**COVER LETTER**

To the Grand Lodge Elected Officers, Permanent Members, District Deputy Grand Masters, Masters, Wardens, Secretaries and other officers of each Masonic lodge located in the State of Maine:

Attached is a copy of Regulation #30 that was adopted by Grand Lodge at the 2021 Annual Communication, together with additional guidance on the implementation of this regulation by lodges and other Masonic organizations. Also included is a form to be completed and returned to Grand Lodge indicating whether your lodge, building association or other owner of the building in which the lodge meets wishes to adopt SR #30 locally. Please provide a copy of this package to your local building association or the owner of the building in which you meet.

The serving and consumption of alcoholic beverages shall not take place in any Masonic building until Grand Lodge has acknowledged receipt and approval of the adoption of the alcoholic beverage option by a lodge and Masonic building association or other landlord.

The new SR #30 allows lodges to consider holding meals (festive boards) following lodge meetings; having events like ladies’ luncheons in lodge with a complimentary glass of wine; increasing hall rentals for events such as receptions and parties.

As noted at the Annual Communication, SR #30 allows Masons to consider whether they wish to allow the serving and consumption of alcohol within the confines of their property and Masonic activities. This is enabling legislation that allows for local decisions on these matters and would allow appendant bodies meeting in your facilities to follow the rules adopted by the local lodge and building association or other owners. The sale of alcohol is not permitted.

As of this date, every lodge and building association is covered by the host liquor liability coverage included in the Grand Lodge insurance policy. In addition, York and Scottish Rite bodies have host liquor liability coverage, although certain Scottish Rite events hosting alcoholic beverages require “scheduling” by that body through its insurance agent. Shrine Clubs and units are also covered by host liability coverage, but Anah and Kora Shrine will need to have the Grand Lodge named as an also insured before these bodies serve or consume liquor in Masonic buildings adopting SR #30. Eastern Star does not have the required insurance coverage and therefore cannot host such events at your Masonic building.

Please contact the Grand Secretary if you have any questions relative to SR #30.

Fraternally,

Text, letter

Description automatically generated

MW Richard M. Nadeau

Grand Master of Masons in Maine

**Grand Lodge of Maine A.F. & A.M.**

**Standing Regulation #30**

The enclosed Standing Regulation #30 was adopted at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge on May 4, 2021. The purpose of the new Standing Regulation is to encourage brotherhood among lodge brethren and guests within the limits articulated in the ritual for the installation of the Junior Warden:

To you is committed the superintendence of the Craft during the hours of refreshment; and it is, therefore, indispensably necessary that you should not only be temperate and discreet in the indulgence of your own inclinations, but careful to observe that none of the Craft be suffered to convert the means of refreshment into intemperance and excess.

SR #30 and this document provide guidance to lodges, building associations and appendant bodies on the serving and consumption of alcoholic beverages in / on Masonic property and at Masonic events held off-site. Lodges and building associations shall not sell alcoholic beverages; such beverages are only to be sold by a properly licensed and insured establishment or beverage service organization.

The serving and consumption alcohol as defined above shall be allowed only when approved: 1) by a majority vote of the members present at a regular lodge communication, and 2) by the majority of the governing board of the local building association. A report on these votes, along with any regulations adopted by the building association and / or lodge, shall be submitted to the Grand Secretary who will review and acknowledge receipt of the recorded votes. His return acknowledgement shall allow the subsequent serving of alcohol according to the rules established by Grand Lodge, the building association and the lodge. Rules established by a lodge and building association shall not contradict those of the Grand Lodge and those of the lodge must be in conformance with those of the building association.

In accordance with SR #30, the Grand Master reserves the right to limit or prohibit the serving and consumption of alcohol at any location or event except by prior dispensation.

**Grand Lodge Governance on the Serving and Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages**

1. No alcohol shall be served or consumed within two hours prior to or during a Masonic meeting (except during a table lodge or when used in minor amounts for approved ceremonial purposes).
2. No alcohol shall be publicly consumed during events such as community suppers, food sales, fairs etc.
3. No alcohol shall be served or consumed at events when members of Masonic and non-Masonic youth organizations are present.
4. No individuals, including Masons, under the legal drinking age (now 21) shall serve (or otherwise handle), consume or be served alcoholic beverages including at Table Lodges.
5. Alcoholic beverages shall be stored in locked cabinets or refrigeration equipment to ensure that it is not accessible to unauthorized persons or in violation of Grand Lodge and locally imposed regulations.
6. A responsible person shall be appointed by the lodge or building association to oversee the serving and consumption of alcohol, to assure all rules are followed and that no one drinks to excess.
7. The serving and consumption of alcohol at events hosted by a non-Masonic entity may be allowed when the lessee / renter provides appropriate insurance coverage, which for individuals may be a rider on a homeowners policy that names the lodge and Grand Lodge as “also insureds.”

**Local Option Governance on the Serving and Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages**

1. Building associations and lodges may adopt additional rules for the serving and consumption of alcoholic beverages as long as the those of the lodge do not contradict those of the building association or Grand Lodge, and those of the building association are not inconsistent with those of Grand Lodge. For instance, local options may specify that:
   1. Alcoholic beverages shall only be served and consumed at a building association or lodge sponsored / sanctioned event.
   2. Alcoholic beverages may only be served and consumed at lodge approved Masonic events held at venues other than at the Masonic building.

**—**S**TANDING** R**EGULATIONS—**

**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 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 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.

(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.

**Grand Lodge of Maine, A.F. & A.M.**

**Lodge / Building Association Report on Consideration of Standing Regulation #30**

The consumption and serving of alcoholic beverages on Masonic premises or at Masonic events at locations other than those licensed to sell such products shall not be allowed until: 1) this report is completed and signed by both the Lodge and the Building Association holding title to and governing the Masonic property; 2) this completed report is submitted to Grand Lodge; and 3) the Grand Secretary acknowledges receipt and approval of this report and returns a signed copy to both the lodge and building association.

Bldg Assn. Name: Location:

Date of Vote to Accept SR #30: Vote Results (# Y/ # N):

Bldg Assn. Officer Attesting to the Vote (President or Secretary):

List any stipulations adopted by the building association on the serving and consumption of alcohol in addition to those specified by Grand Lodge (may be listed on a separate sheet of paper):

Lodge Name: Location:

Date of Vote to Accept SR #30: Vote Results (# Y/ # N):

Lodge Officer Attesting to the Vote (Master or Secretary):

List any stipulations adopted by the lodge on the serving and consumption of alcohol in addition to those specified by Grand Lodge and the building association (may be listed on a separate sheet of paper):

**Acknowledgement by the Grand Lodge**

Date Received in Grand Lodge: Received by:

Date Approved and Returned: Approved by: