. He cannot apply to the new lodge without consent of the rejecting lodge because of the law of rejection. He cannot apply to the rejecting lodge because of the law of jurisdiction. It requires the consent of both lodges in either case. [1868 p. 200]

A rejected petitioner wishing to petition another lodge requires permission of the first lodge. [1874 p. 274]

The Grand Lodge of one State can accept as a member a man who belonged to another State. [1881 p. 806]

A candidate is rejected in Maine and moves to Oregon. Twenty years later he applies here to have the disability removed. The lodge here has no jurisdiction. [1894 p. 19]

Concurrent jurisdiction— A member applies to one; he is rejected. Five years elapse. He can then apply to the other without waiver. [1903 p. 217]

Residence, a test of (where he votes and is bound to pay taxes).
[1907 p. 199]

Waiver of jurisdiction is granted. The candidate petitions another lodge. He is rejected. He cannot petition the first lodge without waiver from the second lodge for five years. [1916 p. 21]

It is not necessary to be physically present to give a lodge jurisdiction.
[1921 p. 21]

When a person removes into this State, the foreign lodge in whose territory he resides loses all jurisdiction over him, and its waiver will not aid the reception of his petition in this State before he has resided one year in it.
[1927 p. 435]

A candidate who asks for the Third Degree to be done in another State; permission granted. The candidate returns to Maine. His own lodge has the right to do it. [1930 pp. 230, 281]

An applicant is rejected in Lodge "A" in 1950. In 1952 he moves his residence to the jurisdiction of Lodge "B". In 1953, he applies to Lodge "A" for a waiver of jurisdiction. The waiver is denied.

Lodge "A" loses jurisdiction in five years from the date of the rejection and not from the date of refusing the waiver of jurisdiction. A decision in 1880, page 298, states that an applicant whose application for a waiver of jurisdiction is rejected is in exactly the same status as before applying for the application for the waiver of jurisdiction. [1955 p. 517]

Once a candidate applies to one of several lodges having concurrent jurisdiction, that lodge has exclusive jurisdiction. [1943 p. 468]

The legal residence of a candidate must be determined by the facts in the particular case, and no general rule can be given which will decide every case; usually, however, the best test is, "What is his residence for the purposes of paying personal taxes and of voting?"
[1862 pp. 234 – 235; 1867 pp. 39 – 40; 1881 p. 616]

It is unmasonic to make the receipt of a part of the fee a condition of waiving jurisdiction over a candidate.

[1883 p. 311; 1891 pp. 24 – 25; 1902 p. 21]

When a person removes into this State, the foreign lodge in whose territory he resided loses all jurisdiction over him, and its waiver will not aid the reception of his petition in this State before he has resided one year in it. [1886 p. 342]

A candidate moving about from one jurisdiction to another discussed. [1864 p. 14]

CERTIFICATE

(See CHARTER)

CHAPLAIN

A Chaplain of a lodge must be a member of it. [1930 p. 217]

CHARGES

Indictments or formally accusations. A written accusation charging that an individual named therein has committed an act or omitted to do something that is punishable by Masonic Code.

(See Const. §§ 51, 54, 58, 101.3)

Except a member be under Suspension by order of the Grand Master the filing of charges does not prevent the accused from voting on other questions. [1862 p. 231]

Charges of "general bad character" are not sufficient; they must allege specific acts of unmasonic conduct. [1862 p. 233]

Charges may be tried or dismissed, but no one is authorized to erase them from the record. [1876 p. 16]

(See TEXT BOOK—Chapter XVIII for procedure governing Masonic trials)

Charges may be filed with the Secretary, out of the lodge, and the Master may fix a time for the trial and order notice to the accused without waiting for a meeting of the lodge to receive the charges. [1863 p. 302]

Legal proceedings need not be considered in case of Masonic charges. [1876 p. 17]

A Suspended member can prefer charges against a member. [1914 p. 23]

Charges which have been preferred against a brother, voted upon in the lodge, forwarded to the Grand Lodge, and referred to the Commissioners of Trials can be withdrawn. If the brother who signed the charges will write a letter or statement over his signature to the Master of the lodge, stating that he wishes to withdraw his charges, and if a meeting of the lodge votes to withdraw the charges, then it is within the province of the Grand Master to withdraw the case from the Commissioners of Trials, return the same to the lodge and remove any suspension which may have been imposed in the interim. This action can be taken at any time before the Grand Lodge votes upon the case. [1956 p. 786]

CHARITY

Charity; Duty of Masons and Lodges

Every Mason is under equal obligation to every worthy brother to relieve his distress according to his necessity and his own ability. The sole claim of a

distressed worthy brother for relief grows out of his being a Mason, and not out of his having contributed to the funds of a particular lodge. The association of Masons in a lodge in no manner relieves them from their individual obligations; and when they act as a lodge their duty, and therefore that of the lodge is precisely the same as that of the individual Mason. Masonic relief is never purchased or sold and therefore never creates a debt. [1906 p. 23]

In-as-much as lodges are organized to permit their members as a collective body to engage in works of benevolence and charity, they also have a right to establish funds for charitable purposes.

Charity fund of the lodge does not relieve the duty of each member to be charitable. [1898 p. 29]

(See FUNDS—Lodge–*Charity Fund*)

No lodge is required to reimburse another lodge for expenses voluntarily incurred in assisting its members outside of its jurisdiction. However, Masonic committee demands a liberal and equitable adjustment of expenses necessarily incurred in such cases, having regard to the ability of the lodge.
[1877 p. 281; 1906 p. 22]

Reimbursement to a lodge tendering relief to a Mason cannot be required but it should be worked out equitably. [1877 p. 281]

While a lodge creates no claim for reimbursement, by the relief of a member of another lodge, still, if the relief is authorized by the latter lodge, it is bound to make reimbursement. [1891 p. 26; 1906 p. 22]

Charity or relief given a Mason by another lodge should be repaid by his own lodge although there is no legal duty. [1899 p. 205]

The rules for granting relief or charity as propounded by Drummond.
[1899 p. 538, CORRESPONDENCE; 1896 pp. 67 – 71]

California case of relief, very good case; shows basis of right to relief as set forth by Drummond. The right to relief is limited by the Mason's distress and by the ability of his Brother. Masonic charity creates no pecuniary debt.
[1901 pp. 230, 232; 1985 pp. 11, 59]

Definition of the right of a Mason to relief and charity.
[1906 pp. 22 – 23]

CHARITABLE FOUNDATION, MAINE MASONIC

(See Const. §§ 60 – 66; S.R. 21)

For complete setup, see Grand Master's address in 1953 Proceedings.

The income from the funds of the Masonic Charitable Foundation and such other funds as may be appropriated in whole or in part for the relief of poor and worthy members of lodges, their widows and orphans, under this Jurisdiction, in cases where the funds of their own lodges are not adequate to the exigency of the case. The widows and orphans of deceased Masons are to be relieved as the husband or parent would have been upon the principle stated in this paragraph.

(See WIDOWS and ORPHANS)

Application for relief for members of the order should always be made by the lodge in the name of the Mason if he is still living even though the need for relief is due to the illness of some other member of the family. Generally the secretary of the lodge serves as the Almoner to make contacts with the

beneficiary as need may arise though the lodge may designate some other officer or member to serve in that capacity. The secretary of a lodge may secure Grand Lodge charity application forms from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge. Grand Lodge charity applications are furnished in duplicate. The copy marked *original* is to be sent to the Chairman of the Grand Lodge Charity Committee on Distribution and the duplicate copy retained by the lodge.

Disbursement Procedures

Every brother entrusted with funds is required to take receipts for the same when paid, and forward said receipts forthwith to the Grand Treasurer.

Each almoner is provided by the Grand Treasurer with one printed blank receipt for each person for whom such almoner draws money from the Charity Fund, which receipts, such almoner shall cause to be signed by the beneficiaries respectively, and file the same with the Grand Treasurer.

No almoner who fails to file with the Grand Treasurer a receipt from each person for whose benefit money has been appropriated by this Board, for the full amount of such appropriation when the money has been drawn by such almoner, shall be considered worthy to be entrusted with the sacred office of almoner for this Charity Fund. [1876 p. 230]

CHARTER

(See Const. §§ 14.3, 18.2, 19.9, 36—5, 52, 68 – 69, 92.2, 121, 124.1 – 135)

Charters can be granted or restored only by the Grand Lodge. [1884 p. 625]

No names can be inserted in a charter, after the lodge has been constituted, without action of the Grand Lodge. [1870 p. 23]

The Charter or a charter certificate must be present when the lodge is opened. [1861 p. 151]

A visiting brother has the right to inspect the charter or charter certificate. [1861 p. 149]

The charter or charter certificate may be taken to the Tyler's room for examination by a visitor without closing the lodge; it is legally present when in any of the rooms occupied for lodge work. [1883 p. 311]

When a charter has been lost or destroyed, a copy of the original may be issued with the vote of the Grand Lodge authorizing it, properly attested, endorsed upon it. [1889 p. 359]

If a Charter is surrendered, the members cannot apply for membership elsewhere until the Grand Lodge has voted to accept the surrendered Charter. [1883 p. 311]

If a Charter is surrendered, Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts may apply to the nearest lodge. [1883 p. 311]

CLANDESTINE

Lodge

A clandestine lodge is one without a charter or warrant from a recognized Grand Lodge.

(See JURISDICTION; Const. § 68)

Mason

Member of a clandestine lodge may petition for membership in a bona fide lodge under certain conditions. [1923 pp. 390 – 391]

(See APPLICATIONS)

CLOTHING

In Grand Lodge

(See Const. §§ 34.1 – 34.6)

In Lodge

The Master, while the lodge is engaged in work, should wear a hat of some type and description of his own choice. The hat should be removed whenever in the presence of higher authority such as during prayer, in church, during any reference to Deity and in the presence of the Grand Master. The hat may be removed on occasion for the convenience and comfort of the Master. A hat should not be worn by anyone else while occupying the Master's chair, excepting a Past Master while acting as Master. If the Master is present in the lodge room and any other person is temporarily occupying the Master's chair, it shall be within the Master's discretion whether or not he, the Master, shall at that time wear a hat. No other person, excepting the Grand Master, shall wear a hat in a lodge. [1955 p. 521; 1990 p. 75]

A Mason engaged in the work of an opened lodge is properly clothed when his attire includes white gloves; however by common consent the gloves are now usually omitted except at formal occasions and funerals.

The apron is a part of the Masonic clothing and cannot be worn in public outside of the lodge room (except at funerals and attendance upon divine service), without a dispensation. [1902 p. 21]

(See Const. §§ 82.3, 86)

The wearing of a Royal Arch apron in a lodge or in a Master Masons' procession is not permissible. [1884 p. 625]

Robes should never be worn by officers in Blue Lodges; It is not permissible. [1895 p. 176; 1898 p. 26]

No costumes, robes, uniforms or other dress other than that which has been approved by the Constitution of the Grand Lodge shall be worn in lodge for any degree work unless approved by the Grand Master or a dispensation has been granted by the Grand Master previous to any degree. This includes the Wayfaring Man and Degree Teams approved to perform degrees in this State. [1999 P. 611]

CLUBS

Masonic clubs are to be encouraged. Their conduct must be within our landmarks. [1930 p. 231]

(See S.R. 25)

It is not proper to use the word "Masonic" in their name. [1928 p. 578]

COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY

(See APPLICATIONS–*Referred*)

Official Form No. 7, INSTRUCTIONS TO COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY, must be attached to every petition for degrees referred to a committee of inquiry.

The character of its report, whether favorable or unfavorable, should never be recorded. [1865 p. 85]

A member of cannot be required to give his reasons for an unfavorable report nor for declining to sign a favorable report signed by the other members. [1877 p. 280]

Secretary should never record the nature of the report of the Committee of Inquiry but simply the fact that the Committee of Inquiry reported, which report was accepted, etc. [1865 p. 85]

A petition is received and referred to the investigating committee. They ascertain that the candidate has already been rejected in another lodge. The committee should report that the lodge has no jurisdiction over the petition. The lodge has no right to ballot upon it, not even for the purpose of rejection. [1861 p. 151]

COMMUNICATION

Grand Lodge

(See Const. §§ 3.1 – 3.2, 44—1 – 44—21)

The Grand Lodge is opened "In Ample Form" when the Grand Master presides.

The Grand Lodge is opened "In Form" when it is opened in the absence of both the Grand Master and the Deputy Grand Master.

Lodge, General Provisions

A Communication is a meeting of a lodge [or the Grand Lodge] for the transaction of business.

(See Const. §§ 14.1 – 14.2, 77.1 – 81, 126; S.R. 3, 7)

At any communication of the lodge, the Master can close it upon one degree and open another as many times as he sees fit. [1893 pp. 782 – 784]

The word "communication" in the Constitution refers to the warranted lodge, and not to the ritual lodge formed by opening the former on a particular degree. [1893 pp. 782 – 784]

After a lodge is opened, no one has a right to leave the lodge room except by permission of the Worshipful Master. [1864 p. 12]

Quorum

We have reference in our ritualistic work that "three made a Master Masons' Lodge," however the Constitution provides that all general business shall be done in a lodge where at least seven Master Masons who are members of the lodge are present, and that no ballot shall be taken for initiation or membership unless a Constitutional quorum is present. A decision passed in 1868, page 200, states that a quorum for a lodge to do business is seven.

(See Const. §§ 78.2, 82.1, 104.2) [1955 p. 519]

Stated Communication

A Stated Communication is a regular meeting of a lodge as provided in its by-laws.

Stated meetings must be held at a definite time. By-laws must so provide.

(See S.R. 7) [1872 p. 466]

Only one stated communication, at which applications can be received or balloted on, can be held in each lunar month. [1876 p. 32]

A communication held as a stated meeting upon a wrong day is void; and the business done thereat must come up again as if it had never been acted upon. [1875 p. 528]

If the by-laws of a lodge provide that a meeting shall be held on a stated day of every month of the year, and make no provision allowing the lodge to stand closed during certain months, the lodge cannot legally vote to stand so closed; it cannot suspend a by-law. [1905 p. 220]
(See Const. § 82.1)

If the by-laws of a lodge provide that its stated communication may be omitted during any or all of the summer months, and if at any time the lodge votes so to do, the Master has no authority to call a stated communication during the time covered by the vote of the lodge. [1905 p. 221]

A stated meeting in August that the by-laws allow the lodge to vote to stand closed that month and the members so vote, then the Master cannot call such a stated meeting. [1905 p. 220]

A meeting was held on the wrong date. All business done must be done over at the next proper meeting. [1875 p. 528]

Special Communication

A Special Communication is a meeting called for the transaction of a special matter of business on a date not set in the by-laws of a lodge.

No Degree work should be done on Sunday. Constituent lodges shall refrain from holding any special communications on Sunday except for a Masonic Memorial Service, or the participation of the lodge at a divine service.
(See INSTALLATION; S.R. 26) [1949 p. 31; 1980 p. 581]

No member of a lodge has a right to call a meeting of his lodge except its three principal officers for the time being. [1864 p. 16]

At a special communication no business can be done that is not specified in the notice calling it. [1872 p. 272]

A petition cannot be received nor ballot had at a Special Communication without a dispensation. [1861 p. 150]

A lodge may hold more than one meeting on the same day for any other purpose than the conferring of degrees. [1878 p. 549]

It is illegal for constituent lodges to meet at 4:00 p.m. and stated meetings at 7:30 p.m. the same day, for the sole reason of meeting once a month and dividing the work of the Master Masons' Degree. [1984 p. 626]

CONDUCT

Secrecy of happenings in the lodge if violated is unmasonic conduct. [1861 p. 155]

The conduct of the applicant before he submits his application cannot be grounds for Masonic discipline unless he does some act or makes some statement in his application that deceives the lodge. [1866 p. 157; 1867 pp. 40 – 41]

Offense of a member committed before a petition is not grounds for complaint. [1907 p. 199; 1906 pp. 21 – 22]

Domestic troubles should not be meddled in by the lodge. [1886 p. 341]

CONSOLIDATION

(See LODGES, CONSOLIDATION OF)

CONSTITUTION OF A LODGE

(See Const. § 124)

Only those whose names appear in the Charter can be members of the lodge at the time of constitution. [1875 p. 527]

CORNERSTONE

Laying cornerstones can be done only by the Grand Master or his proxy. (See TEXT BOOK—Chapter XIII) [1868 p. 199]

COUNSEL

(See Const. §§ 54—f, g, i)

D

DANCES

Balls etc. cannot be run in the name of the lodge. [1908 p. 24]
(See S.R. 2)

DEDICATION

The dedication of halls can be done only by the Grand Master or his proxy. [1868 p. 199]

DEGREES

(See ADVANCEMENT, COMMUNICATION)

(See Const. §§ 78.1, 105.3, 106 – 115; S.R. 10)

A foreign Jurisdiction requested to confer degrees on our candidates may do this work in their own time and in their own way notwithstanding provisions of our regulations. [1929 p. 40]

Can be performed by any Brother in the presence of the Worshipful Master and by his request. [1860 p. 106]

A lodge cannot confer the Master Mason Degree for another lodge without a waiver. [1878 pp. 549, 567]

Five Degrees is the limit at any one meeting. Any part of the five can be in different Degrees but the total must not exceed five. Good discussion of same by Drummond. [1893 p. 782]

Degrees by courtesy cannot be done between lodges of the State.
(See IRREGULAR MASONS)

Foreign lodges should not confer degrees in Maine on a candidate accepted by a Maine lodge (this could be done as visiting officers). [1930 pp. 229, 281]

A lodge cannot work its degrees in another lodge hall without dispensation. [1942 p. 217]

Degrees out of time, if done by courtesy in another Jurisdiction and in accord with the law of that State, even if done in violation of our law, are not improperly conferred (that is the Second and Third Degree on the same day). [1946 p. 200]

No degree work should be done on Sunday. [1949 p. 31]

DEMISSION

Dimission is a variant spelling of demission.

The term 'Demission' as used Masonically refers to the honorable withdrawal of a Mason from his lodge. His status is that of a Nonaffiliated Mason.

(See NONAFFILIATE)

DEMIT

Dimit is a variant spelling of demit. Albert Gallatin Mackey —who authored an extensive Encyclopedia of Freemasonry— wrote that the word dimit is an American neologism [a newly coined word or expression] and a wholly indefensible corruption of the technical word demit.

Dimit means dismissal, and also recommendation. [1887 p. 159]

Procedure for Granting a Demit

Upon application at any stated communication the lodge may vote a dimit at once, either in the form of an honorable discharge from membership or with a recommendation, as it may see fit. [1897 p. 198]

(See Const. §§ 119, 122 ¶ 3)

Or a member may give notice at a stated communication that at the next he shall apply for a dimit; and at such next stated meeting, if no charges have been filed and his dues are paid to that time, it is the secretary's duty to give him a certificate of honorable discharge from membership. The lodge may also vote him such recommendation as it sees fit. The secretary should note on his record the giving of the notice and the issuing of the dimit. [1897 p. 199]

General Provisos on Demits

A lodge cannot charge a fee for granting a dimit. [1886 p. 341]

Dimit requires only a majority voting. [1875 p. 527]

A dimit should not be granted to a Fellow Craft or an Entered Apprentice. [1889 p. 335]

An unconditional vote to grant a dimit severs the membership at once, unless the vote is reconsidered at the same meeting and before the dimit is actually delivered. [1873 p. 16; 1874 p. 305]

A vote of a lodge to give a member a dimit on payment of his dues does not sever his membership until the dues are paid; but the lodge ought not to vote upon the request until the dues are paid. [1861 p. 150]

A dimit should not be granted to one who has disgraced himself and the Fraternity by acts of intoxication or other misconduct, but charges should be preferred and a trial had. [1886 pp. 341 – 342]

Dimit lost by fire, etc., cannot be duplicated. The abstract of all the records can be forwarded. [1915 p. 191]

No duplicate of a dimit can be issued. Should same be destroyed it is competent for a lodge to receive a communication stating the facts for record; then it may vote to instruct the secretary to make abstracts from the records for delivery to the brother entitled to the same. [1915 p. 191]

Dimit, if lost or destroyed—the member may become affiliated by using a certificate of the facts. Duplicate of a dimit should never be issued.

[1890 p. 687]

A demit was granted but never issued. Membership still continues. [1915 p. 192]

A dimit was granted. The Brother later desires membership in the same lodge. He must abide the result of the ballot. [1870 p. 22]

DeMOLAY

(See HALLS)

Standing Regulation No. 18 as adopted by this Grand Lodge allows lodges to become sponsoring bodies for a chapter of the Order of DeMolay (or an assembly of Rainbow). While a report of the Committee on Amendments to the Constitution did not recommend the use of lodge funds for this purpose, yet the Regulation, as adopted by the Grand Lodge, does not prevent or prohibit the use of lodge funds.

The word "sponsor" as defined by Webster means "a surety; one who binds himself to be responsible for another's obligations in case of default; one who endorses or stands behind a person, movement or the like." In view of the fact that lodges have been authorized to sponsor DeMolay, and bearing in mind the above technical definition of the word, since the regulation contains no language preventing the use of lodge funds, it is proper for lodge funds to be used for such purpose. [1956 p. 786]

It is permissible for a lodge to make a donation to a Chapter of DeMolay even though it did not sponsor the Chapter. S.R. 18 permits lodges to sponsor DeMolay and it has been ruled that the regulations do not "prevent or prohibit the use of lodge funds." Presumably, it is not the intent of Grand Lodge to limit assistance to DeMolay strictly to sponsoring lodges. [1966 p. 246]

DIPLOMA

Candidates'

(See Const. § 91)

It is better for the regular officers to sign the diploma, but if that is not convenient it may be signed by the pro tempore officers acting when the third degree was conferred. [1891 p. 24; 1898 p. 27]

In case of the death of the Master, diploma should be signed by the Senior Warden as acting Master; the S.W. pro tem as such, and the J.W. [1898 p. 27]

Past Masters'

A Master at the end of his first term, though less than a year, is entitled to receive from the Grand Lodge, through the District Deputy Grand Master, a Past Master's Diploma. [1870 p. 22]

(See Const. § 90)

Election, installation, and service as Master for one term, entitle a brother to a Past Master's diploma, although he may not have received the "Past Master's Degree." [1900 p. 53]

A Master of a lodge under dispensation is not entitled to a Past Master's Diploma. [1864 p. 16]

A Past Master of a lodge outside the Grand Jurisdiction of Maine, but not a Past Master of a lodge within our Jurisdiction, is not entitled to receive a Past Masters' diploma from this Jurisdiction. [1956 p. 785]

DISCIPLINE

(See CONDUCT; Const. §§ 45 – 59.3)

DISPENSATION

For a New Lodge

(See LODGES UNDER)

Provisos on Granting General Dispensations

(See Const. §§ 14.4 – 14.5, 82.1 – 82.4, 86, 109.1 ¶ 2; S.R. 30)

When a lodge fails to elect officers at the stated time, or an elected officer declines to be installed, a dispensation to hold the election at another time must be obtained from the Grand Master. However, he cannot grant a dispensation to fill a vacancy in the office of Master while the office of either Warden is not vacant, nor of Senior Warden while that of Junior Warden is not vacant.

[1866 p. 155]

If a special meeting of the lodge is called for the purpose of conferring a degree on a dispensation, can the local business of the lodge be transacted at that meeting? The answer is; not unless specifically in the notice calling the meeting. [1862 p. 272]

A dispensation which carries beyond the term of the Grand Master granting the dispensation, necessarily interferes with the inherent right of his successor. A Grand Master may only temporarily suspend the operation of a law. When he retires from the office of Grand Master the license he granted expires. It is the prerogative of his successor to determine whether or not a law or regulation should be dispensed with. [1977 pp. 35 – 36]

DISCHARGE FROM MEMBERSHIP

(See DEMISSION, DEMIT)

DISTRICTS

(See Const. § 14.6)

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS

(See Const. §§ 14.6a – 14.6b, 20, 51—1, 76, 126, 129; S.R. 1, 8—2)

It is not his province to act as a prosecutor, but he should take notice of Masonic offenses and strive, with kindness and firmness, to bring lodges and members to realize the full import of their Masonic promises. [1883 p. 312]

In the absence of the Master and Wardens, the District Deputy Grand Master has no power to open the lodge which he is visiting, unless he is specially commissioned to do so by the Grand Master. [1890 p. 687]

He can install his successor. [1894 p. 19]

(See Const. § 10)

When visiting a lodge unofficially, he may, if he deem it necessary, assume his official character and exercise the full powers of his office.

[1863 p. 303]

Reception of; form for

(See TEXT BOOK, page 79)

District Deputy Grand Masters cannot exchange official visits; he has no authority outside of his own District and may attend lodges outside of his district only as a visiting brother. [1923 p. 387]

The rules for visitations by D.D.G.M.s. [1823 p. 81]

Procedure for visits by D.D.G.M.s. [1853 p. 290]

Official visitation, powers of D.D.G.M. [1990 p. 75]

Duties of the District Deputy Grand Master. [1891 p. 23]

Good statement of the duties and authorities of the D.D.G.M. [1885 p. 15]

D.D.G.M.s to keep a record book. [1891 p. 24]

Eligibility and duties of D.D.G.M.s. [1934 p. 195]

If the Worshipful Master is also appointed and installed as District Deputy Grand Master, he vacates the office of Master. [1877 p. 280]

The election of a District Deputy Grand Master as Master of a lodge is void. He is not eligible. [1862 p. 233]

A Past District Deputy Grand Master is entitled to be addressed as "Right Worshipful" for the remainder of his Masonic life. [1955 p. 519]
(See MASONIC TITLES)

DOTAGE

The term "dotage" as used Masonically has no reference to any particular age. Dotage or imbecility of mind occurs with some persons early in life, while others go to a ripe old age with faculties unimpaired. Its determination is a question for the lodge, having in mind the fact that it is materials for use, and not waste or encumbrances that is desired.

DRUNKENNESS

Drunkenness is a proper cause for charges. [1866 p. 156]
(See CHARGES, DEMIT)

DUAL MEMBERSHIP

(See MEMBERSHIPS–MULTIPLE)

DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

To Grand Lodge

Dues to the Grand Lodge must be paid for all members whether acting, honorary, absent, etc., and fees for all initiates including clergymen.
(See Const. §§ 4—*Seventh*, 19.8, 74.1 – 75.5, 121) [1862 p. 246]

Assessment or a tax has been voted in Grand Lodge. [1878 p. 48]

The fees to the Grand Lodge must be paid by the lodge in which a Brother is initiated notwithstanding he may have received the other two degrees in a different lodge. [1864 p. 16]

Grand Lodge should repay fees to the lodge for a non-valid member. [1942 p. 217]

Lodges U. D. are not required to pay the per capita tax. [1889 p. 569]
(See Const. § 74.6)

To the Lodge

It is the duty of the members of a lodge to pay such annual dues and assessments as will permit the lodge to meet its obligations respecting its proper operating expenses.
(See Const. § 70)

A member suspended for unmasonic conduct or nonpayment of dues is not liable for dues accruing during his suspension.
[1876 p. 17; 1877 pp. 454 – 455]

Lodge Assessments

The assessment, over and above dues, may be made to defray the ordinary expenses of the lodge or to pay debts incurred to meet such expense, but no assessment can be made for purposes outside of lodge obligations, except for the Grand Lodge. [1875 pp. 528 – 529]

A lodge may levy an assessment upon its members to pay indebtedness already incurred for charitable purposes or to meet existing calls for charity, but not to create a fund for possible future use. [1921 pp. 19 – 20]
(See FUNDS—Lodge–*Charity Fund*)

Persons becoming members after an assessment is made are not liable thereto. [1873 p. 15]

When an assessment is made, it should be collected of all upon whom it is laid, or remitted by vote of the lodge. [1873 p. 16]

An assessment voted by a lodge can be collected. [1878 p. 550]

Expenses of Washington's Birthday celebration cannot be paid by an assessment on the members. [1894 p. 19]

The expenses of music for the celebration of St. John's Day may be properly assessed upon and collected of the members of a lodge.
[1878 p. 550]

A lodge cannot legally make an assessment upon its members to defray the expenses of observing Washington's Birthday. [1874 p. 19]

Lodge Dues

The lodge has power to collect dues for current expenses and charitable purposes, and to levy special assessments, if necessary, to pay the current expenses or any debt incurred for the ordinary expenses of the lodge.
(See HONORARY MEMBER; Const. § 70) [1875 p. 528]

Dues cannot be charged for part of a year; hence a new member owes no dues for the balance of the year in which he was raised. [1946 p. 201]

When dues are a fixed sum a year, payable at a stated time, a member is not liable for dues for part of a year. [1874 p. 305]

Dues of a deceased Brother, being a legal claim, can properly be paid from his estate but should never be enforced by law. [1898 p. 26]

A lodge cannot remit the dues of a deceased member nor restore to good standing a deceased brother suspended for nonpayment of dues. The account of a deceased brother should be closed with a statement of his death.
[1904 p. 305]

Member of a lodge under dispensation must pay dues in the parent lodge until demitted or constituted into the new lodge. [1871 p. 224]

A lodge under dispensation should collect dues from its members.
[1886 p. 341]

Dues should be payable in advance on the date of the annual communication, and lodges should consider amending their by-law to require the same. [1946 p. 199]

The name on the dues card must correspond with the name on the records of the lodge, until and unless the name is legally changed and the lodge so notified. In no case should two cards be issued. [1958 p. 282]

Nonpayment of Dues and Assessments

If the by-laws of a lodge provide for the suspension of the members who willfully neglect or refuse to pay their dues, the proper method is to file charges against each person neglecting and proceed to try them under that by-law. If the by-laws require the payment of dues but provide no penalty for willful neglect or refusal to pay them, a member who refuses or willfully neglects to pay his dues, after being required so to do by the lodge, should be tried for violating the by-laws or for willfully disobeying the summons to the lodge and, if found guilty, may be suspended from membership. If found guilty of willfully disobeying a summons of his lodge, I see no reason why he may not be suspended or expelled from the Order. (Drummond). [1862 p. 232]

The penalty for nonpayment of dues is forfeiture of, or suspension from, membership only after due trial by lodge. [1933 p. 23]

Penalty for nonpayment of dues can be suspension or deprivation of membership. [1877 p. 280]

Deprivation of membership can follow suspension for nonpayment of dues. A suspended Brother has a moral obligation to pay his dues. [1883 p. 311]

Nonpayment of dues is discussed at length. [1876 p. 179]

Dues are not payable while a member is under suspension. [1889 p. 334]

If dues are not paid, the Brother can be suspended or deprived of membership. These are two different actions. If deprived, he can only obtain membership again in the regular course of procedure. If suspended, he is reinstated automatically by paying up, within three years of the time of suspension, the dues he owed at the time he was suspended. After three years, he must re-apply and his application will be processed like a new application for membership.

A member who refuses to pay an assessment is subject to the same penalty as one who refuses to pay dues as provided in Sections 59.1 – 59.3 of the Grand Lodge Constitution. The words dues and assessments are synonymous terms within the language of this section and, if a member fails to pay either one, including a Grand Lodge assessment, he is subject to the penalty. [1955 p. 519]

E

EDUCATION

General

Education is a part of Masonic charity. [1824 p. 100]
(See Const. §§ 36—15, 62—*Second*)

Masonic

(See Const. §§ 21, 33.1 – 33.2, 36—10)

—DIGEST OF DECISIONS—

ELECTION

Grand Lodge

(See Const. §§ 7.1, 9, 35.1, 44—20, 63)

Subordinate Lodges

(See Const. §§ 78.1, 82.1 ¶ 3, 122, 130—VIII)

Election should take place in open lodge and not at refreshment. [1861 p. 146]

The Master of a lodge has no authority to order an election to fill vacancies occurring after the annual election by reason of any elected officer declining to be installed. [1865 p. 85]

Nominations for the election of officers or for officers to be elected should never be made. [1868 p. 199]

Lodges may use a printed ballot, similar to the one used in Grand Lodge, listing the names of those officers who are desirous of being elected to a specific office. [1985 pp. 11, 59]

ELIGIBILITY

Candidates

(See APPLICATIONS, CANDIDATE, PHYSICAL DISABILITY)

Lodge Office

To be eligible for the office of Master, a Brother must have served as a Warden. [1967 p. 462]

Grand Lodge Office

(See Const. §§ 5 – 6)

EMBLEMS

Emblems not related to Masonry and its teachings should not be placed permanently in lodge rooms. [1923 p. 387]

O.E.S. emblem is O.K. in a Masonic hall if not attached to an emblem of Masonry. [1921 p. 20]

Permanent emblems of O.E.S. in a Masonic hall are not good. O.E.S. described as a supplement to Masonry. [1923 p. 387]

EMERGENCY, ADVANCEMENT

(See Const. § 109.1 ¶ 2)

ENTERED APPRENTICE

(See ADVANCEMENT)

EVIDENCE

(See Const. §§ 54—a, g, h, i, 55.2)

The general rules of civil courts relative to evidence are usually applicable in Masonic trials. Hearsay evidence is inadmissible.

EXAMINATION

Of Candidates

(See PROFICIENCY)

Of Visitors

(See VISITATION)

EXPULSION

(See SUSPENSION; Const. §§ 45 – 59.1)

An expelled Mason may be restored to rights and privileges of' Masonry upon satisfactory evidence of his reformation. [1833 p. 228]

If a member is expelled by Grand Lodge, he *cannot* be restored without Grand Lodge action. [1874 p. 300]

F

FAIRS, etc.

Fairs and public displays for Masonic benefits are not recommended. [1883 p. 313]

FEES

Affiliation Fees

A lodge may collect a fee when receiving an application for affiliation, *if* its by-laws provide for the same.

(See Const. §§ 105.4 ¶ 2, 123 ¶ 2) [2011 p. 609]

Candidate Fees

(See Const. §§ 70, 99, 111, 113, 115, 116—4)

Changes in a lodge's by-laws respecting fees cannot affect an application, which was received by the lodge before the by-laws, were altered. [1864 p. 15]

A change in the by-laws of a lodge, respecting fees, does not affect an application received by the lodge before the change was made. [1864 p. 15]

Petition was accepted, the candidate failed to appear within one year without cause; later filed a new petition. He must pay the fee again. [1874 p. 268]

If a candidate refuses to take the degrees after being accepted, he should have his fees returned to him. [1890 pp. 687 – 688]

If the fees are raised between any degrees, the candidate must pay the increase as he receives the degrees unless he has paid in full for all the degrees. [1929 p. 39]

Fees of a candidate who decides not to take the degree should probably be returned to him. [1944 p. 603]

If the candidate dies, no ballot should be taken and his fee should be returned. [1870 p. 22]

If objections to the advancement of a candidate are sustained, the lodge should not return the deposit and fees for the degrees already conferred. [1878 pp. 549, 550]

FELLOW CRAFT

(See ADVANCEMENT)

FORFEITURE

Of Membership

(See Const. §§ 59.1 – 59.3)

Of Charter

(See Const. §§ 131 – 135)

FUND RAISING

(See S.R. 25)

FUNDS, LODGE

Building and other Funds

A lodge cannot donate its funds to a building association, but it can invest in the stock of such an association. [1921 p. 19]

(See BUILDINGS AND BUILDING ASSOCIATIONS)

A lodge received an unconditional testamentary gift without restriction on its use. This fund, not being derived from dues, fees, or assessments, the lodge may properly vote to segregate and not to commingle with lodge funds. It may properly designate its use and the income derived therefrom for a Temple Building Fund. The presently effective decisions prohibiting the use of lodge funds for building purposes relate to funds created by dues and assessments levied against and collected from its members. [1914 p. 24; 1968 p. 680]

Charity Fund

Lodges may establish funds for charitable purposes.

(See DUES and ASSESSMENTS–*Lodge Assessments*; TEXT BOOK—CHAPTER XIX)

A lodge has no authority to appropriate its charity fund for any other purpose than that for which it was designated.

Lodges may amend their by-laws regarding the expenditure of charity funds to include the same broad purposes as are now found in Section 62 of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Maine pertaining to the appropriation of funds by the Masonic Charitable Foundation of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

(See DeMOLAY; Const. § 62—*Second*; S.R. 18)

[1865 p. 84; 1876 p. 17; 1927 pp. 374, 376; 1929 p. 40; 1997 p. 38]

If a lodge wishes to grant aid to any other lodge in building or repairing its hall it can do so from its general income, if it has any, but not from its Charity Fund. [1898 p. 25]

A lodge having a charity fund provided for by its by-laws shall use no part of said fund for any other than a Masonic charitable purpose.

[1898 p. 25; 1905 p. 220; 1927 p. 376; 1929 p. 39; 1933 p. 24]

Charity fund cannot be used as a building fund. [1927 p. 376]

Charity Fund cannot be used for hall repairs. [1929 p. 39; 1984 p. 595]

General Fund

Lodges shall hold all general funds in trust to defray the necessary expenses of the lodge and for charitable purposes. Lodges may, in cases not sacrificing these needs, use general funds on lodge endeavors intended to increase the well-being and happiness of the community in which the lodge is located. Lodge funds may not be used for any other than these Masonic purposes.

A lodge cannot give a portion of its funds to another lodge without the consent of the Grand Lodge. [1873 p. 37; 1894 p. 19]

A lodge cannot donate its funds to a Masonic building association or board of trustees to assist in erecting a building for the use of the lodge and other Masonic bodies, but may invest in its stocks or bonds. [1921 p. 19]

They may be used to employ assistance to take care of sick members. [1875 p. 528]

They cannot be used for insuring the lives of any of the members. [1877 pp. 283 – 285, 455 – 456]

They may be used to defray reasonable expenses for music at a public installation. [1903 p. 216]

They may be used for the celebration of St. John's Day according to the ancient uses of the craft. [1881 pp. 615 – 616]

However, not to pay the expenses of a pleasure excursion and visitation of a distant lodge on that day. [1880 p. 297; 1881 p. 616]

Nor to pay the expenses of annual receptions, etc. [1895 p. 176]

Nor to pay expenses of dance and ladies' night. [1930 p. 229]

Lodge funds cannot properly be used to hire bands to attend funerals or to pay fares for members to go on excursions. If the members indulge in such luxuries, they should be paid for by subscription. [1865 p. 84]

Funds of lodge cannot be used for bands on St. John's Day parade. [1880 p. 297]

Refreshments and meals may be paid from lodge funds. [1896 p. 72]

Improper use of funds discussed. [1915 p. 234]

Ladies' night or dances should not be taken from lodge funds. [1930 pp. 229, 281]

Funds should not be used for dances or public entertainment. [1930 p. 232]

Funds of a lodge should be used for Masonic purposes only and not for non-Masonic charity. [1933 p. 25]

Red Cross contributions from Masonic funds not condemned; also not condoned. [1943 p. 418]

Funds should not be used to erect a marker on grave of a deceased Brother who was suspended for nonpayment of dues. [1948 p. 577]

The practice of lodges to purchase jewels, for Past Masters from lodge funds is proper. [1962 p. 235]

Lodge funds may not be used for other than Masonic purposes, and solicitation for lodge purposes should not be made from anyone except members of the Craft. [1961 p. 26]

Funds of lodge cannot be used for a purpose not Masonic such as hospitals, etc. [1948 p. 577]

A lodge wished to make a contribution to a memorial hospital building fund in their community. The lodge acknowledged that they could not use lodge funds for this purpose. By vote of the lodge, a committee of Brethren was organized to solicit personal contributions, from each member. The funds collected were given to the memorial hospital building fund in the name of "Masonic Member Contribution." This project in no way violated our Constitution or regulations. No lodge funds were used. By their action, the members took an active interest in promoting the general welfare of all citizens

in the community, not confining their activities solely to promoting the lodge. Individual Masons, in the name of Masonry expressed interest in the community's welfare by positive action. [1967 p. 463]

Life Membership Fund

All lodges that have not segregated life membership funds into a special account shall immediately do so and report to Grand Lodge annually as such and not commingle them with general operating funds.

(See S.R. 23)

FUNERAL

(See MEMORIAL SERVICE)

FURNITURE

(See OUTDOOR/OFFSITE DEGREES)

Five-sided altar *is not* appropriate furniture in Masonic Hall. [1929 p. 39]

G

GAMBLING

(See S.R. 25)

Lodges should not participate in "Gift Enterprises" [schemes in which the elements of chance and prize are present] or use similar methods of raising money. [1883 pp. 313, 510]

GOOD STANDING

The term "good standing" when applied to a Mason means that he is a member of a regular lodge and not under charges of unmasonic conduct. It does not have any reference to the payment of dues.

GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITY

Masonry has no part in governmental activity. [1862 Appendix 12 – 22]

GRAND LODGE CHARITY

(See CHARITABLE FOUNDATION)

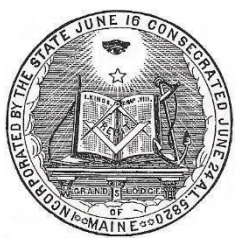
GRAND LODGE

(See Const. Part First or, to reference specific topics, the Table of Contents)

Civil Charter Of

(See Act of Incorporation; Historical Notes on the Corporation

Seal Of



The form, a circle, surrounded by the words "Incorporated by the State, June 16, consecrated June 25, A.L. 5820." Within this circle the words "GRAND LODGE OF MAINE", upholding on its three pillars the Bible, Square and Compasses, supported on the right by a Scythe, and on the left by an Anchor (part of the arms of the State), having within the Compasses, "REGIT" (the Bible rules and directs us) irradiated by the Polar Star (the emblem of Maine), and having above the whole the All-Seeing Eye.

GRAND MASTER

(See COMMUNICATION–*Grand Lodge*)

The Grand Master's address has been a custom so long that it is nearly equivalent to Masonic law. [1867 p. 10]

Grand Master's rulings are decisions and not opinions. [1879 p. 41]

Grand Master's powers defined. [1886 p. 342]

The Grand Master has no authority to give consent to a lodge to use a part of its funds in another lodge. [1894 p. 19]

Where the Grand Lodge does not expressly prohibit certain proceedings, the Grand Master undoubtedly retains the prerogatives, which have existed from time immemorial and become landmarks of the Fraternity. [1943 p. 467]

However, see Grand Master's address quoting Drummond in the 1953 Proceedings. One-day annual sessions for the Grand Lodge is within the broad powers of the Grand Master to order. [1945 p. 9]

Rulings and dispensations of the Grand Master to become effective after his term expires are invalid. [1948 p. 578]

H

HALLS

(See INTOXICATING LIQUORS; S.R. 1, 6, 30)

Masonic halls should be used only for Masonic purposes, especially after dedication. [1867 p. 126; 1878 p. 550; 1927 p. 378; 1929 pp. 39-40]

They should not be used for conferring the so-called side degrees. (See SIDE DEGREES) [1870 p. 22]

The dining hall in a Masonic building can be used for purposes not Masonic only by vote of the lodge. [1948 p. 577]

The dining hall can be used for social parties but not the Masonic Hall. [1929 p. 39]

A lodge may not allow a brother to use its hall for his marriage service; a marriage ceremony should not be performed in a Masonic hall. [1925 p. 23]

In case of necessity, after obtaining permission from the proper authority, a lodge may occupy a hall used by another society, until a suitable hall can be procured. [1878 p. 550]

Joint occupancy of halls is not improper. [1882 pp. 16, 32]

Lodges may be allowed to occupy halls with other associations, provided the District Deputy of the District first personally inspect, and in writing approve the occupation, but this inspection shall not be necessary in cases where other societies seek to have joint occupation of previously dedicated Masonic halls. [1882 pp. 32, 212]

Permission may be given to build a hall for joint occupancy with another organization, provided the plans of such building be submitted to the Grand Master and receive his approval. [1891 p. 253]

An application to a lodge for joint occupation of their hall by another society shall be granted only by a two-thirds vote of the lodge, the application having been laid over from one stated meeting to another. Provided, however, that in special cases the Grand Master may give permission to act upon such

application at any stated or special meeting if he shall find sufficient cause therefore. [1882 p. 212]

Masonic halls may be located without regard to the points of the compass. The ritual is symbolic and need not be complied with in its literal sense. [1884 pp. 625 – 626]

A lodge can be situated in a tenement house or dwelling house if properly secured to the satisfaction of the Grand Master. [1918 p. 24]

Standing Regulation No. 1 (renumbered in 2015 as S.R. 11) includes a vote passed in 1882 which provides "that application to a lodge for joint occupation of its hall by another society shall be granted only by a two-thirds vote of the lodge, the application having been laid over from one stated meeting to another."

Any concordant, appendant order, or organization, including the Order of Rainbow for Girls and the International Order of DeMolay for Boys may properly use Masonic halls for their meetings, subject to the provisions of the above-mentioned vote. [1955 p. 521]

Sheltering flood victims in a Masonic Hall is in keeping with Masonic principles and decorum. It is not a violation of Masonic law. [1978 pp. 191 – 192]

Programs which are designed to promote a great awareness of Freemasonry should be held in a Masonic lodge hall. If held in any other location, then the rules and guidelines pertaining to the use of and function of a Masonic lodge facility will apply to the facility in which the program takes place. [1998 p. 334]

HAT

(See CLOTHING)

HEALING OF CANDIDATES

(See IRREGULAR MASON)

HISTORY

(See Const. §§ 36—4, 75.3)

HONORARY MEMBER

There are two kinds of honorary members:

1. A member of the lodge made honorary to relieve him of duties without being deprived of any powers or privileges

2. A Mason, not a member of the electing lodge, elected as a compliment to him, without the rights and privileges of an active member. [1896 p. 72; 1899 p. 203; 1900 pp. 53 – 54]

Frequent election of honorary members of the first class is objectionable. [1900 pp. 53 – 54]

A member of a lodge [of the first class] loses none of his Masonic rights by being elected an honorary member, unless the by-laws so provide and he expressly accepts the honorary membership with a limitation upon his rights. [1889 p. 334]

An honorary member is not deprived of any rights as an active member and can be elected Worshipful Master. [1889 p. 334]

When an active member of the lodge has been elected an honorary member, that election cannot be reconsidered. [1899 p. 203]

An honorary member cannot be made to pay past dues if the by-laws are changed requiring him to pay. But if a lodge, by by-law, exempts honorary members from dues and makes Past Masters honorary members, a repeal of the by-laws subjects such members to dues for the future.
[1900 p. 19; 1913 p. 193]

Honorary membership-conditions justifying same-for the by-laws.
[1946 p. 195]

Honorary Membership and Life Membership are not the same.
(See LIFE MEMBERSHIP, Paid-up)

HONORARY PAST MASTER

The making of an Honorary Past Master is not allowed.
(See PAST MASTER)

I

INCORPORATION

Incorporation of lodges. [1953 pp. 58, 112]
(See BUILDINGS and BUILDING ASSOCIATIONS)

IN FORM

(See COMMUNICATION–*Grand Lodge*)

INQUIRY

(See COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY)

INSTALLATION

No elected officer of the Grand Lodge, or of any lodge, shall act as such until he is duly installed.
(See Const. §§ 8 – 13, 75.4, 78.1, 122, 124.2; S.R. 16, 26; TEXT BOOK—Chapters VI and X)

No officer, Grand or subordinate, can be installed by proxy, and no brother can be compelled to accept any office. [1865 p. 85]

A brother not eligible to office at the time of the election but becoming so before he is installed, by installation becomes a legal officer. [1880 p. 296]

Installation is necessary before the Worshipful Master can act. However, this is not so in the case of the other officers. The same rule prevails in Grand Lodge. [1827 pp. 153 – 154; 1861 p. 148]

It is not absolutely necessary that a re-elected Master should be installed, because by the Constitution he holds his place until his successor is elected and installed in his stead, but a Past Master who has vacated the chair one year or more, being again elected Master, cannot act as such until regularly installed, and, if the re-elected Master declines to be installed again, it may be taken as declining to accept the office.
[1862 p. 233; 1863 p. 321; 1868 p. 199; 1875 p. 528]

The installation must be in the town where the lodge is located by its charter. [1868 p. 200]

A decision issued in 1980 instructed lodges to "refrain" from holding installations of officers on Sundays as such practices were an "infringement on family life" and "could lead to adverse reactions."

While this holds true for tyled installations, semi-public installations provide an opportunity for the families of Masons to gather in a most wholesome circumstance. It is, therefore, my decision that constituent lodges may hold semi-public installations on Sunday afternoons as long as these ceremonies do not conflict with the regularly scheduled church services within the community or communities comprising the jurisdiction of the lodge.
(See S.R. 26) [1998 p. 335]

When objections are made to the installation of an officer, the reason therefore must be filed with the installing officer. If no reasons are filed, or if those filed are not sufficient in the judgment of the installing officer, he proceeds with the installation. If the reasons given are adjudged sufficient, the installing officer fixes a time and place for a hearing by him and notifies the parties. After the hearing, he issues his order declaring the reasons, sustained or not, as the case may be, which order must be entered on the records of the lodge; and the installation proceeds, or not, according to the decision.

The installing officer is the judge of the validity of the objections made, but the appeal to the Grand Master stays the proceedings until the Grand Master's decision, which becomes final. [1871 p. 349]

If the Grand Master is the installing officer, or there is no appeal, the decision is final; but from the decision of any other installing brother, an appeal lies to the Grand Master. [1871 p. 349]

A lodge may install as an officer a brother who has lost his right hand in the service of his country. It is anticipated that he will eventually become Master of his lodge. [1974 p. 254]

Joint installations of several lodges. Each lodge must open and close in its own hall. [1942 pp. 219, 295]
(See S.R. 16)

A Royal Arch Mason who has never been Master of a chartered lodge cannot properly install the Master of a lodge. The Blue Lodge cannot distinguish him from any other Master Mason. [1862 p. 233]
(See PAST MASTER)

Officers of Commandery of Knights Templar or of another Masonic body cannot assist in installation of officers or work of the lodge.
[1930 pp. 229, 281]

It is not proper for a lodge to hold a public joint installation with any non-Masonic society. [1922 p. 206]

Permission was asked to hold a joint installation of the officers of a Blue Lodge and the officers of the Royal Arch Chapter. This should never be permitted. Until 1942, Blue Lodges were forbidden to hold joint installations. At that time, Standing Regulation No. 40 [now No. 16] was adopted permitting joint installation of Blue Lodges but only by consent or permission of the Grand Master. Since there was a complete prohibition until this time, and the standing regulation relates to Blue Lodges only, without mention of concordant bodies it was the intent of Grand Lodge to permit joint installation of Blue

Lodges only. To allow a joint installation of a Blue Lodge and Chapter would in effect be tacit solicitation by the Chapter within a Blue Lodge, which is highly improper. The several appendant bodies of Masonry should be kept separate and work in their own particular field of Masonic activity.

[1967 p. 462]

Installations joint with the O.E.S. are not proper. [1922 p. 206]

INSURANCE

(See Const. §§ 74.4 – 74.5; S.R. 19)

INTOXICATING LIQUORS

(See S.R. 30)

One of the most perplexing problems to confront your Grand Master has been the dispensing of alcoholic beverages in Masonic Temples or rather the lack thereof and the desire to do so by some of the Brethren in this Grand Jurisdiction.

In view of the many problems facing our Blue Lodges at the present time and taking into consideration the trend of the times, your Grand Master after due consideration and studying the matter, hereby rules that alcoholic beverages may be dispensed with dispensation in any Masonic Temple, apartments or halls subject to the following restrictions and limitations:

1. At no time shall alcoholic beverages be introduced into the lodge room, except for authorized ceremonial purposes, or those rooms used directly in connection therewith, such as the preparation room, Tyler's room, or corridors adjacent thereto.

2. At no time shall officers of the lodge partake of alcoholic beverages after a meal and before the opening of a lodge, which they are to attend.

3. At no time shall any member be admitted to a lodge meeting while under the influence of alcoholic beverages.

4. At no time shall there be any area allotted to, or construction of a permanent servicing facility within any Masonic Temple under this Jurisdiction.

5. The temperate use and dispensing of alcoholic beverages during exclusively social function, fellowship and banquet periods, always in the confines of the social rooms, banquet rooms or dining halls, and always under the control of responsible persons, is not prohibited.

6. The foregoing is not to be construed as a mandate that the use and dispensing of alcoholic beverages must be allowed; whether such use is allowed or prohibited, is for the local Masonic body and the Building or Temple Association, as the case may be, to determine.

7. All applicable laws and regulations, both of the State of Maine and the local authorities, shall be observed and complied with at all times.

8. No lodge or recognized collateral body as such, shall apply for or hold any license required by the foregoing laws or regulations.

9. Reference to alcoholic beverages, in any connotation, such as cocktails, bar, BYOB, etc., is not permitted in any lodge notice, or as an enclosure in the mailing of a lodge notice. The use of the phrases "social hour" or "social period" is not prohibited.

We must recognize that times change and it is easily demonstrated that in 2004 a substantial number of our members use alcoholic beverages, always within the bounds of temperance, and the temptation is to leave our meeting places, or in connection with a social function, for an atmosphere and surroundings which can often be contradictory to the atmosphere and surroundings of a lodge building.

[1935 p. 391; 1973 p. 44; 1974 p. 304; 1975 p. 502; 1976 p. 745; 1986 p. 205; 2004 pp. 888 – 900]

IRREGULAR MASON

An irregular Mason is one who has been made in a regular lodge but in an unconstitutional or unlawful manner.

Degrees by courtesy cannot be done between lodges of the State; a man so raised is not a regular Mason. He must file a new petition to the lodge having jurisdiction. The lodge must obtain a dispensation and proceed the same as in ordinary petition. [1922 p. 209]

Where a candidate is not at fault in a case of invasion of jurisdiction, it was held that he was a regularly made Mason. [1923 p. 430]

A member raised in the case of invasion of jurisdiction is declared to be null and void. [1945 p. 12]

A rejected candidate, removing to another Jurisdiction and there taking the degrees within five years from his rejection, without consent of the rejecting lodge, is not entitled to recognition in this State, nor to Masonic burial.
(See Const. § 102) [1876 p. 18]

Healing of Candidates, Irregularly Made

A person who has irregularly received the degrees in a regular lodge, and who desires to be formally healed as a Mason, must petition the lodge which he wishes to enter. The lodge must ask of the Grand Master a dispensation to act upon the petition. The ordinary course will then be taken with the petition. After a clear ballot is had, the person must be re-obligated in all the degrees, and a record thereof made. [1878 p. 550]
(See Const. §§ 103, 107)

Candidates receiving degrees irregularly are entitled to no rights or privileges until healed. [1928 p. 581]

The healing of a candidate, irregularly worked, cannot be waived. [1943 p. 467]

A candidate took degrees in two foreign countries. He now applies for membership here. If he is found to know the work, his petition for membership can be received and voted upon, then he can be re-obligated in all three degrees. He is then a member regularly made. [1892 p. 375]

A Brother who has taken the degrees in a foreign country and whose original lodge does not exist can apply to a lodge in the Jurisdiction in which he resides, and if accepted be obligated to all three degrees, sign the by-laws of the lodge and become a member. [1892 p. 375, 1970 p. 277]

A candidate irregularly initiated an Entered Apprentice was ordered healed by the Grand Master. Before he was healed he moved permanently from the State, four years ago. He therefore forfeited his election under Section 128

[now Section 107] of the Constitution and the lodge no longer has jurisdiction. [1968 p. 680]

(See Const. § 107; Proceedings—1870 p. 465, 1873 pp. 29 – 30)

INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE

(See COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY)

J

JURISDICTION

Over Candidates

(See CANDIDATES)

Over Lodges

The Grand Lodge has sovereignty over its territory and subordinate lodges.

(See Const. §§ 4—*Fourth*, 19.10, 36—8, 67 – 68; S.R. 15, 29)

The Grand Lodge is the legal successor of every demised lodge, and the power to act in its stead is vested only in the Grand Lodge, or in the Grand Master during the recess. [1895 p. 250]

Over Political Offenses

Masonry has no jurisdiction over political offenses. [1865 p. 85]

Over A Brother Suspended N. P. D.

A brother was suspended for nonpayment of dues approximately ten years ago, now a resident of another State. The lodge inquires whether or not it has retained jurisdiction over him, or must he apply for membership in a lodge in the State in which he now resides. The lodge still retained jurisdiction and a petition for restoration under Section 59.1 of the Constitution was the proper course to pursue. Section 59.2 provides that he shall not be admitted to membership in any other lodge until his dues are paid or remitted. While our Constitutional law is not law beyond our Jurisdiction, it is not likely that he could become affiliated without a demit which cannot be obtained without being current in his dues. [1967 p. 461]

Penal Jurisdiction

(See Const. §§ 51 – 52)

A lodge has penal jurisdiction over its own members wherever they may reside. Geographical jurisdiction extends half way to the nearest lodge in this State in every direction; in other words, any particular place is under the jurisdiction of the nearest lodge in the State. This is the jurisdiction of lodges for all purposes except the admission of candidates. [1861 p. 150]

L

LANDMARKS

Landmarks are those ancient and universal fundamental principles of the Craft, which no Masonic authority can alter or repeal.

(See S.R. 29; Appendix D)

LECTURES

(See Const. § 85)

LIBRARIAN

Office of Lodge Librarian established
(See S.R. 27)

LIFE MEMBERSHIP, Paid-up

(See FUNDS—Lodge–*Life Membership*, HONORARY MEMBER; S.R. 23)

A member, who by virtue of a by-law has purchased and paid for life membership, is entitled to retain it, and the lodge must abide by it in spite of change or repeal of the by-law. [1899 p. 202; 1900 p. 53]

If a life member takes a dimit, he can affiliate anywhere else. Life membership only means that there is no obligation to pay further dues in his current lodge. Disposition of the fee paid is handled per the lodge's by-laws. [1915 p. 193]

LODGE

A lodge is a society of Masons meeting by authority of a Charter or Warrant from a regular Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, for the purpose of doing Masonic work and transacting appropriate business.
(See CLANDESTINE–*Lodge*)

Under Dispensation

(See Const. §§ 36—5, 67, 74.6, 105.4 ¶ 4, 121 – 123)

A lodge U. D. has the same territorial jurisdictions, for all purposes, as a chartered lodge. [1861 p. 150]

No person but the Master, or a Warden of a lodge U.D. can open such lodge. [1861 p. 150]

If it is desired to work longer under a dispensation without obtaining a charter, the petition should be varied accordingly.

The Master may preside over a lodge under dispensation (U.D.) without having received the Past Master's degree. [1871 p. 223]
(See CHARTER; DIPLOMA–*Past Masters'*)

The only members of lodges under dispensation are those named in the dispensation. [1874 p. 274]

Lodges under dispensation—only persons named in petition have the right to ballot on petitions and vote on all applications. [1862 p. 232]

In lodges under dispensation, only persons named in the dispensation have a right to vote therein. [1863 pp. 320 – 321]

A candidate receiving the Master Mason degree in a lodge under dispensation thereby becomes a member of that lodge, with the same rights and privileges as the brethren named in the dispensation. [1906 p. 20]
(See APPLICATIONS for DEGREES and MEMBERSHIP—*Jurisdiction*)

Under Charter

(See CHARTER; Const. § 124.1)

Every newly chartered lodge must be constituted by the Grand Master, or his proxy. It cannot proceed to work under the charter before it is constituted, and its officers installed. [1861 pp. 147 – 148]

Cannot meet in any other town than that named in the charter without the permission of the Grand Master. [1864 p. 12; 1896 p. 57]

Powers

(See Const. § 70)

Duties

(See Const. §§ 71.1, 74.1 – 74.6, 75.1 – 76)

In General

When a lodge desires to move from one town to another, it should petition the Grand Lodge, which is referred to the Committee on Dispensations and Charters. [1889 p. 350]

It is improper for a lodge to send resolutions to the President of the Country protesting an appointment to the Vatican. [1952 p. 63]

No person but the Master or Warden of a lodge under dispensation can open such lodge. Provisions in our Constitution which are said to authorize a Past Master in the absence of the Master and Wardens to open a lodge do not apply to lodges under dispensation. [1861 p. 150]

A lodge under dispensation has no members. It may receive the assistance of brethren not named in the dispensation and they may be appointed to act as officers. The Master and Wardens are named in the dispensation. The other officers are appointed. None are elected as in chartered lodges. [1863]

LODGES, CONSOLIDATION OF

(See Const. § 130)

M

MASONIC TITLES AND STYLES

A Masonic title [Master, Past Master, Grand Master etc.] and its associated style [Worshipful, Very Worshipful, Right Worshipful, Most Worshipful] is a personal one which attaches to a Brother by virtue of his having acquired an office in a lodge or the Grand Lodge and to which he is not divested when his term of office expires.

(See Const. § 2.1)

MASTER

(See Const. §§ 75.1b, 76, 90, 127, 133)

The powers of the Master of a lodge are much different from those exercised by the head of any other society. The presiding officer of most societies is chosen by the members of the organization, and can usually be removed by that body. A Master is elected by his lodge, but can only be removed by the Grand Master or Grand Lodge. The presiding officers of other organizations are usually bound by certain rules of order, and a code of by-laws. A lodge cannot enact by-laws to alter, amend, or curtail the powers of a Master. While lodges have by-laws they cannot in any way infringe upon the ancient prerogatives and powers of the Master of a lodge which are derived from the old charges and the ancient uses of the Order. The authority of a Master is absolute, subject only to appeal to the Grand Lodge.

Among The Powers Lodged In The Master Of A Lodge Are:

To congregate his lodge when he pleases, and for what purpose he pleases, provided that any action he may take does not conflict with the laws of the Grand Lodge, the Constitution and Landmarks of the Fraternity.

To temporarily call another member of his lodge to preside, but in doing so he is not relieved of responsibility thereby for what occurs in his lodge.

To decide all points of order, and no appeal may be taken from his decisions to the lodge.

To initiate and close debate at his pleasure.

To say whom may enter and leave the lodge room.

To appoint all committees. A lodge may not appoint a committee. It may, however, pass a resolution that a committee be appointed, but the selection of the membership of the committee is an inherent right of the Master.

To appoint the appointive officers of his lodge.

To be ex officio a member of all committees he appoints.

A Master's Limitations Are:

That he cannot pay out any of the funds of the lodge without authority granted by a vote of the lodge.

That he should not sign a petition for a new lodge.

That he may not accept a petition or confer a degree without the consent of the lodge.

A Master can be suspended only by the Grand Master or Grand Lodge. He may be impeached for official misconduct by five members of his own lodge, or the District Deputy Grand Master, of the District to which his lodge is assigned, before the Grand Master.

The Worshipful Master of a lodge receives great honor, has great privileges, enjoys great prerogatives and powers; therefore he must endeavor to measure up to his responsibilities, and endeavor to do his best to leave his lodge at the expiration of his term of office better than he found it.

There is no law, edict or regulation of our Grand Lodge that I am aware of that designates the power and authority of the Worshipful Master.

The Worshipful Master receives his prerogatives from the old charges and regulations and the well-established uses of the Order. The Masonic Fraternity has often and very justly been termed to be an absolute monarchy in its government. The Master's authority, in his lodge, is absolute. (Drummond) [1864 p. 12]

The Master can allow the Senior Warden to fill the East in his presence. Cases might arise when it would not only be justifiable, but highly proper; but it is a practice not to be recommended. [1864 p. 12]

Masters hold their offices until their successors are elected and installed. [1875 p. 528]

A reelected Master should be installed. [1868 p. 199]

The only person entitled to the rank of Past Master is one who has been duly elected a Master of a subordinate lodge and he must first have served as a warden. [1967 p. 462]

A Master may preside over a lodge under dispensation without having received the Past Master's Degree. [1871 p. 223]

A Master may call any Brother to preside in his presence and under his direction and the work may go on but not otherwise. [1900 p. 20]

A Master can be reelected for a second term even though the previous vote was to the contrary, if this is not against the by-laws. [1902 p. 22]

Naturalization is not necessary to become a Master. [1925 p. 24]

MEETINGS

(See COMMUNICATION)

MEMBERS AND MEMBERSHIP

(See AFFILIATION, BY-LAWS; Const. §§ 69 ¶ 2, 104.1, 116 – 118.2, 122 – 123)

A member of a lodge in good standing is entitled to all the rights and benefits of Masonry, without regard to his mental condition. [1884 p. 625]

A Mason who has demitted from a lodge can regain membership therein only in the same manner in which he may become a member of any other lodge. [1870 p. 23]

There is no law requiring a demitted Mason to apply for membership to the nearest lodge; he may apply to any lodge wherever located. [1870 p. 22; 1915 p. 189]

A candidate for membership only can apply to the same or any other lodge immediately after his rejection.

There is no limitation of time within which a brother who has taken a dimit from one lodge must apply to another for membership. [1900 p. 19]

Brethren raised in a lodge under dispensation, the charter of which is afterward refused, are nonaffiliated Masons in good standing, and can apply to any lodge for membership. A certificate from the Grand Secretary will supply the want of a dimit. [1898 p. 25]

The Master may refuse to admit a member for good cause, after investigation made. [1877 p. 280]

The general rule is that a brother elected to membership in a lodge does not become a member thereof until he has signed the by-laws, for an objection made before he has signed the by-laws is equivalent to a rejection. [1883 p. 516]

When a lodge has voted to surrender its charter, its members cannot apply for membership in another lodge until the Grand Lodge accepts the surrender of the charter. [1883 p. 311]

The conferring of the Master Mason Degree constitutes the recipient a member of a lodge. [1878 p. 549]

A person who receives the Master's Degree in a lodge, and signs the by-laws, thereby becomes a member of the lodge without any ballot unless the by-laws of the lodge otherwise provide. [1863 p. 303]

The removal of a brother into another Jurisdiction does not, of itself, authorize his name to be stricken from the roll of the lodge of which he is a member; he does not lose his membership in his lodge by mere lapse of time or by removal from the Jurisdiction. In the case of a lodge that suspended work in 1832 and resumed it in 1855, in the meantime retaining their Charter, those who

were members in 1832 still remain members unless their membership has been terminated by some act of the lodge. [1863 p. 303]

Persons named in a Charter are not necessarily members of the lodge after it is organized. The issuing of a Charter makes the persons named in it members on certain implied conditions, one of which is that the lodge shall adopt a code of by-laws conformable to the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge and that those named who wish to become members shall signify their assent to the by-laws by signing them. [1864 p. 12]

The crimes of members cannot be countenanced. [1872 p. 458]

Membership cannot be conditional or provisional. [1879 p. 11]

If the mental resources of a member are lost, he is still entitled to all Masonic privileges. [1884 p. 625]

A member is in good standing even though several years in arrears in dues, if he has not been tried or suspended. [1914 p. 24]

MEMBERSHIPS, MULTIPLE

(See AFFILIATION; Const. §§ 59.2 – 59.3, 118.1 – 118.2)

An applicant for dual or plural membership in a Maine lodge, if rejected, may immediately apply to the same or to any other lodge. Since he is a Master Mason, he would come under the same rules as an application for affiliation. [1986 p. 205]

A brother from a sister Jurisdiction applied for dual membership in a Maine lodge in 1970. In 1974 he was suspended in his home lodge and Jurisdiction for nonpayment of dues. However, he was still carried as a Maine member to the present time.

According to the Grand Lodge Rules and Regulations of that Sister Jurisdiction, the Brother lost all rights and privileges to Masonry the same as a concordant body member in our Jurisdiction would.

Loss of membership in either lodge should not constitute a loss of membership in both, which would be the effect should the member take a demit from one lodge. Membership in one lodge is not a prerequisite for membership in another. His status in one lodge should not affect his status in the lodge in which he remains an active member in good standing. No lodge is permitted to interfere with business or concerns of another lodge. [1990 p. 75]

Once a Mason becomes a member of a Maine lodge, his membership stays intact, even if he moves to another State completely. This refers to dual membership as well as regular membership. This, of course, applies only as long as he is in good standing in either or both lodges. [1985 p. 12]

MEMORIAL DAY

A lodge cannot rightfully take part in Memorial Day Services.
(See PUBLIC APPEARANCE; Const. § 86) [1897 p. 198]

MEMORIAL SERVICE

(See Const. §§ 86, 93.1)

At the burial of a Mason, the Masonic service should be last although other Orders perform their services. [1878 p. 549; 1905 p. 220]

At a Masonic funeral, Blue Lodge Masonic regalia only should be worn by

Masons. [1884 p. 626]

A brother may wear his apron if he is to be cremated. [1984 p. 626]

Lodges may hold Masonic Memorial services for departed Brethren even though the body or the ashes are not present. We do not memorialize the remains, but rather the life that was and still is. [1979 p. 379]

A lodge may not attend as such the funeral of a brother unless it conducts the burial service. [1925 p. 24]

If a Royal Arch Mason dies having requested to be buried by his Chapter, the lodges have nothing to do about the funeral any more than if he had requested to be buried by the Odd Fellows or any other organization; nor can they properly appear at the funeral as a lodge. The idea of a Chapter using our burial service is as appropriate as if they had taken that of Knight Templar or of Catholic or Episcopal Churches. They have just as much right to use the one as the other and no more. (Drummond) [1866 p. 156]

The Commandery officiates at the funeral; the lodge as a body should not be present. [1898 p. 26]

If the funeral service is not Masonic, the lodge should not attend as such. The Fraternity should not appear in public except for some Masonic labor.
(See PUBLIC APPEARANCE) [1865 p. 117; 1925 p. 24]

Funeral for a Brother who committed suicide can be held Masonically, provided he was insane when he did it. [1867 p. 126]

A lodge taking charge of the body of a deceased brother for burial must retain control of it until it is buried; and no service shall be allowed to follow the Masonic service, although the lodge should extend all proper courtesy to any other society that may be present. [1905 p. 220]

At a Masonic burial the bearers shall wear no other regalia than the Masonic regalia. [1905 p. 220]

It is not proper, at a burial, for a person in Masonic regalia to assist any other than a Masonic lodge. [1905 p. 220]

A nonaffiliated Mason is not *entitled* to Masonic burial, but it may be voluntarily accorded by the lodge.
(See Const. § 93.2, 120)

A Brother, guilty of sexual misconduct, is considered not to be in good standing as a Master Mason and is therefore not entitled to the rights and privileges of a Master Mason.

Details: A Brother pleaded guilty (through plea-bargaining) to two lesser counts of sexual misconduct with a minor. While awaiting sentencing, he was shot to death. His family requested a Masonic Memorial Service, which was denied on the grounds that being guilty of two or more counts of sexual misconduct with a minor, he should not be considered in good standing as a Master Mason and not entitled to any of the rights and privileges of a Master Mason. [1988 p. 618]

MINUTES

(See RECORDS; Const. § 81)

Minutes are the entries made by the secretary during the meeting, as distinguished from the permanent record of the proceedings in the proper book.

When a loose-leaf record book is used, the minutes book must be permanently preserved. [1923 p. 386]

Minutes must be read for the approval of the lodge at its close, save that they should not be read in a lodge open on a lower degree than that in which the proceedings took place. [1862 p. 233; 1866 p. 156]

When a lodge of Master Masons closes, the minutes of proceedings should be read. If then the lodge is opened on an inferior degree, at its close the minutes of proceedings on that degree only should be read. The proceedings of a Masters' lodge cannot be read in a lodge of Fellow Craft or Entered Apprentices. [1862 p. 233]

MONTH

(See MOON LODGES)

MOON LODGES

When stated communications of a lodge are held on a day fixed by a specific phase of the moon, the time between two such meetings is a month within the meaning of the constitution, although the two may come in the same calendar month. The word "month" Masonically means lunar month.

Also when, under the by-laws of a lodge, its annual communication occurs in a month in which there are two stated communications, the first shall be deemed the annual meeting; and, when the annual communication occurs in a month wherein there is no stated communication, the stated communication next before such month shall be deemed the annual communication of the lodge. [1876 p. 32; 1888 p. 47; 1890 pp. 686 – 687]

Moon lodges may hold two stated meetings in one month if the moon so dictates. [1890 p. 687]

(See S.R. 3)

Moon lodges to be held on Saturday on the full of the moon. If it falls on another day, the Saturday before the full is the day. [1884 p. 626]

N

NOMINATION

(See ELECTION–Lodges)

NONAFFILIATE

A nonaffiliate is:

1. A Mason who has withdrawn his membership in a lodge by demission.
2. A Mason whose membership in a regular lodge has been severed on account of a penalty imposed for a Masonic offense.
3. A candidate [before he signs the by-laws] is not a member; he is a nonaffiliate.

On March 22, 1864, a lodge in this jurisdiction conferred the degrees upon a candidate who was then proposed and elected to membership, according to custom and the Masonic law of this Grand Lodge at that time. He never signed

the by-laws, was never borne upon the lodge roll, nor visited it since. He now desires membership in another lodge; what is the proper method to pursue? I answer. Never having signed the lodge by-laws as then required, he became a non-affiliate. The lodge which conferred the degrees can give him a certificate under seal, stating that fact, which he can deposit with an application for membership in the usual manner. [1902 p. 22]

A non-affiliate is subject to Masonic discipline, and remains under those obligations which can never be repudiated or laid aside. He has no Masonic right, save the right to petition a lodge for affiliation, reinstatement or restoration, under such regulations as surround his separation from the Order.
(See Const. §§ 103, 120)

An unaffiliated member has the same position with the Grand Lodge as does a member of a lodge. [1883 p. 513]

An unaffiliated member not entitled to become an honorary member.

When a lodge ceased to exist, its members then became unaffiliated.
[1865 p. 96]

When a charter is revoked, the members of a lodge become unaffiliated members. [1897 p. 231]

Unaffiliation, although not a Masonic offense, is discussed.
[1862 Appendix 10]

Masonic relief for self, for family, Masonic burial, right to visit lodges or participate in Masonic labors or ceremonies; discussed in. [1897 p. 197]

NONPAYMENT OF DUES

(See DUES AND ASSESSMENTS–*Lodge*, EXPULSION, MEMBERSHIP, SUSPENSION, TRIAL)

NOTIFICATION

Trestle-Boards

A notification is the notice by which the time, place, hour and frequently the business of a lodge is communicated to its members. A brother receiving a notification is requested to attend. The obligation, which a notification imposes, is a general one as distinguished from a summons.
(See SUMMONS**;** S.R. 14)

Names of candidates who are to be balloted upon should not be published in notices of meeting. [1930 p. 229]

No subordinate lodge under this Jurisdiction shall publish the suspension or expulsion of any of its members, *unless* by authority of the Grand Lodge.
(See Const. § 50)

Notice of suspension in Masonic lodge must not be sent to any non-Masonic body.

Joint trestle-boards may be used, providing the lodge adheres to the restrictions concerning the listing of names of candidates, as shown in the Constitution, Standing Regulations and Decisions of the Grand Lodge.
[1985 pp. 11, 59]

It is my decision that listing the names of candidates in email trestle boards does not meet the requirement of Standing Regulation No. 55 [renumbered in 2015 as No. 14] and should not be allowed. [2004 p. 894]

Notice of Charges

When charges are laid against a brother, notice and hearing are necessary before any penalty can be inflicted.

(See Const. §§ 51—1, 54e, 58)

O

OBJECTION

Authorities cited establishing the right of objection. [1861 pp. 151 – 152]

Detailed discussion of the right of objection. [1862 pp. 249 – 251]

Objection cannot be made until the application is submitted to the lodge. Objection can be made only to an actual candidate; a protest filed against election of one whose petition is not pending is unavailing. [1878 p. 550]

A member may cause the rejection of a candidate by giving notice to the Master, in advance, that he objects to the candidate but cannot be present at the ballot; in such case the Master must declare the candidate rejected, even though the ballot be clear. [1866 p. 157]

(See REJECTION; Const. § 100.1)

The Master should declare the application rejected even though no black balls appear if objection has been made previously. [1887 p. 692]

If a candidate is declared by the Master to have been accepted, and the record so states, the candidate is entitled to the degrees unless objection is made; in which case the Master must declare the candidate rejected. [1904 p. 22]

A member of a lodge who votes upon an application, which is accepted, may afterward object to the applicant and such objection is equivalent to a rejection by the lodge. [1915 p. 190; 1921 p. 19]

Objection must be made to the Worshipful Master even though the Senior Warden presided in the absence of the Worshipful Master at the time the candidate was elected. [1898 p. 27]

A member in good standing can legally prevent a candidate from being accepted in his lodge by giving notice to the Worshipful Master that he shall not be able to attend the communication when such a candidate (naming him) will probably be balloted for and that, if present, he should object to him in the manner recognized among Masons. Upon such notice to the Worshipful Master, it would be his duty to have the candidate entered on the minutes as rejected. A member being absent from the town when a lodge is holden retains all his rights of objecting to candidates as much as if present. [1866 p. 157]

It is not illegal or improper for a member to prevent the admission of a candidate, at the request of a brother who cannot be present. [1872 p. 466]

The right [of a member of the lodge] to object is inalienable. [1904 p. 31]

Objection cannot be made by a Mason not a member of that lodge. [1947 p. 394]

A nonaffiliated brother (though a member of another lodge) has no legal right to object to the initiation of a candidate. He can only make known his objections to the Master or some member of the lodge, who should give them such weight as he thinks they should receive and act accordingly.
[1871 p. 224]

A member is under no obligation to tell the Committee of Inquiry what he may know objectionable to a candidate. It is within his own discretion whether he will give the information to the committee or merely act upon it when he comes to ballot upon the application. [1865 p. 84]

If an objection is made, the ballot must still be taken and if clear, the rejection is made. [1876 p. 16]

Objection to affiliation can be made prior to the next stated meeting after the election. [1879 p. 11]
(See Const. § 100.1)

Objection made after ballot may be withdrawn at any time before the candidate is declared rejected. [1870 p. 23]

But not after he is declared rejected. [1876 p. 16]

An objection should be recorded by the Secretary. [1897 p. 230]

However, the candidate is rejected even though no record is made.
[1896 p. 22]

Even if an objection is not recorded, it is still valid, and by direction of the Grand Master will be noted on the record. [1896 p. 22; 1897 p. 230]

An objection by a member of the lodge to a candidate after election and before initiation is equivalent to a rejection by ballot. The Master must declare the candidate rejected, and direct the Secretary to enter the same upon the records. [1861 pp. 151 – 155; 1862 p. 251; 1915 p. 199; 1921 p. 19]
(See Const. § 100.1)

Objection can be made at any time before the candidate has been received into the lodge by the Senior Deacon. [1886 p. 341]

Objections must be made known to the lodge and their sufficiency determined by a two-thirds vote. [1901 p. 198, 1967 p. 461]
(See Const. § 114.2)

A candidate receives his first degree in Lodge "A". Subsequently he moves to a different town within the jurisdiction of Lodge "B". Lodge "A" issues a waiver of jurisdiction to Lodge "B". Some years elapse before the candidate appears to take his second degree. In the meantime, an objection is made confidentially to the Master of the lodge against the advancement of the candidate. Since the candidate has received one degree, the objection should be made in open lodge and, if the objection is supported by two-thirds of the members present, the objection is sustained and the candidate cannot be advanced. If the objection is not so made and so disposed of, it is entirely within the discretion and judgment of the Worshipful Master to determine when the candidate shall be advanced. [1955 pp. 518 – 519]

If objections to the advancement of a candidate are made after initiation, such objections must be made known to the lodge and their sufficiency determined by vote of the lodge. [1915 p. 192]

Objection after the First Degree must be voted on at a stated and not at a special meeting.
(See Const. § 114.2) [1948 p. 578]

If an objection is made after one degree is received, the fee for that degree should not be refunded. [1878 p. 550]
(See Const. § 99)

When objection is made to the advancement of a candidate who has received a part of the degrees, the candidate has no right to appear to defend himself; nor to any information as to the reasons for the failure of the lodge to confer the balance of the degrees. [1915 p. 192]

Objection to advancement is permanent. Petitioner must make a new application. He cannot sit in a lodge of Entered Apprentices.

An objection lasts only six months. New application can be then filed and a new objection must be made to stop it. [1891 p. 25]

Objection to one who has been elected a member of a lodge [by affiliation], before he signs the by-laws, is equivalent to a rejection.
[1879 p. 11, 1949 p. 31]

An objection can be made later by a member who earlier voted favorably.
[1915 p. 190]

An objection to granting a waiver of jurisdiction can be made only by a member of a lodge. [1920 p. 417]

Objection made after unanimous ballot to restore the membership is not a valid objection. [1952 p. 631]

OBLIGATION

If a portion of the obligation is omitted, the candidate should be re-obligated. [1947 p. 394]

OFFENSE

(See JURISDICTION, PUNISHMENT, POLITICAL OFFENSES; Const. §§ 88, 100.2, 101.2, 132.2 – 133, 135; TEXT BOOK—Chapter XVIII)

A Mason cannot be tried for an offense committed before an initiation.
[1866 p. 157; 1867 pp. 40 – 41; 1906 p. 21; 1907 pp. 199, 214]

But he may be tried and expelled for any false statements contained in his petition for initiation, or made to obtain initiation.
[1864 p. 15; 1867 pp. 40 – 41]

Any Mason, joining an organization whose avowed principles and practices are in violation of the laws of freemasonry, is liable to Masonic discipline. [1884 p. 846]

Court action in which the lawyer referred to Masonry severely condemned by Drummond. [1876 pp. 32 – 33]

OFFICER

(See ELIGIBILITY; Const. §§ 8, 34.1 – 34.5, 118.2)

Officers cannot be appointed by the Master until after he is installed; he may indicate before that whom he intends to appoint, but the record should show that the appointments were made after his installation. [1862 p. 233]

It is not permissible for officers of a lodge to wear robes. [1895 p. 176]

In the absence of an officer, the Master may make a pro tempore appointment for the meeting or for an indefinite time. [1862 p. 231]

When a pro tem officer is absent, and another is appointed, the power of the former ceases. [1862 p. 231]

A vote of a lodge, providing that no brother shall serve as Master more than one term, is in violation of Masonic principles, and is void. A vote that is in violation of fundamental Masonic principles is not binding upon a lodge. [1902 p. 22]

A brother may, by appointment act as Chaplain or Tyler in a lodge of which he is not a member, but may not be installed as such. [1903 p. 217]

Citizenship is not necessary to becoming officer of lodge, if brother is otherwise qualified. [1925 p. 24]

(See INSTALLATION)

ORDER of the EASTERN STAR

(See BIBLE, EMBLEMS, INSTALLATION, PRIVACY)

OUTDOOR/OFFSITE DEGREES

The use of the Masonic lodge furniture or fixtures to simulate or suggest the physical appearance of a Masonic lodge in any other place than dedicated and approved for the holding of a Masonic lodge necessitates a dispensation from the Grand Master. [1998 p. 334]

(See Const. § 82.3; S.R. 30—d)

P

PARADES

(See PUBLIC APPEARANCE; Const. § 86)

PARDON

Pardon of a convict should not be petitioned for by a lodge. [1913 p. 202]

PAST MASTER

(See DIPLOMA–*Past Masters'*, MASONIC TITLES; Const. §§ 5, 17.2 ¶ 2, 41, 53.1 – 53.2, 90, 106)

The only person entitled to the rank of Past Master is one who has been duly elected a Master of a subordinate lodge and he must first have served as a warden. [1967 p. 462]

A Past Master, who is not the Master at the time, must be installed as Master before he can act as such under a subsequent election. [1862 p. 233]

A Past Master can take the East at the request of the Junior Warden if the Senior Warden and Worshipful Master are absent. [1890 p. 687]

Under our constitution a Past Master, in the absence of the Master and both Wardens, may open the lodge and preside at the transaction of any business properly before the lodge. If all are absent and no Past Master present, members can fill the chairs according to seniority and merit. [1878 p. 549; 1879 pp. 41 – 43]

Or at the request of the officer present whose duty it is to open the lodge.

[1890 p. 687]

A Brother served his lodge as Junior Warden for a period of nine months in the absence of the duly elected Warden who was absent and not available to fulfill his obligations to that office. The brother who served went on to be elected and installed Worshipful Master of the lodge and served one term. Is he a Past Master and is he entitled to the title of Worshipful never being ELECTED a warden of his lodge? Answer – The Constitutions state that, "to be eligible for the office of Master, a brother must have served as a Warden." It is not stated that he must be ELECTED and INSTALLED. Service to the lodge as a Warden, although not duly elected, is sufficient in this case and that brother is a Past Master and entitled to the title of Worshipful. [1999 p. 611]

PAST MASTERS' DEGREE [LODGE]

Master, when installed, is entitled to the Past Master's Degree.

[1870 p. 22]

The only Past Master known to the lodge is one who has served one term as the Master of a chartered lodge. [1866 p. 156; 1929 p. 39]

Hence, the conferring of the Past Master degree can be done only by a Past Master of a lodge, and in the presence only of such. [1866 p. 156; 1872 p. 466]

Past Master's degree can be performed only by a Past Master.

[1847 p. 429]

The proper person to confer the Past Master's Degree on the Master elect, is a Past Master of a Blue Lodge and as part of the installation ceremonies.

[1866 p. 156]

A Past Master of a lodge outside the Grand Jurisdiction of Maine, but not a Past Master of a lodge within our Jurisdiction, is not entitled to receive the Past Masters' Degree. [1956 p. 785]

The Past Master of a Royal Arch Chapter is not entitled to sit in a Past Masters' Blue Lodge unless he is a Past Master of a Blue Lodge. [1929 p. 39]

A request was made to create a brother an Honorary Past Master of a lodge. This was not granted. There is no constitutional authority in our Grand Lodge for creating an Honorary Past Master. The only person entitled to the rank of Past Master is one who has been duly elected a Master of a subordinate lodge and he must first have served as a warden. He must have actually been installed in the East. No other person but an actual Past Master of a Blue Lodge can receive a Past Masters' certificate, the Past Masters' degree, preside over a lodge in the absence of the Worshipful Master or install the officers of a lodge. To create a Brother an Honorary Past Master would confer upon him an empty title without meaning. [1967 p. 462]

PAST MASTERS' JEWEL

The practice of lodges to purchase jewels, for Past Masters from lodge funds is proper. [1962 p. 235]

PAUPER

(See Const. § 95)

PERMANENT MEMBERS

Permanent membership in a Grand Lodge lasts only so long as a member is in good standing of a subordinate lodge. [1942 p. 217]

(See Const. § 2.1 – 2.2)

PETITION

(See APPLICATIONS)

PHYSICAL DISABILITY

(See Const. § 98; Appendix D—No. 3 ¶ 4)

If the Senior Warden can conscientiously declare that the candidate "is in due form," and is fully able to receive and impart all signs and tokens necessary for Masonic recognition in each degree he is not ineligible. [1892 p. 375]

It is for the Master of the lodge to decide whether, under the foregoing limitations, the disability of a particular candidate excludes him. [1923 p. 416]

Defense of an earlier decision where a candidate on the books of a lodge was accidentally deprived of a limb, and it was found that this loss did not unfit him for any Masonic labor whatever. [1826 p. 133]

Physical deformity. [1853 p. 38; 1854 p. 348, 1867, pp. 110, 128]

The Master alone is the judge as to Physical qualification. [1876 pp. 17 – 18]

Physical requirement is up to the Worshipful Master to decide. [1916 p. 22, 1923, pp. 382, 415 – 416]

Physical requirements within the discretion of the Master [with limitations]. [1925 p. 25]

Decision is left to the constituent lodge. [1946 p. 207]

A deaf man who cannot hear by mechanical device is not an eligible candidate. [1936 p. 613]

A man who desires to become a member, but who suffers from an illness of the inner ear which prevents him from wearing a hoodwink which causes him to lose his equilibrium, cannot be initiated without a hoodwink.

A candidate is brought from darkness to light. Without the use of a hoodwink he cannot be in darkness, therefore he cannot receive the degrees in the same manner as every other Mason receives them. He is not well qualified physically to receive the degrees. [1964 p. 683, 1965, p. 92/Jurisprudence]

It is permissible for a lodge to accept petition of a blind man.

Blindness alone shall not render a candidate ineligible under the provisions of this section provided he is capable of meeting his Masonic obligations and is otherwise a desirable candidate.

(See Const. § 98 ¶ 2)

It is my decision that from this time forward, a man who is missing an arm is eligible to receive the degrees of Masonry. [2004 p. 894]

PLURAL MEMBERSHIPS

(See MEMBERSHIP–Multiple)

POLITICAL OFFENSES

Masonry has no jurisdiction over political offenses. [1865 p. 85]

POLITICS

(See Const. § 84)

No political committee and no meeting of any group held either for the purpose of discussing political problems or in connection with the observance of a political anniversary of any party should be held at any time in a Masonic hall or lodge room. [1955 p. 520]

POWERS OF GRAND LODGE

(See Const. § 4)

PRIVACY

A brother has a right to know who is a member of his lodge. There is no regulation or decision which prohibits a brother from seeing the membership roster of his own lodge. However, no brother can require that he be furnished a mailing list of the membership. [1968 p. 680]

Secretaries of lodges need not and should not give information to Secretaries of Eastern Star as to whether members of lodges are in good standing. Nor should such information be given to any except Masons and then only for Masonic reasons. [1934 p. 194]

PROCEEDINGS

GRAND LODGE–Printed Journal of

(See Const. §§ 19.7, 36—12, 75.4, 94)

PROCESSIONS

(Sec PUBLIC APPEARANCES)

PROFANE

The term "profane" as used Masonically is not in an irreverent or irreligious sense, but to designate one who is not a member of the Fraternity. It is derived from a Latin word meaning "one outside the Temple."

PROFICIENCY

Examination of E.A. or F.C. in Master Masons' lodge is proper in order to determine proficiency of candidate. [1921 p. 20]

No candidate should be permitted to advance without a sufficient knowledge of the preceding degree.

(See Const. § 114.1)

A newly raised member refusing to pass the examination as required by the mandatory language of Section 114.3 is subject to disciplinary action which should be taken after the preferring of charges by the Junior Warden.

[1955 p. 519]

PRO TEMPORE APPOINTMENT

(See VACANCY)

PROXY

(See LODGE; Const. §§ 2.2—provisos, 5, 71.1 – 73)

When a Master or either of the Wardens registers, he is considered present for the whole session, unless excused.

These officers are obligated to perform their duties to the Masons of their respective lodges and only in extreme emergency such as illness (under a doctor's care) should they be relieved of this duty.

If a proxy has been duly appointed and the Master and Wardens are excused, the proxy has the right and duty to act on their behalf.

The proxy does not have the power to act if the Worshipful Master and Wardens leave the Grand Lodge, but are still in the building, in the corridor, or the men's room.

There is absolutely no reason for all three to be absent at one time. Furthermore, if only one is present it is his duty to represent his lodge. The area extends to the city in which Grand Lodge is held. The W. M. and Wardens know the time and place of the Grand Lodge sessions and should be there during the meeting. If this were not the case it could be that weak-minded officers might always leave controversial issues to a proxy and not accept their rightful duty for which they have been appointed.

If the Worshipful Master and Wardens must leave in case of an emergency, the proxy has the duty to act.

An "emergency" is an illness under a doctor's care or a death. To return to one's occupation cannot be considered an emergency. Grand Lodge session is only one and one-half days and when a Worshipful Master or Warden goes to that session he should have made preparation well in advance. To go one-half day and collect travel mileage is a disgrace to himself as well as his lodge and to go to Grand Lodge only for a "trip" or "excursion" is even worse.

It is the duty of the Worshipful Master or either Warden to act if they are in the building. If they do not act in such a circumstance, the lodge would lose its right to vote. [1970 pp. 277 – 279]

PUBLIC APPEARANCE

It is contrary to the uses of the Order and improper for the Fraternity to take part in their conventional character in any public demonstration except to perform some Masonic labor. [1865 p. 117]

(See CORNERSTONE; Const. §§ 14.5, 86; TEXT BOOK—Chapter VIII)

A lodge should not appear as a lodge, or with Masonic insignia, in any public celebration or observance. [1874 pp. 267 – 268; 1900 p. 19]

Processions in Masonic regalia must be for a strictly Masonic occasion. [1920 p. 417]

It is proper for a lodge to accept an invitation to attend a church service where the pastor is not a Mason. [1925 p. 23]

PUBLIC CEREMONIES

(See PUBLIC APPEARANCE)

PUBLICITY

The rules for publicity of lodge and Grand Lodge affairs as propounded by Drummond. He states that it is O.K. to publish list of officers elected or installed but nothing else happening in a subordinate lodge except upon public occasions. [1901 p. 232]

PUNISHMENT

(See Const. §§ 47 – 49.2, 59.1 – 59.3)

No punishment can be inflicted upon a Mason until after due trial. [1861 p. 177]

A lodge can be prohibited by the Grand Lodge from doing any work. [1873 p. 47]

A secretary refusing to obey instructions of the lodge is subject to charges and punishment. [1875 p. 528]

A candidate was given the degrees even though the ballot was not clear and objection was made in open lodge. The Worshipful Master and the Charter were suspended. [1875 pp. 529 – 530]

Joining an organization whose avowed principles and practices are in violation of the laws of Masonry subjects the member to Masonic discipline. [1884 p. 846]

Reprimand to a lodge for out-of-time work was ordered. [1943 p. 467]

(See OFFENSE)

Q

QUALIFICATION OF CANDIDATE

(See PHYSICAL DISABILITY Const. §§ 96 – 98)

QUORUM

(See COMMUNICATION)

R

RECOGNITION

Formula for recognition in foreign Jurisdictions. [1927 p. 423]
(See also Foreword in Appendix 1954)

It is a part of the duty of the Grand Lodge Committee on Fraternal Relations to "make recommendations in cases where other Grand Jurisdictions ask fraternal recognition by this Grand Lodge".
(See Const. § 36—8, S.R. 10—1)

Much of the information this Committee relies upon comes from the Commission on Information for Recognition, a committee working under the auspices of The Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America.

That Commission's 'Standards of Recognition' are:

1. Legitimacy of Origin.
2. Exclusive Territorial Jurisdiction, except by mutual consent and/or treaty.
3. Adherence to the Ancient Landmarks – specifically:
   - A Belief in God
   - The Volume of Sacred Law as an indispensable part of the Furniture of the Lodge
   - The prohibition of the discussion of politics and religion

The Commission neither advises nor recommends that recognition be given to any Grand Lodges, but merely indicates whether or not it considers that a Grand Lodge in question satisfies the conditions of regularity. Where recognition is extended, it is done by vote of the Electors attending upon the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge.
(See CLANDESTINE; Const. §§ 2.1 – 2.2; LIST OF LODGES—*Masonic,*

RECOMMENDATION

(See APPLICATIONS; BALLOT; CANDIDATE; Const. § 95)

RECONSIDERATION

(See VOTE; Const. §§ 44—17, 81)

RECORDS

Every lodge must keep an accurate record of such of its proceedings as, in the judgment of the Master, are proper to be written in a book specially kept for the purpose. If a loose-leaf record book is used, the following restrictions and conditions must be observed. The pages shall be consecutively numbered before the book is used for recording purposes; no entry shall be made therein except by the secretary of the lodge or by a Master Mason in good standing; the secretary shall keep all minutes of meetings in a book which shall be retained as a permanent record in the archives of the lodge. [1923 p. 386]

Due to the loss or destroyed records of Freedom Lodge No. 42 it is to be forgiven and allowed to start fresh as of January 1, 1995 in regard to its loss of records. This decision is not meant to free Freedom Lodge from any fees that may be due Grand Lodge.

Freedom Lodge No. 42 from now on will operate under the Constitution, Standing Regulations, and Digest of Decisions of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Maine. [1995 p. 1244]

At each stated meeting the record of the preceding stated meeting and all intervening special meetings, as transcribed from the minutes, must be read to the lodge and corrected and confirmed by it. [1866 p. 156]

No part of the record can be altered or erased after it has been thus confirmed. [1866 p. 156; 1874 p. 274]

Proceedings of a lodge, accidentally omitted from the records, cannot be inserted therein after the records have been confirmed. In such case, the business must be transacted again; or, if anything has been done by an officer or committee of the lodge under an unrecorded vote, that action should be confirmed. A lodge is not bound by the records until they are confirmed. [1873 p. 16]

Before they are confirmed they may be amended, according to the truth, by a majority vote of the lodge. [1874 p. 274]

If a transaction has been accurately recorded, the lodge should not by amending the record undertake to change what was actually done.

If a vote is passed which is decided by the Grand Master to be illegal, and the record has not been confirmed, it may be amended by omitting such vote.

If the record has been confirmed, the vote cannot be expunged, but a note should be appended showing the decision of the Grand Master. [1874 p. 274]

(See COMMUNICATION)

No part of the record can be altered or erased after it has once been confirmed. The minutes should be read before the closing of each meeting in order to have them approved if correctly taken but after being transcribed in the record book, correctly and confirmed, they cannot be changed. [1866 p. 156]

Records do not bind the lodge until approved. [1873 p. 16]

Record of action of a lodge can be changed before being approved.

[1874 p. 274]

Records of a meeting of a lodge, after being confirmed, cannot be amended. [1908 p. 23]

Loose-leaf records are O.K. under restriction. [1923 p. 386]

REINSTATEMENT

(See RESTORATION)

A petition for reinstatement requires no special form but takes the same procedure as an application for membership or degrees. [1922 p. 207]

If the applicant for reinstatement is rejected, he cannot apply again for reinstatement until six months after the rejection. [1931 p. 461]
(See Const. § 105.5)

The attempted reinstatement of a member in a manner not in conformity with the Constitution of the Grand Lodge is irregular and invalid, and the standing of the individual is that of an unaffiliated member. Monies received at the time of such irregular reinstatement are improperly received and should be refunded by the lodge. [1957 pp. 41, 119]

REJECTION

(See Const. §§ 99 – 102, 105.1 – 105.2, 105.5)

(See APPLICATIONS, BALLOT, CANDIDATE, JURISDICTION, OBJECTION)

Rejection

If two or more black balls appear, the Master must declare the candidate rejected, though a brother believes he threw one by mistake. [1872 p. 466]

After a ballot has been taken and the candidate has been declared rejected, no other ballot can be taken to correct a supposed mistake; the only remedy in such a case is by a new application. A ballot cannot be reconsidered after the Worshipful Master declares the result.
[1861 p. 176; 1870 p. 22; 1871 p. 349; 1874 p. 268]

The rejection of an applicant is final when declared and recorded. That only one black ball was cast and a second ballot was not taken cannot affect the issue. [1915 p. 190; 1922 p. 207]

Rejected Candidates

(See FEES; Const. §§ 99 – 101.3)

The demit of a rejected applicant for membership should be returned without endorsement. [1871 p. 224]

A Brother Mason rejected on his application for membership, has no right to question the lodge or its members as to the reason therefore. [1865 p. 85]

If rejected, the candidate must abide the result. [1876 p. 16]

A rejected candidate may renew his application only upon a new petition; the old petition cannot be used under any circumstances. This is true whether the rejection is by ballot or by objection after ballot. [1891 p. 25]

A rejected candidate, in making a new petition, must *always* state the fact of his previous rejection, and should give the date or the number of years since he has been rejected. [1892 p. 375]

A rejected applicant for the degrees cannot apply for a waiver of jurisdiction from the rejecting lodge until six months have expired from the time of his rejection. [1898 p. 27]

A candidate for degrees of Masonry even though there is supposed to be a mistake in rejection must wait the prescribed six months and then make a new application. [1900 p. 19]

Rejection is legal on the petition submitted by the candidate even if he has not signed it. [1875 p. 529]

A rejected candidate cannot apply until six months have expired. It is not material when it is to be balloted upon. [1871 p. 223]

A rejected candidate, residing in the jurisdiction of a lodge other than the one rejecting him, may apply during the five years next after the rejection to either lodge, but only with the unanimous consent of the other. [1892 p. 376]

A resident of another Jurisdiction who, with proper consent, applies for the degrees in a lodge in Maine and is rejected, may, after six months, again apply to the lodge here without consent from any other source. [1895 p. 176]

A candidate living in a town where there is no lodge is rejected and the Grand Secretary notified of his rejection. Afterwards, a lodge is constituted in the town where he resides. If he desires to petition again, he must present his petition to the lodge which rejected him. That lodge can receive it only by the permission of the new lodge. [1861 p. 149]

A rejected candidate wishing to apply in another lodge may apply to the rejecting lodge for a waiver. [1877 p. 280]

A lodge cannot allow a candidate to withdraw his petition after he has been rejected. [1864 p. 16]

The effect of a candidate rejected taking degrees in another lodge discussed. [1862 p. 251]

A rejected candidate of another State cannot be legally made here without consent of the other State. [1868 p. 200]

A rejection follows a candidate into another Jurisdiction, with the same effect as in this. [1874 p. 271]

A candidate is rejected here. He goes abroad. He is made a Mason there. He returns here. He cannot be recognized as a Mason here. [1886 p. 558]

A candidate rejected in Maine joins in another State; not entitled to Masonic recognition or burial here. [1876 p. 18]

A candidate rejected here gets a degree in another State is not recognized here as a Mason. [1875 p. 551]

Rejected candidate must sign a new application upon reapplying. [1891 p. 25]

A candidate petitions a lodge under dispensation. He is rejected. He can then, within six months, apply to a lodge having jurisdiction with permission of the Grand Lodge or Grand Master. [1898 p. 25]

A candidate is rejected. He cannot apply for a waiver for six months. [1898 p. 27]

A candidate rejected by a mistake, must wait six months. [1900 p. 19]

A petitioner for the degrees whose application has been rejected by a lodge shall not be initiated in any lodge under this Jurisdiction other than the one which rejected him, within five years from the date of such rejection, unless the lodge having jurisdiction recommend him to another lodge by a unanimous secret ballot.

(See Const. § 101.2)

The five-year rule runs from the date of his last rejection. [1914 p. 25]

Rejection under foreign Jurisdiction does not give that Jurisdiction control over the candidate for an unreasonable time. If he has lived in Maine five years, it is O.K. to forget the laws of the other State. [1945 p. 13]

A rejection may be declared by the Worshipful Master even though there is only one black ball. [1915 p. 190; 1922 p. 207]

Rejection—a good rule for same. [1917 p. 199]

Rejection—if a member ballots favorably, he can later object and cause a rejection of the candidate. [1921 p. 19]

A candidate is accepted and receives the first and the second degrees. It is then ascertained that he has been rejected by another lodge. The lodge, which received him, can confer the third degree upon him. He is a Mason. The lodge which initiated him cannot be blamed if they used reasonable diligence and did not have any knowledge of such rejection but they cannot proceed a step after they learn of such rejection, whether such knowledge comes through official source or otherwise. If a candidate desires to proceed further, he must apply with the recommendation of the lodge which initiated him and a statement of the facts of the lodge which rejected him, and abide the result. [1862 p. 232]

RELIEF

(See CHARITY, MEMBERSHIP)

REPORT

(See Committee of Inquiry)

RESIDENCE

(See Const. §§ 96, 105.2 ¶ 2, 112)

Residence means domicile; definition by Drummond. Temporary absence does not affect residence. [1862 pp. 234 – 235]

A person applying to a lodge in the town in which he resides and, after being initiated, removing to another town in which there is a lodge, cannot be crafted or raised in the second lodge except by permission of the lodge in which he was initiated. [1864 p. 16]

Residence as affects a soldier. [1864 p. 14]

Residence, discussion of same by Drummond. [1867 pp. 39 – 40]

Residence defined. [1877 p. 281]

Residence means legal residence. [1881 p. 616]

Resident of Massachusetts gets their permission and applies here. He is rejected. He can apply here again in six months with no one's consent. [1895 p. 176]

A candidate is a resident of a town but not personally therein for several years. Personal presence is not now required. [1926 p. 205]

A Navy or Coastguardsman cannot be considered a "seafaring man," as mentioned in Section 96—1 of our Constitution, since he is usually stationed for a year or more in one place and could thereby obtain the necessary residence requirement. [1986 p. 204]

(See APPLICATIONS; JURISDICTION)

RESIGNATION

No installed officer, whether elected or appointed, can resign unless a resignation is authorized by the by-laws approved by the Grand Lodge.
(See VACANCY; Const. § 89) [1862 p. 231]

A demit cannot be given to a Warden. It is the same as resignation, which is not permissible. [1867 p. 126]

RESTORATION

No particular form of application is required for restoration to membership, but the request, when presented, should take the same course as an ordinary application for membership and be laid over for action at the next stated meeting. [1922 p. 207]
(See Const. §§ 56.1 – 57)

To restore a member suspended for nonpayment of dues, no action of the Grand Lodge is necessary. [1876 p. 17]

When the dues are paid within three years the secretary should announce the fact in open lodge, the Master should declare the brother reinstated, and record should be made accordingly. [1894 p. 20]

RETURNS

Annual
(See Const. § 75.1)

Installation of Officers
(See Const. § 75.4)

ROBES

(See CLOTHING)

S

SECRETARY

(See PRIVACY)

SIDE DEGREES

The Degrees of other bodies known to Blue Lodge Masonry are specifically identified. [1868 p. 299]

Examples of ‘side degrees’ are the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine; Royal Order of Jesters; Mystic Order of Veiled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm [Grotto]; and Tall Cedars of Lebanon.

Use of Masonic halls by "Tall Cedars of Lebanon" for conferring so-called degree. Use of Masonic halls by any person or persons for purposes not in keeping with Masonic principles and decorum is prohibited. [1962 p. 236]
(See BLUE LODGES, HALLS; S.R. 10)

SOJOURNER

The term "sojourner" when applied to a Mason means one who is within the territorial jurisdiction of a lodge, but whose residence and lodge are elsewhere.

SPEAKERS BUREAU

(See Const. § 36—10)

SPECIAL MEETINGS

(See COMMUNICATION)

SPECIFICATION

(See CHARGES)

STANDING REGULATIONS

(See Masonic Code—Supplemental Information, Standing Regulations)

SUMMONS

A summons is a call of authority; a citation to appear and answer by a member in any case of charges preferred against him; *or* it is an imperative injunction to appear at a communication of the lodge with which the brother receiving it is affiliated; or to attend the Grand Lodge or Grand Master, or any committee or other body authorized by the Grand Lodge or Grand Master to issue it.

Summons, and Notice or Notification. Formerly, (and now in some jurisdictions) these terms were used synonymously; but in this State there is a wide difference in their signification's.

A Notice or Notification is used to give information, and the obligation to respond to it is the *general* Masonic obligation only: and the party, receiving it, is himself the judge whether, under the circumstances, it is his duty to respond.

A Summons is an *order,* and the Brother receiving it is under a special and imperative obligation to obey it: disobedience to it is a Masonic crime of a high grade; and failure to obey it can be justified only by a necessity, beyond the power of the party to overcome.

(See CHARGES; TEXT BOOK—Chapter VI–Installation–duties of the Master; Chapter XIII–Miscellaneous–Summons)

SUNDAY

(See COMMUNICATION–Special)

SUSPENSION

Nonpayment of Dues

(See NOTIFICATION, TRIAL)

Suspension from membership for nonpayment of dues cannot be inflicted without notice and hearing. By-law providing otherwise is void. [1894 p. 20]

Suspension for nonpayment of dues cannot take place until after due notice and an opportunity to be heard upon charges filed. [1894 p. 20]

A vote for payment of dues during suspension is void. [1894 p. 220]

Vote of lodge that a brother must pay dues while under such suspension also void. [1894 p. 20]

Suspension for nonpayment of dues, the member has no right to visit the lodge, he has no right to charity or Masonic burial but he must depend for all these things on the voluntary courtesy of the brethren. [1877 p. 455]

A suspended member for nonpayment of dues has no right to sit in his own or any other lodge but a lodge may permit him to visit. [1900 p. 20]

If suspended from membership for nonpayment of dues in a lodge in this Jurisdiction, a brother is not by right entitled to sit in his own or any other lodge in this Jurisdiction; yet if no objection is made, he may be allowed to visit. [1900 pp. 20 – 21]

Forfeiture of, or suspension from membership for nonpayment of dues, does not suspend from all the rights of Masonry, but only from the rights of membership. [1900 p. 20]

The name of a brother suspended for nonpayment of dues should not be erased from the by-laws. [1864 p. 15]

When suspended for nonpayment of dues, vote of Grand Lodge is not necessary to restore the membership. [1876 p. 17]
(See Const. §§ 59.1, 105.5)

Suspension for nonpayment of dues shall not preclude the right of the lodge to deprive of membership and the latter can follow the former if the brother fails to pay up. [1891 p. 26]

Suspension for nonpayment of dues or forfeiture of membership is not the same. If it is the latter, requires a petition and ballot; the former, payment of arrears within three years restores to membership, after three years he must petition for reinstatement. [1877 p. 280; 1933 pp. 24, 58; 1937 pp. 104 – 105]

Deceased member suspended for nonpayment of dues cannot be restored to membership. [1904 p. 22]

Suspension—Unmasonic Conduct
(Const. §§ 45 – 57)

Suspension from membership should be inflicted for such offenses as breaches of the by-laws of the lodges. Some different punishment should be inflicted for unmasonic conduct affecting the order generally. [1863 p. 303]

Suspension for three months or a definite time, the member's status is the same as before suspension after the period expires. [1876 p. 16]

Suspension for a definite time, a member is restored to the same position at the end of the period as he was before suspension. [1896 p. 51]

Suspension for definite time by Grand Lodge, petition for reinstatement need not come back to Grand Lodge. He need only apply to his lodge. [1944 p. 604]

On October 13, 1965 a brother was suspended by the Grand Master in accordance with Section 14 [renumbered in 2015 as Section 52] of the Constitution, effective until the Annual Communication in May 1966. The matter was referred to the Trial Commission which reported that it was unable to obtain proper service on the accused and recommended that said suspension be continued until final hearing and action by Grand Lodge. This recommendation was adopted by Grand Lodge. [1966 pp. 29, 292]

The Secretary of the lodge concerned, in filing his annual return, excluded the name of this brother from the list of members of the lodge and listed him as suspended. The question was raised whether or not it was proper procedure. The Secretary was correct. In his return for both years 1965 and 1966, it was proper to list this brother as suspended, which was in accord with the facts. [1967 p. 463]

Suspension of a By-Law

(See Const. § 82.1)

Suspension of Charter

(See Const. §§ 14.3, 36—5, 52)

T

TABLE LODGE

(See S.R. 30—c)

TEXT BOOK

The MAINE MASONIC TEXT BOOK is the only authorized monitorial work in this Jurisdiction.

TRESTLE BOARD

(See NOTIFICATION)

TRIAL

No member of a lodge can be suspended, expelled or in any other way deprived of his membership in his lodge without due notice to him and trial as provided in the Constitution of the Grand Lodge and any provision that in any case he shall cease to be a member or his name be stricken from the roll can only be construed to mean after notice and trial. [1861 p. 177]

General

(See TEXT BOOK—Chapter XVIII)

Nonpayment of Dues

(See Const. §§ 58 – 59.3)

Proceedings, in cases of trial for nonpayment of dues, need not be sent up to the Grand Lodge for review. [1876 p. 17]

Unmasonic Conduct

(See Const. §§ 54 – 57)

When a lodge is tried, all its members are tried. [1863 p. 302]

Nothing herein contained shall be deemed to prevent the Grand Lodge from taking original jurisdiction in any case and proceeding according to any method which it may adopt; provided, however, that no action shall be taken against any Brother whose address is known without reasonable notice to him and an opportunity to appear and be heard in person or by Masonic Counsel. [1931 p. 467]

Neither the accuser nor the accused should be present when the vote is taken. [1860 p. 106]

It becomes known to a lodge that a member of another lodge residing in this Jurisdiction becomes liable to charges for Masonic conduct. The duty of that lodge is to complain to the lodge of which the accused is a member and

then, if that lodge refuses or neglects to proceed against him, it should proceed to try him itself. The lodge which first commenced proceedings would have jurisdiction in the case. [1861 p. 150]

When a Mason is tried by a lodge, the charges and the proceedings thereon should be entered on the records of the lodge. The evidence should not be transcribed but the secretary should reduce to writing the substance of it and send an attested copy, with the other papers, to the Grand Lodge. [1862 p. 231]

On a trial of a Mason for revealing out of a lodge what is done in it, persons not Masons to whom it is alleged the accused has made statements of the doings of the lodge are competent witnesses to prove what statements were made. They may be called by the prosecutor or by the accused to rebut the testimony against him. [1862 p. 231]

The filing of charges against a member of a lodge does not affect his right to vote upon other questions. Presumption of the innocence continues until he is pronounced guilty by the lodge after a regular trial but he has no right to vote upon any question relating to the trial while it is in progress. He cannot vote in his own case. [1862 p. 231]

A lodge under dispensation has no jurisdiction to try charges against a Mason even though he is one of those named in the dispensation. Such charges for unmasonic conduct towards the lodge should be filed with the Grand Master, who has authority to act upon them. [1862 p. 233]

A Mason cannot be tried for general bad character but only for specific acts of unmasonic conduct. [1862 p. 233]

In the absence of any regulation of the Grand Lodge or of a subordinate lodge, the counsel of the accused may vote upon all questions arising during the trial and on the final question of guilty or not guilty. [1863 p. 303]

After a lodge on due trial has suspended a brother, it can (before that suspension has been confirmed by the Grand Lodge) restore him if, on further reflection and investigation, they are satisfied that they have been unnecessarily severe, and this they can do by a two-thirds vote; but if the friends of a suspended Mason wish to do this, notice should be given to all the brethren that on such an evening the matter will be brought up for the decision of the lodge so that no unfair advantage shall be taken of absent brethren who did not know that any such action was proposed to be had. [1864 p. 15]

Charges may be filed with the Secretary, out of the lodge, and the Master may fix a time for the trial and order notice to the accused without waiting for a meeting of the lodge to receive the charges. [1863 p. 320]

A profane may be a witness at a Masonic trial. [1871 p. 224]

TRUSTEES

(See TEXT BOOK—Chapter XIX)

TYLER

The Constitution does not require the Tyler to vote upon the application of candidates; but at elections and upon applications of candidates, if a member of the lodge, he should be permitted to vote if he desire, the Master designating some other brother to Tyler while he is absent from his station.

[1889 p. 334]

TYLER'S BOOK

A colloquialism for the book, LIST OF LODGES—*Masonic*

U

UNAFFILIATE

(See NONAFFILIATE)

UNWRITTEN LAW

(See Const.—Supplemental Information–Unwritten Law)

V

VACANCY

(See RESIGNATION; Const. §§ 5, 7.2a, 35.1, 63 ¶ 2, 71.2, 89)

In the absence of an officer, the Worshipful Master may make a pro tempore appointment for the meeting or for an indefinite time. When a pro tem officer is absent and another is appointed, the power of the former ceases. [1862 p. 231]

A Master chosen and installed into any Grand Office thereby vacates his office in the lodge, and the Senior Warden succeeds to the chair until the next Annual Communication. [1877 p. 280; 1878 p. 565]

The Grand Master cannot grant a dispensation to fill a vacancy in the office of Master while the office of either Warden is not vacant, nor of Senior Warden while that of Junior Warden is not vacant.

VISITATION

(See AVOUCHMENT; Const. §§ 92.1 – 92.3)

Procedure for the examination of visitors. [1939 p. 543]

A Master may call off his lodge and examine a visitor in presence of the members, for the purpose of instruction, using due care. [1871 p. 224]

The practice of undertaking to examine a person (claiming to be a Mason) except when specially appointed for that purpose by the Master, is a very dangerous and reprehensible one. [1864 p. 15]

A brother visiting a lodge has a right to see the charter before he submits himself to examination. [1861 p. 149]

The right is not absolute or inalienable.

No visitor should be admitted against the objection of a member, although no reasons therefore are given. [1866 p. 155; 1875 p. 528; 1876 p. 16; 1877 p. 280]

It is a sufficient reason for refusing to admit a visitor that he had been rejected by the lodge and had never received its consent to be made in another lodge. [1866 p. 156]

The right of objection to a visitor is a personal right, and can be exercised only by one present at the lodge, and before the lodge is opened or before the

introduction of the visitor. [1882 p. 16]

A member coming into the lodge after it is opened cannot exclude a visitor who has been already admitted. [1882 p. 16]

The right of visitation discussed and new resolution passed. [1857 p. 219; 1858 p. 413]

A Master should not unseat a member of his lodge by admitting a brother who is not a member, if the member has notified the Worshipful Master that he objects to the nonmember's admission although he did not state the nature of his objection. [1866 p. 155]

It is a sufficient reason for refusing to allow a person to visit your lodge if he has been rejected in it and has never received its consent to take the degrees elsewhere. [1866 p. 156]

A visitor cannot be admitted if the member objects before or after the examination. [1876 p. 16]

A member who is intoxicated, insane, or in any other condition, which would disturb the lodge, can be refused admission by the Master. He cannot be refused for any other reason. [1877 p. 280; 1878 p. 566]

Objection to a visitor must be made before the meeting opens or the visitor is introduced. Visitation is a right, subordinate to the right of the member in his own lodge. Objection must be made at each meeting. [1882 p. 15]

VOTE

A vote that is in violation of fundamental Masonic principles is not binding upon a lodge. (But it should be repealed for a matter of record.) [1902 p. 22]

A vote decided by the Grand Master to be illegal should be so recorded with the notation of the Grand Master's ruling. [1874 p. 274]
(See APPEAL)

A vote can be rescinded or repealed but it cannot be reconsidered at a subsequent meeting. [1876 p. 16]
(See RECONSIDERATION)

VOUCHING

(See AVOUCHMENT)

WAR VETERAN PER CAPITA TAX RELIEF

(See S.R. 21)

W

WARDEN

Can a Warden preside and open a lodge in the presence of the Master? The answer is not as Warden, but the Master may call upon any brother to preside in his presence and under his direction, he being responsible for all that is done in the same manner as if he were actually in the chair. [1861 p. 150]

WAIVER

Waiver or consent may be applied for by the candidate or the lodge to which he intends to apply. [1871 p. 224]

A waiver must be to a certain lodge. [1872 p. 466]

A vote recommending a rejected candidate or waiving jurisdiction should specify the lodge to which he should apply. [1876 p. 17]

A waiver is granted. The candidate is accepted and fails to take the degree within the year. The waiver is still good. [1901 p. 198]

A waiver can have no conditions attached, otherwise it is no good. [1902 p. 21]

A waiver of jurisdiction is good until it is withdrawn. [1914 p. 25]

A brother who received the Entered Apprentice Degree several years ago is now living in a sister Jurisdiction and requests a waiver of jurisdiction in order to petition for the degrees in the sister Jurisdiction. The lodge in this State had jurisdiction by virtue of election and conferral of the first degree. The lodge in this State should proceed under Section 105.3. [1967 p. 462]

A waiver from a foreign Jurisdiction can have no conditions attached. [1945 p. 13]

WARRANT

(See CHARTER)

WIDOWS and ORPHANS

The widows and orphans of a Mason are only those who hold these relations legitimately under the laws of the State. [1879 p. 10]

When a Masonic widow remarries and the man she marries is not a Mason, she is no longer entitled to any Masonic benefits. However, when her husband that was a Mason died, she was entitled to receive a Widow's Pin. Even though one was not presented at that time, she is still entitled to receive one in memory of her then Masonic husband. [2004 p. 893]

WITNESS

(See EVIDENCE; Const. §§ 54g – 54i)

Any person of sufficient intelligence may be a witness on a Masonic trial.

On trial of a Mason for improper revelations to persons not Masons, they are competent witnesses on either side, to show what statements were made. [1862 p. 231]

A profane may be a witness. [1871 p. 224]

WORK

(See ADVANCEMENT)

A Master may call any brother to preside in his presence and under his direction, but not otherwise. [1900 p. 20]

A lodge can take a candidate into the jurisdiction of another lodge to confer a degree upon him only by the permission of the Grand Master. [1895 p. 176; 1896 pp. 57, 72; 1897 p. 230]

Courtesy work if done according to the laws of a foreign State is proper even though contrary to our Masonic law. [1929 p. 40]

A person residing within the jurisdiction of a lodge, who receives the first degree abroad and then petitions the home lodge for the remaining degrees, must take the first degree, precisely as if he had never taken it, the work of the

foreign lodge is not recognized in this State, unless the Grand Jurisdiction in which the degrees were conferred is in fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Maine. [1886 p. 342]

—APPENDIX A—

A Communication of the Grand Lodge of Maine was holden according to adjournment, at Masons' Hall in Portland, Thursday, February 8th, A. D. 1821.

Voted, That the By-Laws as adopted by the Grand Lodge be printed, and that the act of incorporation be printed therewith.

Voted, That R. W. Brothers William Swan, Joseph M. Gerrish and William Lord be a committee to get the by-laws printed; the number not to exceed five hundred copies (four hundred were printed).

Voted, That one copy of the By-Laws of this Grand Lodge be sent to each Grand Lodge in America (copies were also sent to the Officers of the Grand Lodge, District Deputy Grand Masters, and the several Lodges in the State.)

[The following historical document is provided for reference only.]

THE



FOR THE

GOVERNMENT AND MANAGEMENT

OF THE

MASTER, WARDENS and MEMBERS

OF THE

GRAND LODGE OF MAINE.

INCORPORATED JUNE 16, 1820.

ADOPTED JANUARY 11, 1821.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE M. W. GRAND LODGE.

PORTLAND:

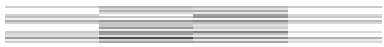
1821.

THE BY-LAWS

OF THE

MASTER, WARDENS AND MEMBERS

OF THE



(Act of Incorporation not reproduced in this appendix.)

CHAPTER I.
GENERAL POWERS OF THE GRAND LODGE.

SECT. 1. THE GRAND LODGE OF MAINE recognizes all the ancient usages of free Masonry, as essential and unalterable principles. Its powers extend to the government of subordinate lodges within its jurisdiction—to the issuing of dispensations and charters, and the revocation of the same for unmasonic conduct, or neglect of duty—and to the regulation of all Masonic concerns within the State of Maine.

SECT. 2. The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Wardens and Recording Grand Secretary, shall be a Board of Trustees of the real and personal estate of the Grand Lodge; and a majority of them shall have power to use the Seal for the purpose of carrying into effect all the contracts and resolutions of the Grand Lodge, and in the name of the Corporation to transact all things relating to the property of the Grand Lodge, not herein otherwise provided for. And all evidences of the property of the Grand Lodge whether holden in fee, or in trust for subordinate lodges, shall be recorded in a book, kept for that purpose by the Recording Grand Secretary, as well as in any other places appointed by law.

SECT. 3. The regular meetings of the Grand Lodge, shell be the in the town of Portland, on the second Thursdays of January, April, July and October: and special meetings may be called as the Grand Lodge, or the Grand Master shall direct. All meetings shall be advertised at least two weeks, in one or more newspapers, printed in the town where the Grand Lodge may be holden, and a notification thereof, shall be forwarded to each officer of the Grand Lodge.

CHAPTER II.
OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE GRAND LODGE.

SECT. 1. The Grand Lodge is composed of a Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior and Junior Grand Wardens, Past Grand Masters, Past Deputy Grand Masters, Past Grand Wardens, Grand Treasurer, Recording and Corresponding Grand Secretaries, District Deputy Grand Masters, Grand Marshal, one or more Grand Chaplains, Senior and Junior Grand Deacons, four Grand Stewards, Grand Sword-Bearer, two Grand Pursuivants, Masters and Wardens of Lodges under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, Proxies of

Lodges, and a Grand Tyler; each of whom may have one vote therein, except the Grand Tyler; and shall take rank in processions in the order aforesaid.

SECT. 2. All present and past Grand Masters, Deputy Grand Masters, and Grand Wardens and none others, are permanent members of the Grand Lodge.

SECT. 3. The Grand Master, Grand Wardens, Grand Treasurer and Recording Grand Secretary shall be chosen by ballot. Two thirds of the votes collected, shall be necessary to make a choice, except in the election of the two last mention officers, who may be chosen by a majority. All the other officers shall be appointed by the Grand Master: And all offices shall retain their offices till others are elected or appointed in their stead.

SECT. 4. The election of officers shall take place on the second Thursday of January annually, to commence at seven o'clock P.M.; and they shall be installed as soon after their election as conveniently may be. The Grand Master shall be installed by his immediate predecessor, if present; otherwise, by the senior past Master; preference being always given to past Grand Officers, according to their rank. Being thus installed, the Grand Master shall forthwith install the Grand Wardens, Grand Treasurer, and Recording Grand Secretary, and appoint and install the rest of the officers.

SECT. 5. No person shall be eligible to the office of Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Warden, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, District Deputy Grand Master, Grand Marshal, or Grand Deacon unless he be of the degree of Past Master. And the election or appointment of any person to either of the offices of Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Warden, Treasurer, Secretary, or District Deputy Grand Master, and his acceptance of the same, shall vacate any office he may hold in a subordinate Lodge.

SECT. 6. The Grand Master and Grand Wardens shall not be eligible more than three years successively.

SECT. 7. A Committee of finance shall the annually chosen by ballot, consisting of three, who shall examine and audit all accounts against the Grand Lodge, including those of the Grand Treasurer—examine the records of the Grand Secretaries; recommend any compensations to be allowed for services; and report at the next annual communication of the Grand Lodge, and previous to the choice of officers. Said report shall exhibit all the expenditures of the Grand Lodge the preceding year, with a statement of its funds made to them by the Grand Treasurer; an abstract of which shall be inserted in each annual communication to the subordinate Lodges.

SECT. 8. No vote passed in the Grand Lodge shall be reconsidered by a less number then were presence at passing the same, provided a return of the number of voters was made and recorded.

SECT. 9. No permanent regulation shall be established at the meeting at which it was proposed, nor until it has been considered and reported by a Committee of the Grand Lodge, and a copy thereof sent to each subordinate Lodge.

SECT. 10. The present officers of the Grand Lodge shall retain their offices until the second Thursday of January, A.D. 1822, which shall be considered as the termination of the first year of the period for which they may serve, so far as relates to their being re-eligible.

CHAPTER III.
DUTIES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS.

SECT. 1. The Grand Treasurer shall have the care and management of all the property and funds of the Grand Lodge, under the direction of the board of Trustees; and shall, before he enters on the duties of his office, give bond with sureties, to the satisfaction of the board of Trustees, conditioned for the faithful discharge of his trust. He shall receive all monies belonging to the Grand Lodge; shall pay all bills passed by the Committee on Finance, and all sums ordered to be paid by the Trustees to the charity fund;—shall have in his care all the regalia of the Grand Lodge not entrusted to the Senior Grand Steward; all charters, records, seals and regalia returned to the Grand Lodge, and all charters and dispensations, for constituting new lodges;—he shall render an annual account of all monies by him received and paid, with a schedule of the property and funds of the Grand Lodge to the Committee on Finance;—and shall deliver to is successor in office all the funds and other property of the Grand Lodge entrusted to him, taking duplicate receipts therefore, one of which he shall deposit with the Recording Grand Secretary.

SECT. 2. The Recording Grand Secretary shall notify all meetings of the Grand Lodge;—record the transactions of the Grand Lodge, receive petitions, applications and appeals, and lay them before the Grand Master;—keep a list of the subordinate lodges according to seniority;—furnish the chairman of every committee with a copy of vote of his appointment, and attend all committees with the records, and papers of his office when required; and shall immediately after each annual communication cause to be printed a suitable number of copies of a transcript of the records of the preceding year, including a list of the Grand Officers for the time being, and of such transactions of the Grand Lodge as may be particularly interesting to the fraternity in general, and forward a copy to each Officer of the Grand Lodge and to each subordinate Lodge.

SECT. 3 The Corresponding Grand Secretary shall, under the direction of the Grand Master, conduct all the foreign correspondence of the Grand Lodge, keeping a correct record thereof;—and, when present, shall read all communications to the Grand Lodge, if required.

SECT. 4. The Grand Marshal is to direct the formation of all processions;—to regulate all festivals and refreshments;—to direct the organization of the Grand Lodge, before it is opened;—to introduce visitors;—to collect from the members and petitioners all communications to the Grand Lodge and place them before the Grand Master;—and to execute all commands of the Grand Master not otherwise provided for.

SECT. 5. The District Deputy Grand Masters shall visit the Lodges in their respective Districts at least once in a year, shall preside in the same while present, and shall inspect their by-laws, records, and work;—but if unable to visit any Lodge, they may appoint some suitable brother to perform that duty. They shall have power to grant dispensations for initiation;—shall forward to the Lodges all such communications as they may receive from the Recording Grand Secretary, and furnish them with such diplomas as they shall be entitled to;—shall receive and give duplicates receipts for all dues to the Grand Lodge,—receive the returns of the Lodges, and make their remarks thereon;—shall annually attend the Grand Lodge, and shall deliver to the Grand Treasurer all returns and money in their hands at or before every annual meeting, taking duplicate receipts therefore, one of which shall be deposited with the Recording Grand Secretary. They shall be reimbursed their expenses in visiting the Lodges, their accounts being first examined and passed by the committee of Finance. And each District Deputy Grand Master shall deliver over to his successor in office the collar, jewel, records, and all other property belonging thereto.

SECT. 6. The Senior Grand Steward shall have in his charge all the jewels, clothing, and furniture of the Grand Lodge in ordinary use; and at each annual meeting shall render a true inventory thereof, and shall deliver the same over to his successor, taking duplicate receipts, one of which he shall deliver to the Grand Treasurer. It is his duty to distribute the jewels and clothing previous to opening the Grand Lodge, and to make suitable provisions, under the direction of the Grand Marshal, for all festivals and refreshments:—The Other Stewards are to aid him in the execution of his office.

CHAPTER IV.
OF SUBORDINATE LODGES

SECT. 1. Every subordinate Lodge shall be represented at every communication of the Grand Lodge, by its Master and Wardens, or by a proxy chosen by the Lodge, and commissioned under the seal of the Lodge and attestation of the Master and Secretary.

SECT. 2. No proxy of a Lodge shall be allowed to vote, when the master and wardens of the same lodge are present and qualified to vote. Nor shall any person be entitled to two votes by reason of his being both master or warden of one Lodge and proxy of another, nor for any other reason whatever.

SECT. 3 Every proxy of a Lodge must be a Master Mason of regular standing, and not an officer of the Grand Lodge, nor a proxy of any other Lodge. The commission of every proxy shall expire with the close of each annual communication, unless sooner revoked or superseded; and such commission shall be in substance as follows, viz.—

TO THE MOST WORSHIPFUL THE GRAND LODGE OF MAINE

BE IT KNOWN

SEAL.

___ ___
Master of
——Lodge.

That brother_____ of_____ having been chosen by the members of_____ Lodge, in_____ to represent said Lodge in the Grand Lodge the ensuing year; I do, in their behalf, declare and attest the same by these presents: confirming the acts of our beloved Brother in his capacity aforesaid.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name, and caused the seal of our Lodge to be affixed this_____ day of_____ A.D. 18 —.

Attest, _____ _____ Secretary.

SECT. 4. All subordinate Lodges shall make an annual return to their District Deputy Grand Master, of their officers and members, and of all candidates initiated, crafted and raised. They shall take rank according to the dates of their respective charters; and they shall not hold meetings in any place except the places designated therein, but by permission of the Grand Lodge.

SECT. 5. Every Lodge neglecting for the space of two years to pay its dues to the Grand Lodge, shall forfeit its charter, unless such dues are remitted by the Grand Lodge, within said two years. And the funds of such Lodge shall be held by the Grand Lodge in trust, till the charter be restored; and the interest arising from such funds, while so held, shall be made a part of the charity fund of the Grand Lodge.

SECT. 6. None but Master Masons can be members of lodges, and none but members are eligible as permanent officers in any Lodge. And no Lodge, in the absence of the master and wardens shall confer any degree, unless a past master is present to preside.

SECT. 7. No Lodge shall ballot for a candidate for initiation, unless he has been proposed *four weeks*, without first obtaining a dispensation therefore, nor without making a strict inquiry into his moral character: *Provided, however*, that in cases where the members have a full knowledge of the character of a candidate, who is bound on a voyage to sea, or on a long journey, they may proceed to ballot for him at a shorter period, if they shall consider that the

urgency of his case requires it. And no person, residing in a town in which a Lodge is held, shall be accepted for initiation by a Lodge in any other town, without the approbation of the master and wardens of a Lodge in the town of his residence. And no person who has been once rejected in any Lodge shall be accepted by any other Lodge, without a recommendation from the master, wardens, and three other members of the Lodge which rejected him. And when the master and wardens of such Lodge are unwilling to give such recommendation, they shall forthwith certify such rejection to the Grand Lodge, and to every other Lodge within thirty miles. And if any Mason shall knowingly aid or recommend for initiation any candidate so rejected and not recommended by the master and wardens as aforesaid, such Mason shall be expelled from the fraternity.

SECT. 8. The fee demanded by a Lodge for conferring the three first degrees of Masonry, shall not be less than nineteen dollars, including the fee to the Grand Lodge; but clergyman, approbated by competent authority to preach the gospel, may be initiated, crafted, and raised without any fee whatever.

SECT. 9. No Lodge shall, in any case whatever, take any note of hand for fees, or grant any time of credit for the same.

SECT. 10. No petition for the removal of a Lodge from the place in which it is established, shall be sustained in the Grand Lodge, unless it be first approved in writing by the District Deputy Grand Master of the District, and by the Lodge nearest the place where it is intended to be held.

SECT. 11. Every Lodge shall pay annually, to the support of the Grand Lodge, *one eighth* of a dollar for each member constituting such Lodge, and three dollars for every person initiated therein; and shall annually transmit to the Grand Treasurer, one of the duplicate receipts therefore which it shall take from the District Deputy Grand Master.

SECT. 12. Every master of a Lodge shall convene the same, at such a time as he shall be notified that a visit is intended by the District Deputy Grand Master;—shall resign the chair to him while present;—shall submit to his inspection the records, by-laws and mode of work therein;—and shall deliver to him the return of the Lodge, and all monies due to the Grand Lodge. And if the District Deputy Grand Master is prevented by any casualty from making an annual visit to any Lodge, the dues and returns of such Lodge shall be seasonably forwarded to him by the master of the same.

SECT. 13. Every Lodge shall be furnished with blank returns, and with as many diplomas as there may be Candidates initiated therein. And the Master of each Lodge, who has complied with all the laws and regulations of the Grand Lodge, shall receive a Master's diploma, after having sustained the office one year.

SECT. 14. The Grand Master has authority, from time to time as he may think for the good of Masonry to divide the State into Districts, and appoint District Deputy Grand Masters over the same. And every Lodge newly constituted, shall be assigned to some District, and notice given to the District Deputy Grand Master of the same.

SECT. 15. No candidate shall receive more than two degrees at one and the same meeting of the Lodge, without first obtaining a dispensation therefore.

SECT. 16. No petition constituting a new Lodge shall be sustained in the Grand Lodge, unless it be first approved in writing by the District Deputy Grand Master of the same District, and by the two lodges nearest the place where it is intended to be held, unless such approbation be unreasonably refused.

SECT. 17. For every charter to a new Lodge there shall be paid eighty-five dollars, of which five shall go to the Recording Grand Secretary, and ten dollars to the Charity Fund. And every Lodge shall be consecrated and its officers installed within two years from the date of its charter.

SECT. 18. No charter returned to the Grand Lodge shall be restored, unless its records, by-laws, seal and regalia were returned with it; nor unless seven of the applicants for its restoration were members when it was returned, if so many be living.

SECT. 19. Every charter, when declared forfeited, shall be returned to the Grand Lodge, with the records, by-laws and seal of the Lodge. And if any members of a Lodge shall vote to divide the funds thereof among themselves, they shall be expelled from the fraternity.

SECT. 20. No person shall be interred with Masonic honors, unless three fourths of the votes given in the Lodge to which application for that purpose may be made, shall be in favor thereof, which votes shall be taken by ballot; nor unless he be a Master Mason.

CHAPTER V.
CHARITY FUND

SECT. 1. There shall be a Charity Fund established by the Grand Lodge, which shall be from time to time increased by adding thereto one half of all monies that may be in the Treasury at every annual meeting of the Grand Lodge, over and above the debts of the Grand Lodge, and one half of all donations not specifically appropriated by the donors.

SECT. 2. The Charity fund shall be under the direction of the board of trustees beforementioned, and six brother brethren, who are not acting offices of the Grand Lodge, to be elected by ballot for the term of three years, and to constitute, during that term the permanent part of the board. And if a vacancy occur in said board it shall be reported to the Grand Lodge, and be filled at the

next stated communication. And the Board of Trustees, thus constituted, shall invest the accruing Charity Funds in such a manner as they shall deem most safe and productive, and no part of the principal of said fund shall be expended for any purpose whatsoever.

SECT. 3. The trustees of the Charity Fund shall meet on Monday preceding each quarterly communication of the Grand Lodge, and oftener if expedient; and a majority of the whole board shall be necessary for every act, except that of adjournment.

SECT. 4. The Recording Grand Secretary shall be Secretary of the board of trustees; and it shall be his duty to keep a true record of their proceedings, and report the same to the Grand Lodge at every quarterly communication.

SECT. 5. The interest arising annually from the Charity Fund shall be appropriated, as the Trustees shall direct, for the relief of such poor and distressed brethren, their widows and orphans, as they may consider worthy of assistance; but all interest unappropriated at the end of the year shall be added to the principal.

Copy of Record – Attest,

WILLIAM LORD, Grand Secretary.

The following is a correct List of Lodges within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Maine, under the superintendence of six District Deputy Grand Masters, according to the Districts, vis.:

FIRST DISTRICT

Portland, *Portland*	York, *Kennebunk*
Saco, *Saco*	Freeport, *Freeport*
Cumberland, *New Gloucester*	Adoniram, *Limington*
Ancient Land Mark, *Portland*	Tranquil, *Minot*

SECOND DISTRICT

Pythagorean, *Fryeburg*	Oriental Star, *Livermore*
Oriental, *Bridgton*	Blazing Star, *Rumford*
Oxford, *Paris*	

THIRD DISTRICT

Kennebec, *Hallowell*	Northern Star, *Anson*
Maine, *Farmington*	Hermon, *Gardiner*
Village, *Bowdoinham*	Waterville, *Waterville*
Temple, *Winthrop*	Somerset, *Norridgewock*

FOURTH DISTRICT

Solar, *Bath*	Orient, *Thomaston*
United, *Brunswick*	St. George, *Warren*

Lincoln, *Wiscasset*
Amity, *Camden*
Union, *Union*

FIFTH DISTRICT

Hancock, *Castine*
Rising Virtue, *Bangor*
Felicity, *Bucksport*
Belfast, *Belfast*

SIXTH DISTRICT

Warren, *Machias*
Tuscan, *Columbia*
Eastern, *Eastport*

—APPENDIX B—

[The following document is provided for general reference only, and should not be presumed to be up-to-date or authoritative. It should also be noted that the following by-laws operate in conjunction with Section 36—15 of the Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of Maine.]

BY-LAWS
MAINE MASONIC COLLEGE

ARTICLE 1 – NAME OF THE COLLEGE

The name of this college shall be the Maine Masonic College.

ARTICLE 2 – RECOGNITION AND ENDORSEMENT BY THE GRAND LODGE OF MAINE

Whereas the Maine Masonic College has been created and organized to provide an extended opportunity for brethren to explore the nature and purposes of Freemasonry and its wider mission in promoting the well-being of all human kind, the Grand Lodge of Maine endorses the efforts of this College and recognizes it as a provider of opportunities for the further enlightenment of the Craft within this Grand Jurisdiction.

ARTICLE 3 – MISSION AND PURPOSE

It is the mission of the Maine Masonic College to create an educational environment for the purpose of inspiring the members of the Craft to explore the nature and purpose of Freemasonry which will lead to a deeper self-understanding of the founding principles, tenets, and lessons of morality.

Section I – Preamble

This mission statement expresses the purpose for which this college exists and the functions which it will perform.

Section II – Objectives

• To work cooperatively with the Committee on Masonic Education and Lodge Service to ensure that the interests and needs of the Craft are being met.

• To Survey the Brethren to determine needs and interests.

• To implement course offerings based on the results of the survey.

• To offer programs that may be of interest to Masons and non-Masons alike for the purpose of strengthening community relations.

ARTICLE 4 – GOVERNANCE OF THE COLLEGE

Section I – Board of Regents

The college shall be governed by a Board of Regents consisting of nine elected members and two ex officio members who will be responsible for the governance of all aspects of the college including the selection of educational courses and offerings, course instructors, the adoption of an annual budget and an annual evaluation of the College's effectiveness in meeting its established goals. Members of the board must be Master Masons in good standing.

Section II – Ex Officio Members

The Grand master and Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine by virtue of their elected offices shall automatically serve as ex officio members of the Board of Regents.

Section III – Terms of Office

The terms of office for the elected members of the Board of Regents shall be staggered terms of three years. The college year shall run from May 1st to April 30th and the Regents shall be elected at each annual meeting held in April by a majority vote of the Board. Regents may serve innumerable terms but not more than two terms in succession.

Section IV – Vacancies

Any vacancies that may occur on the Board for any reason may be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board for the unexpired term.

Section V – Resignations

Any Regent may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Chairman of the Board or to the Board of Regents. Such resignation shall take effect at the time specified thereof as determined by the Chairman of the Board.

Section VI – Removal From Office

Any member of the Board or Officer may be removed from the Board or Office by a three-quarters vote of the total voting members of the Board and voting at any meeting of the Board.

Section VII – Attendance Requirements

Any member of the Board who misses three scheduled meetings during the course of a year shall be replaced unless excused by the President.

Section VIII – Quorum

A majority of the members of the Board of Regents present at a meeting shall constitute a quorum for conducting business.

ARTICLE 5 – OFFICERS

Section I – Elective Officers

The elective officers of the Board shall be the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer. (1) Only the members of the Board of Regents may nominate a candidate for office. Each shall be elected for a term of one year.

Section II – Duties of the Officers

The Chairman shall preside over all meetings of the Board and perform all duties as usually pertain to the office of Chairman.

The Vice-chairman in the absence of the Chairman shall preside at all meetings and perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Chairman or the Board of Regents.

The Secretary shall be responsible for creating and maintaining appropriate records of the meetings of the Board. He shall receive all monies and pay them

to the Treasurer, taking his receipt therefore. (1)

The Treasurer shall receive and have the custody and charge of all property and funds of the Maine Masonic College. He shall deposit the funds of the College in such depositories as approved by the Chairman and the Board of Regents. He will expend funds upon the approval of the Chairman with the consent of the Board of Regents. He shall render a statement of his accounts to the Board of Regents annually. (1)

ARTICLE 6 – COMMITTEES

Section 1 – Standing Committees

Standing committees shall consist of the following: (1) the Committee on Community Outreach; (2) the Committee on Management and Controls; (3) the Committee on Bookings and Arrangements.

Section II – Authority of the Chairman to Appoint Additional Committees

The Chairman of the Board of Regents shall have the authority to appoint other committees that he deems appropriate.

ARTICLE 7 – APPROVAL OF BY-LAWS AND AMENDMENTS

Section 1 – These by-laws shall not become effective until approved by a majority vote of the Board of Regents.

Section II – Amendments

Proposals for amendments to these by-laws must be submitted in writing and approved by a majority vote of the Board of Regents.

Originally approved by a unanimous vote of the Board of Regents on July 24, 2005. (1) Amended by vote of the Board of Regents on September 17, 2005

[The following document is provided for general reference only, and should not be presumed to be up-to-date or authoritative. It should also be noted that the following by-laws operate in conjunction with 'Part Second' of the Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of Maine.]

BY-LAWS
OF
THE MASONIC CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
OF THE GRAND LODGE OF MAINE

ARTICLE I
Name, Principal Office, Corporate Seal

Section 1. Name. The name of the corporation shall be The Masonic Charitable Foundation of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

Section 2. Principal Office. The location and principal office of the corporation shall be in the City of Portland, State of Maine, but the corporation may also maintain other offices in such places, either within or without the State of Maine, as the Board of Directors may designate or as the business of the corporation may require from time to time.

Section 3. Registered Office. The corporation shall have and continuously maintain in the State of Maine a registered office and a registered agent as required by the Maine Nonprofit Corporation Act. The registered office of the corporation in the State of Maine may be, but need not be, the same as the principal office.

Section 4. Seal. The seal of the corporation shall have inscribed thereon the name of the corporation, the year of its organization, and the word "Maine".

ARTICLE II
Members

The corporation shall have no members and shall be a non-membership corporation.

ARTICLE III
Board of Trustees

Section 1. Number and Qualifications. The business and affairs of the Corporation shall be managed by a Board of not fewer than eight or more than eleven trustees. Trustees need not be residents of the State of Maine. The Board of Trustees shall consist of members of the Grand Lodge of Maine as follows: Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Wardens, Grand Secretary and six brethren who are not acting officers of the Grand Lodge.

Section 2. Election. The six trustees to be elected shall be elected at the annual communication of the Masons' Grand Lodge of Maine, and each trustee shall hold office for three years.

Section 3. Vacancies. Any vacancy occurring in the Board of Trustees,

either by increase in the number of trustees or otherwise, shall be reported to the Grand Lodge of Maine and filled at the Grand Lodge's next annual communication. Until the next annual communication of the Grand Lodge, said vacancy or vacancies may be filled by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining trustees, though less than a quorum of the Board of Trustees. A trustee elected or chosen to fill a vacancy shall serve for the unexpired term of his predecessor in office, and until his successor is elected and qualified.

Section 4. Powers and Duties. The property, affairs and business of the corporation shall be managed by the Board of Trustees, which may exercise all such powers of the Corporation and do all such lawful acts as are not prohibited by statute, the corporation's Articles of Incorporation or these By-laws.

Section 5. Meetings of Trustees.

(1) Special Meetings. Meetings of the Board of Trustees may be held at any time and place upon call by or at the request of the Grand Master of the Masons' Grand Lodge of Maine, notice thereof being given to each trustee at least three days prior thereto stating the place, day and hour of the meeting. Notice that a meeting has been called may be given by the President, Treasurer, Clerk, Secretary or Assistant Secretary, or by one of the trustees, and shall be given by written notice delivered personally or sent by mail or telegram to each trustee at his or her address as shown by the records of the corporation. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail in a sealed envelope so addressed, with postage thereon prepaid. If notice be given by telegram, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when the telegram is delivered to the telegraph company. Notice of any meeting of the Board of Trustees may be waived in writing signed by the person or persons entitled to such notice, either before or after such meeting, and shall be equivalent to the giving of such notice. Attendance of a trustee at such meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice thereof, except where a trustee attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business because such meeting is not lawfully convened. Neither the business to be transacted at, nor the purpose of, any meeting of the Board of Trustees need be specified in the notice, or waiver of notice, of such meeting.

(2) Annual Meetings. An annual meeting of the Board of Trustees shall be held without notice other than this By-law at the principal office of the corporation on the third Tuesday of April each year. The annual meeting shall be held in Portland or at such other place as the Grand Master shall designate. In the event that the annual meeting is not held on the date herein provided, a subsequent meeting may be held in lieu thereof, and any business transacted or elections held at such meeting shall have the same effect as if transacted or held at the annual meeting. Such subsequent meeting shall be called in the manner prescribed for special meetings of the trustees.

Section 6. Quorum. A majority of the number of trustees then in office shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Less than a quorum may, however, adjourn a meeting to a stated time and place without further notice. The act of the majority of the trustees present at a meeting, at which a quorum is present, shall be the act of the Board of Trustees.

Section 7. Action without a Meeting. Any action required or permitted

to be taken by the Board of Trustees at a meeting may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing, setting forth the action so taken, shall be signed by all of the trustees.

Section 8. Telephonic Meetings Permitted. Members of the Board of Trustees, or any committee designated by the Board, may participate in a meeting of such Board or committee by means of conference telephone or similar communications equipment by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other, and participation in a meeting pursuant to this By-law shall constitute presence in person at such meeting.

Section 9. Compensation of Trustees. Trustees, as such, shall not receive any stated salary for their services, but by resolution of the Board of Trustees, a fixed sum or reimbursement of expenses of attendance or both may be allowed for attendance at any meeting of the Board. Any trustee may serve the corporation in any other capacity and receive reasonable compensation therefore.

Section 10. Committees. The Board of Trustees may, by resolution or resolutions passed by a majority of the whole Board, appoint an Executive Committee and such other committee or committees as the Board of trustees may from time to time determine, which committee or committees shall have and exercise such powers as the Board of Trustees may by resolution determine. A majority of the members of any committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and each committee may make rules for the conduct of its affairs. The Board of Trustees shall have the power at any time to change the membership of any committee, to fill vacancies in it, or to discharge it.

ARTICLE IV
The Officers

Section 1. Officers. The officers of the corporation shall consist of a President, a Treasurer, a Secretary, and a Clerk, and such other officers and assistant officers and agents as may be deemed necessary by the Board of Trustees. Any two or more offices may be held by the same person. The officers shall be elected annually by the Board of Trustees and shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified.

Section 2. Removal. Any officer elected or appointed by the Board of Trustees may be removed by such Board whenever in its judgment the best interest of the corporation would be served thereby, but such removal shall be without prejudice to the contract rights, if any, of the officer so removed.

Section 3. Vacancies. Any vacancy occurring in any office because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or otherwise, may be filled by the Board of Trustees for the unexpired portion of the term.

Section 4. The President. The President shall be the principal executive officer of the corporation and shall be the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine. He shall, when present, preside at all meetings of the trustees, shall have the general and executive management and control of the business of the corporation, and shall see that all orders and resolutions of the Board of Trustees are carried into effect.

He shall perform such duties as are provided by the laws of the State of Maine or by these By-laws or as may be prescribed from time to time by the Board of Trustees.

Section 5. The Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be the financial officer of the corporation, and shall have the custody of the corporate funds and securities. He shall deposit such funds in the name of the corporation in such depositories as may be designated by the Board of Trustees. He shall disburse the funds of the corporation as directed by the Board of Trustees and shall keep records of account showing accurately at all times the financial condition of the corporation. He shall furnish to the President and the Board of Trustees, whenever requested, a statement of the financial condition of the corporation, and shall perform such other duties as these By-laws may require or the Board of Trustees may prescribe.

The Treasurer may be required to furnish bond in such amount and with such sureties as the Board of Trustees shall determine.

Section 6. The Vice-Presidents. In the absence or disability of the President, the Board of Trustees may designate one or more Vice-Presidents to perform the duties and exercise the powers of the President. The Vice-Presidents shall perform such other duties as these By-laws may require or as the Board of Trustees or the President may prescribe. The first Vice-President shall be the Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

Section 7. The Secretary. The Secretary shall attend meetings of the Board of Trustees and shall keep, or cause to be kept, in a book provided for that purpose, a true and complete record of the proceedings of such meetings. He shall attend to the giving and serving of all notices of the corporation, and shall perform such other duties as these By-laws may require or as the Board of Trustees may prescribe.

Section 8. Assistants. The Board of Trustees may elect one or more assistant secretaries and assistant treasurers, as the Board shall deem advisable. Such assistants shall assist the Secretary or the Treasurer, as the case may be, in the performance of his or her duties, and at the request of such officers or of the President, shall perform the duties of such officers in the event of the absence or inability to act of such officers. They shall also perform such other duties as the Board of Trustees may from time to time direct. An assistant treasurer shall, if required by the Board of Trustees, furnish bond in such amount and with such sureties as the Board may determine.

ARTICLE V
Contracts, Checks, Deposits and Funds

Section 1. Contracts. The Board of Trustees may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents of the corporation, in addition to the officers so authorized by these By-laws, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name and on behalf of the corporation, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

Section 2. Checks, Drafts, etc. All checks, drafts or orders for the payment of money, notes or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the corporation, shall be signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents of

the corporation and in such manner as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Board of Trustees. In the absence of such determination by the Board, such instruments shall be signed by the President or the Treasurer.

Section 3. Deposits. All funds of the corporation shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the corporation in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as the Board of Trustees may select.

Section 4. Gifts. The Board of Trustees may accept on behalf of the corporation any contribution, gift, bequest or devise for the general purposes or for any special purpose of the corporation.

ARTICLE VI
Exempt Activities

Notwithstanding any other provision of these By-laws, no trustee, officer, employee, agent or representative of this corporation shall take any action or carry on any activity by or on behalf of the corporation not permitted to be taken or carried on by an organization exempt from tax under Section 50l(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Regulations there under, as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended, or by an organization contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of such Code and Regulations.

ARTICLE VII
Prohibition Against Sharing in Corporate Earnings

No trustee, officer, employee, agent or representative of this corporation, or any other private individual shall receive or be entitled to receive at any time any of the net earnings or pecuniary profit from the operations of the corporation, provided that this shall not prevent the payment to any persons of reasonable compensation for services rendered to or for the corporation in effecting any of its purposes, and no such person or persons shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the corporate assets upon the dissolution of the corporation.

Upon the dissolution or winding up of the affairs of the corporation, whether voluntary or involuntary, the assets of the corporation then remaining in the hands of the Board of Trustees after all debts have been satisfied or provided for shall be distributed, transferred, conveyed, delivered and paid over, in such amounts as the Board of trustees may determine, to one or more exclusively charitable, religious, scientific, literary or educational organizations which would then qualify as tax-exempt under the provisions of Section 50l(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Regulations there under, as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended.

ARTICLE VIII
Indemnification of Trustees and Officers

To the extent permitted by the laws of the State of Maine as they may now or hereafter exist, the corporation shall indemnify any officer or trustee of the corporation who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, by reason of the fact that he or she is or was an officer or trustee of the corporation, against expenses, including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines and amounts paid in

settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with such action, suit or proceeding; provided that no indemnification shall be provided with respect to any matter as to which he or she shall have been finally adjudicated in any civil proceeding not to have acted in good faith in the reasonable belief that his or her action was in the best interests of the corporation or, in any criminal proceeding, to have had reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful.

ARTICLE IX
Interested Trustees and Officers

No transaction in which a trustee or officer has a personal or adverse interest (as that term is defined in the Maine Business Nonprofit Corporation Act) shall be void or voidable solely for this reason, or solely because the trustee or officer is present at or participates in the meeting of the Board of Trustees or committee thereof which approves such transaction, or because his or her vote is counted, if the material facts as to his or her interest and as to the transaction are disclosed or are known to the Board of Trustees or the committee, and are noted in the minutes.

ARTICLE X
Amendments

These By-laws may be amended, altered or repealed and new By-laws adopted by the Board of Trustees at any regular or special meeting, provided at least three (3) days written notice of the proposed amendment or alteration or adoption of new By-laws is contained in the notice of such meeting.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS

1. Our Current Situation

At the outset we recognize that Albert Mackey's version of the Landmarks has been published in the MAINE MASONIC TEXT BOOK since 1923. No action approving Mackey's version of the Landmarks has ever been taken by the Grand Lodge of Maine. We believe there are many good reasons why we have not done so in the past and should not to do so at this time. One of the best reasons is clearly stated among the Frequently Asked Questions on the web site of the Grand Lodge of Maine. It states: "No Grand Lodge can make or unmake a landmark, any more than the Congress can make or unmake a law of nature... There is no supreme authority to declare what the landmarks are and hardly any two Jurisdictions agree." Looking further, we find that less than half of the U.S. Grand Lodges have adopted specific written Landmarks, and of that minority an even smaller minority have adopted Albert Mackey's compilation.

Our study indicates that there are three methods of trying to identify Masonic Landmarks: the Drummond Method, the Mackey Method and the Pound Method.

2. The Drummond Method—Non-codification

Josiah Hayden Drummond (1827 – 1902), was a Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine and later served on many other leadership capacities including a term as Sovereign Grand Commander, A.A.S.R., Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America. He had an international reputation as a scholar of Masonic Jurisprudence. He prepared the original edition of the MAINE MASONIC TEXT BOOK in 1877, known first as the Textbook of Masonic Jurisprudence and frequently referred to as Drummond's Monitor. Drummond's method for determining Ancient Landmarks reflects his training and career in the Law. It is essentially the Common Law method applying long standing precedence to specific situations, one by one, as those situations arose. This method is very reluctant to accept attempts at comprehensive codification. Chapter XIV of the current edition of MAINE MASONIC TEXT BOOK contains Drummond's own language concerning the Landmarks, which has been unchanged since 1877 with one important exception.

Drummond's list of the sources of Masonic law identifies the Ancient Landmarks as our highest and most fundamental law:

i. The Ancient Landmarks
ii. The Ancient Charges
iii. The Old Regulations
iv. The Constitution of our Grand Lodge
v. The Regulations and Decisions of our Grand Lodge
vi. The Uses and Customs of the Fraternity
vii. The By-laws of the Lodge

Drummond's language pertinent to the various attempts at codification of the Landmarks is as follows:

"Various attempts have been made to enumerate the Landmarks: But as no two authors agree in their enumeration, it is safe to conclude that not one of the attempts is a success. The very definition of a Landmark shows that an enumeration of them is scarcely possible... It has been said that the Landmarks

are the unwritten law of Masonry; but that is not correct: Landmarks are found in the ancient charges."

Drummond advises us to look to the Ancient Charges and Regulations, some of the oldest documents we have, and apply those provisions to a current situation. In doing so, he tells us, we will discern a Landmark.

3. Mackey's Method—A Comprehensive Codification

Albert Gallatin Mackey (1807 – 1881), in contrast to the common law method recommended by Drummond, employed a method found in civil or continental law which favors comprehensive and detailed codification.

A few Masonic writers had tried this method including Rob Morris, the founder of the order of Eastern Star, who identified 17 Ancient Landmarks. Mackey, using such research tools as were available to him identified 25 Landmarks. He attempted to put the seal on his version of the Landmarks by providing in the 25th Landmark that his particular formulation could never be changed.

We do not believe that all of the Landmarks identified by Mackey are, indeed, Landmarks. For example, Mackey identifies as his eighth Landmark the right of a Grand Master to make Masons at sight. We note that this has never been part of the Masonic Law of Maine. It has never been a part of Masonic Law of Massachusetts, our Mother Jurisdiction, nor has it ever been part of the Masonic Law of the United Grand Lodge of England, its Mother Jurisdiction. In this item as in several others, Mackey shows a bias in favor of enhancing the authority of Grand Masters beyond what is included in our Constitution or in the Constitution of most other Grand Jurisdictions.

We note that several items in Mackey's enumeration are specifically contrary to the Masonic Law of this Grand Jurisdiction. For example, in Maine we have decided that a man who has a physical impairment can become a Mason. Mackey says quite specifically that a cripple cannot become a Mason.

Mackey presented an interesting and scholarly analysis of the Landmarks, but it was only his personal interpretation. His version sparked considerable further study, both here, in England and on the Continent. We believe that in this area we should rely on Drummond's advice. His advice, succinctly stated in his textbook, is that we should avoid as ill-fated any attempt to enumerate or codify the Landmarks and that we should, instead, given a particular situation, seek the Landmarks in the Ancient Charges.

Drummond knew Albert Gallatin Mackey. He knew of Mackey's version of the Landmarks which had been published in 1858. He specifically did *not* acknowledge them as the sole authoritative version of the Landmarks, nor did he include them in his TEXT BOOK. Mackey's version of the Ancient Landmarks first appeared in the MAINE MASONIC TEXT BOOK in 1923, twenty-one years after Drummond's death.

At the time Mackey's 25 Landmarks were added to the MAINE MASONIC TEXT BOOK the next to the last paragraph of Drummond's chapter on the sources of Masonic law was changed. Drummond's original language was:

For the reasons given, no enumeration of the Landmarks will be given. In order that the Ancient Charges and The Old Regulations may be accessible to all, they will be given in the succeeding Chapters. The law derived from the

Constitution, Regulations and Decisions of the Grand Lodge will be given only in the Digest.

When Mackey's version of the Landmarks was added this paragraph was changed to read:

In order that The Ancient Landmarks, the ancient Charges and The Old Regulations may be accessible to all, they will be given in the succeeding Chapters. The law derived from the Constitution, Regulations and Decisions of the Grand Lodge will be given only in the Digest.

The critical first sentence (which we have put in italics) was omitted. We doubt that Drummond would have been pleased with this new language as it is in obvious conflict with one of the principal points he was trying to make.

4. The Pound Method—A Non-comprehensive Codification

Roscoe Pound (1870 – 1964) was for many years dean of the Harvard Law School. He was an active Mason, having served as Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts and was honored by being made Honorary Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska. Pound wrote extensively on Masonic philosophy, Masonic Jurisprudence and the Landmarks of Masonry.

Pound offers a different approach. He agrees with Drummond that no comprehensive codification is possible but he agrees with Mackey at least to the extent that he believes that it is possible to definitively agree on some basic, essential Landmarks. Pound looked at each one of Mackey's Landmarks and found that he could not find support for eighteen of them in the Ancient Charges and Regulations. He did identify seven Landmarks that were fully supported and so universally accepted by regular Masons everywhere that they could be safely accepted as Landmarks. He also concluded that this was not an exclusive list and that time might reveal further Landmarks. Dean Pound's analysis of the Landmarks is found in Chapter Two of his book, "Masonic Jurisprudence". His non-exclusive list, written in the early 1900's, we have put into contemporary language as follows:

i. Belief in God.
ii. Belief in the immortality of the soul.
iii. A Volume of Sacred Law as an indispensable part of the furniture of a Lodge.
iv. The legend of the Third Degree.
v. The symbolism of the ancient art of stonemasons.
vi. The confidentiality of the modes of recognition and the degree experience.
vi. That a Mason must be a free, male adult.

We believe that each of these items is so basic and so universally accepted that we can say with certainty that they are Landmarks of Masonry without which no other Grand Lodge could be said to be regular. We also agree with Pound that this list of Landmarks should not be declared to be exclusive.

The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, our Mother Grand Jurisdiction, adopted this list with the strong advocacy of M.W. Melvin Johnson, Dean of the Boston University Law School, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts and who also served a term as Sovereign Grand Commander, A.A.S.R. of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States (a successor in that office to Josiah Hayden Drummond.) It is interesting also to note that

the Grand Lodge of Vermont had adopted Mackey's compilation only to repeal it in 1954 and adopt Pound's list instead. This concise listing of Landmarks is the most commonly accepted listing of Landmarks in the world today.

5. Conclusions

We are left with some simple facts:

1. The Grand Lodge of Maine traces much of its jurisprudence to the work and thinking of Josiah Hayden Drummond, its most famous Mason.

2. The Grand Lodge of Maine has never formally accepted Mackey's version of the Landmarks. The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, our Mother Jurisdiction, has never accepted it nor has it ever been accepted in England, its Mother Jurisdiction. Mackey's version of the Landmark was first drafted 38 years after the founding of the Grand Lodge of Maine. His version is one of many that were formulated during the last century and a half. It is not universally accepted today as authoritative, and is it not part of the Masonic common law as we received it. Consequently, with respect to the Masonic law of Maine, the adoption of Mackey's version of the Landmarks would be an innovation.

3. The Grand Lodge of Maine seeks to be informed by the best Masonic *scholarship and takes special note of the influence of Dean Pound on the* jurisprudence of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, its Mother Jurisdiction.