

**THE MASONIC CODE
OF
WISCONSIN**



**Adopted by the
Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin
June 2023 Revised Edition**

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The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge
Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin**

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CONSTITUTION OF THE GRAND LODGE

Preamble

Whereas, the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin is an absolute sovereign body with inherent power to form a Constitution as its fundamental law and to enact laws for its own government and that of its constituent lodges, subject to the Ancient Landmarks of Freemasonry;

Therefore, this Grand Lodge does hereby ordain, establish and promulgate this Constitution, and every Mason within this Grand Jurisdiction is obligated to obey and conform to the provisions thereof and the laws enacted pursuant thereto.

Article 1

Title

1.01 Name. The name of this Grand Lodge shall be: **GRAND LODGE FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF WISCONSIN.**

1.02 Definition. All references to the Grand Lodge in this Constitution are references to the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin unless another Grand Lodge is specifically identified.

1.03 Reference to “Annual Communication” may be designated as “A/C”.

Article 2

Laws Defined and Classified

The laws of this Grand Lodge are defined and are classified “in order of supremacy” as follows:

2.01 Ancient Landmarks. The Ancient Landmarks of Freemasonry are the supreme Masonic Law, and are immutable, irrevocable and unalterable. They are the ancient unwritten Masonic laws, existing from time immemorial, which differentiate and distinguish the Masonic Fraternity from all other organizations. This Grand Lodge, being a sovereign body, may interpret the terms and conditions of the Ancient Landmarks.

2.02 Constitution. The Constitution of the Grand Lodge is subordinate only to the Ancient Landmarks, as provided in section 2.01.

2.03 Ancient Common Law. The Ancient Common Law of Freemasonry is the ancient usages, charges and Regulations of Freemasonry, differing only from the Ancient Landmarks in that the Ancient Common Law may be altered and amended by the Grand Lodge in those rare instances when the welfare of the Craft shall require the proposed change.

2.04 Code. The code of the Grand Lodge consists of: “The Laws of the Grand Lodge,” “Regulations for Lodges” and “The Trial Code,” and may be changed only by direct legislative amendment by the Grand Lodge.

2.05 Edicts. An Edict is a binding decision by the Grand Master, during his term of office, which shall apply only to the instant case, and shall not become part of the Code, and expires at the end of the Grand Master’s term of office.

2.06 Decisions. A Decision is a determination, order or decree of a Grand Master, prior to its presentation to the Grand Lodge at the Annual

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Communication. A Decision of a Grand Master is valid and controlling, during his term of office, and becomes part of the Code if approved by the Grand Lodge at the Annual Communication.

Article 3 Territorial Jurisdiction and Powers

3.01 Territorial Jurisdiction. The territorial jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge shall embrace the State of Wisconsin.

3.02 Powers. This Grand Lodge is the supreme Masonic authority in the State of Wisconsin, subject only to the Ancient Landmarks, as provided in section 2.01.

Article 4 Membership

4.01 Members. The members of the Grand Lodge shall be its Grand Officers, Grand Trustees and certain of its members, designated in Section 8.07 as Permanent Members, who are members of lodges under its jurisdiction, none of whom may be represented by proxy, and also the Masters and Wardens of all its chartered lodges or their proxies.

Article 5 Representatives and Delegates

5.01 Representatives. Each chartered lodge shall be entitled to three representatives in the Grand Lodge the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden of such chartered lodge. If any one of them cannot attend, he may designate his proxy to a member of his lodge. No representative shall represent more than one lodge.

5.02 Delegates. Each lodge under dispensation shall be entitled to three delegates who shall be allowed to participate in the deliberations of the Grand Lodge, but may not vote.

Article 6 Officers

6.01 Titles and Rank. The officers of the Grand Lodge, their titles and rank shall be as follows:

1. Most Worshipful Grand Master.
2. Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master.
3. Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden.
4. Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden.
5. Right Worshipful Grand Treasurer.
6. Right Worshipful Grand Secretary.
7. Worshipful Grand Chaplain.

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8. Worshipful Grand Lecturer.
9. Worshipful Senior Grand Deacon.
10. Worshipful Junior Grand Deacon.
11. Worshipful Senior Grand Steward.
12. Worshipful Junior Grand Steward.
13. Worshipful Grand Marshal.
14. Worshipful Grand Orator.
15. Worshipful Grand Tiler.
16. Worshipful District Deputies.

[Note: The Grand Sword Bearer and Grand Pursuivant were eliminated, and Grand Orator added at the June of 2004 Annual Communication.]

6.02 Grand Trustees. There shall be five Grand Trustees, one to be elected at each Annual Communication for a five-year term, and one for each unexpired term of a previously elected trustee whose office became vacant during the preceding year.

6.03 Qualifications. All Grand Lodge Officers and Grand Trustees shall be residents of the State of Wisconsin, and each shall be a member of a lodge therein. All Grand Lodge Officers, except the Grand Secretary, the Grand Chaplain, the Grand Marshal and the Grand Tiler shall be actual Past Masters.

6.04 When and How Selected. At each Communication of this Grand Lodge there shall be selected by ballot a Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary and at least one Grand Trustee. All other officers shall be appointed by the newly elected Grand Master at such communication.

6.05 Time of Election. The election of Grand Officers shall commence on the first day of the Annual Communication unless otherwise ordered by the Grand Lodge.

6.06 Installation. The Grand Lodge Officers elected and appointed shall be installed by the retiring Grand Master, or by a Past Grand Master. Each officer when installed shall make the following declaration: "I promise upon the honor of a Mason that I will, to the best of my ability conform to and abide by the Ancient Landmarks, Usages and Regulations of Masonry, the Constitution and Laws of this Grand Lodge, and faithfully perform the duties of the office to which I have been selected."

6.07 Terms of Office. Terms of the officers of the Grand Lodge shall expire with the installation of their successors.

- a) The Grand Trustees shall hold office for five years and are not eligible to be elected for a successive term. A term of office of a Grand Trustee shall not be taken to include a part term to fill a vacancy.

[Note: Balance of paragraph eliminated at 2005 Grand Lodge session.]

6.08 Vacancies, How Filled. Vacancies in office, exclusive of the four ranking offices, but including Grand Trustees, shall be filled by appointment of the Grand Master, the officers so appointed to hold office until the close of the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge.

6.09 Vacancies in Four Ranking Offices. If the Grand Master should be absent

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from the state, or be unable to act, or if his office should become vacant by death, the Deputy Grand Master shall be ex-officio Grand Master during such absence or disability to act, and shall become Grand Master when the office is vacant. Likewise, the Senior Grand Warden shall succeed to the office and title and shall be the ex-officio Grand Master during the absence or disability of both the Grand Master and the Deputy Grand Master, and shall become the Grand Master when the offices so become vacant. Similarly, the next in line of succession shall be the Junior Grand Warden, with the same rights and privileges. If all four ranking offices become vacant, a Past Grand Master of this Grand Lodge and a resident of this Jurisdiction, oldest in term of office and willing to serve, shall be Grand Master for the unexpired term.

Article 7 Annual Communications

7.01 Time and Place. The Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge shall be held at such place within the State of Wisconsin as shall be determined by the Grand Lodge at its annual meeting held two years prior. It shall commence on the first Friday of June at 9:00 o'clock A.M.

7.02 Quorum. Before any legislative action shall be held, the report of the Credentials Committee shall be submitted showing a majority of the chartered lodges present.

Article 8 Voting

8.01 Votes of Members. In all elections and on all questions before the Grand Lodge each chartered lodge shall be entitled to three votes and each Grand Officer, Grand Trustee, District Lecturer, District Chaplain, District Representative, and certain of its members, designated in Sec. 8.07 as Permanent Members, to one vote.

8.02 Dual Voting Prohibited. If a Grand Officer, Grand Trustee or permanent member is a representative of a lodge, he may vote in either of his capacities, but not in both.

8.03 Vote of Representatives. The Master and Wardens present are each entitled to one vote.

8.04 Vote of Proxy. A proxy shall cast only one vote and may not represent more than one lodge.

8.05 Vote by Lodges. If demanded by fifty representatives before a question is submitted, the vote shall be by lodges upon the following questions:

- 1) To amend or revise the Constitution.
- 2) To provide for other than Annual Communications.
- 3) To change the place of meeting of the Grand Lodge

In a vote by lodges, the vote of each lodge shall count three, shall be a unit vote,

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and shall be determined by the majority of the representatives of each lodge.

8.06 Majority Vote. In all votes and elections, a majority of those present shall govern, unless otherwise provided by law.

8.07 Permanent Members. A Permanent Member of the Grand Lodge shall be defined as a Past Grand Master, Past Grand Warden, Past Grand Treasurer, Past Grand Secretary, Past Grand Lecturer who has served the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin in such capacity for at least six years and any Past Grand Trustee who has served the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin in such capacity for one full term and was then retired from office.

Article 9 Constituent Lodges

9.01 Formation. Every constituent lodge in this jurisdiction must be held by virtue of a charter from this Grand Lodge, or a dispensation issued by authority of law, and a chartered lodge shall not proceed to work until it shall have been regularly constituted and its officers installed.

9.02 Government. At the Annual Communication the Grand Lodge shall prescribe rules and regulations for the organization and government of constituent lodges. It may require from them such sums of money annually as may be necessary for the support and maintenance of the Grand Lodge. Any special assessments shall be levied only by separate resolution adopted by the Grand Lodge at the A/C.

Article 10 Amendment of Constitution

10.01 When Amended. This Constitution may be amended at any Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge.

10.02 Vote Required. Whenever an amendment is acted upon a three-fourths vote of those present shall be required for its adoption.

10.03 Revision of Constitution. The Grand Lodge at an Annual Communication, by a two-thirds vote of those present, may order the selection of a committee of one or more to revise or draft a new Constitution, to be acted upon at a subsequent Annual Communication.

[Note: The former Constitution adopted by the Grand Lodge on June 14, 1967, A. L. 5967, with all amendments thereto, is hereby repealed]

Chapter 20

[Note: Eliminated by Resolution 10-2015 at the June 2015 Annual Communication]

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Chapter 21 Laws

21.01 Expounding the Law. The law of this Grand Jurisdiction shall be expounded by the Grand Lodge at its Annual Communication, the Grand Master or the Worshipful Master of a lodge, in the order named.

21.02 Repeal of Laws. All laws, regulations and edicts in conflict with any provisions of this code, which were adopted June 14, 1967, are hereby repealed.

21.03 Amendment of Masonic Code. The Ancient Common Law and Statutes of the Grand Lodge may be amended at an Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, in the same manner and by the same vote as the Constitution may be amended. An edict may be affirmed, modified or repealed at an Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge by a majority vote of those present. A decision of the Grand Master shall be approved or disapproved by the Grand Lodge at its next Annual Communication, by a majority vote of those present.

Chapter 22 Grand Master

22.01 Grand Master. The Grand Master shall have such prerogatives and powers as are conferred and perform such duties as devolve upon him by the Ancient Landmarks, the Ancient Common Law, the Constitution, the Code of the Grand Lodge and the Trial Code.

22.02 Specific Powers and Duties Pertaining to the Grand Lodge. An enumeration of some of the powers and duties of the Grand Master pertaining to the Grand Lodge, but without prejudice to the powers and duties conferred upon him by the Ancient Landmarks and the Ancient Common Law, is as follows:

First: He shall exercise the functions of the Grand Lodge when not in session.

Second: He may convene or authorize a deputy to convene the Grand Lodge in a special or emergent communication.

Third: He may expound the law and his official decisions shall be valid and controlling until action is had thereon by the Grand Lodge at its next Annual Communication.

Fourth: He may, for misconduct, neglect or malfeasance, suspend from office until the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, a Grand Trustee, and any Grand Officer except the Deputy Grand Master or a Grand Warden, and make an ad interim appointment.

Fifth: He may fill a vacancy in any office of the Grand Lodge except that of Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden and Junior Grand Warden, the appointee to hold office until the close of the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge.

Sixth: He may appoint Grand Representatives of this Grand Lodge near other recognized Grand Lodges and receive and accredit Grand Representatives of other recognized Grand Lodges near this Grand Lodge.

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Seventh: He shall have charge of the Foreign Correspondence of the Grand Lodge and may appoint a committee of one or more to assist him.

Eighth: He shall appoint all committees of the Grand Lodge unless otherwise provided.

Ninth: He shall, on the first day of each Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, report to the Grand Lodge on his official acts and decisions made during recess, the state and condition of the Craft, and recommend measures which he may consider necessary or expedient.

Tenth: He shall preside over the Grand Lodge and decide all questions of parliamentary law and procedure.

22.03 Specific Powers and Duties Pertaining to Constituent Lodges. The following is a list of the powers of the Grand Master; they are not limited to this:

First: He may grant dispensations to form and open new lodges at his discretion, even if the nearest lodge or lodges refuse to recommend the petition.

Second: He may issue a duplicate charter to a lodge whose charter has been lost or destroyed.

Third: He may arrest the dispensation or charter of a lodge and may suspend the functions of a lodge.

Fourth: He may suspend the Master or any other officer for official misconduct, neglect, malfeasance or other unmasonic conduct.

Fifth: He may in person or by deputy, convene, open, preside over, instruct and close a lodge at pleasure.

Sixth: He may in person or by deputy preside over every assembly of the Craft in this Grand Jurisdiction.

Seventh: He shall have general supervision of the Craft during the recess of the Grand Lodge.

Eighth: He may discipline a lodge for misuse of its funds.

Ninth: He may grant to a lodge dispensations as follows:

- a) To dispense with the following provisions of the Regulations for Lodges: 66.03 relating to time of residence; 72.01 relating to time for receiving petition from rejected petitioner, and 73.02 relating to time between degrees.
 - a. To grant dispensation where provided for elsewhere in the Code.
- b) To receive a petition for advancement from rejected work and to do non-jurisdictional work upon application by a lodge.
- c) To hold a special election in the following cases:
 - a. If the office of Master becomes vacant and the Wardens make application.
 - b. If any of the five (5) ranking officers-elect dies prior to being installed or declines to be installed.
 - c. If the three ranking offices becomes vacant.
 - d. If the lodge fails to elect officers at the time fixed in its by-laws.

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- d) To elect an officer at a special communication.
- e) To install as Master, a Master Mason who has not served as Master or Warden.
- f) To have a public festival or join in a public procession or appear publicly in Masonic clothing. At the burial of a Mason a dispensation is not necessary.
- g) To hold its meetings in a room used for other than Masonic purposes.
- h) To permit the use of its lodge rooms by other than the lodge itself.
- i) To permit the use of its lodge rooms for other than Masonic purposes.
- j) To permit a lodge to ask for assistance or give its consent of a Mason to apply for relief outside its own jurisdiction.
- k) To grant permission to a lodge to entertain a petition for the degrees of a resident of another Grand Jurisdiction when accompanied by a dispensation of the Grand Master thereof, or an official statement that such dispensation is unnecessary.

Tenth: He shall have power in Masonic Trials as prescribed by the Trial Code.

Eleventh: The Grand Master shall approve a change in the name of a lodge before it shall become effective.

22.04 Restrictions on Power of Grand Master. An enumeration of some of the restrictions upon the power of the Grand Master, is as follows:

First: He may not dispense with any of the Ancient Landmarks.

Second: He may not dispense with any provision of the Ancient Common Law, the Constitution or Statutes of the Grand Lodge, except by specific authority conferred upon him.

Third: He may not dispense with any of the qualifications of a petitioner for the degrees.

Fourth: He may not grant a dispensation authorizing another ballot on a petition after it has been rejected and so declared by the Master, except in case of fraud in the ballot.

Fifth: He may not set aside an objection to advancement.

Sixth: He may not by fiat suspend or expel a Mason except as provided in Section 101.03.

Seventh: The Grand Master has no authority to add names to a petition for a lodge charter, which has been approved by either the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master, since, in granting the dispensation, the membership of the lodge has become fixed.

Eighth: He may not grant a dispensation authorizing a lodge to join in the funeral procession of a deceased Mason unless the lodge conducts the funeral.

Ninth: He may not waive the examination of a candidate in open lodge.

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Chapter 23 Deputy Grand Master

23.01 The Deputy Grand Master shall assist the Grand Master in the discharge of his duties. If the Grand Master is absent from the state, or is unable to act, the Deputy Grand Master shall succeed to the performance of his duties. If the office of Grand Master becomes vacant, the Deputy Grand Master shall succeed to the office and become the Grand Master.

Chapter 24 Grand Treasurer

24.01 Shall Sign Payroll Checks. All pay-roll checks for attendance at an Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, computed by the Grand Secretary's office in compliance with the provisions of 30.05 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge, shall be drawn upon a special payroll account opened in the depository designated by the Grand Lodge and all such checks proper to be drawn shall be signed by either the retiring or newly elected Grand Treasurer alone.

He shall distribute the checks with the help of such assistants as he may require and as he himself may appoint, in conformity with the provisions of 30.06 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge.

In the event the Grand Treasurer is unable to act or is unavailable, the Grand Master shall appoint someone to carry out the foregoing provisions of this Section.

24.02 Shall Make Annual Report. He shall submit at each Annual Communication a detailed account of his receipts and disbursements, with proper vouchers for the latter, and present a statement of the existing condition of the several funds of the Grand Lodge.

Chapter 25 Grand Secretary

25.01 Shall Keep Records. The Grand Secretary shall keep a record of the returns of all constituent lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction, receive and preserve all documents belonging to the Grand Lodge, record the transactions of the Grand Lodge and perform such other duties as are prescribed by the Grand Lodge.

25.02 Shall Receive Moneys. The Grand Secretary shall receive all moneys due and payable to the Grand Lodge and deposit the same to the proper account in the designated depository and keep a correct detailed account thereof in suitable books.

25.03 Shall Make Annual Report. The Grand Secretary shall submit to the Grand Lodge at each Annual Communication:

- a) A general report of all monies received by him and the sources from which derived.

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- b) A tabulated report, showing the number initiated, passed, raised, transferred and resigned, deceased, rejected, reinstated, suspended and expelled; together with the number of candidates initiated and/or passed who are in default during each calendar year for a period of five years last past, and those in default who have been re-established; the net increase or decrease of the membership of each lodge for the year; and the proper amount of dues due the Grand Lodge.

25.04 Shall Turn Over Monies. The Grand Secretary shall, at the expiration of his term of office, account for and pay over to the Grand Trustees all monies, securities and property in his possession, custody or control belonging to the Grand Lodge that have not been theretofore duly accounted for.

25.05 Shall Procure Grand Master's Jewel and Apron. The Grand Secretary shall procure each year at the expense of the Grand Lodge a Past Grand Master's jewel and a Past Grand Master's apron to be presented to the Grand Master.

25.06 Shall Have Proceedings Printed. The Grand Secretary shall, immediately following the Annual Communication, submit to the Code Committee a copy of all true and correct resolutions affecting the Code which were adopted at the Annual Communication.

The Grand Secretary shall cause the journal of the proceedings of each Annual Communication to be printed, unless otherwise ordered by the Grand Lodge.

In such published proceedings there shall not appear the portrait of a living Mason except that of the newly installed Grand Master and the retiring Grand Master, unless otherwise ordered by the Grand Lodge.

In such published proceedings there shall not be printed a list of the Secretaries of lodges, but as soon as possible after receiving the annual reports of lodges each year, the Grand Secretary shall publish in a pamphlet their names and post office addresses and shall forward one copy thereof to the Secretary of each lodge and to each Grand Lodge Officer.

25.07 Notify Secretaries of Unfinished Business of Grand Lodge.

Not less than forty-five days prior to the first day of the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Secretary shall mail to the Secretary of each constituent lodge:

1. A complete list of all unfinished business of the Grand Lodge, with a copy or reproduction of each pending amendment, resolution, edict or motion and where it may be found in the prior proceedings of the Grand Lodge; and,
2. A complete list of all proposed legislation submitted to that date to the Grand Secretary in accordance with Section 38.01 (2) with a copy or reproduction of each amendment, resolution or motion so submitted.

25.08 The Grand Secretary shall be responsible for overall administrative supervision.

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Chapter 26 Grand Lecturer

26.01 Shall Visit and Instruct Lodges. Each lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction shall be instructed at least annually by the Grand Lecturer or District Lecturer unless the Grand Master shall otherwise order. The Grand Master may, in his discretion, order additional instruction in any lodge upon such terms as he may deem proper. Lodges desiring additional instruction may obtain it by arrangement with their District Lecturer.

26.02 District Lecturer. The Grand Master shall appoint a District Lecturer for each Masonic District in the state. The Grand Lecturer shall recommend to the Grand Master names for possible appointment as District Lecturer. Each District Lecturer will be responsible to and under the supervision of the Grand Lecturer. The Grand Lecturer shall be responsible for the proficiency of the District Lecturers. A District Lecturer may be removed from office by the Grand Master without specification of charges. Any vacancy occurring by such action or by death, resignation, or any other cause shall be filled by appointment by the Grand Master for the unexpired term of office.

26.03 Vote of District Lecturer. The District Lecturers shall be entitled to vote on all matters presented to the Grand Lodge at its Annual Communication.

Chapter 27 Other Grand Officers

27.01 Duties. The other officers of the Grand Lodge shall perform the duties prescribed by Masonic Law and usage and as required by the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master.

27.02 Additional Duties of Junior Grand Warden. The Junior Grand Warden shall act as liaison coordinator between the Grand Lodge, constituent lodges, and the youth groups.

Chapter 28 Grand Trustees

28.01 Number and Qualifications. There shall be five Grand Trustees of this Grand Lodge who shall be Master Masons residing in the State of Wisconsin and each shall be a member of a lodge therein. A Grand Trustee is a statutory, not a Masonic officer.

28.02 Election and Tenure. The regular term of a Grand Trustee shall be for five years. One Grand Trustee shall be elected for a full term at each Annual Communication. Grand Trustees shall not be eligible to re-election to such office for a successive term, but a part term to fill a vacancy shall not be considered a term of office of a Grand Trustee. At the first meeting of the Grand Trustees following each Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Trustees

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shall elect one from their number to serve as Chairman, and in the event of vacancy shall elect a successor Chairman from their number, to serve until the close of the next Annual Communication.

28.03 Vacancies, How Filled. The Grand Master shall fill a vacancy in the office of Grand Trustee by appointment, the appointee to hold office until the close of the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge during which a successor Grand Trustee shall be elected for the unexpired term.

28.04 Shall Have Custody of Securities and Make Annual Report to Grand Lodge. The Trustees shall have the custody of all bonds, obligations and securities belonging to the Grand Lodge and shall submit to the Grand Lodge at each Annual Communication a report on their official acts.

28.05 Shall Have Supervision of Property. It is hereby made the duty of the Trustees of this Grand Lodge to exercise a general supervision over the property, both real and personal, including trust funds of the Grand Lodge, unless otherwise provided by regulation of the Grand Lodge, to receive and hold the title thereto as Trustees, to execute all conveyances for and on behalf of the Grand Lodge, and to make contracts, leases and agreements in their names, as they may be authorized by the Grand Lodge or by law; and they are expressly authorized, whenever in their judgment or that of a majority of them, it shall be necessary to institute and prosecute legal proceedings in their own names for the preservation and protection of the property or rights of the Grand Lodge to do so. Provided, however, that the Trustees are required to secure the approval of the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master before:

- 1) The purchasing, selling, leasing or mortgaging of any real property having a value of more than \$10,000.
- 2) The purchasing, selling, investing, lending, borrowing or pledging of any personal property having a value of more than \$25,000.
- 3) Participating in litigation determining any rights of the Grand Lodge of a value in excess of \$10,000.
- 4) Employing any personnel for a period of more than one month at a rate of compensation in excess of \$1,000 per month and, Provided further, however, that the Trustees in the investment of funds of the Grand Lodge shall be governed by the so-called "prudent man rule" for the investment of trust funds and in all other matters shall not be held accountable for any act or failure to act in which they have not been guilty of gross malfeasance or gross nonfeasance.

28.05 Grand Masonic Center Building. The Trustees of this Grand Lodge shall maintain the Grand Masonic Center Building smoke free.

28.06 Meetings. The Grand Trustees shall meet upon call of the Grand Master, the Chairman of the Grand Trustees, or any three Grand Trustees. Three Trustees shall constitute a quorum.

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Chapter 29 Committees of Grand Lodge

29.01 Standing Committees. The following shall be the Standing Committees of the Grand Lodge:

1. Masonic Jurisprudence.
2. Lodge Facilities, Charters and Consolidations Committee
3. Expenditures.
4. Resolutions and Masonic Code Committee.
5. Foreign Relations.
6. Masonic Education.
7. Nomination.
8. Personnel.
9. Executive.
10. Grand Lodge Planning.
11. Annual Communication.
12. Appeals and Grievances.
13. The Committee on Esoteric Work.
14. Strategic Planning Committee.
15. Youth Group Funding Committee
16. Grand Lodge Membership

29.02 How Constituted. All standing committees shall be appointed by the Grand Master and shall consist of five members except:

The Jurisprudence Committee, which shall consist of a chairman appointed by the Grand Master, Chairman of the Resolutions and Masonic Code Committee, and no less than seven other members.

The Committee on Personnel which shall consist of no less than three members, two of whom must qualify by being employed in or having had actual experience in the field of employee-personnel work.

The Executive Committee which shall consist of the Grand Master as Chairman and the Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, Senior Grand Deacon and the immediate Past Grand Master.

The Grand Lodge Planning Committee which shall consist of the Junior Grand Deacon as Chairman and the Grand Chaplain, Grand Lecturer, Senior Grand Steward, Junior Grand Steward, Grand Marshal, Grand Orator, and Grand Tiler.

The Annual Communication Committee shall consist of no less than seven (7) members.

The Masonic Education Committee shall consist of no less than nine (9) members.

The Committee on Esoteric Work shall consist of the Grand Lecturer and the District Lecturers.

Committee on Youth Funding. The committee on Youth Funding shall be

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comprised of the following:

1. Junior Grand Warden – Chairman
2. Senior Grand Deacon
3. Junior Grand Deacon (non-voting)
4. Executive Officer if Wisconsin DeMolay or his designate
5. Grand Guardian of Wisconsin Job's Daughter or her designate
6. Supreme Inspector/Deputy of Wisconsin Rainbow for Girls or her designate

It shall be the duty of this committee to allocate monetary distributions from the annual proceeds (not principal) of the Youth Fund as the committee deems necessary to benefit the recognized Masonic Youth Organizations of DeMolay, Job's Daughters and Rainbow for Girls.

Grand Lodge Membership, The Grand Lodge Membership Committee shall be comprised of the following:

A Grand Lodge Officer (Grand Lodge Liaison), and no less than four other members.

Other committees may be appointed by the Grand Master at any time and may consist of such number of members as he shall deem proper.

29.03 Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence. The following matters shall be referred to the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence for study, consideration, report and recommendation:

- a) All decisions, opinions and dispensations of the Grand Master.
- b) All proposed amendments to the Ancient Common Law and to the Laws of the Grand Lodge as defined in Article 2 of the Constitution.
- c) All resolutions and motions purporting to repeal, supplement or add to the Laws of the Grand Lodge as defined in Article 2 of the Constitution.
- d) All proposed changes in constituent lodge by-laws.
- e) All other questions of Masonic Jurisprudence.

The primary function of the Committee shall be to determine and advise whether or not the matters referred to it contravene or conflict with the existing laws of this Grand Lodge; but in case a report and recommendation, limited to legal discussion, would not fully nor adequately present the matter to the Craft, the Committee may, in its discretion, discuss the wisdom or desirability of the action or proposal stating briefly both sides of the proposition. In case of disagreements among the members of the Committee, a minority report may and should be submitted. On all questions reported by the Committee the vote in Grand Lodge shall be upon the original proposal or proposals and not upon the acceptance or rejection of the report.

In the event any resolution so submitted shall be defective by reason of failure to cite the portion of the Code proposed to be amended or for other similar technical reasons, it shall be the duty of the Committee to redraft the resolution, if possible, in proper form to carry out the purpose intended in the resolution. The Grand Master shall appoint the members of the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence forthwith, and submit to each member thereof on May 1st, a copy of the decisions and recommendations made, resolutions proposed and dispensations granted by him or

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submitted to him up to such time.

The Chairman of the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence shall call a meeting of all members of the Committee prior to the opening of the Annual Grand Lodge Communication, to consider, review and report their findings and recommendations on all matters referred to them by the Grand Master.

29.04 Committee on Lodge Facilities, Charters and Consolidations Committee. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Lodge Charters and Consolidations:

- a) To assist in the granting, consolidating or surrendering of charters.
- b) To examine the records of proceedings and of work done, and the by-laws of each lodge under dispensation.
- c) To make a report on the regularity of the work and proceedings; the correctness of the records and by-laws of lodges under dispensation; and if a charter is recommended, the name and number of the lodge, the locality in which it is established, and the names of the three principal officers.
- d) Report all consolidations and charters surrendered each year. In addition, they will prepare and maintain a book of plans, specifications and appropriate costs of lodge facilities, to counsel lodges on costs, plans, requirements for building and financing and to make recommendations for approval or disapproval of such plans to the Grand Master.

29.05 Committee on Expenditures. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Expenditures:

- a) To examine all matters referred to it involving the expenditure of money, during the Annual Communication, and report the same in detail to the Grand Lodge.
- b) To report to the Grand Lodge on the payroll prepared by the Grand Secretary.
- c) To prepare a budget of estimated revenue and expenses of the Grand Lodge and other necessary appropriations each year, including proposed salaries of officers and employees for the ensuing year, as soon after the audit is completed as possible, and shall incorporate therein a comparison item by item, of the proposed budget with the expenditures for the preceding year, such budget to be mailed to the officers and permanent members of the Grand Lodge and three copies to the Secretary of each lodge for the use of its representatives.

29.06 Resolutions and Masonic Code Committee. It shall be the duty of the Resolutions and Masonic Code Committee to:

- a) Draft by request of the Grand Lodge, any commit the of the Grand Lodge, any constituent lodge, the Grand Master, or any Master Mason, any resolution or motion for presentation to the Grand Lodge, embodying the

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ideas desired to be presented, and in such form as to wording and place within the constitution or laws as may seem reasonable and proper to the committee.

- b) The drafting of any motion or resolution by the Resolutions Committee shall not be considered an approval of the content thereof but simply of the form in which it is presented. All such resolutions shall state at the foot thereof "Approved only as to form by the Resolutions and Masonic Code Committee." It is not mandatory that resolutions be referred to the Resolutions and Masonic Code Committee.
- c) Review the published Masonic Code if requested by the Grand Master to determine the need for any changes in that Code, which may be ambiguous, in conflict, or inconsistent with other sections of the Code.
- d) To submit to the Jurisprudence Committee for its study, consideration, report and recommendations any proposed amendments to the Code, which may be ambiguous, in conflict, or inconsistent with other sections of the Code.
- e) Immediately upon receipt of the proposed resolutions from the Grand Secretary, the Resolutions and Masonic Code Committee shall revise the Code to comply with the changes if adopted at the Annual Communication.
- f) Authority to correct Code. The Committee, with approval from the Grand Master, shall have the following authorizations when preparing an up dated copy of the Code:
 - a. To correct all misspelled words in any section of the then existing Code with out changing the meaning or intent thereof.
 - b. To correct any obvious or manifest clerical errors, including punctuation marks, without changing the meaning or intent thereof.
 - c. To make changes in chapter numbers and headings of the Code so as to give a logical sequence for subjects without changing the meaning.

29.07 Committee on Foreign Relations. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Foreign Relations:

- a) To keep informed on affairs relating to other Grand Jurisdictions and advise the Grand Master and Grand Lodge in all such matters.
- b) To make recommendations to the Grand Lodge for either the granting, withholding or withdrawal of recognition of the Grand Lodges of other jurisdictions, as, in their opinion, the facts warrant.
- c) To examine the written or printed proceedings, or other documents emanating from other Grand Lodges in fraternal relationship with this Grand Lodge, and report at each Annual Communication whatever may seem of sufficient importance and interest to the Craft.

29.08 Committee on Masonic Education. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Masonic Education:

- a) To teach those things which are needful in the building of stronger lodges.
- b) To emphasize the responsibilities as well as the privileges of Masonic

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membership.

- c) To assist the lodges to make real Masons, rather than to merely increase lodge memberships.
- d) To instruct Masons in civic responsibilities such as love of country, duty to obey its laws, to respect its flag and defend it against all enemies, both foreign and domestic.
- e) To properly interpret spiritual and moral values as a fundamental need of man.
- f) To guide Masons to knowledge of how man may properly live with man.
- g) To imbue all mankind, but more especially brother Masons, with the doctrine of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of Man.

29.09 Nominating Committee. It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to recommend to the Grand Lodge at its Annual Communication suitable and eligible candidates for election as Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, and to the board of Grand Trustees, The Wisconsin Masonic Benevolent Activities Board, and The Wisconsin Masonic Journal Board.

29.10 Committee on Personnel. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Personnel:

- a) To study and review all salaried positions, position descriptions and salary ranges, in all departments, agencies and organizations of the Grand Lodge and prepare and file with the Grand Secretary, for consideration by the Committee on Expenditures, a position description and a recommendation of a minimum and maximum salary range for each position.
- b) To advise the Grand Lodge and the Grand Master on the formation or implementation of all personnel policies and practices.

29.11 Executive Committee. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to administer all of the work of the Grand Lodge referred to it by the Grand Master and to preserve, promote and perpetuate the policies and adopted programs of the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge, and for the purpose of performing such work with efficiency and giving effect to said policies and programs, said Committee shall establish and maintain an Administrative System in which Past Masters of Constituent Lodges appointed by the Grand Master and said Committee, shall in areas assigned to them voluntarily and without compensation, perform such work as may be required of them by the Grand Master or said Committee. It shall be the further duty of the Executive Committee to recommend at each Annual Communication of Grand Lodge a place for the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge to be held two years later.

29.12 Committee on Temple Plans and Financing. Combine with Committee on lodge Charters at the 2014 Annual Communication Resolution 6-2014

29.13 Research Committee. *[Note: Eliminated in June 2006, see annotations.]*

29.14 Grand Lodge Planning. It shall be the duty of the Grand Lodge Planning Committee, under the direction of the Deputy Grand Master, to establish 1–5-year goals, analyze specific programs and make recommendations relative to

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their findings.

29.15 Annual Communication. It shall be the duty of the Annual Communication Committee

- a) To verify the credentials of all Masons claiming the right of membership in the Grand Lodge and record their name, lodge and title.
- b) To perform such other duties as may be required by the Grand Master and Grand Lodge.

29.16 Appeals and Grievances. It shall be the duty of the Appeals and Grievances Committee to study and consider all transcripts of Masonic trials and all appeals from such proceedings and the decisions therein. It shall be the further duty of the Appeals and Grievances Committee to report any such Masonic trial to the Grand Lodge at the Annual Communication following such trial; and the Committee shall recommend to the Grand Lodge what action should be taken on the review of such trial or any appeal therefrom. It shall also consider all petitions for restoration and make recommendation to the Grand Lodge with respect to each.

29.17 Committee on Esoteric Work. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Esoteric Work to:

- a) Consider all resolutions to change the Pure Work and make its recommendations to the Grand Lodge at the Annual Communication.
- b) Monitor changes in the work of sister jurisdictions and report same to the Grand Lodge at the Annual Communication.
- c) Answer all questions relative to the Pure Work, and,
- d) Treat other matters relative to the Pure Work as referred to it by the Grand Master.

29.18 Masonic Code Committee. *[Note: Combine with Resolutions at the 2014 Annual Communication Resolution 7-2014]*

29.19 Committee on Strategic Planning. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Strategic Planning to establish long-term goals, to analyze trends, to sift and winnow strategic plans and make recommendations to the Executive Committee for possible implementation.

29.19 Committee on Youth Funding. It shall be the duty of the Youth Group Funding Committee to direct and allocate funds to meaningful projects beneficial to the total membership of the Masonic Youth Groups of DeMolay, Rainbow for Girls and Job's Daughters.

29.20 Matters Referred to Committees. A committee shall not consider any matter unless the same is offered in Grand Lodge and duly referred to it; except such matters as are referred to it by the Grand Master.

29.21 Grand Lodge Membership Committee. It shall be the duty of the Membership Committee to make available to each individual Lodge useful and effective ideas, tools and programs for use in enhancing the value of the Masonic experience through retention of existing members, as well as the acquisition of new members.

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Chapter 30 Compensation and Tenure

30.01 Salaries. Salaries of Grand Lodge Officers and employees shall be in such amounts, as the Grand Lodge shall determine at each Annual Communication after receiving and considering the budget report of the Committee on Expenditures.

30.02 Officers Receiving Compensation. Compensation shall be paid only to the following officers:

1. Grand Treasurer.
2. Grand Secretary.
3. Grand Lecturer

30.03 Change of Compensation. Boards and Committees shall not appropriate any moneys to any officer of the Grand Lodge.

30.04 Committees and Grand Trustees. Each member of a committee meeting in vacation by order of the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge, each Grand Trustee and each Grand Lodge Officer when making an official visit to a constituent lodge shall be entitled to his actual necessary expenses while in the actual discharge of his duties.

30.05 Members of Grand Lodge. Grand Lodge Officers and Permanent Members of the Grand Lodge, Grand Trustees, one representative or proxy from each constituent lodge, and from each lodge under dispensation, and members of committees not otherwise paid, shall be entitled to thirty dollars for each day they actually attend an Annual Communication, and thirty cents for each mile traveled to and from the place of meeting by direct route. Likewise, travel in vacation as authorized in 30.04 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge shall be paid at the rate of thirty cents per mile unless a lesser amount is the maximum permitted by the Internal Revenue Service in which event the rate shall be the maximum allowed by the Internal Revenue Service. Mileage and/or per diem shall be forfeited if not called for in six months.

A permanent member of the Grand Lodge shall receive mileage from his place of residence in the state to the place of meeting and return, by direct route, if a resident of Wisconsin. If not, from the place where he crosses the state line to the place of meeting and return, by direct route, in attending Grand Lodge.

30.06 Representatives. Only one representative of a lodge shall be entitled to receive mileage and per diem and he shall be the officer of the lodge who is highest in rank among those attending, an actual officer outranking a proxy.

If all the representatives of a lodge leave before the close of the Annual Communication without consent of the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master, mileage and per diem shall not be paid to any of them.

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Chapter 31 Revenues

31.01 Sources of Revenue. The revenues of the Grand Lodge shall be derived from the following sources:

- a) Charter granted without dispensation \$40.00
- b) Charter fee \$10.00
- c) Dispensation for a new lodge..... \$30.00
- d) For each person initiated \$10.00 to be paid by the candidate to the Secretary of the lodge upon his initiation in addition to the fees for the degrees specified in the Code. Such \$10.00 shall be remitted to the Grand Secretary; \$7.50 of this sum to be used by the Grand Lodge to pay a portion of the expenses of Grand Lodge; \$2.50 to be paid by the Grand Secretary to the Wisconsin Masonic Foundation (a tax exempt charitable organization) for the benefit of the Wisconsin Masonic Home.
- e) Annual per capita tax upon each member of record of a chartered lodge on December 31st of each year, payable to the Grand Lodge, such sum as is recommended by the Expenditures Committee and approved by the Grand Lodge by separate resolution. As to a Mason affiliated in more than one Wisconsin lodge, only the lodge in which such plural member holds primary membership shall pay the annual per capita tax upon such member to the Grand Lodge. When a plural member of one or more Wisconsin lodges holds primary membership in another Grand Jurisdiction, then the first Wisconsin lodge (other than a research lodge) with which he is currently affiliated as a plural member shall pay the per capita tax and assessments of Grand Lodge on him.
 - a. For the charity fund, to be paid annually by each member of a constituent lodge, such sum as is recommended by the Expenditure Committee and approved by the Grand Lodge.
 - b. For the maintenance of the Masonic Home, to be paid annually by each member of a constituent lodge, such sum, not less than 50¢, as is recommended by the Expenditures Committee and approved by the Grand Lodge.
- f) For the Endowment Fund of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association, from each candidate for the Master Mason degree at the time he pays his fee for that degree, to be remitted by the Secretary of each lodge to the Grand Secretary with the annual per capita tax for each year..... \$5.00
- g) Restoration Fee (see 31.04) \$5.00
- h) Non-affiliated Masons, as defined in Section 86.13 of the Wisconsin Masonic Code of record on December 31st of each year, shall be assessed such sum as is recommended by the Expenditures Committee and approved by the Grand Lodge by separate resolution. This assessment to be paid on or before March 1st of each year. Upon payment the Grand Lodge shall give him a certificate of payment.

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Non-payment of assessment will result in the loss of good standing. It shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary to give written notice within ten days after due date, by first class mail, addressed to the last known address of such non-affiliated Mason, informing him of the non-payment and loss of good standing, and the Grand Secretary shall inform him of the manner in which he may exercise his right to restore his good standing.

31.02 Fiscal Year Defined. The fiscal year of the Grand Lodge shall commence on the first day of May and that of constituent lodges on the first day of each year.

31.03 When Lodge Remits to Grand Lodge. On or before March first of each year, each lodge shall pay to the Grand Lodge all dues, per capita tax, special assessments and any other existing indebtedness, unless otherwise provided. In cases of the failure of the Lodge to file their recapitulation report and pay all outstanding per capita tax, special assessments or other existing indebtedness, it shall be charged two dollars per day commencing on March 2nd, unless such default is excused by the Grand Lodge. The Grand Secretary shall have this regulation printed on the report blanks furnished to the lodge Secretaries.

31.04 Payments on Restored Members. Each lodge shall report in its annual summary to the Grand Secretary all members restored to membership under the provisions of 81.13 and 81.14 (Suspension Nonpayment of Dues, Regulations for Lodges), or under the provision of 82.08 (Reinstatement of Resigned Member, Regulations for Lodges) and shall pay to the Grand Lodge with the annual per capita tax a restoration fee of Five Dollars (\$5.00) for each such restored member, said fee to be collected from each member so restored.

31.05 Excess Receipts-Deficits. The Grand Secretary shall at least every thirty days credit the "Grand Lodge of Wisconsin F. & A.M. General Investment Fund" with all excess receipts from all sources for the support of the Grand Lodge Budget.

If, during any fiscal year of the Grand Lodge, the receipts from all sources for the support of the Grand Lodge Budget, are insufficient to pay all of the operating and maintenance expenses budgeted and incurred, then the Grand Lodge Committee on Expenditures shall be authorized to direct that the deficit shall be paid out of the Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of Wisconsin General Investment Fund.

Chapter 32 Disbursements

32.01 Grand Lodge Must Authorize Disbursements. No debt shall be contracted nor disbursement made except by authorization of the Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, or other person designated by the Grand Master.

32.02 Depository Bank. All moneys shall be kept in the account of the Grand Lodge in a depository bank to be designated by the Grand Secretary, subject to the approval of the Grand Master.

32.03 Per Diem and Mileage When Paid. Per diem and mileage for attendance

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at Grand Lodge shall not be paid until the close of each Annual Communication, unless otherwise ordered by the Grand Master.

32.04 Charity Fund. No money shall be paid from the Charity Fund described in 31.01 of these Laws unless regularly appropriated by a majority vote of the Grand Lodge, or an order of the Grand Master or by the Wisconsin Board of Masonic Service and Assistance in conformity with 40.05 of these Laws.

32.05 Disbursements — When, How and by Whom Made. All demands against the General Fund of the Grand Lodge, except when different provision is made for their payment, shall be paid within one month after approved and certified for payment by the Grand Secretary, and all such demands shall be paid by checks drawn against the General Fund of the Grand Lodge; signed by any one or more of the following: The Grand Master, the Grand Treasurer, or the Grand Secretary, or another person designated by the Grand Master as determined by said Grand Lodge Officers. The number and identity of the signers shall be determined by the foregoing Grand Lodge Officers. The signature of the appropriate officer or officers on checks drawn against the General Fund of the Grand Lodge may be affixed by a facsimile signature by use of a signature plate.

32.06 Disbursement Charged to Fund. Every disbursement therefrom shall be charged to the particular fund or appropriation from which it is to be paid.

Chapter 33 Investments

33.01 Securities for Investment. The Trustees of the Grand Lodge, except where otherwise expressly directed hereafter by action of the Grand Lodge, and except where otherwise expressly directed by the will or instrument of trust, if any, are authorized to invest the trust funds and surplus cash funds of the Grand Lodge in compliance with the “prudent man rule” for the investment of trust funds.

33.02 Loaning of Funds. The loaning of trust funds or cash funds of the Grand Lodge, either directly or indirectly, shall not be made to any Masonic body except the Grand Trustees may lend money to constituent lodges at a rate of interest the Grand Trustees deem necessary to maintain the Grand Lodge investments at the time of any such loan, and secured by a mortgage on said constituent lodge’s real estate. Said rate shall be guaranteed for one year and shall be subject to annual adjustments at the discretion of the Trustees.

33.03 Prior Investments. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to affect any investments made prior to the enactment hereof or affect any rights or interests established, accrued or created thereunder, or affect any suit or action pending when the passage hereof becomes effective.

33.04 Appreciation of Principal. Any appreciation of the principal of all permanent endowment funds administered by the Grand Trustees shall constitute principal of the respective funds and shall not be construed as income.

33.05 Funds May be Commingled for Investment Purposes. The surplus cash funds of the Grand Lodge and the trust funds and endowment funds administered by the Grand Trustees, together with the surplus cash funds of the

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home, hospital and farm may be commingled for investment purposes.

Chapter 34 Financial Reports

34.01 By Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master. The Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master, on the first day of each Annual Communication, shall report all moneys and property received by them for the Grand Lodge since their installation, and the disposition made thereof.

The Grand Master shall report whether the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary have in all things fully complied with all the provisions of 34.03 and 34.04.

34.02 By Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary. The Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary, on or before the first day of June in each year, shall make detailed reports of all moneys and property by them respectively received, where and from what source, and what disposition has been made thereof, since the commencement of their current term of office up to and including the last day of April and deliver the same forthwith to the Grand Trustees.

The Grand Secretary's report shall be accompanied with vouchers of the payments by him of all moneys to the Grand Treasurer. The Grand Treasurer's report shall be accompanied with vouchers of all moneys paid out.

34.03 By Grand Secretary on Delinquent Lodges. The Grand Secretary, on or before the 1st day of August in each year, shall report to the Grand Master all lodges that have failed to make their Annual Report, or have failed to pay their indebtedness to the Grand Lodge, and the amount thereof.

34.04 By Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary — Other Reports. The Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary shall make such other reports relating to the finances and property of the Grand Lodge as ordered by the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master or the Grand Trustees.

34.05 Penalty for Failure to Make Reports. The Grand Master shall require the foregoing provisions to be strictly complied with, and shall forthwith call the attention of the officer in default to any neglect or omission, and if such delinquent officer shall then fail to comply with such provisions, the Grand Master shall at once remove or suspend him from office.

Chapter 35 Audit of Books

35.01 Regular Certified Audit and Report. Before each Annual Communication of this Grand Lodge, the books, records, accounts and vouchers of the Grand Lodge, its subordinate or subsidiary agencies, and the several Grand Lodge Officers shall be duly audited and certified by a Certified Public Accountant approved by the Grand Master, to and including the 30th day of April. He shall submit a written report of such certified audit to the Grand Lodge at its next Annual Communication.

35.02 Shall Certify to Cash Balances. All cash balances in the several accounts of the Grand Lodge and its subordinate or subsidiary agencies, on

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hand or on deposit in the designated depositories, shall be certified to by the duly appointed Certified Public Accountant as of the close of the fiscal year of the Grand Lodge on the thirtieth day of April each year.

Chapter 36 Grand Lodge Seal

36.01 Description. The official seal of the Grand Lodge shall consist of two concentric circles between which are the words “Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin Const. Dec. 1843”. Within the inner circle are representations of the all seeing eye within a blazing circle overlooking the Master in the East, an altar with the square and compasses on the front and a star on a Masonic carpet with a setting mall on the left and a trowel on the right of the carpet, on the left of the inner circle are two brazen pillars, on the right the pillars of wisdom, strength and beauty and below them the words “Friendship, Morality and Brotherly Love.”

Chapter 37 Recognition of Other Organizations

37.01 Masonic Insurance Associations. This Grand Lodge has in no manner authorized and is in no way responsible for the creation of insurance companies or mutual benefit associations called Masonic; neither is it legally or morally responsible for any agreement, contract or other act of such associations. Any Mason in this jurisdiction who shall make representations in conflict with the above declaration, to induce any person to join or become interested in any such company or association is hereby declared guilty of unmasonic conduct.

37.02 Other Organizations. The Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin is the supreme and final authority governing all aspects of Masons and Masonry in Wisconsin. There are no higher orders of Masonry. The Grand Lodge has a friendly and fraternal regard for those organizations that predicate their membership upon membership in a constituent lodge of Free and Accepted Masons.

37.03 Recognition of Other Grand Lodges. Recognition of other Grand Lodges is the exclusive prerogative of this Grand Lodge and the following shall be the rules to guide in the fraternal recognition of other Grand Lodges of Free and Accepted Masons:

Rule 1. Such Grand Lodge must be sovereign, independent and supreme — the sole governing body over its constituent lodges.

Rule 2. It must be in possession of and exclusively control the work of the Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason degrees in the lodges under its authority.

Rule 3. It must display the Volume of the Sacred Law on its altars; require a belief in Deity; make Masons of men only; exclude religious and political questions and discussions from its lodges; and must conform to, abide by, and

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uphold the Ancient Landmarks of Ancient Craft Masonry.

Rule 4. Lodges forming a new Grand Lodge must be at least three in number and must trace their descent from regular sources recognized by this Grand Lodge.

Rule 5. Recognition will not be extended to a new Grand Lodge that shall have been formed in occupied territory against the wishes of a recognized Grand Lodge in that territory.

Rule 6. Recognition will not be extended to a Grand Lodge that shall warrant lodges in territory occupied by a regular Grand Lodge against the wishes of that Grand Lodge.

Rule 7. In countries where the doctrine of exclusive territorial jurisdiction does not apply, two or more Grand Lodges occupying the same or overlapping territory, recognizing each other as regular and conforming in all other respects to our requirements, may be recognized.

Rule 8. Grand Lodges of Scottish Rite descent, having renounced allegiance to any other superior authority, and having since had a long established and continuous existence during which they have conformed to all our requirements, may be recognized.

Rule 9. Although the original formation of a Grand Lodge may have been irregular, if it has had a long continuous and uninterrupted existence and otherwise conforms to our requirements, it may be recognized.

(37.04 Recognition of Prince Hall Grand Lodges: *The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in the State of Wisconsin grants fraternal recognition to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodges in all states within the United States that are recognized by the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Wisconsin, Inc. and who also been granted recognition by the Most Worshipful or Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons or Ancient Free and Accepted Masons in that jurisdiction that is recognized by the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin.*

37.05 Lodge Visitations and Plural Membership. *This Grand Lodge recognizes the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Wisconsin, Inc. and welcomes Lodge visitation, and plural memberships from its Members who are in good standing and maintain their primary membership with their Prince Hall Grand Lodge.*

37.06 Primary Membership. *No member of this Grand Lodge or Prince Hall Grand Lodge may have more than one Primary Membership. It may either be in this Grand Lodge or a Prince Hall Grand Lodge. A member, if otherwise qualified, may resign from Primary Membership in one Grand Lodge and become a Primary member in the other. Primary membership is determined by the Grand Secretaries of the two Grand Jurisdictions, at the time a Mason petitions for plural membership across jurisdictional lines.*

37.07 Visitation. *Visitation by members of a Prince Hall Grand Lodge is welcome and encouraged and will be managed in the same way and under the same auspices as visitation is done between any Mason and any Lodge within this Grand jurisdiction. The presentation of a current dues card from a Prince Hall Grand Lodge and a form of picture ID will suffice in all cases.*

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37.08 Plural Memberships. *Members of a Prince Hall Grand Lodge may petition for membership in any Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction under the same rules and procedures that are currently in place for Plural Memberships, under this Masonic Code, for those that are members of this Grand Lodge. Once Plural Membership has been granted, the member from a Prince Hall Grand Lodge shall have the same rights and privileges as any other plural member in that Lodge, to include serving as an Officer or a Trustee, if otherwise elected or appointed.)* **Notes on 37.04, 37.05, 37.06, 37.07 & 37.08:** These sections are on hold until such time as Prince Hall of Wisconsin, Inc votes to accept Full Recognition with the Grand Lodge F.&A.M. of Wisconsin. Until that time recognition is for visitation only.

Chapter 38 Rules For Government of Grand Lodge

38.01 The following are the rules for the government of the Grand Lodge at its communications:

Rule 1. All references of matters to committees shall be made by the Grand Master unless made by the Grand Lodge.

Rule 2.

- a) All reports, resolutions, proposed amendments and other proposed legislation shall be typewritten in such physical form as shall be prescribed by the Grand Secretary and two copies thereof shall be filed with the Grand Secretary.
- b) The Grand Master may require that motions shall be in writing.
- c) Two copies of all resolutions, proposed amendments and other proposed legislation submitted to the Grand Lodge for consideration at its Annual Communication shall be filed with the Grand Secretary not less than seventy-five days prior to the first day of such Annual Communication and, when so submitted by a constituent lodge, shall bear the seal of such lodge and be signed by its Master and Secretary.
- d) Resolutions, amendments and other legislation proposed and acted upon as a result of discussions before the Grand Lodge may be reduced to writing and filed with the Grand Secretary not later than twelve o'clock noon on the second day of the Annual Communication.
- e) Except as otherwise provided in Rule 2 (d) hereof, no resolution, proposed amendment or other proposed legislation shall be considered or acted upon at an Annual Communication unless it has been filed with the Grand Secretary not less than seventy-five days prior to the Annual Communication in accordance with this Rule 2. Any resolution, proposed amendment or other proposed legislation which is filed with the Grand Secretary less than seventy-five days prior to an Annual Communication shall be laid over to the next Annual Communication without reduction in usual percentage of vote required by the Masonic Code, unless by a majority vote of the Grand Lodge, such seventy-five day filing requirement is waived and the Grand Lodge thereby elects to consider and act upon such resolution, amendment or legislation.

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f) Upon receipt of resolutions, the Grand Secretary shall number them serially commencing with Resolution No. 4. The first three resolution numbers being reserved for adoption of annual budget, to establish the annual per capita tax and to designate the place of holding the Annual Communication two years later. The Grand Secretary shall index said resolutions in a permanent file. The second copy shall be used for working purposes. The Grand Secretary shall make the necessary additional copies, one of which shall be filed with the original resolution as submitted, one shall be forwarded to the chairman of each committee concerned with the particular resolution.

Rule 3. When a question is under consideration only the following motions shall be entertained and then only in the order named. They are not debatable:

1. To call off.
2. To close debate.
3. To refer.
4. To postpone indefinitely.
5. To postpone to a time certain.

Rule 4. Debate upon any question may be closed by the Grand Master or by the Grand Lodge.

Rule 5. A motion to reconsider a vote to call off or to close debate is not debatable.

Rule 6. A motion to refer or postpone can be entertained only once during the same stage of consideration of a question.

Rule 7. An amendment or a substitute shall each be germane to the proposition under consideration. If either is lost another one substantially the same shall not be entertained.

Rule 8. Only one amendment and one amendment thereto shall be entertained at the same time. A substitute shall be open for amendment until adopted.

Rule 9. When an amendment to the Masonic Code of Wisconsin is being considered, an amendment thereto or a substitute therefore, if germane, shall be in order.

Rule 10. Upon demand of any member there shall be a division of a question, if it can be divided.

Rule 11. A motion for the reconsideration of any vote, except for the election of officers or upon any amendment after final vote on the main proposition, may be made only by one voting with the majority. Such motion shall be made on the day on which the vote is taken and if not acted upon that same day it shall fail, unless the consideration thereof is postponed until a subsequent day of the same communication.

Rule 12. A final vote upon any motion or proposition disposes of all other motions or propositions in whole or in part substantially upon the same subject, and no motion or proposition in whole or in part substantially the same, may be acted upon at the same communication.

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Rule 13. The following subjects shall not be considered unless presented before 12 o'clock noon of the second day of the Annual Communication:

- a) To change the term, time or place of the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge.
- b) To restore a suspended or expelled Mason.
- c) To present any account or claim against the Grand Lodge, other than the necessary current expenses or disbursements of the Grand Lodge.

Rule 14. Nothing in these rules shall be construed to interfere with any of the prerogatives of the Grand Master.

Rule 15. Any of these rules may be suspended by a two-thirds vote.

[Note: The following three chapters are not of "working information" needed by the constituent lodges and were formerly found in the Appendix. The rules governing the Wisconsin Masonic Home are no longer part of the Code, it having been found appropriate to form a separate corporation, The Wisconsin Masonic Home, Inc. Information regarding the Wisconsin Masonic Home, admissions, rules, qualifications and financial details are available from the Grand Secretary or the Administrator of the Masonic Home at Dousman, Wisconsin.]

Chapter 39

Wisconsin Masonic Benevolent Activities Board

39.01 Purpose. The Wisconsin Masonic Benevolent Activities Board shall oversee and coordinate Masonic charitable activities in Wisconsin.

39.02 Number and Qualification. The Board shall consist of fifteen Directors. The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary and Chairman of Grand Trustees are Directors by virtue of their offices. Eight other Master Masons, members of a constituent lodge in Wisconsin, shall be elected at the Annual Communications of the Grand Lodge for three year terms (initially, two for one year, three for two years and three for three years). An elected Director shall not be eligible for reelection after having served three consecutive three year terms.

39.03 Vacancies, How filled. If an elected Director position shall become vacant, such vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the Grand Master, the appointee to hold office until the close of the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge during which a successor Director shall be elected for the unexpired term.

39.04 Non-voting Members. The Chairman of the Board of the Wisconsin Masonic Home, Inc., and the Wisconsin Masonic Soccer Foundation, Inc., the President or Chief Executive Officer of the Wisconsin Board of Masonic Service and Assistance, Wisconsin Masonic Foundation, and any future constituent Masonic benevolence shall be non-voting members of the Board.

39.05 Officers. The Board shall annually elect a President, a Vice President and a Secretary, such officers to perform the duties incident to such offices in similar organizations.

39.06 Functions of Board. The Board shall:

1. Establish Wisconsin Masonic benevolent goals for approval at the Annual

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Communication of Grand Lodge.

2. Provide a report of its activities and future plans at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge.
3. Elect Directors of the Wisconsin Masonic Home, Inc., Wisconsin Board of Masonic Service and Assistance, Wisconsin Masonic Foundation, and any future constituent Masonic benevolence, in accordance with the respective Articles of Incorporation, by-laws or other governing documents of such organizations.
4. Establish and present for approval by Grand Lodge an annual budget for Board activities.
5. Approve budgets and master plans of each constituent benevolence.
6. Establish and update, as necessary, policies and procedures for operation of the Board.
7. Review investment performance of each benevolence, annually, and share performance results with all constituent benevolences.
8. Establish policy guidelines for all benevolent fund development activities.
9. Coordinate fund raising for all benevolent activities.
10. Oversee activities of each benevolence by performing an annual review of the programs of each benevolence, including compliance with its charter/mission, review of financial statements and consideration of appropriateness of responses or corrective action taken as a result of audit comments, complaints, lawsuits or deficiency citations which may substantially adversely affect the operations of the charity or substantially and publicly reflect adversely on the Fraternity.
11. Approve land acquisition, building construction, other capital expenditures in excess of \$50,000 by any benevolence.
12. Prevent redundancies of benevolent programs unless regional in character.
13. Approve establishment of any new Wisconsin Masonic benevolent activity.

39.07 Employees or Consultants. The Board may hire employees or consultants, such as an Executive Director or fundraisers. The sole activities of any such employees or consultants shall relate to charitable and educational activities. None of the activities of any such persons shall be fraternal or for any other purpose not appropriate for an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Any costs of any such employees or consultants are to be prorated among the constituent benevolences.

39.08 Wisconsin Masonic Benevolent and Charity Corporations. The Grand Master, the Grand Lodge, its officers, boards and committees are hereby authorized to take such action as they deem appropriate regarding the nomination, appointment or election of members of the respective boards of directors and any other action regarding those corporations as is required or authorized by the Articles of Incorporation, by-laws and any other relevant documents, as those documents are constituted from time to time, with respect to any non-stock Wisconsin corporation, including without limitation the following:

Wisconsin Masonic Home, Inc., and

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Masonic Village on the Square, Inc.

39.09 Term of Office. No director of any Benevolent and Charity corporation enumerated in this Masonic Code shall hold office for more than three (3) consecutive full-year terms of three (3) years each.

Chapter 40

Wisconsin Board of Masonic Service and Assistance

40.01 Of Whom Composed. The Wisconsin Board of Masonic Service and Assistance shall consist of seven Directors: The Grand Secretary, a Grand Lodge Officer appointed by the Grand Master and five other Master Masons, members of a constituent lodge in Wisconsin, who shall be elected by the Wisconsin Masonic Benevolent Activities Board for three year terms (initially, one for one year, two for two years and two for three years). If an elected Director position shall become vacant, the Wisconsin Masonic Benevolent Activities Board shall fill such vacancy by election for the unexpired term. An elected Director shall not be eligible to reelection after having served three consecutive three-year terms.

40.02 Officers. The officers of such Board shall be a President, a Vice President and a Secretary, such officers to perform the duties incident to such offices in similar organizations.

The Board, with the approval of the Grand Master, may employ a full-time director under its supervision and direction to administer the charity and relief activities under the control of the Board.

In lieu thereof the Board may designate an employee of the Grand Secretary's office who shall serve as such director. Such employee shall be designated by agreement between the Board and the Grand Secretary and in case of their failure to agree, he shall be designated by the Grand Master after nominations submitted by the Grand Secretary and the Board.

40.03 Regional Committees. The Board and the Directors may create committees in various portions of the state to assist the Board and the Directors in administering the Charity Fund and to assist the lodges in matters of charity and relief.

40.04 Meetings. Meetings of the Board shall be held at least once a quarter and at such other times as may be necessary at the discretion of the Board, and the members shall receive their actual and necessary expenses while in the actual discharge of their duties.

40.05 Charity Fund.

- a) The Board shall make disbursements from the Charity Fund for the assistance and welfare of distressed worthy Masons, their wives, widows, children and other dependents only upon request of the Grand Master, a constituent lodge or the Worshipful Master of such lodge except for the relief of Masonic sojourners for whom the Board may provide assistance on its own motion.

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- b) The Board shall make disbursements from the Charity Fund at the discretion of the Board to assist:
 - 1) Applicants to gain admission who otherwise qualify for admission to the Retirement Homes which serve members of the Masonic Fraternity in Wisconsin, their wives or widows.
 - 2) Residents of Retirement Homes which serve members of the Masonic Fraternity, their wives or widows, to meet monthly maintenance fees and other expenses when the private resources are unable to do so.
- c) The Board shall have authority to accept responsibility such as to act as trustee for members of the Masonic Fraternity in Wisconsin, their wives or widows when requested to do so and when acceptance of such responsibility is consistent with the action of the Board to administer Masonic Charity.
- d) No financial assistance shall be furnished until after a thorough investigation of the worthiness of the beneficiary and necessity therefore; such investigation to be made by the officers of the lodge to which the brother belongs, or within whose jurisdiction he resides, the regional committees, the Director or such other persons as the Board may deem advisable, and full report to the Board of such investigation.
- e) In case of such urgent necessity that a complete investigation cannot be made before furnishing assistance, the Board, in its discretion, may furnish such limited, temporary assistance as is necessary.

40.06 Records. A complete record shall be kept of such cases with the reports of all investigations and the grounds for all assistance furnished.

The Board shall submit a report to the Grand Lodge at its Annual Communication in sufficient detail to fully acquaint the Grand Lodge with the work of the Board.

40.07 Control of Funds. The Charity Fund shall be kept in a separate account of the Grand Lodge and disbursed by the Grand Secretary upon direction by either the Grand Master or action of the Wisconsin Board of Masonic Service and Assistance.

40.08 Accounting of Funds. The Expenditures Committee of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin is authorized and instructed to carry out the following fiscal arrangement and account associated therewith:

- 1) Retain as a separate fund all money collected from assessments for servicemen's rehabilitation and Masonic Service Association purposes prior to the 1945 Grand Lodge annual meeting, and charge against such fund all servicemen's rehabilitation and Masonic Service Association costs, including the cost of administration, before making any charges of the type described against the fund provided under paragraph 2 hereof.
- 2) Merge the old charity fund with the fund which has resulted from assessments levied for welfare and relief purposes at the 1945 Grand Lodge annual meeting and subsequent thereto; this fund to be designated for all Masonic charity, welfare and rehabilitation work.
- 3) Charge against the fund provided by paragraph 2 hereof, only Masonic

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charity, welfare, and rehabilitation costs, exclusive of servicemen's rehabilitation and Masonic Service Association costs as set forth in paragraph 1 hereof, until such time as the fund under paragraph 1 hereof is exhausted. After the fund provided for under paragraph 1 has been depleted, all Masonic charity, welfare and rehabilitation costs shall be charged against the fund provided by paragraph 2 hereof.

- 4) A statement of the balances in the funds or fund, as the case may be, shall be provided by the Trustees each month to the Grand Master and the Chairman of Service and Assistance.

40.09 Additional Authority and Responsibilities. In addition to the authority and responsibilities previously provided for the Wisconsin Board of Masonic Service and Assistance, the Board may, on its own motion,

- a) Authorize the use of the Charity Fund in special cases of need for the benefit of residents of the Wisconsin Masonic Home.
- b) Authorize the use of the Charity Fund and allocate funds for Masonic Service Association activities in Wisconsin.
- c) Coordinate Wisconsin activities of the Masonic Relief Association of North America.
- d) Authorize use of the Charity Fund to allocate funds to support the Live Better at Home program, or to act upon other referrals.
- e) Establish and provide such budgets, master plans, recommendations, policies and procedures as may be requested by the Wisconsin Masonic Benevolent Activities Board.

Chapter 42 Bonds of Officers

42.01 Bonds of Officers. Each Grand Trustee, each Grand Officer, each member and each employee of the Grand Lodge entrusted with or handling any funds of the Grand Lodge shall be covered by a surety bond in the penal sum of not less than \$25,000.00. Said surety bond may be increased by the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer to an amount determined by them in individual cases. The surety company shall be approved as surety by the Grand Master. The bond shall be conditioned for the faithful performance of his duties. The Grand Master, in his discretion, may at any time require an additional bond. The expense of such bond or bonds shall be paid by the Grand Lodge and the bond or bonds when approved shall be filed with the Grand Secretary

Chapter 43 District Representative System

43.01 Areas. *Removed by June 2023 by Resolution 9-2023*

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43.02 Selection and Eligibility.

- a) The District Deputy and the other Grand Lodge Officers residing in each Masonic District of Wisconsin, may meet as early as possible in the month of January each year to select up to three District Representatives for their respective District.
- b) To be eligible to serve as a District Representative a nominee must be a Past Master who has been duly installed into that office and a paid-up member in good standing of a lodge in the area for which he is nominated. He should be well skilled in the customs and usages of the Craft and have proved his administrative ability through service to his lodge.
- c) No appointee shall hold the office of District Representative for more than three successive terms, unless a successor to the office of District Representative has not been appointed, the Grand Master may, at his option, reappoint the District Representative whose third term of office has expired, to serve until such time as a successor may be appointed. An appointee who has served three successive terms may again be appointed after a lapse of one year. The tenure of office for District Representatives shall be concurrent with that of Grand Lodge Officers.

43.03 Appointment and Jurisdiction.

- a) The Grand Master shall appoint at each Annual Communication, or as soon thereafter as possible, an District Representative for each District based on a list of nominees and alternates. Each such Representative shall receive a warrant for his appointment signed by the Grand Master and attested to by the Grand Secretary under the seal of this Grand Lodge.
- b) His title shall be that of District Representative.
- c) All appointees shall be duly and properly installed at the direction of the Grand Master during the Annual Communication at which they are appointed, or at some other time or place by order of the Grand Master.
- d) All District Representatives shall serve without compensation.

43.04 Removal, Vacancy and Appointment.

- a) The Grand Master without specification of charges or reasons may remove any District Representative from office.
- b) Any vacancy occurring by such action or by death, resignation or any other cause shall be filled by appointment by the Grand Master for the unexpired term of office

43.05 Duties.

- a) To promote an atmosphere of friendly cooperation between the local lodges and the Grand Lodge.
- b) To be alert to problems in the lodges of his area and to make himself available as a friend and advisor to assist local lodges and their officers in finding satisfactory solutions to problems, particularly of program or administration.

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- c) To conduct investigations, promote Grand Lodge activities, or perform other special assignments requested by the Grand Master. He shall assist his lodges to become informed on the business and resolutions that will be discussed at area conferences and the Annual Communication to the end that they will be better prepared to act on Grand Lodge business.
- d) To report on the state and activities of the Craft in the local lodges he serves when requested by the Grand Master.
- e) To coordinate his activities with the District Deputy for his district.

43.06 Special Duties. The Grand Master shall provide each District Representative with an outline of any additional duties in order to assure uniformity in their procedures and conformity to the program of the Grand Lodge.

43.07 Apron-Directory.

- a) An appropriate apron of reasonable cost shall be presented to each District Representative by the Grand Lodge for use during his term of office. It is to be worn while making official lodge visitations in his area. It may also be worn while attending Grand Lodge functions or on other appropriate occasions.
- b) A directory of the District Representatives shall be included in the annual "Transactions of the Grand Lodge."

43.08 Reimbursement. District Representatives shall receive the reimbursement for mileage expense and per diem for attendance at Grand Lodge at the same rate as set forth for Grand Lodge Officers, shall receive reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses incurred as a result of their duties. Such reimbursement shall be made upon submission of the proper vouchers.

Chapter 44

Past Grand Master's Association

44.01 Past Grand Master's Association. The Past Grand Master's Association shall consist of all Past Grand Masters of the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin. Meetings of the Association shall be held once a year at the time of the Annual Communication. The Association shall consider matters referred to it by the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge. The retiring Grand Master shall be vice-president of the Association and one year later shall serve a one year term as president. The secretary and treasurer of the Association shall be elected by the members at the annual meeting.

Chapter 45

Wisconsin Masonic Journal

45.01 Official Publication. The Wisconsin Masonic Journal is the official publication of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin.

45.02 Governing Body. The operations of the Wisconsin Masonic Journal shall be governed by a Board of Directors acting with the consent and approval of the

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Grand Master.

45.03 Number of Directors. There shall be five voting members of the Journal Board, each of whom shall be elected for a three-year term. The Journal editor will serve as a non-voting member at the pleasure of the board.

45.04 Staggered Terms. Three-year terms of board members shall be staggered to provide for continuity in board membership. Five members shall be elected in 1995. Two shall be elected to three-year terms. Two shall be elected to two-year terms. One shall be elected to a one-year term.

45.05 Selection. The Nominating Committee shall nominate persons to fill expired terms on the board. Grand Lodge shall elect board members to fill such terms at each Annual Communication.

45.06 Vacancies. How Filled. The Grand Master shall fill mid-term vacancies by appointment, the appointee to hold office until the close of the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge during which a successor Board member shall be elected for the unexpired term.

45.07 Qualifications. To ensure editorial integrity and professional journalistic management of the Journal, it is recommended that most of the Board members have professional backgrounds in advertising, editorial, printing, journalistic, public relations, or similar activities.

45.08 Meetings. The Board shall meet at least quarterly at a time and place determined by the members.

45.09 Officers and Employees. The officers of such Board shall be President, Vice-President, and Secretary. The Board annually at its July meeting shall elect the President, Vice-President and Secretary. The Board, with approval of the Grand Master, may employ an editor and such other personnel as may be needed. The editor's employment or termination shall require a majority vote of the Journal Board and the consent of the Grand Master.

45.10 Function. The Board shall adopt such rules and regulations governing editorial content, circulation, advertising, finances, and other details of operation as may be necessary. The Board shall annually prepare a budget and submit the same to the Committee on Expenditures and the Grand Lodge for approval. Said Board shall prepare an annual report of its activities and shall submit the same to the Grand Lodge at its Annual Communication.

Chapter 46 District Deputy System

46.01 Masonic Districts. This jurisdiction shall be divided into not more than twelve (12) Masonic Districts, the boundaries of which shall be determined by the Grand Master.

46.02 Qualifications. A District Deputy shall be a Past Master who has been duly installed into that office and a resident of this jurisdiction.

46.03 Appointment and Installation. The Grand Master shall yearly appoint a District Deputy in each district who shall be a member of the Grand Lodge and entitled to all of its privileges by virtue of such appointment. He shall be provided

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with a suitable apron and installed with a suitable ceremony at the Annual Communication. He shall not be eligible to serve in such capacity for more than three years in succession. However, if the three-year service of more than three District Deputies expires in a given year, the Grand Master may, at his option, reappoint those District Deputies over three years to serve a fourth successive year.

46.04 Duties. It shall be the duty of the District Deputy to coordinate the activities of the District Representatives in his district and to perform such other services and duties as may be assigned to him by the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge. The District Deputy shall endeavor to meet with each lodge at a stated communication in his district during the course of the year. He shall make an annual report to the Grand Master respecting the general conditions of Masonry in his district by the first of February each year.

46.05 Removal — Vacancy — Appointment. The Grand Master without specification of charges or reasons may remove a District Deputy from office. Any vacancy occurring by such action or by death, resignation or any other cause shall be filled by appointment by the Grand Master for the unexpired term of office.

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Chapter 51

Lodges Under Dispensation

51.01 Signers of Petition. Every petition for a dispensation to form and open a new lodge shall be signed by not less than twenty-five Master Masons in good standing, non-affiliated, or affiliated in a lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction or in a lodge in a Grand Jurisdiction permitting plural membership.

51.02 Contents of Petition. The petition for a new lodge shall set forth:

- 1) Its proposed name, which shall not be that of a living person.
- 2) The names of the brethren signing the petition and, if affiliated, the names of their respective lodges and whether or not they desire to retain membership therein.
- 3) The names of those elected for the first Worshipful Master and Wardens.
- 4) The name of the county in which it intends to locate.
- 5) The approximate population of the town, village or city wherein it intends to locate.
- 6) The names, numbers and locations of the three nearest lodges and the distance of each from the proposed lodge.

51.03 Recommendation of Petition. The petition shall be recommended by the nearest lodge. The Grand Master may, however, issue a dispensation to form and open a new lodge without such recommendation.

51.04 When Vote Had on Recommendation. The petition for a new lodge shall be acted upon by a lodge whose consent is requested only at a stated designated communication subsequent to the one at which the subject is presented.

51.05 Vote Required. A two-thirds vote shall be required to give consent for a new lodge.

51.06 Amendment of Dispensation. A dispensation to form a new lodge may not be amended by the Grand Master by adding names thereto, after it has been submitted for approval.

51.07 Notice to Lodges by Grand Secretary. Whenever a dispensation is granted for the formation of a new lodge, the Grand Secretary shall send notice thereof to each lodge in Wisconsin having members who signed the petition for the dispensation, giving the names of such members and directing it to drop them from its membership, unless plural membership is requested in such petition.

51.08 When Dispensation Returnable. A dispensation for a new lodge shall be made returnable to the Grand Lodge at the Annual Communication next succeeding the granting thereof, except when granted within three months prior to an Annual Communication in which case it may be made returnable one year later.

51.09 Return of Dispensation. The dispensation together with the original or a transcript of the proceedings of a new lodge since its formation shall be returned

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to the Grand Secretary before the opening of the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge at which the same is returnable.

51.10 Dispensation Operates as Transfer. The granting of a petition for dispensation to form and open a new lodge by the Grand Master shall operate as a transfer of the signers thereof who are members of lodges in this state, unless they desire to retain membership in their original lodges. Such intention must be stated in the petition for dispensation. Transfers of members of lodges of other Grand Jurisdictions must accompany the petition, but certificates of affiliation and good standing may be accepted in lieu of transfers from members of lodges in Grand Jurisdictions permitting plural membership.

51.11 Who Are Members. Master Masons who sign a petition for a dispensation to form and open a new lodge are members thereof, upon the issuing of such dispensation.

51.12 Master and Wardens. The Master and Wardens of a new lodge shall be those selected by the signers of the petition for dispensation and named as such in the petition and dispensation.

51.13 Other Officers. The Master named in the dispensation shall appoint all the officers of the lodge except the Wardens and shall designate the time for holding stated communications.

51.14 Residence of Material. Petitioners for the degrees in a lodge under dispensation shall meet the same requirements as petitioners to chartered lodges.

51.15 Powers. A lodge under dispensation has no Masonic power except as specifically provided by law. It may conduct Masonic funerals and initiate, pass and raise Masons, and it may fix and collect such annual dues from each of its members as may be necessary to enable it to maintain itself and discharge all of its duties, responsibilities and obligations, provided that the minimum annual dues shall be Ten Dollars.

51.16 Law Governing Lodges, U.D. All the provisions of the law of this Grand Jurisdiction for the regulation of chartered lodges shall apply to lodges under dispensation, except in matters wherein they have no power or jurisdiction.

Chapter 52

Lodges

Charter, Location, Masonic Temples

52.01 Charter. Each lodge excepting those under dispensation shall be held by virtue of a charter from the Grand Lodge, and shall not proceed to work until it shall have been regularly constituted and its officers installed.

52.02 Seal. Each chartered lodge shall have a suitable seal, an impression of which shall be filed with the Grand Secretary.

52.03 Annual Reports. Each lodge shall file its Annual Report with the Grand Secretary by February 15th in each year. In case of its failure so to do it shall be

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charged two dollars for each day's delay commencing on February 16th, unless such default is excused by the Grand Lodge. The Grand Secretary shall have this regulation printed on the report blanks furnished to the lodge Secretaries.

52.03 Affiliated Foundations. Each lodge shall attach and file with its Annual Report complete information relating to all affiliated foundations organized in connection with said lodge or by its members. Said information shall include detailed operating statements, balance sheet and copies of income tax returns.

52.04 Non-Representation at Grand Lodge. A lodge failing to be represented at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge shall be fined thirty dollars unless such failure is excused by the Grand Lodge or Grand Master. Such fine shall be charged to the lodge by the Grand Secretary.

52.05 Notice of Grand Lodge Proceedings. A lodge shall take due notice of the proceedings, orders, edicts and laws of the Grand Lodge and be governed accordingly.

52.06 Method of Changing Records. A lodge shall not change its records by obliteration or defacement but only by an additional record setting forth the alteration and its purpose.

52.07 Change of Name and Location. A lodge may change its name or location only by a resolution presented at a stated communication and adopted by a majority vote at a subsequent stated communication held not less than one month thereafter. Such change shall not become effective until after it shall have been approved by the Grand Master.

52.08 What Number Constitutes a Lodge. Three members of a lodge one of whom shall be the Master or a Warden shall constitute a lodge of Master Masons and may transact such business as may legally come before it.

52.09 Location Defined. The location of a lodge is in the town, village or city named in its charter and it cannot remove or have its place of meeting elsewhere without the consent of the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master.

52.10 Change of Meeting Place. A lodge may not change its place of meeting within the borders of the town, village or city in which it is located without a dispensation from the Grand Master; however, a lodge may be convened by the Worshipful Master, or his duly authorized deputy, at a special or emergent communication called at his pleasure to conduct Masonic memorial services for a deceased brother at a place selected by him.

52.11 Grand Master Must Approve Plans. A lodge shall not erect, purchase, lease, remodel, mortgage or sell a Masonic Temple, or any part or parcel thereof, nor obligate itself to do so without first submitting to the Grand Master for his approval definite plans therefor, conforming to state and local building codes, together with the proposed plan for financing the same, a statement of the financial condition of the lodge and adequate reasons to support the action for which approval is sought.

52.12 Laying of the Corner or Foundation Stone. The corner or foundation stone of all Masonic Temples or edifices hereafter constructed shall be laid with due and proper ceremonies. The laying of the corner or foundation stone in

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accordance with Masonic Rites can be performed only by the Grand Lodge, presided over by the Grand Master, in person, or by some Master Mason appointed by him for that purpose. A bronze plaque may be substituted for the corner or foundation stone, all as approved by the Grand Master.

52.13 When Ceremonies Shall Be Performed. These ceremonies shall be performed as soon as practicable in the progress of the construction. They shall not be performed if the walls of the edifice are erected or practically so, and an open space therein cannot be left for the laying of a corner or foundation stone after the building has been completed. In the event a lodge purchases an existing building to be converted into a Masonic Temple, a corner or foundation stone shall be laid in a cavity prepared in an exterior wall as soon as possible after remodeling has been commenced. If a bronze plaque is being substituted for the corner or foundation stone, it shall be installed as approved by the Grand Master.

52.14 Time of Ceremonies. Before definitely setting the date and hour for the ceremonies, the lodge or other organization must obtain the consent and approval of the Grand Master.

52.15 Inscription on Corner or Foundation Stone. The corner or foundation stone is usually placed in the northeast corner. It should be engraved with the date of laying of the cornerstone and the year of Masonry, the Grand Master's name, and such other inscription as the Grand Master shall have approved. If a bronze plaque is substituted, it shall be placed and engraved as approved by the Grand Master.

52.16 Dedication of Masonic Temples. All Masonic Temples or edifices hereafter constructed, or building acquired for that purpose, shall be dedicated with due and proper ceremonies. The ceremonies of dedication in accordance with Masonic Rites can be performed only by the Grand Lodge, presided over by the Grand Master or by some other Master Mason to whom he has delegated his authority.

52.17 Time of Ceremonies. Before definitely setting the date and hour for the ceremonies, the lodge or other organization must obtain the consent and approval of the Grand Master.

52.18 Lodge of Sorrow to be Private. Repealed in its entirety. (Resolution 7-99 repealed Section 52.18 in its entirety. A "Lodge of Sorrow" is not an official ceremony.)

52.19 Lodge Shall Display United States Colors. Each lodge shall display the United States Colors during every communication. Its place is at the right of the W. M. in the East.

52.20 Responsible for Conduct of Masons. A lodge is responsible for the conduct of Masons within its jurisdiction.

52.21 Pledge of Allegiance. Following the opening of the lodge, the Pledge of Allegiance shall be properly given. However, non-nationals and those who may object are not obligated to recite the pledge, but should stand out of respect.

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Chapter 53 Consolidation of Lodges

53.01 Proposition for Consolidation. Any two or more lodges in this state may consolidate and form one lodge, under the name and charter of one of such lodges, or under a new name and charter, provided that the proposal for such consolidation shall be presented in writing to the Grand Lodge, after which and upon consent from the Grand Master, the proposal for such consolidation shall be presented in writing at a stated communication of each lodge concerned and voted upon at a subsequent designated stated communication, of which all members shall be given due notice. Such proposal shall state in detail how it is proposed to carry out the proposed consolidation as to lodge charter, name and number, place of meeting, day and time of stated communications and the names of the proposed officers of such consolidated lodge.

53.02 Vote on Consolidation. At the designated communication the Master shall submit the question by written ballot: "Shall the lodges (naming them) be consolidated as proposed?" Such question shall require for adoption an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present.

53.03 Effective Date of consolidation. If the lodges concerned shall vote in favor of consolidation and if the Grand Master finds that the necessary preliminary requirements have been fulfilled by the lodges, and the necessary legal action taken to transfer any real estate and personal property to the consolidated lodge, such consolidation shall take effect upon approval thereof by the Grand Master. The Grand Secretary, upon such approval, shall notify the lodges interested thereof, and the consolidation from the date of such notice of approval, shall become effective and the members, as well as all unfinished work, if any, of the consolidating lodges, shall belong to the consolidated lodge.

53.04 Title to Property of Lodges. The title to property and all effects of the lodges so united shall be vested in the consolidated lodge and its officers shall be installed by the Grand Master, or his proxy, before it can lawfully act as such consolidated lodge. The Master of such consolidated lodge shall at once forward to the Grand Secretary the charter or charters of such consolidating lodges, except the one to be retained as a charter of such consolidated lodge.

Chapter 54 Surrender Or Forfeiture of Charter

54.01 Forfeiture. The arrest by the Grand Master of the dispensation or charter of a lodge, pursuant to Section 22.03(3), is deemed to be a forfeiture.

54.02 When Vote for Surrender Taken. A resolution to surrender the charter of a lodge shall be acted upon only at the designated stated communication subsequent to the one at which it is presented and only after a ten (10) day written notice to the lodge membership.

54.03 Vote Required. A two-thirds vote of the members present shall be required to surrender a charter and such surrender of charter shall be approved

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by the Grand Lodge or Grand Master before becoming effective.

54.04 Property Belongs to Grand Lodge. Upon the surrender or forfeiture of the charter of a lodge, all moneys, property, books and papers thereof shall become the property of the Grand Lodge and the same shall be forthwith turned over and delivered to the Grand Secretary or to a Mason designated by the Grand Master.

54.05 Status of Members. The members of a lodge whose charter is surrendered or forfeited, not suspended for non-payment of dues, shall be non-affiliated Masons, and those so suspended, suspended Masons. Such suspended Masons shall become non-affiliated Masons upon payment of their arrears to the Grand Secretary. All non-affiliated Masons shall be assigned to the nearest Wisconsin Lodge by the Grand Secretary within thirty days of such surrender or forfeiture. The assigned Mason may still transfer to a lodge of his choice, as otherwise provided in the Code.

54.06 Grand Lodge Certificate of Resignation. The Grand Lodge Secretary shall issue without fee, a Grand Lodge Certificate of Resignation to those entitled to the same.

54.07 Rejected Petitioners and Work. The rejected petitioners and pending degree work of a lodge whose charter has been surrendered or forfeited may apply for initiation or advancement to any lodge in Wisconsin.

54.08 Restoration of Charter. When the charter of a lodge which has been surrendered or forfeited is restored, the Masons who were members of such lodge at the time of surrender or forfeiture shall again become members thereof, except those affiliated with other lodges or Certificate of Resignation and neglect to surrender it to such lodge within six months of the restoration.

Chapter 55 Members of Lodges

55.01 Who are Members. The membership of a lodge shall consist of those Masons in good standing who have been named in its dispensation as members thereof, those who have been admitted by regular affiliation and those who have received the Master Mason degree in it or in another lodge at its request.

55.02 Plural Members. A Mason may, at the same time, be affiliated in as many lodges located in Wisconsin and any other Grand Jurisdiction or jurisdictions with which the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin holds fraternal relations, and which Grand Jurisdiction permits plural membership, as choose to accept him; with full privileges in the Wisconsin lodge or lodges, including the right to vote and hold office in his Wisconsin lodge or lodges, provided, however, that:

- 1) He shall be liable for dues and assessments in each Wisconsin lodge in which he holds membership.
- 2) Only the Wisconsin lodge in which such plural member holds primary membership shall pay to the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin the Grand Lodge

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of Wisconsin's per capita tax and assessments for such plural member of such Wisconsin lodge or lodges. However, when a plural member of one or more Wisconsin lodges holds primary membership in another Grand Jurisdiction, then the first Wisconsin lodge with which he affiliated as a plural member shall pay the per capita tax and assessments of Grand Lodge on him.

- 3) Involuntary loss of membership in any lodge, except research lodges, in which he is affiliated, whether located in Wisconsin or in any other Grand Jurisdiction, shall automatically forfeit his membership in all lodges located in Wisconsin.

55.03 Notice and Record of Plural Members.

- 1) When a Mason shall become a member of more than one lodge as a plural member the lodge admitting him shall at once give notice of the fact to all other lodges of which he is a member.
- 2) The Secretary of each lodge shall keep a record of its plural members and report the same annually to the Grand Secretary together with a statement of the name, number and jurisdiction of all other lodges in which they hold membership.
- 3) In case of the resignation, suspension or expulsion of a plural member, the Secretary of the lodge wherein such action is had shall at once report that fact to the Grand Secretary and to each lodge of which such brother is a member.

[Note: See Chapter 83 as to petition and voting.]

55.04 Honorary Members and Honorary Past Masters. A lodge may elect to honorary membership a Brother who is affiliated in another lodge, but such membership shall not entitle him to vote, to hold office or to make objection to the initiation or advancement of a candidate.

A lodge cannot make one of its own members an honorary member.

The Worshipful Master and Wardens of a lodge, as a committee of three, may create one of its former Wardens, Secretaries, Treasurers, or Secretaries and Treasurers, if those offices have been combined, whether he be living or deceased, an Honorary Past Master.

55.05 Life Members. Subject to the provisions of Chapter 94, no life memberships nor paid up memberships shall be granted on or after the date of June 9, 1954.

55.06 Life Members Presumed to Be Lost. When the address, residence or whereabouts of a life member shall become unknown for six consecutive years, such member may be deemed lost and his name stricken from the membership roster and placed in the "otherwise lost" column of the next annual report to the Grand Lodge. If he should reappear, his lodge shall pay to the Grand Lodge the per capita tax which has accrued during the period of his disappearance.

55.07 Certificate of Membership. A lodge shall give a member in good standing a certificate of membership upon his request.

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55.08 Certificate for Fifty Years in Masonry. Master Masons who have been members in good standing for a period of fifty years shall be given a certificate by the Grand Lodge stating the fact, signed by the Grand Master and attested by the Grand Secretary, and bearing the seal of the Grand Lodge. Any period during which he is not a member of a constituent lodge in this state or other jurisdiction recognized by the Grand Lodge, shall not be considered a part of the fifty-year term, provided, however, that any member who shall have been restored to full membership as set forth in the provisions of either section 81.13 or 81.14, shall have the right to appeal to the Grand Master, and the Grand Master may at his discretion forgive any or all of the period during which said member was not a member of a constituent lodge in this state or other jurisdiction recognized by the Grand Lodge.

55.09 Twenty-Five Year Membership Cards. The Grand Secretary shall design and secure suitable twenty-five year membership cards to be supplied to the constituent lodges on request, for presentation, the expense of securing such cards to be defrayed by the Grand Lodge.

55.10 Past Master's Cards. The Grand Secretary shall design and secure Past Master's cards to be supplied to the constituent lodges without charge only upon specific request. It is contemplated that such cards shall be issued from time to time to honor those who have served the lodge as Worshipful Master, who have sustained such an interest in Masonry as to have some pride in possessing evidence of such service to the lodge. The promiscuous delivery of such cards to persons not interested will defeat the plan.

55.11 Change of Member's Name. If a member should change his name and request his lodge to make such a change upon its records, his request shall be complied with and reported to the Grand Secretary.

55.12 Prohibitions Apply to Lodge Groups. The members of a lodge as a group are not permitted to do what the lodge is prohibited from doing.

55.13 Deprivation of Member's Rights. A lodge cannot deprive a member of any right or privilege except by suspension or expulsion.

55.14 Destruction of Records. Other than in the normal course of lodge operations, before any records or written materials of a lodge or a former lodge are destroyed, the Secretary of the lodge shall give the Grand Secretary at least 30 days written notice of such proposed destruction. The Grand Secretary or his designee may review such records or written materials within such period and may take possession thereof on behalf of the Grand Lodge. The Grand Secretary or his designee shall determine which of such items shall be destroyed, and he shall also determine what disposition and retention shall be made of the items which he determines should not be destroyed.

Chapter 56 Worshipful Master

56.01 Lodge is Judge of Qualifications. Each lodge is the judge of the qualifications of the member it elects as Master subject to the regulations of the

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Grand Lodge.

56.02 Master Must Be Member of Lodge. A Master must be a Master Mason and a member of the lodge which elects him.

56.03 Must Have Been Master or Warden. The Master must have served one term as a Master or Warden in some lodge except:

- 1) The Master of a new lodge.
- 2) If at the annual election of officers the Master declines re-election and there is not a Past Master, Warden or Past Warden who will serve as Master if elected, the lodge may elect a Master who has not served as Master or Warden. The selection so made must be approved by the Grand Master before installation.

56.04 Residence of Master. A member may be installed Master of a lodge although his residence at the time is outside the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge.

56.05 Tenure. A Master cannot resign his office and does not cease to be Master until the election and installation of his successor, except by death or removal from office by final judgment of suspension or expulsion.

56.06 Powers of Master.

- 1) A Master has absolute power in the government of his lodge subject to the restrictions in section 56.07.
- 2) Such powers include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a) To appoint all committees. The lodge cannot select the personnel of committees.
 - b) To convene, open and close his lodge at pleasure.
 - c) To decide who may be admitted to a lodge and may deny admission to a visitor or member.
 - d) To convene, or authorize a deputy to convene, the lodge in a special or emergent communication to conduct Masonic memorial services for any deceased brother.
 - e) To delay a ballot on a petition for the degrees and may order it spread outside the regular order of business.
 - f) To declare the business of a lodge and may prohibit or allow debate.
 - g) To complete unfinished work.
 - h) To confer a degree or postpone conferring a degree against the wishes of a majority of the members.
 - i) To postpone a stated communication because of an emergency, an act of God, or other good cause in his sole discretion.
 - j) To expound the law and decide all questions of Masonic Law and order unless specifically restricted by Masonic Law.
 - k) To set a different date when a stated communication falls on a holiday, provided he announces the date thereof at the last stated communication prior thereto.

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- l) To install the officers of a lodge after he himself is installed.
 - m) To set aside an election of officers for a flagrant violation of the law against electioneering for office.
 - n) To exclude a member from a memorial procession.
 - o) To order another ballot if in his judgment a mistake or fraud has been made in the original one.
 - p) To order a vote taken by the customary method, a ballot not being required by law, although a majority wish it taken by ballot.
 - q) To refuse to entertain a motion.
 - r) To refuse to receive a petition.
 - s) To fill vacancies in appointive offices.
 - t) To refuse to hold a stated communication though in violation of the by-laws and the Senior Warden in such case cannot usurp his station and preside.
- 3) In the exercise of his powers and prerogatives a Master is at all times accountable to the Grand Lodge for any abuse thereof.

56.07 Specific Restrictions on Powers of Master. The following are some of the restrictions on the powers of the Master of a lodge:

- 1) The Master of a lodge has no power to remove an officer or trustee.
- 2) The Master shall not waive examination of a candidate in open lodge.
- 3) A Master shall not levy an assessment against the members of his lodge.
- 4) A Master shall not ignore or refuse to accept an objection to initiation or advancement.
- 5) A Master shall not demand of a member of an investigating committee on a petition his reasons for refusing to join in a favorable report.
- 6) A Master shall not demand of a member his reasons for making an objection to the initiation or advancement of a candidate, nor shall he disclose the name of the objector, except as provided in Chapter 75 of the Code.
- 7) A Master shall not require a member to give his reasons for objecting to the presence of a visiting Mason.

56.08 No Appeal to Lodge. An appeal cannot be taken to the lodge from a Master's decision.

56.09 When Appeal Not Allowed. When the Grand Master has made a ruling and the Master has announced it to the Lodge, there is no appeal from the ruling to the Grand Lodge on the ground that it is the Master's decision.

56.10 Specific Duties of Master. An enumeration of some of the duties of the Master of a lodge is as follows: The Master shall declare a petition for the degrees received by the lodge after it has been read in open lodge, provided the lodge has jurisdiction of it and the Master or lodge has not refused to entertain it. The Master shall order a petition for the degrees returned to the applicant if he discovers after it has been received that the lodge has no jurisdiction thereof.

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The Master after requiring the ballot box to be inspected by the Wardens shall himself inspect it, and if he thinks there has been no mistake or fraud shall declare the result at once and destroy the ballot except as provided in 71.11. The Master must approve and co-sign all minutes of Lodge Communications, stated and special.

Chapter 57 Officers of Lodges

57.01 Titles of Officers. The officers of a lodge shall be a Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer and Secretary, who shall be elected annually at such time and in the manner provided by law, and a Chaplain, Counselor, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Senior Steward, Junior Steward, and a Tiler, an Organist (Optional) and a Soloist (Optional), who shall be appointed by the Worshipful Master.

57.02 Tenure of Office. The terms of Masonic officers shall expire with the installation of their successors. Only an appointive officer of a lodge may resign his office except as provided in 57.12. The Master shall fill the vacancy by appointment and install the new officer.

57.03 Duties. The duties of an officer of a lodge are those which pertain to his office and which are prescribed by the ancient usages of Free Masonry.

57.031 Junior Warden Shall Be Liaison Officer. The Junior Warden of each constituent Lodge shall act as liaison between his Lodge and any related youth groups. He shall make periodic reports to the Junior Grand Warden and to his Worshipful Master, and keep them informed of his activities.

57.04 Officers Must be Members. All officers of a lodge must be members thereof in good standing except the Tiler who may be affiliated with another lodge. No restrictions upon eligibility for office shall be imposed except as provided by this code.

57.05 Ineligibility of Wardens. At a special election to fill a vacancy in the office of Master, a Warden is not eligible to be elected to such office.

57.06 Offices Cannot Be Exchanged. Officers of a lodge are not permitted permanently to exchange offices with one another.

57.07 Member Cannot Hold Two Offices, With Exception. No member may hold two Masonic offices in the same lodge, at the same time, except Treasurer and Secretary.

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57.08 If Master Away Senior Warden Acts. In the absence of the Master or his incapacity to act, all his duties and prerogatives devolve upon the Senior Warden, and in the absence or disability of both these officers, upon the Junior Warden.

57.09 When Power of Acting Master Ceases. The authority of an Acting Master ceases when the lodge is closed, the Master being within its jurisdiction.

57.10 When Vacancy Occurs. A vacancy in any of the three ranking offices of a lodge can only occur by death or final judgment of suspension or expulsion or when the incumbent is installed into another office; in any other office by demission in addition to the three causes above named.

57.11 Procedure in Case of Vacancy in Office. Each of the three ranking officers continues in office until his successor is installed, or until he has been installed into another office. In case of a vacancy in the office of Worshipful Master, the Senior Warden becomes the Acting Worshipful Master, and fill any other vacant office by pro tempore appointment. At the end of his term as Acting Worshipful Master, he is not a Past Master. If the offices of both Worshipful Master and Senior Warden become vacant, the Junior Warden then becomes Acting Master with the privileges and responsibilities of the Worshipful Master, but does not become a Past Master by such service.

57.12 Resignation of Officers. A Certificate of Resignation shall be granted when requested by an officer, other than the Master or a Warden, upon his permanently removing from the jurisdiction of the lodge. The application for such Certificate of Resignation shall be in writing signed by the applicant with a declaration that he has permanently removed from its jurisdiction.

Chapter 58 Election of Officers

58.01 When Held. The five ranking officers shall be elected annually at a stated communication within 60 days previous to the festival of St. John the Evangelist, December the twenty-seventh. If for any reason they are not then elected, they shall be elected at a stated communication as soon thereafter as practicable.

58.02 Held at a Special Communication. A lodge may elect officers at a special communication only by dispensation of the Grand Master.

58.03 Special Election When Necessary. If a lodge fails to elect its officers at the time fixed in its by-laws, a special election at the dispensation of the Grand Master is necessary.

58.04 Vacancy in Ranking Officers. The Master may order a special election to fill a vacancy in the office of Warden, Treasurer or Secretary. If the three ranking offices become vacant the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master may grant a dispensation for a new election, the Grand Master or Deputy Grand Master opening the lodge for that purpose and presiding, or the Grand Master may authorize any Actual Past Master to discharge such duty.

58.05 Ranking Officer-Elect Dies or Declines to be Installed. If any of the five (5) ranking officers-elect dies prior to being installed or declines to be installed,

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the incumbent Master or either incumbent Warden may apply to the Grand Master for a dispensation to hold a special election to fill such office. The Grand Master has authority to grant a dispensation for a special election.

Another officer or officer-elect otherwise qualified is eligible to be elected to the office to which the officer-elect declined to be installed. The dispensation may also provide that if another officer or officer-elect is elected to the office for which the special election is initially called, then further special election(s) may be held at the same communication to fill the office which will become vacant or the office to which such other officer-elect was originally elected and any other offices which must be filled as a result of such further special election(s).

If the dispensation provides for such special election to be held at a stated communication of the lodge, no special notice thereof need be given to the members. If such dispensation provides for such special election to be held at a special communication of the lodge, then notice thereof shall be given as provided in Section 65.09.

58.06 Solicitation for Votes. A Mason is forbidden to solicit votes to promote an election to an office in a lodge. However, nominations for any elected office and a preprinted ballot with space for additional names is permitted.

58.07 No Compulsion to Vote. A member cannot be compelled to vote at an election of officers.

58.08 Method of Voting. The five ranking officers of a lodge shall be individually elected by written ballot.

Chapter 59 Installation of Officers

59.01 Officers Must be Installed. All officers, before entering upon the duties of their offices, must be installed.

59.02 Installation by Proxy. An officer, except the Master and Wardens, may be installed by proxy, but this should be done only in an emergency.

59.03 When to Take Place. The installation of officers should be on or before the Festival of St. John the Evangelist, December the twenty-seventh. If for any reason they are not so installed, they shall be installed as soon thereafter as practicable.

59.04 Not Allowed While Charges Pending. A member cannot be installed while charges are pending against him.

59.05 Officers of Lodge U.D. The officers of a lodge under dispensation cannot be installed.

59.06 Joint Installation Defined. A joint installation is two or more installations constituting one event held concurrently in the same place and before practically the same audience or assemblage. Aprons shall be worn and lights displayed.

59.07 Lodge Open at Public Installation. A lodge shall open and close on the Master Mason degree, as in a stated communication, when installing officers in ceremonies not open to the public.

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The Public Opening and Closing Ceremony as approved and distributed by the Grand Lodge may be used at public installations of officers in lieu of opening on the Master Mason degree.

59.08 No Masonic Signs or Honors Used, at Public Installation. At a public installation no Masonic signs or Honors shall be used.

59.09 Who is installing Officer. Officers shall be installed by the Grand Master, the Master or an Actual Past Master.

Chapter 60 Trustees of Lodges

60.01 Trustee Not a Masonic Officer - Qualifications. A Trustee of a lodge is a statutory, not a Masonic officer. Trustees shall reside in the State of Wisconsin. A Trustee may hold any office, elective or appointive, in a lodge. He may resign as a Trustee or from the Fraternity.

60.02 Election and Tenure. Trustees shall be elected at the annual election of lodge officers in such number and for such term as the by-laws provide. A Trustee shall not be eligible for re-election to such office after he shall have served as Trustee for six full years, but a part term to fill a vacancy shall not be considered part of such six full years.

60.03 Vacancies, How Filled. The Master shall fill a vacancy in the office of Trustee by appointment, the appointee to hold office until the annual election of lodge officers at which time a successor Trustee shall be elected, for the unexpired term.

60.04 Shall Have Custody of Securities and Make Annual Report to Lodge. The Trustees shall have the custody of all bonds, obligations and securities belonging to the lodge and shall submit to the lodge at each annual communication a report on their official acts.

60.05 Shall Have Supervision of Property. It is hereby made the duty of the Trustees of lodges to exercise a general supervision over the property, both real and personal, including trust funds of the lodge, unless otherwise provided by regulation of the lodge, to receive and hold the title thereto as Trustees, to execute all conveyances for and on behalf of the lodge, and to make contracts, leases and agreements in their names, as they may be authorized by the lodge or bylaw.

Provided, however, that the Trustees are required to secure the approval of the lodge before:

- 1) The purchasing, selling, leasing or mortgaging of any real property.
- 2) The purchasing, selling, investing, lending, borrowing or pledging of any personal property having a value of more than \$5,000.00.
- 3) Participating in litigation determining any rights of the lodge.

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Provided further, however, that the Trustees in the investment of funds of the lodge shall be governed by the so-called "prudent man rule" for investment of trust funds and in all other matters shall not be held accountable for any act or failure to act in which they have not been guilty of gross malfeasance or gross nonfeasance.

60.06 Meetings. The Trustees shall meet at regularly monthly intervals or oftener if necessary as provided in the by-laws of each constituent lodge.

60.07 Payment of Bills: Lodge Must Approve. Trustees have no authority to pay bills incurred. These must be presented to the lodge, passed upon, and orders drawn on the Treasurer for the payment thereof.

60.08 Duty to Make Inventory. The Trustees at the end of each fiscal year and oftener if required by the lodge, shall file with the Secretary an inventory of all lodge property in their possession and account for and turn over to the Treasurer all moneys, in their possession when directed by the lodge.

60.09 Duty to Report and Recommend. It is the duty of the Trustees in matters affecting the finances of the lodge to report to the lodge and make recommendations and it is the duty of the lodge to give such reports respect and consideration and either to adopt or reject the same.

60.10 Trial and Removal. The intentional failure or refusal of a Trustee to comply with any of the foregoing provisions or with the direction and mandate of the lodge in any particular, shall constitute a Masonic offense for which he may be disciplined, and on the proceedings that he may be tried and removed from office. A Trustee cannot be removed from office without trial.

Chapter 61 By-Laws of Lodges

61.01 By-Laws Required. Each chartered lodge shall adopt by-laws for its government consistent with the laws of the Grand Lodge. By-laws, including amendments thereto, must be approved by the Grand Master before they become operative. Any by-law in conflict with this code is void.

A lodge desiring approval of its by-laws or of proposed by-law or of an amendment to a by-law, shall submit its request to the Grand Secretary. The Grand Secretary shall forward each such request to the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence for review. The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence shall, within thirty days, forward such request with its recommendations to the Grand Master for final approval. See also Form 18 for Suggested Form of Lodge By-Laws.

61.02 Amendment of By-Laws. If any by-laws of a lodge are, or shall become, in conflict with this Masonic Code, such by-laws shall be automatically amended to conform with the provisions of the Code. A lodge may amend its bylaws, consistent with its by-laws and this Code, as follows:

- 1) Any proposed by-law amendment must be presented in writing at a stated communication, recorded upon the minutes if the lodge and shall be laid over to a designated subsequent stated communication for a vote thereon.

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- 2) Notice in writing of the proposed amendment, stating the time when the vote will be taken, shall be given to all members at least ten (10) days prior to the date designated for action on the proposed amendment.
- 3) A two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the members present at such designated stated communication shall be required for the proposed amendment to be carried, but it shall not become effective until it shall have been approved by the Grand Master.
- 4) See Form 19 for the lodge Secretary's Certificate reporting lodge action on the amendment of by-laws.

61.03 Suspension of By-laws. A lodge cannot suspend a by-law.

Chapter 62 Expenditures by Lodges

62.01 Appropriation of Funds. A lodge may appropriate its funds only for lodge expenses. Masonic uses, Masonic charity, or other benevolent, educational or charitable local special community purposes which qualify for charitable contributions under the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

62.02 Expenditures and Sponsorships by Lodges. A lodge is permitted to sponsor or co-sponsor, and assist financially, a Chapter or Chapters of the International Order of DeMolay, an Assembly or Assemblies of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, a Bethel or Bethels of Job's Daughters and/or any local affiliate of a youth organization which will qualify for charitable contributions under the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, including scholarships to worthy members of such organizations; and may assist by donations from its fund directly or indirectly any local organization which will qualify for charitable contributions, under the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

62.03 Finance Committee. The Finance Committee of a lodge shall be a standing committee and shall consist of the Worshipful Master and Wardens. It shall be the duty of the Finance Committee to examine all bills, claims and accounts which may be presented to the lodge and report thereon, and no account shall be allowed or paid by the lodge until the same shall have been approved and reported by the Finance Committee. It shall also be the duty of this committee to examine the books and vouchers of the Treasurer and Secretary from time to time and report thereon to the lodge. The Finance Committee shall annually present a budget to the lodge for its consideration, prior to the fixing of dues for the ensuing year.

Chapter 63 Charity Relief of Masons, Their Widows and Orphans

63.01 Lodge Primarily Responsible. Masonic relief is the primary obligation of each constituent lodge.

63.02 Grand Lodge to Assist Lodges. Lodges should supplement the

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charitable gifts of the brethren in affording relief to needy members, their widows and orphans. In case the funds of any lodge are insufficient when supplemented by the individual charity of its members, to enable it to furnish all needed relief, it is the purpose of the Grand Lodge to assist the overburdened lodge in the discharge of its charitable responsibilities.

63.03 Application to Wisconsin Board of Masonic Service and Assistance.

Whenever a lodge shall apply to the Wisconsin Board of Masonic Service and Assistance of the Grand Lodge for assistance in supplying needy relief, it shall report to said Board the amount it has already furnished in each case, a statement of the case, and the condition of the lodge finances.

63.04 Action of Wisconsin Board of Masonic Service and Assistance. Upon application of a lodge for assistance in charitable relief, the Board of Masonic Service and Assistance may pay such amount as is immediately necessary, and after investigation, such further amounts as it may determine, as provided in Chapter 40, Laws of the Grand Lodge.

63.05 Refunding of Charity Expenditures. When a lodge bestows charity upon or in behalf of a brother within its jurisdiction who is a member of another lodge, the lodge of which he is a member shall refund the amount so paid if such charity is a Masonic necessity; if not a Masonic necessity the lodge is under no obligation to refund the same.

63.06 Charity Appeals Forbidden. Without permission of the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master a lodge shall not ask for assistance or give its consent to a Mason to apply for relief outside its own jurisdiction, and without such permission a lodge shall not receive an appeal for aid or charity from a lodge or individual outside this Grand Jurisdiction.

63.07 Charity Committee. The Charity Committee of the lodge shall be a standing committee and shall consist of the Worshipful Master and Wardens, and it shall be the duty of this committee to investigate all cases of charity and administer such relief as in the discretion of the committee may be found necessary to alleviate the distress of any member of the lodge or those who by Masonic derivation have any claims upon the lodge within the limits fixed by Masonic Law or by the by-laws of the lodge.

Chapter 64 Lodge Rooms

64.01 Essential Rooms of Lodge. The rooms essential for the purposes of a lodge are a lodge room proper, an ante or Tiler's room, and one or more preparation rooms.

64.02 Use of Temples. A lodge is forbidden to use its lodge rooms or other parts of the Temple, or permit anyone else to use them, for political meetings.

64.03 Social Gatherings. A lodge may permit the use of its Temple and grounds for purposes other than Masonic, or by persons who are not members of the lodge, provided that such uses are not illegal or such as would bring the lodge into disrepute or cause discredit to Masonry and provided further, that as to that

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portion of its Temple upon which it is granted tax exemption it may permit only uses which are exclusively educational, religious or benevolent.

64.04 Gambling not permitted. Gambling shall not be permitted in a Masonic Temple or upon its grounds, but gifts of nominal value for features of a social program, by a Lodge (or by other body meeting in the Temple under dispensation of the Grand Master) are not prohibited where attendance is limited to members and guests, and no charge is made. However, raffles and bingo may be permitted in a Masonic Temple or upon its grounds provided that all State of Wisconsin and local laws are complied with.

64.05 Sabbath Gatherings. In the use of Masonic Lodge Buildings on the Sabbath, the lodge should "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy."

64.06 Liquor. Every lodge is charged to strictly exclude from its Temple and grounds all intoxicating liquors and fermented malt beverages with the following exceptions

- 1) Wine and beer may be allowed at Table Lodges, Festival Communications, Holidays and other special occasions and only upon dispensation from the Grand Master and, provided further, that no degree work is conferred and that a non-alcoholic beverage be provided for those who wish it.
- 2) Serving of beer, wine and other alcoholic beverages shall be allowed when the Temple and grounds have been leased to a tenant for the purpose of holding a non-Masonic activity, provided no alcoholic beverages may be served in the lodge room.

64.07 Smoking During Meetings. Smoking in the lodge room while the lodge is in session is forbidden.

64.08 Leases Forbidden if Liquor to Be Sold. A lodge is not permitted to lease property which it owns or controls to parties who are to use it in any manner for the sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage. (See also Section 64.06).

Chapter 65 Communications of Lodge

65.01 Definition. Stated communications are those held at the regular periods provided in the by-laws of a lodge.

65.02 No More Than Two in Each Month. A lodge shall not have more than two stated communications in any one month.

65.03 Only One on the Same Day. A lodge cannot have more than one stated communication on the same day.

65.04 A Stated Communication is on Master Mason Degree. At a stated communication a lodge must open and close on the Master Mason degree, on which degree all of the business of the lodge shall be transacted; it may call down to a lower degree for examination or work. "The Master, at his discretion, may close the Lodge of M.M. and open a Lodge of a lower degree for the purpose of examination and/or degree work. The Lodge shall then be closed in due form pursuant to the last degree."

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65.05 Subjects Acted On. The following subjects shall be acted upon only at a stated communication subsequent to the one at which they are presented:

- 1) Change of place of meeting of a lodge.
- 2) Petition for a new lodge.
- 3) Resolution to surrender the charter of a lodge.
- 4) Application of a candidate who has been refused advancement.
- 5) Petition to restore a suspended Mason.
- 6) Request for a dispensation to act upon the petition of a rejected petitioner before the expiration of one year after rejection.
- 7) Request to another lodge to do its work.
- 8) Preferment of charges against a member of the lodge.

In all the foregoing matters except affiliation, the Master or the lodge shall designate the communication at which action is to be had. Postponement may be had to a designated communication.

65.06 Definition. Special communications are those which are convened at the pleasure of the Master, or by either the Senior or Junior Warden when lawfully acting as Master, or when convened by the Master, or his authorized deputy, in a special or emergent communication to conduct Masonic memorial services for a deceased brother, or for installation.

65.07 Communications on Sunday. Removed by Resolution June 2009.

65.08 Only One Special on Same Day. Only one special communication of a lodge called for the purpose of examination or work can be held on the same day (except memorials).

65.09 Notice Required for a Special. If a special communication is ordered at a stated communication for a purpose then and there stated, no summons or other notice shall be necessary, but if not so ordered then notice of the time and object of such special communication shall be given each member so far as practicable.

65.10 Summons Written or Oral. A summons may be written or oral.

65.11 Service of Written Summons. When a summons, notice or other instrument is required to be served such service may be made by any officer of the lodge designated by the Master to perform that duty. The certificate of service by the officer shall be sufficient proof of such service.

65.12 Business Transacted at a Special. At a special communication the only business which can be transacted is that for which it is called.

65.13 What Business Cannot be Transacted. A lodge cannot transact the following business at a special communication:

- 1) Elect officers, except as authorized by 22.03 Ninth (d) and 58.02.
- 2) Amend the by-laws of the lodge.

65.14 Festival Communication Defined. Festival communications are those held on the Saints John Days.

65.15 Who Must be Present at Opening. A lodge can only open and remain open to transact business or do work when there are present at least three Master Masons who are members of the lodge, one of whom must be the Master

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or a Warden, except in the case of a special communication to conduct a memorial, when it is permissible for the Master of a lodge to permit a Past Master to open and close the lodge and conduct the memorial service.

65.16 Who Permitted to Open Lodge. The ranking officer present may permit any Master Mason to open the lodge and conduct its business and do its work if there is present at all times the Master or one of the Wardens.

65.17 Lodge Cannot Adjourn. A lodge cannot adjourn, but it may call off from time to time during the same day.

65.18 Special for Masonic Memorial Services or Installation Procedure for Emergent Communication. A lodge may be convened by the Worshipful Master or his duly authorized deputy, in a special or emergent communication to conduct Masonic memorial services for a deceased brother or for installation of officers, any language in the Code to the contrary notwithstanding.

An emergent communication is opened in the following manner: The Worshipful Master requests the officers and any members who wish to attend to assemble in an appropriate place, asks for or gives an invocation, declares an emergent communication open and states in full the purpose of the meeting. If opened in the Temple, the officers and members then repair to the lodge room where the greater and lesser lights are displayed without ceremony. On other occasions the displaying of the lights may be omitted. After the work of the emergent communication is finished the officers and such members who may desire to attend return to the place of opening; a benediction is given and the Worshipful Master declares the emergent communication closed. Minutes of every emergent communication shall be kept and read at the next communication of the lodge. Aprons are worn.

65.19 Use of Key During Opening and Closing Prohibited. No brother shall use the official key or keep the same open in the lodge room during the opening or closing of a lodge, except during rehearsal practice.

Chapter 66

Qualifications of Applicants for Degrees

66.01 Qualifications Defined. An applicant for the degrees must be a man, of good report, well recommended a believer in Deity, literate, of lawful age, mentally and morally sound. The lodge shall judge such qualifications when the ballot is spread after the petition has been received by the lodge.

66.02 Applicant Must be 18. An applicant must be eighteen years of age or older at the time he presents his petition for the degrees to a lodge.

66.03 Residential Requirement. Except as provided in Section 22.03 & 78.03, an applicant for the degrees shall be a legal resident of this state for six months immediately previous to the time his petition is presented.

66.04 Applicant an Illiterate. A lodge shall not receive a petition for the degrees from one who cannot read or write, nor from one who is unable to speak and understand the language of the ritual.

66.05 Applicant Previously Rejected. A lodge shall not receive a petition for

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the degrees from one who has been rejected in any lodge within one year previous to the time of presenting such petition.

66.06 Applicant Must Believe in Deity. A lodge shall receive petitions for the degrees only from those applicants who believe in Deity.

66.07 Applicants Not Disqualified. In accordance with the basic principles and the Ancient Landmarks of Masonry, every petition for membership in a constituent lodge of this Grand Lodge shall be received and acted on without regard to the race, color or creed of the petitioner.

66.08 Alien Enemy. A lodge has jurisdiction to receive the petition of an alien enemy. The advisability, however, of acting favorably upon such petition is for the lodge to determine.

66.09 Clandestine Mason. The petition of a member of a clandestine lodge may be received by a lodge, but the applicant should not be elected to receive the degrees unless it is first ascertained that he joined such clandestine lodge in the honest belief that it was a regular lodge of Masons and that he is now sincere in his desire to become a regular Mason. This is accomplished by the completion of a renunciation letter.

Chapter 67

This Section was repealed in its entirety, 2000.

Chapter 68

Petitions for Degrees

68.01 Contents of Petition. A petition for the degrees shall be signed by the applicant upon a form supplied by the Grand Secretary and approved by the Grand Master.

68.02 Recommendation of Applicant. A petition of an applicant for the degrees shall be recommended and signed by at least two members in good standing of lodges in this state, at least one of whom shall be a member of the lodge to which the same is presented.

68.03 Removed by Decision of the Grand Master Adopted at the 174th Annual Communication.

68.04 Not Received When No Jurisdiction. When a petition for the degrees is presented to a lodge which does not have jurisdiction, as defined in Chapters 78 & 79, it shall not be received and the Master shall order it returned to the applicant provided, however, that the lodge may retain the custody thereof pending action to acquire jurisdiction and, if acquired, the Master shall then declare it received by the lodge; if not acquired he shall order it returned to the applicant.

68.05 Removed by Decision of the Grand Master Adopted at the 174th Annual Communication.

68.06 Removed by Decision of the Grand Master Adopted at the 174th Annual Communication.

68.07 Petition Must be Balloted on Unless Withdrawn. A petition for the

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degrees which has been received by a lodge must be balloted on, unless the petitioner requests that it be withdrawn prior to the ballot thereon. If such request be made, or if it should be discovered that the lodge has no jurisdiction, as defined in Chapter 78 & 79, the Master shall order it returned to the petitioner immediately, together with any fee which may have accompanied the petition.

68.08 Removed by Decision of the Grand Master Adopted at the 174th Annual Communication.

68.09 Petition Process. When a Petition for the degrees of Freemasonry is presented to a lodge it shall be immediately forwarded to the Grand Lodge office where a background investigation is performed, normally within two working days. If the investigation reveals a felony it is forwarded to the Grand Master for further review and determination. The Grand Master may refuse to accept the Petition, if so it will be returned to the lodge. The Petition must then be returned to the applicant. If the Grand Master accepts the petition, the cleared Petition is returned to the Master of the Lodge who may refuse to entertain it and may order it returned to the applicant. If the Petition is not returned, the Master shall declare that it is received, which declaration shall constitute the act of receiving the Petition by the lodge.

Once the Petition is declared received the Master shall immediately refer it to a committee of three for an interview, which should be conducted prior to the next stated communication. At the next stated communication following the interview, the Petition and the report of the Interview committee must be presented in open lodge. The Petition must then be balloted on unless withdrawn by the Petitioner prior to the ballot.

Chapter 69 Fees For Degrees

69.01 Determination of Fees. The fees for the three degrees shall be the sum fixed by the by-laws of the lodge, or by resolution, if the by-laws so provide, but shall be not less than fifty dollars plus initiation fees paid Grand Lodge; the portion thereof for each degree shall be paid in advance. Any amendment to the by-laws or any resolution changing the fees so fixed, must be presented in writing at a stated communication and be laid over to the next subsequent stated communication. Notice in writing of the proposed amendment or resolution changing fees shall be given to all members so far as practical, stating the time when the vote will be taken. If two-thirds of the members present shall vote in favor of the amendment or resolution, it shall be declared carried, but shall not become effective until it shall have been approved by the Grand Master.

69.02 Uniform Fees. A lodge shall collect the same fee from all applicants and shall not dispense with or refund the same or any part thereof.

69.03 Change in Fees Not Retroactive. The increase or reduction by a lodge of the fees for the degrees shall not apply to one whose petition has been

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received nor to one on whom a degree has been conferred provided he is not in default at the time such change in fee is made.

69.04 Fees in Work by Request. When a lodge does work for and at the request of another lodge the fee shall be the same as charged by the lodge making the request and shall belong to the requesting lodge.

69.05 Fees When Jurisdiction Violated. A lodge which has violated the personal jurisdiction of another lodge shall pay to such lodge the fees which it may have collected from the candidate.

69.06 When Fees Returned. When a lodge has no personal jurisdiction to entertain a petition for the degrees, or when a petition is rejected or when objection is made to initiation or advancement, and such objection is sustained by the vote of the lodge, the unearned fees which have been paid shall be returned immediately.

69.07 When Candidate Moves Away. If a candidate has removed from the personal jurisdiction of a lodge after he has been elected to receive the degrees and before he is initiated, the fees he has paid shall not be returned to him and the degrees shall be conferred upon him either by or at the request of such lodge.

69.08 When Advancement is Refused. If the ballot on advancement after objection is against a candidate, the lodge shall not return the fees collected from him for the work he has already received.

Chapter 70 Interviewing Committee

70.01 Appointment and Duties. An Interviewing Committee of three members shall be appointed by the Master of the Lodge, and it shall be the duty of each member of the Committee to personally interview the applicant to determine his qualifications for membership and file an individual or a collective report with the Secretary of the Lodge. Each member of the Committee shall make a recommendation based on the facts and opinions formed from these facts.

The Master of the Lodge shall determine the method by which the members of the Interviewing Committee shall conduct their interviews, and the Master may appoint a Master's Board to consider the reports of the Committee members and to interview the applicant, as the Master may order.

The Master of the Lodge may order that the members of the Interviewing Committee (and Master's Board, if used) shall complete the separate petition interview reports prepared by the Committee on Masonic Education. The forms for such reports are available from the Grand Secretary.

70.02 When Committee Not Appointed. A committee of investigation need not be appointed on an application for the degrees of a candidate in default nor on an objection to advancement.

70.03 Committee Refuses to Report. Should an investigating committee or a majority thereof refuse to report on a petition, the Master shall discharge the committee and appoint another one.

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70.04 One of Committee Refuses to Report. If one member of an investigating committee makes no report, the Master may appoint another member in place of the one not reporting, or he may order a ballot.

70.05 Master Cannot Demand Reasons. The Master shall not demand that a member of an investigating committee on a petition state his reasons for his report.

70.06 Courtesy Investigation. A lodge may as a matter of courtesy conduct a supplementary investigation for another lodge in this jurisdiction at its request.

Chapter 71 Voting In Lodges

71.01 Notice of Ballot. A lodge shall not give notice through the mail that a ballot will be had on the petition of any named person. (See 89.02 as to publishing candidate's names.)

71.02 Ballot on One Who Has Moved Away. A lodge has the right to ballot on the petition of one who has moved from its jurisdiction, as defined in Chapter 78, after the reception of his petition.

71.03 Separate Ballot on Each Petition. Each petition shall be balloted on separately.

71.04 Only One Ballot Box May be Passed. Two or more ballot boxes cannot be passed simultaneously.

71.05 Contents of Ballot Box. A ballot box shall contain white balls for an affirmative vote and black cubes for negative vote.

71.06 Ballot Secret and to Elect Clear. The ballot on a petition for the degrees shall be secret and to elect clear.

71.07 All Present Must Vote. Every member present when the ballot is spread must vote, unless excused by the Master.

71.08 Ballot Must Be Continuous. A ballot when it is commenced must be completed, without interval or postponement.

71.09 Ballot Not to Be Passed in Anteroom. It is irregular to pass the ballot box to a member in the anteroom; not being in the lodge room proper he is absent from the lodge.

71.10 Inspection of Ballot Box. Upon completion of a ballot, the Master shall order the ballot closed and presented in the South, West and East for inspection. If clear, the Master shall ascertain from the Wardens the result of their inspection. If the report is clear, the Master shall declare the result.

71.11 If Ballot is Not Clear. If the ballot is not clear, the Master shall not ask the Wardens to declare the color of the ballot nor shall the Master declare the color of the ballot himself. The Master shall order the destruction of the ballot, and he

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shall order an immediate re-ballot to be taken without remarks or discussion on the part of the members.

71.12 Re-ballot Procedures. Any re-ballot shall be conducted as in section 71.10. If the re-ballot is clear, the Master shall declare the result. If it is not clear, the Master shall, after ascertaining from the Wardens the result of their inspection, declare that the ballot is not clear. The Master shall then order the ballot destroyed.

71.13 Master's Authority if Re-ballot Not Clear. If the re-ballot is not clear, the Master shall declare that accountability for the casting of the negative vote shall be required in order for the applicant to be rejected. The Master shall then state that any member who has cast a negative vote shall within 48 hours identify himself to the Master and inform the Master that such member has cast a negative vote and state the reasons therefore.

- 1) If the Master shall be timely informed by a member that he has cast a negative vote and the Masonic reasons therefore, the Master shall refer said reasons to the Grand Master in writing. Upon receipt the Grand Master will determine the legality of the reasons in accordance with the Masonic Code and respond to the Master in writing of his decision. The Master shall, at the next stated communication of the Lodge declare that he has received accounting from a member on the negative vote cast against the applicant and of the decision of the Grand Master. Neither the identity of the member casting the negative vote nor the reasons therefore shall be disclosed. The Master shall then declare that the petition has been either accepted or rejected based on the decision of the Grand Master.
- 2) If the Master shall not have been timely informed by any member that the member has cast a negative vote and the reasons therefore, the Master shall at the next stated communication of the Lodge, declare that the petition has been accepted.

71.14 Secretary's Duty. Upon acceptance or rejection of a petition, the Secretary of the lodge shall notify the applicant in writing of the action taken.

71.15 Majority Vote. A majority vote of those present shall govern in all cases unless otherwise provided.

71.16 Member May Change Vote. In all voting except by secret or written ballot a member may change his vote, but only before the result has been announced.

Chapter 72 Rejected Applicant For Degrees

72.01 When Petition Received. A petition for the degrees by an applicant who has been rejected in any lodge can only be received at the expiration of one year after such rejection, provided however that the Grand Master may grant the lodge a dispensation to receive the petition of a rejected applicant for the degrees before the expiration of one year after his rejection.

72.02 Rejected Petitioner Desiring to Again Apply. A rejected petitioner for

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the degrees desiring to again petition for the degrees must present his petition to the rejecting lodge subsequent to one year but within five years after the date of rejection.

After the expiration of five years he may petition any Wisconsin lodge.

The lodge receiving the petition shall give notice at once to the rejecting lodge named in the petition and the petition shall not go to ballot until at least five full weeks have elapsed from the date of such notice.

72.03 Applicant Illegally Rejected. A lodge may receive a petition for the degrees of one who has been rejected by a lodge not having jurisdiction, provided that one year has elapsed since such rejection and also that notice has been given the lodge which rejected him.

Chapter 73 Conferring of Degrees

73.01 Work on Sunday Forbidden. *Removed by Resolution June 2009.*

73.02 Time Between Degrees. *Removed by Resolution 11-2023*

73.03 Grand Master May Waive Time. The Grand Master may grant a lodge a special dispensation to dispense with any of the provisions of the preceding section.

73.04 Who Present When Work Done. The Master or one of the Wardens must be present in the lodge room at the conferring of all degrees.

73.05 Only One Degree at a Time. A lodge cannot confer two degrees at the same time, one in its lodge room and the other elsewhere.

73.06 Only One Lodge in Room at Same Time. Two lodges having similar work cannot hold simultaneous communications in the same lodge room.

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73.07 Where Degrees Must Be Conferred. A lodge cannot hold a communication for the purpose of conferring degrees elsewhere than in the town, city or village named in its charter without a dispensation from the Grand Master, except as otherwise provided in 73.08.

73.08 Who May Confer Degrees.

- 1) The Worshipful Master of a Wisconsin lodge or the presiding officer thereof may permit any qualified Master Mason of his own or any other lodge to preside at the conferring of a degree or any part of a degree.
- 2) When a Wisconsin lodge is invited to visit another Wisconsin lodge the officers of the invited lodge may confer upon a candidate of either lodge the required degree without a dispensation from the Grand Master.
- 3) A duly certified Wisconsin Masonic degree team may confer the degree or degrees, to which it has been certified, in a Wisconsin lodge on invitation from the Worshipful Master or presiding officer thereof without a dispensation from the Grand Master.
- 4) The officers of a Wisconsin lodge, when officially invited by the Worshipful Master of a lodge in a sister Grand Jurisdiction, may exemplify or confer the degrees therein upon a candidate of either lodge providing both lodges have obtained dispensations therefore.
- 5) The officers of a lodge from a sister Grand Jurisdiction, when officially invited by the Worshipful Master or presiding officer of a Wisconsin lodge, may exemplify or confer the degrees, according to their own work in the Wisconsin lodge upon a candidate of either lodge providing both lodges have obtained dispensations therefore.

73.09 Candidates Proceed Separately. In conferring any degree on two or more candidates at the same communication, only one at a time shall receive the degree up to the commencement of the lectures; thereafter all may receive the degree together.

73.10 Degree Completed at One Communication. A degree shall be completed at the same communication at which it is commenced.

73.11 Certificate of Permission Must be Obtained. No degree team shall exemplify the work in any lodge until such team has obtained a certificate of permission duly signed by the Grand Master, attested by the Grand Secretary and bearing the seal of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin.

73.12 Certificate Upon Compliance. No certificate of permission shall be issued to any degree team until the Grand Master is satisfied that it will confer the degree or degrees in compliance with the requirements, standards, customs and usages of the Grand Lodge of the State of Wisconsin. The Grand Master may direct that such team be duly examined for proficiency in the ritual, and in the manner in which it confers the degree by a District Lecturer prior to the issuance of the certificate and at such times thereafter as he may deem necessary. "The certificate shall be issued for a period of five years and may be reviewed and withdrawn by the Grand Master for just cause at any time."

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73.13 Use of Key or Cipher During Ceremony Prohibited. No brother shall use the official key or keep the same open in the lodge room during the ceremony of conferring a degree, except during rehearsal practice.

Chapter 74

Proficiency of Candidates

74.01 Examination in the Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft Degrees. As a prerequisite to advancement, each candidate for the Fellowcraft and Master Mason degrees shall demonstrate proficiency by passing an examination in open lodge on the posting lessons as defined by the Grand Lodge for the Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft degrees to the satisfaction of the Master.

74.02 Examination in the Master Mason Degree Mandatory. All Master Masons shall demonstrate proficiency by passing an examination in open lodge on the posting lesson as defined by the Grand Lodge for the Master Mason Degree to the satisfaction of the Master. It shall be the duty of the Master upon conferring of the Master Mason Degree to inform the Brother of this regulation and advise him as to how instruction in such posting lesson may be obtained.

Upon passing such an examination he shall be entitled to receive a certificate of proficiency in testimony thereof with the seal of the lodge thereto affixed and signed by the Master and Secretary of his lodge. No Master Mason raised after June 5, 2016, shall petition any organization which predicates its membership on being a Master Mason, or shall be eligible to serve as an elected lodge officer, unless he has first demonstrated proficiency in the Master Mason Degree by passing an examination in open lodge.

74.03 Proficiency Defined. The method for demonstrating proficiency is an examination via the posting lessons of the:

- 1) First section of each degree.
- 2) The modes of recognition
- 3) Other symbolism contained in the Degrees, and
- 4) Memorization of the Obligation

The Master shall be satisfied with the candidate's comprehension of the lesson taught in each Degree as well as the form and symbolism of the Degree. Because the posting lessons review the Degrees and are based upon the Esoteric Ritual, posting shall not be considered ritual itself.

74.04 Examination Cannot be Waived. Neither the Master nor the Grand Master has authority to waive the examination of a candidate in open lodge.

74.05 Examination Authorized Within 20 Days. A candidate may be examined in the work of a degree before the expiration of 20 days after the degree has been conferred upon him.

74.06 Examination at What Communication. A candidate may be examined at either a stated or a special communication. A special communication for the purpose of examining candidates may be held on the same day as a stated communication or a special communication held for the purpose of conferring

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degrees. Special communications held for the sole purpose of examining candidates may be opened and closed as an emergent communication (see Section 65.18).

74.07 Candidates May Answer Alternately. When several candidates are examined at the same time and the Master is satisfied they are proficient in the posting lessons, they may be permitted to answer the questions alternately.

74.08 Use of Key or Cipher. No person shall use any official key or cipher or keep the same open in a lodge room during the examination of a candidate.

Chapter 75 Objections

75.01 Objection to Initiation. If objection to initiation is made, it shall be treated as if a re-ballot were not clear, and the Master shall follow either of the procedures in such case, as set forth in section 71.13.

75.02 Objection Before Ballot. An objection made after a petition is received and before ballot thereon cannot be entertained. The petition must go to ballot.

75.03 Procedure. If objection is made to advancement to a particular degree, the Master shall order a ballot to be taken at the next stated communication; if the ballot for advancement is three-fourths clear, the candidate shall be advanced, and no further objection to advancement to such degree shall be entertained.

75.04 Objection to Successive Degrees. A member may interpose an objection to the advancement of a candidate to the Master Mason degree, although he had previously objected to his advancement to the Fellow Craft degree.

75.05 Objection Not Referred. An objection to advancement need not be referred to a committee for investigation.

75.06 Ballot Must Be Secret. The ballot upon objection shall be secret, and cannot be taken in any other manner than by the regular ballot box.

75.07 Application After Rejection. A candidate for advancement by a request in writing may renew his application for the degree at the expiration of six months after any rejection.

75.08 Member Only May Make Objection. An objection to initiation or advancement may be made only by a member of the lodge to which the candidate belongs. When a petition has been accepted by the Grand Master under Section 71.13, an objection to initiation or advancement cannot be made by the same member who cast a negative vote during balloting for the same reason or reasons he cast that negative vote.

75.09 Objection Made to Master. An objection to initiation or advancement must be made to the Master and he must forthwith inform the lodge that an objection has been made.

75.10 When Member May Object. A member may make objection after ballot has been taken to the initiation or advancement of a candidate at any time before the obligation is administered. An objection is protected by the same secrecy

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which governs the casting of a ballot.

75.11 Reasons May be Given Lodge. Should a member desire to state the reasons for his objection in open lodge for the information of the brethren, the Master may permit him to do so.

75.12 Objection to Affiliation. An objection to affiliation cannot be entertained.

Chapter 76 Default of Candidate

76.01 Definition of Default. If a candidate neglects for one year after election to present himself for initiation or, having received a degree, neglects for one year to present himself for advancement, he is in default.

The provisions of this section shall not apply to anyone who is a member of the armed forces of the United States, and the requirement of initiation or advancement of such a man is waived for the period of his service and for six months after he is discharged from the service.

76.02 When Not in Default. A candidate is not in default if he presents himself for initiation within one year after being elected, or for advancement within one year after being initiated or passed, but is prevented from receiving the degree by the objection of a member or by charges preferred against him or by the inability of the lodge to confer the degree upon him.

76.03 Rights and Privileges of Candidate in Default. An Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft failing to present himself for advancement within one year must be posted and pass a satisfactory examination before being elected for advancement, and may attend a lodge opened in a degree he has received.

76.04 Application May Be Referred to a Committee. The application of a candidate in default may be referred to a committee of investigation.

76.05 Ballot Must Be Had. If a candidate neglects for one year to present himself for initiation or advancement, a new ballot must be had which shall be secret and to be favorable must be three-fourths clear.

76.06 When Ballot Had. A lodge may ballot upon an application in default only at a designated stated communication subsequent to the one at which his request for initiation or advancement is presented.

76.07 When Candidate May Again Apply. A candidate in default whose request for initiation or advancement been denied must wait six months, before again making application to receive the work.

76.08 When Degree Conferred. A candidate in default may be initiated or advanced at the same communication at which he is elected.

Chapter 77 Work By Request

77.01 Request From Lodge in State. A lodge may as a matter of courtesy do work for another lodge in this jurisdiction at its request.

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77.02 Request From Lodge Without State. A lodge may confer degrees for a lodge of another Grand Jurisdiction at its request upon proper clearance through the offices of the Grand Secretaries of both jurisdictions. A lodge in a sister Grand Jurisdiction may confer degrees for a lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction at its request upon proper clearance through the offices of the Grand Secretaries of both jurisdictions.

Chapter 78

Territorial Jurisdiction of Lodges

78.01 The Location of a Lodge. The location of a lodge within the State of Wisconsin must have the written approval of the Grand Master.

78.02 State-wide Concurrent Jurisdiction. All lodges located within the State of Wisconsin shall have concurrent state-wide territorial jurisdiction.

78.03 Jurisdiction Stops at State Line. A lodge located in the State of Wisconsin cannot receive a petition from a resident within the territory of another Grand Jurisdiction without a waiver from that Grand Jurisdiction.

Chapter 79

Personal Jurisdiction of Lodges

79.01 When Jurisdiction Acquired. When a petition for the degrees is lawfully received by a lodge it acquires exclusive jurisdiction of the applicant, and while such petition is pending no other lodge can receive his application for the degrees.

79.02 Perpetual Jurisdiction on Election. By electing an applicant to receive the degrees a lodge acquires exclusive jurisdiction to initiate him and retains it for all time unless duly surrendered.

79.03 Duration of Jurisdiction. By rejecting the petition of an applicant for the degrees, a lodge acquires jurisdiction of him as its rejected material and retains it for a period of not more than five years from the date of the first rejection.

79.04 Perpetual Jurisdiction. By conferring the Entered Apprentice degree upon a candidate a lodge acquires exclusive jurisdiction to advance him and retains it for all time unless duly surrendered.

79.05 Surrender of Jurisdiction Over Rejected Material. A lodge may surrender jurisdiction over its rejected material to another lodge in or out of Wisconsin at any time after one year but within five years after the first day of rejection. Request for surrender of jurisdiction must be made in writing by the applying lodge and shall be acted upon by the lodge receiving it only at a designated stated communication subsequent to the one at which the request was received. Vote shall be by secret ballot and to surrender must be four-fifths clear.

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Chapter 80 Dues And Assessments

80.01 Dues - How Fixed. Each lodge shall fix in its by-laws and collect such annual dues from each of its members as may be necessary to enable it to maintain itself and discharge all of its duties, responsibilities and obligations; provided that the minimum annual dues shall be Ten Dollars, which dues shall be net to the lodge after payment of the per capita tax of Grand Lodge and all assessments.

Dues are payable in advance, on or before the first day of January in each year. No life memberships nor paid-up memberships shall be granted hereafter. Each lodge has the option to continue or terminate the life memberships or paid-up memberships in existence when this Code becomes effective, provided that any such continuance shall not relieve such life member from the payment of the Grand Lodge per capita tax and all assessments of either his own or the Grand Lodge unless his dues shall be remitted, in whole or in part, by action of his lodge, for the reason that the payment thereof would be an undue hardship for the member. Each lodge shall pay the Grand Lodge per capita tax and Grand Lodge special assessments for each member in good standing not holding a Certificate of Resignation.

A lodge, at its discretion, may also remit the annual dues of the lodge and the annual per capita tax and all special assessments of the Grand Lodge, of members who have been raised to the degree of Master Mason prior to June 12, 1979, provided that they were entitled to a 50-Year Certificate prior to June 12, 1979.

80.02 Lodge May Regulate Dues. A lodge may increase or reduce its dues, by an amendment to its by-laws or by resolution if the by-laws so provide.

Any such proposed amendment or resolution to either increase or reduce the dues, must be presented in writing at a stated communication, recorded upon the minutes of the lodge and shall lie over to a designated subsequent stated communication for vote thereon.

Notice in writing of the proposed amendment or resolution to increase or reduce the dues stating the time when the vote will be taken, shall be given to all members at least ten (10) days prior to the date designated for action on the proposed amendment or resolution.

A two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the members present at such designated stated communication shall be required for the amendment or resolution to be carried, but it shall not become effective until it shall have been approved by the Grand Master.

80.03 Pro-Rata Dues, Part Year. A member who has been raised by a lodge or has affiliated with a lodge after February first in any year shall be charged only a pro-rata part of the annual dues for that year, but not less than the per capita Grand Lodge tax and all Grand Lodge assessments for the year. The per capita

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tax and Grand Lodge assessments must be paid in full to the Grand Lodge for the year in which he was raised or affiliated.

80.04 No Refund on Resignation. No part of the dues for the current year shall be refunded to a member who is granted a Certificate of Resignation.

80.05 Dues a Specific Obligation. The payment of dues is a specific obligation of each Master Mason affiliated with a lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, for the payment of which he shall be liable unless his dues shall have been remitted by the lodge.

80.06 Uniform Receipt Card for Dues. The Grand Secretary shall prescribe an official uniform receipt card for dues which shall be used by all lodges and purchased from the Grand Secretary.

80.07 By-laws in Conflict With This Chapter. That portion of the by-laws of all constituent lodges which may be in conflict with any of the provisions of this Chapter 80 shall be conclusively deemed to have been amended to correspond with the provisions of this Chapter. The secretaries of the constituent lodges shall immediately enter the amendments in the book of by-laws of his lodge and notify the Grand Secretary of such entry forthwith.

80.08 Lodge May levy Assessments. A lodge may levy assessments when necessary to meet its current requirements or the demands of charity, as follows:

- 1) Any proposed assessment must be presented in writing at a stated communication, recorded on the minutes of the lodge and shall lie over to a designated subsequent stated communication for a vote thereon.
- 2) Notice in writing of the proposed assessment stating the time when the vote will be taken, shall be given to all members at least ten (10) days prior to the date designated for action on the proposed assessment.
- 3) A two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the members present at such designated stated communication shall be required for the proposed assessment to be carried, but it shall not become effective until it shall have been approved by the Grand Master.
- 4) See Appendix 10, form 19 for the Secretary's Certificate for reporting lodge action on the levy of assessments.

Chapter 81

Suspension For Nonpayment of Dues, Restoration

81.01 Suspension Defined. Suspension for nonpayment of dues is a penalty imposed upon a Master Mason for failing to pay his dues and/or assessments to the lodge.

81.02 Suspension Begins When Eight Months in Arrears. A member of a lodge cannot be suspended for nonpayment of dues until eight months after the date to which his dues are paid.

81.03 Pecuniary Inability to Pay Dues. A lodge shall not suspend a member for nonpayment of dues when his failure to pay dues is wholly on account of his pecuniary inability to do so.

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81.04 Master Cannot be Suspended. A Master of a lodge shall not be suspended for nonpayment of dues during his term of office.

81.05 Insanity Precludes Suspension. An insane or mentally incompetent member of a lodge shall not be suspended for nonpayment of dues.

81.06 When Delinquency Occurs. Any member failing to pay his dues for a period of eight months from the date to which his dues are last paid shall be deemed delinquent and shall be subject to discipline as hereinafter provided.

81.07 Effect of Suspension. Suspension for nonpayment of dues shall be a suspension from all of the rights, privileges and benefits of Masonry until such time as the suspended brother is restored to membership as provided by law.

81.08 Procedure. When a member is eight months in arrears in the payment of his dues, the Secretary shall compile a list of each such member by the first Stated meeting of September and shall submit it to the three principal officers of the lodge. That month one of them shall make contact, in person or by phone with each of such member and complete a Form 81 for each. If payment of such dues has not been made by October first, the Secretary shall send to each such member an official notice of delinquency by first class mail in a sealed envelope with return address thereon. This notice shall be over the signature of the Master, attested by the signature of the Secretary and under the seal of the lodge. It shall be mailed to the last known address of the member, informing him of his indebtedness to the lodge and notifying him that unless the same is paid by November 1st, or unless he shows cause within the said time frame, either in person or in writing to the Master of his lodge why he should not be suspended for nonpayment of dues, the lodge will take action and forward his suspension to the Grand Master.

81.09 Procedure Continued. At the first stated communication of the lodge immediately following November 1st the Secretary shall certify to the lodge the names of all members upon whom a Form 81 has been completed, demand has been made and who are still delinquent. A vote of two-thirds of the members present will be required to send Form 81 on to the Grand Master to finalize the suspension. Having fully complied with the aforesaid provisions and proof of indebtedness having been duly established in each case, Form 81 for each delinquent member will be submitted to the Grand Master for approval no later than December 1st of each year. Upon approval of the Grand Master the Grand Secretary will enter the members suspension into MORI.

81.10 Remission of Dues. For good cause, of which the lodge shall be the judge, it may remit all or any part of the dues of any delinquent member or it may grant him an extension of time to a definite stated communication in which to pay the dues.

81.11 Procedure Deemed a Full Trial. The procedures provided in 81.08 and 81.09 shall be deemed a full trial in cases of nonpayment of dues or assessments.

81.12 Notice of Suspension by Secretary. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to give written notice within ten days after suspension, by first class mail, addressed to the last known address of each suspended member, informing him

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of the action taken by the lodge and how he may exercise his right to restore his membership.

81.13 Restoration Within Two Years. If within two years from the date of his suspension a brother tenders payment to the Secretary of the lodge which suspended him, the amount he owed at the time of his suspension plus restoration fee of five dollars, and the amount of the dues for the current year, or if the lodge by a majority vote of the members present remits the same or a part thereof and if such payment and/or remission shall make him clear on the books, he shall be automatically restored to membership as of the date of such payment or remission and due notice shall be taken thereof in the minutes of the lodge at the next stated communication.

81.14 Restoration After Two Years. A suspended member who has remained suspended for a period of more than two years cannot be restored to membership automatically. Such a member shall be required to present a written request to the lodge setting forth his desire to be restored and shall tender therewith payment of all dues in arrears at the time of his suspension plus the amount of the dues for the current year and plus restoration fee of five dollars. The Master will appoint a committee for investigation and report. At a subsequent stated communication the lodge shall by secret ballot take action on the question of restoration. A three-fourths favorable ballot of the members present shall be necessary for restoration.

If the member stands rejected the payment tendered with his request for restoration shall be returned to him, and he shall not apply again within six months from the date of rejection.

81.15 Delinquents When Charter Surrendered. The members of a lodge who are in arrears for dues at the time its charter is surrendered shall be deemed suspended Masons. Upon payment of their arrears to the Grand Secretary they shall be affiliated with a lodge as assigned by the Grand Secretary.

81.16 When Restoration Not Permitted. If the address of a member suspended for the nonpayment of dues is unknown and he has never signified a desire to restore his membership or if he dies while suspended, a lodge cannot accept from any other person a payment of his dues and then restore him to membership.

81.17 Chapter Applies to All Exclusions. All the provisions of this Chapter shall in like manner apply to all Masons who have been, and are now, suspended from any lodge.

Chapter 82

Transfer of Membership, Demission and Resignation

82.01 Transfer of Membership. A certificate of transfer shall be granted to a Master Mason, Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft (excepting the Worshipful Master or Wardens) only upon his election to membership in another lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction or a lodge of another Grand Jurisdiction recognized by the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin. The application for transfer shall be in writing on

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forms provided by the Grand Lodge, signed by the applicant and the secretary of the admitting lodge.

A petition for transfer of membership to a Wisconsin lodge shall not be accepted in the year of receipt if it has been received by the Secretary of the lodge to which transfer is requested under the following circumstances:

- 1) In the case of a petition to transfer from a lodge in another Jurisdiction to a Wisconsin lodge, after November first, or,
- 2) In the case of a petition to transfer from a Wisconsin lodge to another Wisconsin lodge which is closed during the months of January and February, after November first, or
- 3) In all other cases, after December first.

82.02 Who May Transfer. A Master Mason, Fellowcraft or Entered Apprentice in good standing with no charges pending against him and not delinquent in dues may transfer. A Trustee may transfer. An officer of the lodge, other than the Worshipful Master or Wardens, may transfer membership only if he has permanently moved from the jurisdiction of the lodge, as defined in Chapter 78.

82.03 Who May Not Transfer, A Worshipful Master or Wardens of a lodge may not transfer. An insane or mentally incompetent member or one who has been suspended or expelled may not be granted a transfer.

82.04 When Transfer Certificate Granted. A membership Transfer Certificate shall be granted by order of the Worshipful Master immediately upon a receipt of the membership transfer request, providing the member requesting the membership transfer is not delinquent in dues or assessments and is in good standing and there are no charges pending against him.

82.05 Dispensation for Lodge Acts as Transfer. The granting by the Grand Master of a petition for dispensation to form and open a new lodge shall operate as a transfer to the signers thereof who are members of lodges in this state unless they desire to retain memberships in their original lodges, which desire must be stated in the petition for dispensation.

82.06 Lodge Under Dispensation Cannot Grant Transfer. The Master of a lodge under dispensation has no authority to grant transfer.

82.07 Demits No Longer Granted. No member may be granted a demit after June 30, 1972. A Grand Lodge demit may be used as evidence required under Sec. 83.05.

82.08 Resignation from Fraternity and Reinstatement.

- 1) An Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft or Master Mason may resign from the fraternity. A letter of resignation received by the Secretary of his lodge shall be sufficient to terminate his status as a Mason provided he is clear on the books and free of charges. Upon receipt of a letter of resignation, the Secretary shall so inform the lodge at its next regular communication and enter the fact in the minutes of the meeting.
- 2) Except as provided in (c), a resigned Mason may petition any Wisconsin lodge for cancellation of his resignation and for restoration to his former status as a Mason. The petition for restoration shall be accompanied with

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a restoration fee of Five Dollars. The procedure shall then be the same as a petition for transfer or plural membership. If elected he is restored to the status of a Mason in good standing.

- 3) A Mason who resigns after the close of the 1992 annual communication of the Grand Lodge and who is convicted of a felony or a sexual assault misdemeanor (either before or after such resignation) shall only be restored to membership upon petition to the Grand Lodge and restoration to membership by the Grand Lodge pursuant to Section 109.04 of the Masonic Code.

Chapter 83

Change of Membership and Plural Memberships

83.01 Affiliation by Transfer of Membership. A Master Mason, Fellowcraft or Entered Apprentice of a lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin may petition for transfer of membership to a lodge in this jurisdiction.

83.02 Plural Membership. A Master Mason of a Wisconsin lodge or one recognized by this jurisdiction which allows its members to hold plural (dual) membership may petition for affiliation as a plural member in a lodge or lodges in this jurisdiction. Revised 1992

83.03 No Residential Requirement. A lodge may receive a petition for transfer or plural membership from a Master Mason whether or not the applicant is a resident of its jurisdiction, and, if a resident, regardless of the period of such residence.

83.04 Contents of Petition. Petitions for transfer or plural membership shall be signed by the applicant upon forms provided by the Grand Lodge. They shall be recommended and signed by at least two members of the lodge to which the same is presented.

83.05 Evidence Required Before Action. A petition for transfer or plural membership may be received but shall not be acted upon until due evidence is furnished that the petitioner is a Master Mason, Fellowcraft or Entered Apprentice in good standing in a regular lodge duly recognized by the Grand Lodge. Such evidence may consist of a current dues card or a valid Grand Lodge demit or Certificate of Recognition.

83.06 Demit or Resignation from Lodges Not Recognized. A lodge cannot receive a petition for transfer or plural membership from a person who presents a demit or resignation from a lodge under the jurisdiction of a Grand Lodge which this Grand Lodge does not recognize. Such a person can petition only as a non-Mason.

83.07 Investigating Committee. Upon receiving a petition for transfer or a plural membership the Master may appoint a committee for investigation and report.

83.08 Objection Not Allowed. An objection to transfer or plural membership shall not be entertained.

83.09 Petition May Be Withdrawn. A petition for transfer or plural membership may be withdrawn at any time before a ballot is had thereon.

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83.10 Re-Petition at Any Time. If a petition for transfer or plural membership shall be denied, another one may be made to the same or to any other lodge at any time.

83.11 Fees for Transfer or Affiliations. No fee shall be charged for transferring by current dues card, by demit from another jurisdiction, a Grand Lodge demit or affiliating as a plural member.

83.12 When Petition Balloted Upon. A petition for transfer or plural membership shall be balloted on only at a Stated communication subsequent to the one at which it is presented.

83.13 Petition Shall Be Balloted On. A petition for transfer or plural membership shall be balloted upon if not withdrawn, if the report of the investigating committee is favorable or otherwise.

83.14 Ballot Secret. The ballot upon a petitioner for transfer or plural membership shall be secret and to elect shall be three-fourths clear.

Chapter 84 Visitation

84.01 Affiliated Mason May Visit Another Lodge. An affiliated Mason has the right to visit another lodge and he should not be deprived of that right without good cause.

84.02 Member of Lodge Not Recognized. A member of a lodge within the jurisdiction of a Grand Lodge not recognized by this Grand Lodge, is not permitted to visit a lodge in this jurisdiction.

84.03 Mason Disciplined in Foreign Jurisdiction. A Mason who has been suspended or expelled by a Grand Lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin cannot visit a lodge in Wisconsin or enjoy any of the rights or privileges of Masonry in this jurisdiction, unless the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge takes action as provided in Sec. 108.02.

84.05 Master May Deny Visitation. It is the prerogative of a Master to say who shall and who shall not be admitted to his lodge and for an abuse thereof he is accountable only to the Grand Lodge. It is the right of a member of a lodge to object to the presence of a visiting Mason but it is a personal right and cannot be exercised by proxy.

Chapter 85 Avouchment and Documentary Evidence

85.01 Requirement. The sole requirement for admission to a lodge shall be presentation by the visitor seeking admission of a current official uniform receipt card for dues or other current dues card from the Grand Jurisdiction of which the visitor is a member, and such further evidence as may be satisfactory to the Worshipful Master.

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Chapter 86 Masonic Status

86.01 Degree Received Irregularly. A candidate irregularly initiated or advanced in a legally constituted lodge through no fault of his own is a Mason in good standing in the degree he has attained and entitled to all the rights and benefits of such degree.

86.02 Candidate Denied Advancement. A candidate continues as a Mason in good standing in the degree he has attained although he is denied advancement.

86.03 Candidate Has Part of a Degree. When the work of conferring a degree upon a candidate is interrupted and remains uncompleted at the close of the communication, he is entitled to the rights and benefits of the degree if he has assumed the obligation appertaining thereto.

86.04 Candidate in Default. A candidate in default may attend a lodge opened in a degree he has received and may be posted in the work.

86.05 Candidate When Charter Given Up. The status of a candidate of a lodge whose charter has been surrendered or forfeited is that of a nonaffiliated Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft as the case may be. He shall be assigned to a lodge as provided in Section 54.05.

86.06 When in Good Standing. A Mason is in good standing until he shall have been duly suspended or expelled and notified of loss of standing by the Grand Secretary.

86.07 Mason Can Resign. A Mason can voluntarily withdraw from the Craft. (82.08)

86.08 Mason Under Charges. A Mason against whom charges have been preferred shall remain in good standing until he shall be found guilty, he may prefer charges, be appointed or elected to office, but cannot be installed while the charges are pending.

86.09 Mason Suspended for Definite Time. A Mason who has been suspended for a definite time is entitled to all the rights and privileges of membership in his lodge at the expiration of the time without action by the lodge.

86.10 Reversal of Judgment. The reversal of a judgment of suspension or expulsion by the Grand Lodge restores the accused to membership in his lodge without further action by the lodge.

86.11 Effect of Restoration. If restoration of a Mason to good standing is made by the Grand Lodge, he is not, by such act, restored to membership in his lodge, but becomes a non-affiliated Mason who shall be assigned to a lodge as provided in section 54.05.

86.12 When Charter Surrendered. The members of a lodge whose charter has been surrendered or forfeited, not in arrears for dues, shall be nonaffiliated Masons; those in arrears for two years or more, suspended Masons. All Masons in arrears for dues shall be non-affiliated Masons upon payment to the Grand Secretary of such arrears and shall be assigned to a lodge as provided in section 54.05.

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86.13 Non-affiliated Masons. Non-affiliated Masons are Masons in good standing; while they cannot claim the right to visit a lodge, join in its processions and festivities, they may be permitted to do so; while a lodge is not obligated to bury them with Masonic honors, it may do so; they have the same claims for aid and counsel upon an individual Mason. They are subject to all Masonic obligations except those due the lodge. While under no obligation to contribute to a lodge, they shall respond to all reasonable demands made upon them by an individual Mason or a lodge in whose jurisdiction they may reside for the benefit of Masonry in general.

Chapter 87 Masonic Claims

87.01 Divorced Wife Has No Claim. A divorced wife of a Master Mason has no claims on his lodge for Masonic aid or relief.

87.02 Widow of a Mason. If the widow of a Mason marries a non-Mason she loses her Masonic claim. If she again becomes a widow her Masonic claim is not restored.

87.03 Child of Deceased Mason. If the widow of a Mason marries a non-Mason his child does not lose his or her Masonic claim.

87.04 Mother, Sister, or Daughter of Mason. The mother, sister or daughter of a Master Mason who is the wife or widow of a non-Mason has no further Masonic claim on a lodge for assistance.

87.05 Dependents of Non-Affiliated, etc. The widows and children of non-affiliated Masons retain their Masonic claims.

87.06 Dependents of Masons Under Sentence. The widow or child of an expelled or suspended Mason has no Masonic claim.

87.07 The provisions of this chapter apply only to members of this jurisdiction.

Chapter 88 Work and Instruction

88.01 Custodian of Work. When the appointment of a Grand Lecturer shall be made by the Grand Master, it shall be with the understanding that the Grand Lecturer, before imparting the esoteric work to anyone in this jurisdiction, shall first obtain a correct version of the Pure Work from the Grand Secretary, who is hereby constituted Custodian of the Work.

88.02 Work Shall Not be Altered. The work and lectures of the three degrees as given to the Grand Lecturer and District Lecturers by the Custodian of the Work and by the Grand Lecturer to the Craft, is the pure work of this jurisdiction, and all interpolations, additions, embellishments or deviations therefrom are forbidden, except such as maybe adopted at an annual communication of the Grand Lodge by a four-fifths vote.

- 1) Resolutions presented to the Grand Secretary which relate to the Pure Work shall be reported to the Grand Lodge as any other resolution,

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however, they shall automatically be laid over for debate and vote at the next subsequent annual communication.

88.03 Pure Work Defined. The Pure Work of this jurisdiction is defined to be the revised edition of the M. L. Young's work which was adopted by the 1947 communication of the Grand Lodge, together with such changes as shall be adopted at an annual communication of the Grand Lodge by a four-fifths vote.

88.04 Ciphers and Keys.

1. Official Key. The Grand Master is authorized and directed to prepare or cause to be prepared and promulgate for use among the constituent lodges an official Multiple Letter Key not to exceed three letters covering the Ritual of the three degrees, opening and closing ceremonies, balloting, changing from one degree to another, all floor work and the official posting of the several lectures of the degrees.
2. Distribution. The publication and distribution of the official key shall be under the direction and control of the Grand Master, Grand Secretary, Grand Lecturer, District Lecturers and constituent lodge Secretaries and its distribution shall be limited to Master Masons who are members in good standing of Wisconsin lodges.

Such official key shall be copyrighted and individual copies shall be numbered and sold only by the Grand Lodge through the Grand Secretary and constituent lodge Secretaries.

3. Posting Keys. The Grand Master is authorized and directed to prepare or cause to be prepared and promulgate for use among the constituent lodges separate posting keys for each of the three degrees, each of which posting keys shall be a booklet containing only that portion from the official key which relates to the posting for such degree.
4. Distribution of Posting Keys. The publication and distribution of the posting keys shall be under the direction and control of the Grand Master, Grand Secretary, Grand Lecturer, District Lecturers and constituent lodge Secretaries; and the distribution of the posting keys for each degree shall be limited to candidates of Wisconsin Lodges who have received such degree and to Master Masons who are members in good standing of Wisconsin Lodges.

Such posting keys shall be copyrighted and individual copies may be numbered and sold only by the Grand Lodge through the Grand Secretary and constituent lodge Secretaries.

5. Unauthorized Use, Copying or Use of Other Key Prohibited. The copying of the official key or posting keys, or causing or permitting the same to be done, or the sale, gift, printing or use of any key or cipher other than the official key or posting keys, other than as authorized and directed by these Regulations shall be deemed unmasonic conduct.

88.05 Use of Costumes Permitted Under Special Dispensation. The use of robes, costumes, stage settings and stage paraphernalia in conferring the degrees is strictly forbidden, except under special dispensation of the Grand Master.

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88.06 Visits of Grand Lecturer and District Lecturer. Upon receiving notification from the Grand Lecturer or District Lecturer of his intended visit to a lodge, the Secretary thereof is required to advise the officers and members and request their presence, and it shall be the duty of the officers to be present at the time appointed.

88.07 Lecturer Not to Post on Sunday. Removed by Resolution June 2009

88.08 Grand Lecturer or District Lecturer the Only Instructor. A lodge cannot employ an instructor or lecturer other than the Grand Lecturer or a District Lecturer without permission of the Grand Lodge or Grand Master.

88.09 Proficiency Men and Ritualists. The District Lecturer shall be responsible to annually certify those Masons in his district whom he finds after examination to be proficient in all aspects of the esoteric work. He shall also after examination annually certify those Masons in his district whom he finds proficient in portions of the esoteric work and shall indicate in what portions they are proficient. These Masons so certified shall be empowered to assist the constituent lodges and participate in schools of instructions when so requested by the District Lecturer.

Chapter 89 Publications

89.01 Publications Forbidden. A Mason of and within this jurisdiction is strictly prohibited from issuing or publishing in any manner, form or character whatever, or causing the same to be done, any book, work, magazine, pamphlet, document, report or instrument whatever, upon the subject of Masonry, the Grand Lodge, its policies, activities or functions, or from circularizing the lodges or Masons of this Grand Jurisdiction on any subject except by means of its lodge bulletin or trestleboard without first having obtained permission of the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master, such permission to be in writing, under the official seal of the Grand Lodge and countersigned by the Grand Secretary who shall keep a record thereof and file a copy of such document.

89.02 Publishing of Candidates' Names. A lodge may publish in its bulletin, trestleboard or other communication, directly to the members, the names of candidates, with the degrees to be conferred upon them and the dates of such work.(See 71.01 as to notice of ballot.)

89.03 Roster of Members. A lodge may print a roster of its members.

89.04 Secretary Not to Furnish List of Members. The Secretary of a lodge is prohibited from furnishing to anyone a list of the members of his lodge for business or political purposes.

89.05 Grand Lodge Transaction. No transactions of the Grand Lodge shall be given to any person for publication in a newspaper, and the penalty for so doing shall be such as the Grand Lodge shall see fit to impose.

89.06 Secretaries List. The Grand Secretary may publish and distribute a list of the names and addresses of the Secretaries of each constituent lodge to the Grand Officers, Grand Trustees, Past Grand Masters, Past Deputy Grand

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Masters, Past Grand Wardens, Past Grand Treasurers, Past Grand Secretaries, and the Secretaries of each constituent lodge. The list may not be used or furnished for business or political use, or other than for strictly Grand Lodge purposes. Any violation of this section shall be unmasonic conduct.

Chapter 90 Clubs, Entertainment and Processions

90.01 Masonic Clubs. [Note: Resolution 5-1971 repealed the section of the Code prohibiting Masonic Clubs.]

90.02 Entertainment. A lodge is forbidden at an entertainment for its members and their families or in the presence of a non-Mason, to permit any of the monitorial lectures of the degrees to be presented.

90.03 Dispensation Required for Procession. Repealed in its entirety. [Note: Resolution 6-99 repealed the Section of the Code prohibiting the participation of Lodges in processions or appearing in public in Masonic clothing without dispensation from the Grand Master].

90.04 Candidates in Processions. Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts may be allowed in Masonic processions.

Chapter 91 Masonic Clothing, Jewels and Emblems

91.01 Manner of Wearing Apron. The Masonic apron shall be worn in the prescribed manner over the suit jacket or outer dress at all stated and special communications of a lodge and when in attendance at and participating in the Masonic burial or memorial service of a deceased brother. The Masonic apron may be worn under the jacket when wearing tails or a cutaway coat which are designed in such manner that the apron is visible.

91.02 Clothing at Funerals. The only Masonic clothing allowed at funerals or a Masonic memorial service is white gloves and white aprons and the officers' jewels.

91.03 Clothing Not Worn at Divine Service. A lodge shall not assemble and attend divine worship in Masonic clothing except at funerals or Masonic memorial services when permitted by the church.

91.04 Lodge Jewels Should be of Silver. The jewels of a lodge and of its officers and past officers should be composed of silver.

91.05 Who May Wear Emblems. The wife, widow, mother, sister or daughter of a Mason is permitted to wear Masonic emblems.

91.06 Emblems Not Used as Advertisement. Masons are strictly forbidden to use Masonic emblems on business cards, personal sign boards or circulars. The wearing of a lapel button containing a Masonic Emblem or the placing of a Masonic Emblem on the automobile of a member of the Craft which can be removed when said automobile is no longer owned by a member of the Craft is not prohibited, but such emblem shall be removed therefrom before such

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automobile is disposed of by such member of the Craft.

Chapter 92 Masonic Memorial Services

92.01 Lodge and Religious Bodies May Cooperate. A lodge may conduct a Masonic memorial service for a deceased Mason either alone or in cooperation with a bona fide, recognized religious body when requested to do so by him during his life or by the person duly authorized to speak or act for him after his death.

A Commandery of Knights Templar or any other organization which predicates its membership upon membership in a constituent lodge of F. and A.M. of which the deceased was a Mason may be permitted to act as an escort to the lodge.

92.02 Pallbearers. At Masonic memorials it is desirable that all pallbearers be Masons, but if one or more are not Masons, then none of the pallbearers shall wear Masonic clothing.

92.03 Mason Only Entitled to Rites. Only a Mason is entitled to Masonic rites.

92.04 Non-Affiliated Masons. A lodge may conduct a memorial service for a non-affiliated Mason with Masonic rites although it is not obliged to do so.

92.05 Lodge Cannot Deny Use of Lodge Room. A lodge cannot deny the use of its lodge room for the funeral or memorial services of a deceased Mason in good standing.

92.06 Remains of Mason Clothed with Apron. It is permissible for the remains of a deceased brother to be clothed with his Masonic apron at his request or that of his relatives even though the funeral services are not conducted by a Masonic lodge.

92.07 Funeral or Memorial Service May be on Sunday. A Masonic funeral or memorial service may be held on Sunday.

92.08 Funeral or Memorial Service Across State Line. A lodge may cross the state line to conduct a burial or memorial service without authority from the Grand Master.

92.09 Burial or Memorial Service After Cremation. A lodge is permitted to hold a Masonic memorial service over the ashes of a brother who has been cremated.

92.10 Military Salute Over Grave. After the Masonic burial or memorial services of a deceased brother have been completed, the lodge may permit a military salute of honor to be fired over his grave.

92.11 Special Communication for Service. A lodge is permitted to conduct funeral or memorial services for a deceased brother when convened by the Worshipful Master, or his duly authorized deputy, in a special or emergent communication. The Secretary shall keep full and complete records of the special or emergent communication of the lodge so convened.

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Chapter 93 Insurance

93.01 Public Liability Insurance. Every constituent lodge which directly or indirectly has an ownership interest in a building shall purchase and keep in force (or cause to be purchased and kept in force) comprehensive public liability insurance in an amount of not less than \$1,000,000 per building for each occurrence. Every such constituent lodge shall provide (or cause to be provided) the Grand Lodge with a certificate of such insurance showing the Grand Lodge as an additional insured, not later than October 1, 1976, and annually thereafter.

Chapter 94 Perpetual Membership

(New Participants Applications Suspended By Edict August 10, 2021)

94.01 Name of Plan. The name of this Plan shall be: "Perpetual Membership Plan" of the Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of Wisconsin.

94.02 Lodge May Adopt Plan. *Removed by Resolution 8-2023*

94.03 Qualified Master Mason May Participate. *Removed by Resolution 8-2023*

94.04 Administration of Plan. The Plan shall be administered by the Grand Trustees, in accordance with the provisions of the Masonic Code of Wisconsin, as a separate fund.

94.05 Method of Lodge Adoption of Plan. *Removed by Resolution 8-2023*

94.06 Determination of Purchase Price. *Removed by Resolution 8-2023*

94.07 Definition of Terms. *Removed by Resolution 8-2023*

94.08 Single Sum or Deferred Payment of Purchase Price. *Removed by Resolution 8-2023*

94.09 Revision of Purchase Price or Discontinuance of Plan by Lodge. *Removed by Resolution 8-2023*

94.10 Revision or Discontinuance of Plan by Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge may revise the minimum purchase price or other provisions of a Perpetual Membership, or it may discontinue the Plan. Provided, however, the purchase price or other provisions may not be revised or the Plan discontinued for an existing participant in the Plan; and any such revision or discontinuance shall be effective only with respect to potential future participants. Provided further, however, any such revision of purchase price or discontinuance of adoption of the Plan by the Grand Lodge shall only be effective after filing of a resolution with the Grand Secretary 60 days prior to the annual communication of the Grand Lodge, 45 days written notice thereof by the Grand Secretary to each lodge Secretary, and adoption at the annual communication by three-fourths (two-thirds, if laid over) affirmative vote of those present.

94.11 Lodge Secretary to Inform Grand Secretary. Upon passage of any resolution by a lodge or discontinuing the adoption of the Plan, the lodge

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Secretary shall promptly inform the Grand Secretary in writing of such action. The Grand Secretary shall thereupon promptly inform the Grand Master of such action.

94.12 Application by or for Qualified Master Mason. *Removed by Resolution 8-2023*

94.13 Effective Date of Perpetual Membership. *Removed by Resolution 8-2023*

94.14 Certificate of Perpetual Membership and Membership Card. *Removed by Resolution 8-2023*

94.15 Delivery of Payments by Grand Secretary. *Removed by Resolution 8-2023*

94.16 Payments by Grand Trustees. On or before March 1 of each year after the year in which the participant became a member of the Plan, the Grand Trustees shall pay from the Plan fund the following:

- 1) To the Grand Lodge general fund: the amount of the existing per capita tax (the amount at the time the participant became a member of the Plan as set forth in Section 94.07); unless there is an accumulated deficit in the Plan fund after such payment less the amount for deceased participants of the Lodge has elected to sell the Perpetual Membership Plan contract for deceased members to the PMP Fund per Section 94.30 of the Wisconsin Masonic Code.
- 2) To the participant's lodge; the amount of the existing lodge dues (the amount at the time the participant became a member of the Plan as set forth in Section 94.07) less the amount for deceased participants of the Lodge has elected to sell the Perpetual Membership Plan contract for deceased members to the PMP Fund per Section 94.30 of the Wisconsin Masonic Code.

Payment (or non-payment as provided above) to the Grand Lodge general fund of the amount of the per capita tax as above set forth shall relieve the participant and his lodge of the liability for the per capita tax payment which would otherwise be required for such participant. Payment to the participant's lodge of the amount of dues as above set forth shall relieve the participant of the liability for the dues payment which would otherwise be required for such participant.

94.17 Per Capita Tax or Dues Increases or Decreases; Special

Assessments. Future increases or decreases in the Grand Lodge per capita tax or participant's lodge dues shall have no effect upon the payments made or to be made by a participant or the Grand Trustees, unless any deferred payments of the purchase price are not made as required. A participant shall not be relieved of any liability for special assessments.

94.18 Default in Deferred Payments. If the purchase price of a Perpetual Membership is being paid on a deferred basis, and if any installment payment is not made when due (whether attributable to death or for any other reason), the Grand Trustees shall pay to the Grand Lodge general fund and the participant's lodge reduced amounts reflecting the proportion of the number of payments timely made to the total number of required payments. If the participant is living:

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he shall pay to his lodge any difference between the amount so paid by the Grand Trustees and the amount of the then per capita tax and the then dues, and the lodge shall pay to the Grand Lodge any difference between the then per capita tax and the amount paid by the Grand Trustees to the Grand Lodge general fund. In default of such additional payments by the participant to his lodge, he may be suspended for non-payment of dues in accordance with the Masonic Code of Wisconsin. If deferred payments are interrupted, they may be recommenced in the future only with the consent of the participant's lodge and the Grand Trustees. Such consent shall only be given by the participant's lodge and the Grand Trustees after fair and equitable consideration of the participant's age and the dues and per capita tax at the time that deferred payments are sought to be recommenced.

94.19 Death of a Participant. Upon the death of a participant the Grand Trustees shall continue to make the payments set forth in this Chapter to the Grand Lodge general fund and the participant's lodge less the amount for deceased participants of the Lodge has elected to sell the Perpetual Membership Plan contract for deceased members to the PMP Fund per Section 94.30 of the Wisconsin Masonic Code.

94.20 Refunds; Disciplinary Action. No refund shall be made from the Plan to any participant, any other person or any Lodge for any reason. No participant shall be exempt from disciplinary action as provided in the Masonic Code of Wisconsin. In the event of the suspension or expulsion of a participant, the Grand Trustees shall continue to pay the Grand Lodge general fund and to the participant's former lodge any amounts which would have been paid had the participant not been suspended or expelled.

94.21 Dues Card. On or before January 1 of each year, the Secretary of a participant's lodge shall issue a regular dues card without any special designation to a participant in good standing.

94.22 Plural Membership in Another Wisconsin Lodge. *Removed by Resolution 8-2023*

94.23 Transfer of Perpetual Membership From One Lodge to Another Lodge. A Perpetual Membership in one Wisconsin lodge may be transferred to a Perpetual Membership in another Wisconsin lodge only if both lodges consent to such transfer. A Primary Perpetual Membership may not be transferred to a Plural lodge unless the members Primary Affiliation is also transferred. Upon written notification from both consenting lodges to the Grand Secretary, he shall so notify the Grand Trustees, and any future payments to the participant's lodge shall be made by them to the transferee lodge. In the event that two or more lodges consolidate, the Perpetual Membership of the participant shall be transferred to the consolidated lodge.

94.24 Surrender of Charter. In the event of the surrender of the charter of a participant's lodge, any amounts which would have been payable by the Grand Trustees to the participant's lodge shall be paid to the Grand Lodge general fund until the participant affiliates with another Wisconsin lodge, after which date all future payments by the Grand Trustees to the participant's lodge shall be made to the lodge with which the living participant has affiliated. All payments for

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deceased participants shall cease as the Lodge that holds the Perpetual Membership Plan contract has now ceased via surrender of the Lodge's Charter.

94.25 Membership in a Non-Wisconsin Lodge. If a participant holds or acquires a membership in a non-Wisconsin Lodge, no payments shall be made by the Grand Trustees from the fund to such non-Wisconsin lodge. If the participant resigns from his Wisconsin lodge or transfers his membership to a lodge in another jurisdiction, the Grand Trustees shall continue payments to the Grand Lodge general fund and the Wisconsin Lodge, as herein provided.

94.26 Perpetual Memorial Membership. *Removed by Resolution 8-2023*

94.27 Grand Trustees to Account. The Grand Trustees shall hold, administer and distribute assets of the Plan as one Perpetual Membership fund. They shall, however, maintain adequate records of the payments for each participant in the Plan. The Trustees shall pay the reasonable costs of the administration of the fund from the income thereof, and the Trustees shall observe standard accounting practices in the maintenance of the records of the Plan. At the annual communication of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Trustees shall submit a written report of their administration of the Plan. At the annual communication, the Grand Trustees shall also make any recommendations to the Grand Lodge as the Grand Trustees may consider necessary and proper for the continued proper administration of the Plan.

94.28 Distribution of Excess Revenue. *Removed by Resolution 8-2023*

94.29 Rules and Regulations; Grand Secretary. The Grand Trustees, with the approval of the Grand Master, may prescribe such rules and regulations as shall be necessary or desirable for administration of the Plan; provided that no such rule or regulation shall be contrary to any express provision of the Masonic Code of Wisconsin. The Grand Secretary shall have such authority and perform such duties with respect to the administration of the Plan as are provided in this Chapter and as may be delegated to him by the Grand Trustees, with the approval of the Grand Master.

94.30 Granting the Lodges the ability to sell their Perpetual Membership Plan contracts for deceased PMP Fund participants through December 31, 2023. The individual constituted Lodges of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin are allowed individually to enter into a contract buyout agreement with the pmp Fund for all their deceased Perpetual Membership Plan participants through December 31, 2023. The remaining funds within the PMP Fund will allow for buyouts of the annual income contracts for all deceased PMP members of that Lodge at the following factored value: The amount of the Lodge dues at the time the participant became a member of the Plan as set forth in Section 94.07 multiplied by NINE (9). This translates to a guaranteed one-time payment to the Lodge for their deceased PMP participants in exchange for annual payments. For example, if a Lodge is currently receiving \$1,000 annual payments total in the name of deceased PMP participants of their Lodge, the one-time contract buyout paid by the PMP Fund will be nine times that amount or \$9,000. This agreement must be completed with each individual Lodge, cover all deceased PMP participants of that Lodge, and be in place prior to the end of calendar year 2023 for monies to be paid out to Lodges by March 1, 2024. As a result of the individual Lodge choosing a one-time payment, all annual PMP payments related to these deceased members to their individual Lodge cease

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immediately. This buyout opportunity terminates at the end of the calendar year 2023; as such. This section of Code shall sunset and be stricken two weeks following its deadline.

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Chapter 101 Masonic Discipline-General

101.01 Persons Subject to Discipline. Entered Apprentices, Fellowcrafts and Master Masons who are affiliated with a constituent lodge of the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin, or who reside within the State of Wisconsin or who sojourn within the State of Wisconsin are subject to discipline by the Grand Lodge.

101.02 Persons Not Subject to Discipline.

- a) The Grand Master of Masons in Wisconsin or the Master of a constituent lodge is not subject to disciplinary action during his term in office, but upon expiration of his term he may be disciplined for unmasonic conduct while in office.
- b) A Mason who, prior to discipline by the Grand Master pursuant to Sec. 101.03 and prior to the issuance of any charges pursuant to Chapter 103, has in accordance with Sec. 82.08 resigned from all lodges of which he was a member may not be disciplined.

101.03 Discipline by Grand Master.

- a) Prior to the close of the 1992 annual communication of the Grand Lodge, if a Mason has been convicted of a felony or a sexual assault misdemeanor, or has pled guilty or no contest thereto, in a court of competent jurisdiction, the Grand Master may discipline him to such extent as is provided for in the Trial Code and the Grand Master feels appropriate, without the preferring of charges and Masonic trial.
- b) Effective upon the close of the 1992 annual communication of the Grand Lodge, if a Mason is convicted of a felony or a sexual assault misdemeanor, or shall plead guilty or no contest thereto, in a court of competent jurisdiction, the Grand Master shall expel him without the preferring of charges and Masonic trial.
- c) If a Mason has been convicted of a felony prior to becoming a Mason the Grand Master may discipline him to such extent as provided for in the trial code and to the extent the Grand Master feels appropriate, without the preferring of charges and a Masonic trial.
- d) Notwithstanding (a) and (b) above, no action shall be taken by the Grand Master while proceedings for reversal of the judgment of said court shall be pending and undecided.
- e) A copy of the information, judgment and any other court records as may be available shall be sufficient evidence to justify such discipline or expulsion. Other evidence, as determined by the Grand Master, will be sufficient evidence to justify such discipline or expulsion. Other evidence, as determined by the Grand Master, will be sufficient if such information, judgment or other court records are not available.
- f) A Mason disciplined under (a) or (b) above shall have a right of review as provided in Chapter 108.

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101.04 Discipline Upon Charges and After Trial. A Mason may be disciplined to such extent as is provided for in the Trial Code upon the issuance of Charges and Specifications and after Trial by Commission as hereinafter provided.

101.05 Who May Issue Charges. Except as provided in Sec. 101.02,

- a) A lodge has jurisdiction to consider and issue charges against a Mason who is a member of the lodge or who resides or sojourns in the county in which the lodge is located. If more than one lodge has jurisdiction to issue charges against a Mason, the first lodge to issue charges has exclusive jurisdiction to prosecute such charges.
- b) The Grand Master may issue charges against any Mason who is a member of a constituent lodge of the Grand Lodge or who resides or sojourns in the State of Wisconsin.

101.06 Who May Not Issue Charges. A lodge under dispensation has no authority to issue charges.

101.07 Grounds for Charges and Discipline of a Mason. The grounds for charges and discipline of a Mason shall only be for unmasonic conduct, which shall consist of-

- a) Any conduct which has brought or may bring Masonry into disrepute, or
- b) Violation of any Masonic obligation, or
- c) Violation of the Constitution, or any Law or Edict of the Grand Lodge.

101.08 Determination of Unmasonic Conduct. The constituent lodge having authority to prefer charges (or the Grand Master if he shall prefer charges) shall make the primary determination, in the light of the surrounding circumstances, whether a Mason's conduct is unmasonic. Such determination must also be made by the Trial Commission, after trial, as hereinafter provided.

Chapter 102

Initiation of Bringing of Charges, Committee on Discipline

102.01 Initiated at Stated Meeting. Any Mason may initiate the bringing of charges against another Mason by reporting the grounds for such charges at a stated communication of a lodge having jurisdiction and requesting that the matter be referred to the lodge's Committee on Discipline.

102.02 Master to Refer to Committee on Discipline. If a Mason has initiated the bringing of charges as provided in Sec. 102.01, the Master shall refer the matter to the Committee on Discipline.

102.03 Members of Committee. The Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden of each lodge shall constitute its Committee on Discipline.

102.04 Member of Committee Affected. If a matter referred to the Committee on Discipline involves the consideration of the bringing of charges against any member of the Committee, such member shall automatically be removed from the Committee and be replaced by the next highest ranking officer of the lodge, as provided in Sec. 57.01.

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Chapter 103 Issuance of Charges

103.01 Consideration and Issuance of Charges by Committee. The Committee on Discipline shall consider any matter referred to it.

- a) If the Committee on Discipline determines that the lodge has jurisdiction, that the charges being considered are not frivolous and that there are substantial grounds for the charges being considered, then the Committee on Discipline, in a report signed by all members of the committee, shall report its findings to the lodge at a stated communication and shall issue charges on behalf of the lodge.
- b) If the Committee on Discipline determines that the lodge does not have jurisdiction, or that the charges being considered are frivolous, or that there are no substantial grounds for the charges being considered, then the Committee on Discipline shall report its findings to the lodge at a stated communication and shall not issue charges.

103.02 Report to Grand Secretary. Upon receipt of the report of the Committee on Discipline, the Secretary of the lodge shall report in writing to the Grand Secretary:

- a) The date of the stated communication on which the bringing of charges were initiated by a Mason.
- b) The date of the stated communication on which the committee on Discipline reported to the lodge, and
- c) The action of the Committee on Discipline.
- d) If the Committee on Discipline has issued charges, the lodge Secretary shall also furnish the Grand Secretary at that time with two copies of the Charges and Specifications, signed by the members of the Committee on Discipline.

103.03 Issuance of Charges by Grand Master and Report to Grand Secretary. If the Grand Master issues Charges, he shall report the same in writing to the Grand Secretary, at the same time furnishing the Grand Secretary with two copies of the Charges and Specifications, signed by the Grand Master.

103.04 Contents of Charges and Specifications. The Charges and Specifications shall set forth:

- a) The name of the lodge (or Grand Master) bringing the Charges.
- b) The name of the Mason against whom the Charges are made, his last known residential address and the name(s) of any lodge(s) of which he is a member.
- c) The nature of the alleged unmasonic conduct under Sec. 101.07 (a, b or c).
- d) The specific facts giving rise to the alleged unmasonic conduct, in clear and definitive terms.

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Chapter 104 Trial Commission

104.01 Notification by Grand Secretary. Upon receipt of the Charges and Specifications from a lodge, the Grand Secretary shall notify the Grand Master, and the Grand Master shall appoint a Trial Commission. Upon receipt of the Charges and Specifications from the Grand Master, the Grand Secretary shall notify the Deputy Grand Master, and the Deputy Grand Master shall appoint a Trial Commission.

104.02 Appointment of Trial Commission. Upon receipt of the notice from the Grand Secretary, the Grand Master (or the Deputy Grand Master if he appoints the Trial Commission) shall inform the Grand Secretary of the names of the President and other members of the Trial Commission, and the Grand Secretary shall notify them of their appointment.

104.03 Members of Trial Commission. The Trial Commission shall consist of five disinterested Wisconsin Masons, not members of any lodge of which the accused Mason may be a member and not members of the lodge bringing the Charges (if the Charges are brought by a lodge). The Grand Master (or the Deputy Grand Master if he appoints the Trial Commission) shall designate one of the members of the Commission as the President.

104.04 Reimbursement of Trial Commission. Each member of the Trial Commission shall be entitled to reimbursement for his travel, meal and lodging expenses occasioned thereby. The Grand Secretary shall pay such reimbursement of expenses upon approval of the President of the Trial Commission.

Chapter 105 Notices, Secretary and President of Commission

105.01 Duties of Grand Secretary Related to Trial Date, Summons and Notices. The Grand Secretary shall:

- a) After consultation with the members of the Trial Commission, set a time, date and place for the trial of the Charges.
- b) Prepare a Summons which directs the accused Mason to attend the trial of the Charges, advising him of the time, date and place of the trial.
- c) Send the Summons and a signed copy of the Charges and Specifications to the accused Mason, by certified mail, return receipt requested, to his last known residential address, at least 30 days prior to the date of the trial.
- d) Formally advise an accused brother of any suspension or expulsion penalty.
- e) Send copies of the Summons and the Charges and Specifications to each member of the Trial Commission and to the lodge (or the Grand Master) bringing the Charges, by first class mail.
- f) Furnish the President of the Trial Commission with evidence of the mailings.

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105.02 Duties of Grand Lodge Secretary Related to Trial. The Grand Secretary or his designee shall be the Secretary of the Trial Commission and he shall:

- a) Provide a tape recorder and tape(s) and record the trial proceedings.
- b) Maintain the complete record of the trial proceedings (pleadings, exhibits, documents, tape recording of the trial proceedings and judgment), prepare a transcript of the proceedings and certify to the accuracy thereof, and
- c) If charges were brought by a lodge, transmit a copy of the transcript to the Secretary of the lodge.

105.03 President of Trial Commission. The President of the Trial Commission shall:

- a) Fill any vacancy in the Trial Commission which may occur at any time.
- b) Change the trial time, date or place, if he determines that any such change is appropriate; and if such change is made before the trial, he shall notify the Grand Secretary of such change and the Grand Secretary shall notify the parties or their counsel and the members of the Trial Commission of such change.
- c) Preside at the trial and determine all questions of practice, procedure and admissibility of testimony or other evidence.

Chapter 106

Trial Conduct and Procedure

106.01 Prosecution of Charges. If the Charges are brought by a lodge, the Committee on Discipline of the lodge shall prosecute the Charges; and the highest ranking member shall, personally or by counsel designated by him, act as prosecutor. If the Charges are brought by the Grand Master, he shall prosecute the Charges; and he, or counsel designated by him, shall act as prosecutor.

106.011 Withdrawal of Charges, Charges brought by a lodge may be withdrawn by majority vote of that lodge at a regular stated communication. The lodge shall then submit a petition in writing to the Trial Commission, signed by the Worshipful master and attested by the Secretary of the Lodge requesting withdrawal of the charges.

- a) The President of the Trial Commission, upon receipt of the petition, shall forward copies to the members of the Commission and the Grand master, requesting majority approval or disapproval in writing.
- b) The action by a majority of the Trial Commission recommending approval or disapproval of the Lodge's petition to withdraw shall be forwarded promptly to the Grand Master in writing, who shall then make the final determination. The Grand Master's decision shall be placed on file with copies sent to the Lodge, the trial commission and all interested parties within thirty (30) days of said notification.
- c) The Grand Master may elect to file charges and prosecute the same as provided in the Wisconsin Masonic Code. If the Grand Master files his

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charges, then the charges brought by the lodge shall be dismissed in writing and filed by the President of the Trial Commission. If the Grand Master concurs in the withdrawal of the charges by the Lodge, the President of the trial commission shall dismiss in writing the charges brought by the lodge.

If the Grand Master does not issue a ruling within thirty (30) days, the President of the Trial Commission shall order a dismissal and place it on file with copies going to all interested parties of such action.

106.02 Fees and Expenses of Prosecution. Any fees and expenses of counsel for the lodge shall be paid by the lodge, and any fees and expenses of counsel for the Grand Master shall be paid by the Grand Lodge.

106.03 Defense of Charges. If the accused Mason desires to be represented by counsel, he may be represented by counsel. Any fees and expenses of counsel for the accused Mason shall be paid by the accused Mason.

106.04 Qualifications and Notice of Counsel. Any counsel for the lodge, the Grand Master or the accused Mason shall be a Master Mason in good standing. The name and address of any such counsel shall be filed in writing with the Grand Secretary at least one week prior to the date of the trial.

106.05 Notifications by Grand Secretary. Upon the receipt of notice identifying any such counsel the Grand Secretary shall:

- a) Send said counsel copies of the Summons, the Charges and Specifications and any other notices or pleadings filed in the matter.
- b) Notify the President of the Commission and the opposing party or the opposing counsel (if the Grand Secretary has been notified of the existence of opposing counsel) of the appearance of counsel.

106.06 Attendance at Trial. Members of the lodge which brought the charges, the Grand Master, counsel for the lodge (or for the Grand Master, if he brought the charges), the accused Mason, counsel for the accused Mason, members of any lodge of which the accused Mason may be a member, witnesses, members of the Trial Commission and the Secretary of the Trial Commission may attend the trial. Any persons not described above may be excluded from the trial by the President of the Commission.

106.07 Notification of Lodge Members. Lodge members may be notified of the trial, but they shall not be required to attend.

106.08 Depositions and Written Interrogatories. Depositions and written interrogatories may be used as hereinafter provided.

- a) Upon reasonable notice to the opposing party or opposing counsel, if a witness resides more than 30 miles from the place of the trial, such person's deposition or written interrogatories, under oath, may be taken.
- b) With the consent of the opposing party or opposing counsel, any person's deposition or written interrogatories, under oath, may be taken.
- c) In any case not provided in (a) or (b) above, if the President of the Trial Commission so authorizes, any person's deposition or written interrogatories, under oath, may be taken.
- d) A copy of the transcript of any deposition or the responses to any written interrogatories shall be furnished to the opposing party or opposing

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counsel prior to the trial.

- e) The transcript of any deposition or the responses to any written interrogatories may be received in evidence at the trial, at the discretion of the President of Trial Commission.

106.09 Pleas. If the accused Mason shall not plead to any specification, the President of the Trial Commission shall order a plea of “not guilty” to be entered into the record. If the accused Mason enters a plea of guilty, evidence shall thereafter be received to aid the Trial Commission is determining the penalty.

106.10 Evidence and Determination of Trial Commission. The Trial Commission shall hear and receive the evidence and the arguments of the parties and their counsel, deliberate in closed session and determine whether or not the accused Mason is guilty or innocent of the unmasonic conduct, and if guilty, impose a penalty.

106.11 Testimony at Trial. The following rules apply to testimony at the trial:

- a) In contested cases, the President shall not be bound by common law or statutory rules of evidence. The President shall admit all testimony having reasonable probative value, but shall exclude all immaterial, irrelevant or unduly repetitious testimony. The President shall give effect to the rules of privilege recognized by law. Basic principles of relevancy, materiality and probative force shall govern the proof of all questions of fact.
 - 1) Documentary evidence may be received in the form of copies or excerpts, if the original is not readily available. Upon request, parties shall be given the opportunity to compare the copy with the original.
 - 2) The accused Mason may conduct cross-examinations reasonably required for a full and true disclosure of the facts.
- b) All testimony given at a trial shall be under oath to testify to nothing but the truth.
- c) All witnesses shall be subject to cross examination by opposing counsel and to examination by any member of the Trial Commission.
- d) The testimony of the wife of the accused Mason shall only be received if it is not adverse to the interests of the accused Mason.
- e) The accused Mason may testify in his own behalf, but he may not be compelled to do so.
- f) Information received on the third point of fellowship shall not be received in evidence.

106.12 Written Evidence at Trial. In addition to the provisions of Sec. 106.08, the following rules shall apply to written evidence at the trial:

- a) Any written confession of an accused Mason shall be admissible and its weight shall be determined by the Trial Commission.
- b) Duly authenticated copies of any records of a lodge shall be received in evidence with the same weight as the originals.
- c) Ex-parte affidavits shall not be received in evidence unless consent is given by the opposing party or opposing counsel.
- d) Appropriately identified copies of any Information, Indictment, Charges, Judgment or other written document related to a misdemeanor or felony

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shall be received in evidence only if the accused Mason has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to such misdemeanor or felony.

106.13 Order of Procedure at Trial. The order of procedure at the trial shall be:

- a) Entering of appearances.
- b) Reading of the report of the lodge Secretary to the Grand Secretary stating:
 - 1) The date of the stated communication on which the bringing of charges were initiated by a Mason.
 - 2) The date of the stated communication on which the Committee on Discipline reported to the lodge, and
 - 3) The action of the Committee on Discipline.
- c) Reading of the Summons and the Charges and Specifications.
- d) Review of Service of the Summons and the Charges and Specifications.
- e) The plea of the accused Mason to each Specification.
- f) Opening statement by the prosecutor or counsel for the prosecutor.
- g) Opening statement by the accused Mason or counsel for the accused Mason.
- h) Presentation of the case for the prosecutor.
- i) Presentation of the case for the accused Mason.
- j) Rebuttal of the prosecutor.
- k) Surrebuttal of the accused Mason.
- l) Argument of the prosecutor or counsel for the prosecutor.
- m) Argument of the accused Mason or counsel for the accused Mason.
- n) Rebuttal argument of the prosecutor or counsel for the prosecutor.
- o) Surrebuttal argument of the accused Mason or counsel for the accused Mason.
- p) Deliberation of the Trial Commission.
- q) Announcement of Findings and Penalty.

106.14 Findings and Determinations by a Trial Commission.

- a) The Trial Commission shall make a separate written finding of fact for each charge.
- b) Upon a finding of guilty to any charge the Trial Commission shall then determine whether or not the facts in support of that charge resulted in unmasonic conduct.
- c) A finding of guilt to any charge and the determination of unmasonic conduct must be by the unanimous vote of the Trial Commission.
- d) If the Trial Commission determines that the conduct contained in the charge was unmasonic it shall impose a penalty pursuant to section 106.15.

106.15 Penalty. Upon the determination of unmasonic conduct, the Trial Commission shall determine the penalty to be imposed in the following order:

- a) For expulsion; and if not adopted, then
- b) For indefinite suspension; and if not adopted, then
- c) For suspension for a definite time; and if not adopted, then
- d) The Trial Commission shall order the Master of the lodge of which the guilty Mason may be a member to reprimand him in open lodge.

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- e) The penalty shall be determined by a majority vote of the members of the Trial Commission.

Chapter 107 Suspension and Expulsion

107.01 Standing Prior to Suspension or Expulsion. A Mason against whom charges have been initiated by a lodge shall remain in good standing until the determination of unmasonic conduct has been made by the President of the Trial Commission following trial as above provided.

107.02 Effective Date of Suspension or Expulsion. A penalty of suspension or expulsion shall become effective immediately upon determination by the Grand Master pursuant to Sec. 101.03 or upon announcement by the President of the Trial Commission following trial as above provided. Such penalty shall remain in effect in accordance with its terms unless changed by the Grand Lodge at an annual communication.

107.03 Effect of Suspension or Expulsion. A person who has been suspended or expelled:

- a) Shall not be entitled to any of the rights and privileges of the Craft.
- b) Shall automatically be removed from any office he may hold in the Grand Lodge or any constituent lodge, and such office shall be vacant.
- c) Shall not be liable for the payment of dues or assessments to any lodge.
- d) Shall not be entitled to any refund of funds paid into the perpetual membership plan.

107.04 Additional Charges. New Charges may not be brought against a person who has been suspended or expelled, while under such sentence.

Chapter 108 Review of Discipline

108.01 Review of Discipline Imposed by Trial Commission or Grand Master.

- a) Any finding and/or the determination of a Trial Commission or penalty imposed by it (or by the Grand Master pursuant to Sec. 101.03) shall automatically be reviewed by the Appeals and Grievances Committee.
- b) Upon the receipt by the Grand Secretary of the record from the Secretary of the Trial Commission (or notice of discipline imposed by the Grand Master), the Grand Secretary shall promptly notify the Appeals and Grievances Committee who shall review the matter.
- c) The person disciplined, the prosecutor or respective counsel may submit to the Appeals and Grievances Committee written objections to any findings or penalty imposed. In such event, the Appeals and Grievances Committee may request the opposing party or counsel for the opposing party to submit a written reply.
- d) Review under this Section shall not be a Trial De Novo but be a review limited to the record as to:
 - 1) Errors in Procedure.

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- 2) The existence of a factual basis to support the action taken.
 - 3) Determination of any erroneous conclusion.
 - 4) Abuse of Discretion.
- e) The Appeals and Grievances Committee shall submit a written report to the Grand Lodge at its Annual Communication, together with the Committee's recommendation to:
- 1) Approve the Trial Commission's (or Grand Master's) action;
 - 2) Disapprove any part or all of the Trial Commission's (or Grand Master's) action; or
 - 3) Set the matter over until the next annual communication.
- f) If the Appeals and Grievances Committee recommends that the Grand Lodge disapprove any portion of the Trial Commission's (or Grand Master's) action, the Committee shall make its recommendation with respect to the following:
- 1) Change a determination of guilty to not guilty of unasonic conduct;
 - 2) Increase or decrease the discipline imposed; or
 - 3) Grant a new trial.
- g) Upon receipt of the recommendation of the Appeals and Grievances Committee, the Grand Lodge shall separately vote to adopt (or not adopt) each recommendation.
- h) If the action of Grand Lodge (other than to grant a new trial) results in an incomplete disposition of the matter, the Grand Lodge shall take such further action as is necessary to dispose of the matter.
- i) Action by the Grand Lodge shall be final and binding and not subject to further review.
- j) Interviewing the action of a Trial Commission, the Appeals and Grievances Committee shall recommend and the Grand Lodge shall change a finding of guilty to not guilty or grant a new trial only for material error. Errors in pleading, procedure or admission of evidence shall not be deemed material unless they affect the substantive rights of the party involved.

108.02 Discipline Imposed by Foreign Jurisdiction.

- a) A member of a constituent lodge of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin who has been suspended or expelled by a foreign jurisdiction recognized by the Grand Lodge shall be automatically suspended or expelled as a Mason in Wisconsin, unless the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge takes action as hereinafter provided.
- b) Such suspended or expelled person may petition the Grand Lodge for review.
 - 1) Such petition shall be in writing and shall be accompanied by a copy of the complete record of the trial or other proceeding in the foreign jurisdiction, or if the same cannot be obtained by the petitioner such information as the petitioner has or is able to obtain with respect to such matter. The petition shall state the reasons the petitioner believes the Grand Lodge should review the matter.
 - 2) Such petition shall be filed with the Grand Secretary, who shall

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- promptly notify the Appeals and Grievances Committee who shall review the matter.
- c) Upon the request of the Appeals and Grievances Committee, the Grand Secretary shall attempt to obtain any additional information from the foreign jurisdiction.
 - d) The Appeals and Grievances Committee shall submit a written report to the Grand Master and to the Grand Lodge at its annual communication, together with the Committee's recommendation to:
 - 1) Adopt the foreign jurisdiction's action in Wisconsin.
 - 2) Not adopt any part or all of the foreign jurisdiction's action in Wisconsin; or
 - 3) Set the matter over until the next annual communication.
 - e) If the Appeals and Grievances Committee recommends that the Grand Lodge not adopt any portion of the foreign jurisdiction's action in Wisconsin, the Committee shall add its recommendation with respect to proposed action by the Grand Lodge.
 - f) Upon receipt of any recommendation of the Appeals and Grievances Committee, the Grand Lodge shall separately vote whether or not to adopt each recommendation.
 - g) If the action of Grand Lodge results in an incomplete disposition of the matter, the Grand Lodge shall take such further action as is necessary to dispose of the matter.
 - h) Action by the Grand Lodge shall be final and binding and not subject to further review.
 - i) In reviewing the action of a foreign jurisdiction, the Appeals and Grievances Committee may recommend and the Grand Lodge may determine that the penalty of suspension or expulsion does not apply in Wisconsin only if the Mason's conduct upon which such discipline was based would not, in its judgment, have resulted in the imposition of such discipline in Wisconsin.
 - j) During any time that the Grand Lodge is not in session the Grand Master may take any action which the Grand Lodge is authorized to take under this section; provided, however, that any action by the Grand Master shall be reviewed by the Grand Lodge at the annual communication.
 - k) The Grand Secretary shall notify the foreign jurisdiction involved of any action taken by the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge pursuant to this section.

Chapter 109 Restoration of Membership

109.01 Action of Grand Lodge on Review of Trial Commission or Grand Master. If the action of the Grand Lodge changes the determination of a Trial Commission from guilty to not guilty of unmasonic conduct, any penalty imposed shall be voided. In such case, or if a penalty of suspension or expulsion imposed by a Trial Commission (or by the Grand Master pursuant to Sec. 101.03) is

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voided by the Grand Lodge, the Mason shall be restored to all rights and privileges of the Craft, *nunc pro tunc*, except that any Masonic office which was vacated and filled by a successor shall not be affected.

109.02 Action of Grand Lodge on Review of Foreign Jurisdiction. If the action of the Grand Lodge provides that a penalty of suspension or expulsion imposed by a foreign jurisdiction upon a member of a constituent lodge of the Grand Lodge does not apply in Wisconsin, the Mason shall be restored to all rights and privileges of the Craft in Wisconsin, *nunc pro tunc*, except that any Wisconsin Masonic office which was vacated and filled by a successor shall not be affected.

109.03 Suspensions. If a member has been suspended for a definite time, then, subject to previously meeting the requirements of section 109.04 of the Code, and after the expiration of the applicable period of suspension, as well as making payment of any unpaid dues for any remaining portion of the year, the Mason shall be restored to all rights and privileges of the Craft from that date forward.

109.04 Certain Resignations and Suspensions or Expulsions. An Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft or Master Mason in a constituent lodge of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin:

- a) Who resigns after the close of the 1992 annual communication of the Grand Lodge and is convicted of a felony or a sexual assault misdemeanor (either before or after such resignation), or who resigns for the good of Freemasonry or in lieu of charges being brought, or with terms of his resignation set forth in a letter addressed to the Grand Lodge and made a part of his permanent record.
- b) Who has been suspended or expelled by the Grand Lodge or by a foreign jurisdiction recognized by the Grand Lodge may petition the Grand Lodge for restoration of membership.
- c) Such petition shall be filed with the Grand Secretary, who shall promptly notify the Appeals and Grievances Committee who shall review the matter.
- d) Upon the request of the Appeals and Grievances Committee, the Grand Secretary shall attempt to obtain any additional information, including information from any former constituent lodge of which the petitioner was a member.
- e) The Appeals and Grievances Committee shall submit a written report to the Grand Lodge at its annual communication if the petition involves an expulsion, or to the Grand Master if it involves a suspension or a petition from one who resigned in lieu of charges being brought, together with the Committee's recommendation to:
 - 1) Grant the petition for restoration;
 - 2) Not grant the petition for restoration; or
 - 3) Set the matter over until the next annual communication, if involving an expulsion.
- f) Upon receipt of any recommendation of the Appeals and Grievances Committee regarding an expulsion, the Grand Lodge shall vote whether to adopt the recommendation at the next annual communication.

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- g) Upon receipt of any recommendation of the Appeals and Grievances Committee regarding a suspension, or a petition by one who has previously resigned in lieu of charges being brought, the Grand Master shall determine whether to accept or reject the suspension of the member on behalf of Grand Lodge.
- h) If the action of Grand Lodge or Grand Master results in an incomplete disposition of the matter, the Grand Lodge shall take such further action as is necessary to dispose of the matter.
- i) Action by the Grand Lodge as to expulsions and actions of the Grand Master as it relates to suspensions, or petitions from those who have resigned in lieu of charges being brought, shall be final and binding and not subject to further review. A petitioner who has been suspended, or has resigned in lieu of charges being brought, may only submit a petition for restoration once in any two-year period. A petitioner who has been expelled may only submit a petition once in any three-year period. Any waiting period to resubmit a petition for restoration referred to in this subsection may be waived by the Grand Master upon good cause shown.
- j) In reviewing the petition for restoration, the Appeals and Grievances Committee shall recommend restoration of Master Mason status only if it is in the best interest of the Craft that the petitioner's membership be restored, being mindful of the behavior of the petitioner during the period of expulsion or suspension, the improvement of his understanding of his Masonic Obligations, and such other considerations that ought reasonably to be considered, as being granted restoration of the status of a Master Mason is a privilege, not a right.
- k) This code section will be applicable to all persons who have been Master Masons but are in a revoked, suspended, or resigned in lieu of charges being brought status as of the date of its adoption at the 2015 annual communication.

109.05 Status of Restored Mason. If the Grand Lodge grants the petition for restoration, the petitioner shall become an unaffiliated Mason. He may petition any constituent lodge for affiliation.

Chapter 110 Forms

110.00 Grand Secretary Shall Prepare Forms. The Grand Secretary shall prepare such forms as may be appropriate for use in connection with Masonic trials, including the revision of any forms which may have been used prior to the adoption of this section.

APPENDIX

Part 1

Editor's Note: In the 1967 Masonic Code appeared certain Laws of the Grand Lodge, Chapter 39, relating to the Wisconsin Masonic Home (which is no longer regulated by the Masonic Code) 40, and 41, which while laws of the Grand Lodge, are not of general application. These are accordingly placed here in the Appendix, together with the general information such as The Wisconsin Statutes applicable to Masonry; A Table of Votes; Definitions; the Charges of a Freemason (Rev. James Anderson - Constitutions - 1723 edition); The Foundations of Masonic Law, including the Albert G. Mackey Landmarks and the Landmarks of Hon. Roscoe Pound (no Landmarks having ever been adopted by the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin, but they being worthy of study); the Code Forms and certain Resolutions adopted by the Grand Lodge which have the effect of Law. This Appendix, and the Annotations appearing also in this volume, should round out the knowledge of Masonic Law of a diligent student of these pages. We have also tried to expand and clarify the Index, so that one not too learned in the Law may find his way among the several segments of this book. May we add a word of admonition, however, to those who think that by knowing what is in this book that they are now in possession of the secrets of Masonry. These are written Laws anyone can read. The true Mason learns in his heart, by precept and example and the lessons taught in the degrees, learns Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth; learns of Hope, Love and Charity; learns of the Brotherhood of Man and the Fatherhood of God; in other words, learns of the spirit, not the legalism or the trappings of Masonry. These laws, these Rules, this Constitution, these writings all are but a staff to help a sincere and devoted Mason know the rules so that he can devote himself to his true task, to stand upright before God and man as a just and upright Mason, and may each of us ever walk and act as such. Sections 39, 40 were returned to their chronological order in the 1996 revision to eliminate confusion in the sequence of code section identifying numbers.

Wisconsin Statutes Relating To Masonry

188.01 The members of any grand lodge or division of any subordinate lodge or division acting under the authority of any Grand Lodge or division of Free Masons, may assemble at their usual place of meeting, and, in pursuance of the rules of their society, elect not less than three nor more than nine of their number trustees to take care of the property, real and personal, belonging thereto and transact all the business relative to the investment and disposal thereof.

188.02 Such trustees may have a common seal and alter the same at pleasure, and for all purposes for which they are authorized to act shall be deemed a corporation, and in pursuance of the rules and regulations of such society and in conformity with the rules and regulations of the Grand Lodge, division or society from which they derive their charter may take possession of, manage, control, purchase, lease, receive, recover, hold, sell, convey, mortgage, demise and improve all the property thereof or necessary therefore, real and personal, including all burial places belonging thereto, erect and keep in repair all buildings necessary therefore, and may sue and be sued in all matters pertaining to such property and the debts, claims, demands and liabilities thereof, and the name in which they shall sue or be sued shall be, "The trustees of (name the Grand Lodge, lodge, division, grange or society of which they are trustees).

188.03 All the real and personal property that shall have been conveyed by devise, gift, grant, purchase or otherwise to any such society or to any person as trustee for the use thereof shall vest in such trustees and their successors in office as fully as if originally conveyed to them, and shall be held by them and by their successors in trust for such society in the manner aforesaid.

188.04 Such trustees shall be elected annually at such time and place and in such manner as shall be prescribed by the rules or by-laws of such society, and they shall severally hold their offices for one year and until their successors are elected; but any such society, at the first or any subsequent election, may classify such trustees so that the term of office of one-third of them shall expire each year; and when so classified the term of office of the trustees thereafter elected shall be three years and until their successors are elected. Any such trustee may be removed in accordance with the rules or by-laws of such society, and all vacancies may be filled for the residue of the term. Any two of such trustees may call a meeting thereof, and a majority of them being convened may transact any business authorized to be done by them. Whenever any subordinate grange of the Patrons of Husbandry shall from any cause cease to exist the trustees then in office shall immediately sell the property thereof and divide the proceeds pro rata among its members.

132.16

Any association, lodge, order, fraternal society, beneficial association, or fraternal and beneficial society ... the principles and activities of which are not repugnant to the constitution and laws of the United States or of this state, may register, in the office of the secretary of state, a facsimile, duplicate, or description of its name, badge, motto, button, decoration, charm, emblem, rosette or other insignia, and may, by re-registration, alter or cancel the same.

Application for such registration, alteration or cancellation shall be made by the chief officer or officers of said association, lodge, order, fraternal society ... upon blanks to be provided by the secretary of state; and such registration shall be for the use, benefit, and on behalf of all associations, degrees, branches, subordinate lodges, and auxiliaries of said association, lodge, order, fraternal society ... and the individual members and those hereafter to become members thereof, throughout this state. (Then appear several provisions for keeping a properly indexed file, issuing a certificate, etc.)

Any person who shall willfully wear, exhibit, display, print, or use, for any purpose, the badge, motto, button, decoration, charm, emblem, rosette, or other insignia of any such association or organization, herein mentioned, duly registered hereunder, unless he or she

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shall be entitled to use and wear the same under the constitution and bylaws, rules and regulations of such association and organization, shall be guilty of misdemeanor, and, upon conviction shall be punished by a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars, and, in default of payment, committed to jail for a period of not to exceed sixty days.

132.17 Certain badges; penalty for unauthorized wearing. Any person who shall willfully wear the insignia, rosette, or badge or any imitation thereof, of Free Masons, or of any other society, order or organization operating under the lodge system, of ten years standing in the State of Wisconsin or of any duly incorporated fraternal... organization which willfully use the same to obtain aid or assistance thereby within this state, or shall willfully use the name of such society, order or organization, the titles of its officers, or its insignia, unless he shall be entitled to use or wear the same under the constitution, bylaws, rules and regulations thereof, shall be imprisoned not more than 30 days or fined not exceeding \$20, or both. (October 1, 1989)

943.38 Forgery. (3) Whoever, with intent to defraud, does any of the following may be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than 9 months or both. Class A misdemeanor.

d. Falsely makes or alters a membership card purporting to be that of a fraternal, business or professional association; or possesses any such card knowing it to have been thereto falsely made or altered and with intent to use it or cause or permit its use to deceive another ...

APPENDIX

Part 2

DEFINITIONS

(Largely From Mackey's Encyclopedia)

Affiliated — Being a member of a lodge.

A.L., Anno Lucis — In the year of Light.

Ancient Craft Masonry — The degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason.

Anniversaries — St. John the Baptist, June 24th, and St. John the Evangelist, December 27th.

Clear on the Books — When a member is not indebted to his lodge.

Clear of Charges — When no charges for unMasonic conduct are pending against a brother.

Form, Ample — When the Grand Master presides.

Form, Due — When the Deputy Grand Master presides.

Form — When neither the Grand Master nor Deputy Grand Master presides.

Initiated, Accepted or Made a Mason — Receiving the Entered Apprentice degree.

Material — A person who is qualified to petition for the degrees or one whose petition has been received but who has not yet been initiated.

Master's Carpet — A painting or diagram representing the emblems of Ancient Craft Masonry.

Natal Day — The day on which a lodge is constituted and receives its charter.

Passed-- Receiving the Fellowcraft degree.

Past Master, Actual — One who has been duly installed and has served as Master in a chartered lodge.

Past Master, Virtual — One who has received the degree of Past Master.

Permanent Member, See 8.07.

Plural Membership — Regular membership in two or more lodges at the same time.

Profane — One who is not a Mason. (in some jurisdictions)

Raised — Receiving the Master Mason degree.

Suspension, Definite — Deprivation for a definite period of all the rights and privileges of Masonry, upon trial and conviction.

Suspension, Indefinite — Suspension for an indefinite period.

Work — A candidate who has received one or more degrees, but is yet to be advanced.

APPENDIX

Part 3

TABLE OF VOTES

In Grand Lodge

No Vote - Delegates of lodges under dispensation	5.02
One Vote Each - Grand Officers, Past Grand Officers and Grand Trustees	8.01
One Vote Each - Representatives	8.03
Three Votes - Each chartered lodge represented	8.01
Dual Vote - Not permitted	8.02
Vote of Absentee - Cast by ranking officers or proxy	8.03
Vote by Proxy - As many votes as he holds proxies	8.04
Vote by Lodges - When demanded by fifty members	8.05
Majority Vote - In all cases not otherwise provided	8.06
To Approve Grand Master's Decisions	21.03
To Approve Edicts	21.03
Two-Thirds Vote –	
To introduce new business after 12 o'clock noon on second day	38.01
To suspend Rules	38.01 (15)
Three-Fourths Vote –	
To amend Constitution at any communication	10.02
To amend Masonic Code at any communication	21.03
Reconsideration of Vote - When and how made	38.01 (11)
Final Vote – Effect	38.01 (12)

In Lodges

Majority Vote - To change name of lodge	52.07
To change location of lodge	52.07
To fix penalty in Trial by commission	106.15
In all cases unless otherwise provided	71.15
Two-Thirds Vote - To give consent for new lodge	51.05
To suspend for non-payment of dues	81.09
To consolidate lodges	53.02
To surrender charter	54.03
To fix annual dues	80.02
Three-Fourths Vote - For advancement after objection	75.03
To elect candidate in default	76.05
To restore suspended Mason	81.14
For affiliation	83.14
Four-Fifths Vote - For Surrender of Jurisdiction	79.05
Unanimous Vote - For conviction in Trial by Commission	106.14
Clear Ballot - To elect petitioner for degrees	71.06

APPENDIX

Part 4

RESOLUTIONS OF IMPORTANCE

To Control Distribution of Ballots and Segregate Visitors (Adopted 1957 - Resolution No. 8)

BE IT RESOLVED, that

Duly elected, qualified officers of the various constituent lodges, or their recognized proxies, be segregated at Grand Lodge sessions to a certain specific voting area; and,

That visitors, or non-voting delegates, or non-recognized proxies, be similarly restricted from such areas; and,

That tellers offer ballots only to delegates identified by location as specified in sub-paragraph "1" above; and,

That voting delegates, or their legal proxies, be further identified by distinctive badges issued by the Grand Lodge at time of registration.

Contribution To Welfare Work of Masonic Service Association U.S. (Adopted 1971 - Resolution No. 4)

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin shall from this day henceforth, until further revised, modified, or repealed by this Grand Lodge, contribute at the rate of twenty-five cents (\$.25) per member based on the membership as of December 31 in each year to the Welfare Department of the Masonic Service Association of the United States for its veterans' hospital visitation program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the sum so appropriated shall be paid from the Charity Fund of this Grand Lodge.

Masonic Medical Foundation of Wisconsin, Inc. (Adopted 1971 - Resolution No. 11)

This Resolution approved the solicitation of funds for, and authorized the Grand Lodge officers to proceed with the details proposed in a Memorandum of Intent with Evangelical Deaconess Society relating to a Masonic Medical Institute.

Lease to Church (Adopted 1974 - Resolution No. 5)

This Resolution expands to five (5) acres land at Dousman, leased for a nominal rent, land previously leased to St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

Masonic Medical Foundation of Wisconsin, Inc. (Adopted 1980 - Resolution No. 8)

This Resolution authorized the Grand Lodge trustees to loan funds to the Masonic Medical Foundation of Wisconsin, Inc.

APPENDIX

Part 4

RESOLUTIONS OF IMPORTANCE

Wisconsin Masonic Home, Inc. (Adopted 1981 - Resolution No. 17)

This Resolution authorized:

The Grand Trustees and the Grand Lodge Officers, upon approval of the Grand Master, for the construction of an 84-bed Health Care Center at Dousman on property owned by the Grand Lodge, to:

Execute on behalf of the Grand Lodge guarantees not to exceed \$4,000,000 of the obligations to be entered into by the Wisconsin Masonic Home, Inc.;

Execute a mortgage on all real estate leased to the Wisconsin Masonic Home, Inc.;

Deed or lease to the Wisconsin Masonic Home, Inc., property in Dousman, Wisconsin of approximately 40 acres;

Execute documents as necessary or desirable in connection with this project.

Upon approval of the Grand Master to amend or waive Sec. 33.02 to facilitate financing of the new Health Care Center.

Requirement for Accountability (Adopted 1985 - Resolution No. 11)

This Resolution required:

Change of procedures from investigating to interviewing of candidates for degrees.

Accountability for the casting of a negative vote

Timely reporting

Reference of reasons for negative vote to Grand Master

Wisconsin Masonic Home, Inc. (Adopted 1991-Resolution No. 9)

39.02 The Grand Lodge hereby approves of the lease to Wisconsin Masonic Home, Inc. of the following described premises, situated in the County of Waukesha, State of Wisconsin, including all improvements thereon, and furniture, fixtures and appurtenances thereto, to-wit:

Premises known as Wisconsin Masonic Home, located at Dousman, Wisconsin, consisting of approximately 10 acres of land.

Such lease may be for a period of 99 years at a rental rate of \$1.00 per year, and under the terms and conditions of a lease signed by the Grand Master, and attested to by the Grand Secretary, and signed by an authorized officer or director of Wisconsin Masonic Home, Inc. The Grand Lodge further authorizes the amendment, change, or alteration of such a lease, as agreed upon by the parties thereto from time to time.

Sale to Church (Adopted 2006 – Resolution No. 8)

This Resolution approved:

The sale of approximately 9 acres of land as negotiated by the Grand Lodge Trustees to St. Mary's Episcopal Church of Dousman, Wisconsin for the sum of \$400,000. Said lands consist of two parcels, located in the Southeast ¼ of Section 34, Township 7 North, Range 17 East, in the Town of Summit, County of Waukesha, State of Wisconsin and more particularly described in the Lawyers Title Insurance Corp of Waukesha, Title Insurance Commitment Case #WA 255231

Prince Hall Recognition - Expanded (Adopted 2008 – Grand Masters Edict Adopted by Body)

37.04 Recognition of Prince Hall Grand Lodges: The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in the State of Wisconsin grants fraternal recognition to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodges in all states within the United States that are recognized by the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Wisconsin, Inc. and who also been granted recognition by the Most Worshipful or Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons or Ancient Free and Accepted Masons in that jurisdiction that is recognized by the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin

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Prince Hall Full Recognition (Adopted June 2019)

37.05 Lodge Visitations and Plural Membership. This Grand Lodge recognizes the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Wisconsin, Inc. and welcomes Lodge visitation, and plural memberships from its Members who are in good standing and maintain their primary membership with their Prince Hall Grand Lodge.

37.06 Primary Membership. No member of this Grand Lodge or Prince Hall Grand Lodge may have more than one Primary Membership. It may either be in this Grand Lodge or a Prince Hall Grand Lodge. A member, if otherwise qualified, may resign from Primary Membership in one Grand Lodge and become a Primary member in the other. Primary membership is determined by the Grand Secretaries of the two Grand Jurisdictions, at the time a Mason petitions for plural membership across jurisdictional lines.

37.07 Visitation. Visitation by members of a Prince Hall Grand Lodge is welcome and encouraged and will be managed in the same way and under the same auspices as visitation is done between any Mason and any Lodge within this Grand jurisdiction. The presentation of a current dues card from a Prince Hall Grand Lodge and a form of picture ID will suffice in all cases.

37.08 Plural Memberships. Members of a Prince Hall Grand Lodge may petition for membership in any Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction under the same rules and procedures that are currently in place for Plural Memberships, under this Masonic Code, for those that are members of this Grand Lodge. Once Plural Membership has been granted, the member from a Prince Hall Grand Lodge shall have the same rights and privileges as any other plural member in that Lodge, to include serving as an Officer or a Trustee, if otherwise elected or appointed.

Petition Process Change (Adopted 2018 – Grand Masters Decision)

68.03, 68.05 & 68.08 removed and replace by 68.09

68.09 Petition Process. When a Petition for the degrees of Freemasonry is presented to a lodge it shall be immediately forwarded to the Grand Lodge office where a background investigation is performed, normally within two working days. If the investigation reveals a felony it is forwarded to the Grand Master for further review and determination. The Grand Master may refuse to accept the Petition, if so it will be returned to the lodge. The Petition must then be returned to the applicant. If the Grand Master accepts the petition, the cleared Petition is returned to the Master of the Lodge who may refuse to entertain it and may order it returned to the applicant. If the Petition is not returned, the Master shall declare that it is received, which declaration shall constitute the act of receiving the Petition by the lodge.

Once the Petition is declared received the Master shall immediately refer it to a committee of three for an interview, which should be conducted prior to the next stated communication. At the next stated communication following the interview, the Petition and the report of the Interview committee must be presented in open lodge. The Petition must then be balloted on unless withdrawn by the Petitioner prior to the ballot

Part 5

THE CHARGES OF A FREE-MASON

Extracted From The Ancient RECORDS of Lodges beyond Sea,
and of those in England, Scotland, and Ireland, for the Use of the Lodges in London:
To Be Read At the Making of New Brethren, or When the MASTER shall order it.

The General Heads, VIZ:

Of God and Religion.

Of the Civil Magistrate supreme and Subordinate.

Of Lodges.

Of Masters, Wardens, Fellows and Apprentices.

Of the Management of the Craft in working.

Of Behavior, viz.

In the Lodge while constituted.

After the Lodge is over and the Brethren not gone.

When Brethren meet without Strangers, but not in a Lodge.

In Presence of Strangers not Masons.

Revised June 2018

APPENDIX

At Home and in the Neighborhood.
Towards a Strange Brother.

I. Concerning God and Religion

A Mason is oblig'd, by his Tenure, to obey the moral Law; and if he rightly understands the Art, he will never be a stupid Atheist, nor an irreligious Libertine. But though in ancient Times, Masons were charg'd in every Country to be of the Religion of that Country or Nation, whatever it was, yet 'tis now thought more expedient only to oblige them to that Religion in which all Men agree, leaving their particular Opinions to themselves; that is, to be good Men and true or Men of Honour and Honesty, by whatever Denominations or Persuasions they may be distinguish'd; whereby Masonry becomes the Center of Union and the means of conciliating true Friendship among Persons that must have remain'd at a perpetual Distance.

II. Of the Civil Magistrate Supreme and Subordinate

A Mason is a peaceable Subject to the Civil Powers, wherever he resides or works, and is never to be concern'd in Plots and Conspiracies against the Peace and Welfare of the Nation, nor to behave himself undutifully to inferior Magistrates; for as Masonry hath been always injured by War, Bloodshed, and Confusion, so ancient Kings and Princes have been much dispos'd to encourage the Craftsmen, because of their Peaceableness and Loyalty whereby they practically answer'd the Cavils of their Adversaries, and promoted the Honour of the Fraternity, who ever flourish'd in Times of Peace. So that if a Brother should be a Rebel against the State, he is not to be countenanc'd in his Rebellion, however he may be pitied as an unhappy Man; and, if convicted of no other Crime, though the loyal Brotherhood must and ought to disown his Rebellion, and give no Umbrage or Ground of political jealousy to the Government for the time being, they cannot expel him from the Lodge, and his Relation to it remains indefeasible.

III. Of Lodges

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

The persons admitted Members of a Lodge must be good and true Men, freeborn, and of mature and discreet Age, no Bondmen, no Women, no immoral or scandalous Men, but of good Report.

THE CHARGES OF A FREE-MASON

IV. Of Masters, Wardens, Fellows, and Apprentices

All Preferment among Masons is grounded upon real Worth and personal Merit only; that so the Lords may be well served, the Brethren not put to Shame, nor the Royal Craft despis'd: Therefore no Master or Warden is chosen by Seniority, but for his Merit. It is impossible to describe these things in writing, and every Brother must attend in his Place, and learn them in a way peculiar to this Fraternity: Only Candidates may know, that no Master should take an Apprentice, unless he has sufficient employment for him, and unless he be a perfect Youth, having no Maim or Defect in his Body, that may render him incapable of learning the Art, of serving his Master's Lord, and of being made a Brother, and then a Fellowcraft in due time, even after he has served such a Term of years as the Custom of the Country directs; and that he should be descended of honest Parents; that so, when otherwise qualify'd, he made arrive to the Honour of being the Warden, and then the Master of the Lodge, the Grand Warden, and at length the Grand-Master of all the Lodges, according to his Merit.

No Brother can be a Warden until he has pass'd the part of a Fellowcraft; nor a Master until he has acted as a Warden, nor Grand Warden until he has been Master of a Lodge, nor Grand Master unless he has been a Fellowcraft, before his Election, who is also to be nobly born, or a Gentleman of the best Fashion, or some eminent Scholar, or some curious Architect, or other Artist, descended of honest Parents, and who is of singular great Merit in the Opinion of the Lodges. And for the better, and easier, and more honourable Discharge of his Office, the Grand Master has a Power to choose his own Deputy Grand Master, who must be then, or must have been formerly, the Master of a particular Lodge, and has the Privilege of acting whatever the Grand Master, his Principal, should act, unless the said Principal be present, or interpose his Authority by a Letter.

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

Of the Management of the Craft in Working

All Masons shall work honestly on working Days, that they may live creditably on holy Days; and the time appointed by the Law of the Land, or confirm'd by Custom, shall be observ'd.

APPENDIX

The most expert of the Fellowcraftsmen shall be chosen or appointed the Master, or Overseer of the Lord's Work; who is to be call'd Master by those that work under him. The Craftsmen are to avoid all ill Language, and to call each other by no disobliging Name, but Brother or Fellow; and to behave themselves courteously within and without the Lodge.

The Master, knowing himself to be able of Cunning, shall undertake the Lord's Work as reasonably as possible, and truly dispend his Goods as if they were his own; nor to give more Wages to any Brother or Apprentice than he really may deserve.

Both the Master and the Masons receiving their Wages justly, shall be faithful to the Lord, and honestly finish their Work, whether Task or Journey; nor put the Work to Task that hath been accustom'd to Journey.

None shall discover Envy at the prosperity of a Brother, nor supplant him, or put him out of his Work, if he be capable to finish the same; for no Man can finish another's Work so much to the Lord's Profit, unless he be thoroughly acquainted with the Designs and Draughts of him that began it.

When a Fellowcraftsman is chosen Warden of the Work under the Master, he shall be true both to Master and Fellows, shall carefully oversee the Work in the Master's Absence to the Lord's Profit; and his Brethren shall obey him.

All Masons employ'd shall meekly receive their Wages without Murmuring or Mutiny, and not desert the Master till the Work is finish'd.

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

All the Tools used in working shall be approved by the Grand Lodge.

No Labourer shall be employ'd in the proper Work of Masonry; nor shall Free Masons work with those that are not free, without an urgent Necessity; nor shall they teach Labourers and unaccepted Masons, as they should teach a Brother or Fellow.

APPENDIX

THE CHARGES OF A FREE-MASON

VI. Of Behaviour, Viz.:

In the Lodge While Constituted

You are not to hold private Committees, or separate Conversation, without Leave from the Master, nor to talk of anything impertinent or unseemly, nor interrupt the Master or Wardens, or any Brother speaking to the Master: Nor behave yourself ludicrously or jestingly while the Lodge is engaged in what is serious and solemn; nor use any unbecoming Language upon any Pretence whatsoever; but to pay due Reverence to your Master, Wardens, and Fellows, and put them to worship.

If any Complaint be brought, the Brother found guilty shall stand to the Award and Determination of the Lodge, who are the proper and competent Judges of all such Controversies, (unless you carry it by Appeal to the Grand Lodge) and to whom they ought to be refer'd, unless a Lord's Work be hinder'd the mean while, in which Case a particular Reference may be made; but you must never go to Law about what concerneth Masonry, without an absolute Necessity apparent to the Lodge.

2. Behaviour After the Lodge is Over and the Brethren Not Gone

You may enjoy yourselves with innocent Mirth, treating one another according to Ability, but avoiding all Excess, or forcing any Brother to eat or drink beyond his Inclination, or hindering him from going when his Occasions call him, or doing or saying any thing offensive, or that may forbid an easy and free Conversation; for that would blast our Harmony, and defeat our laudable Purposes. Therefore no private Piques or Quarrels must be brought within the Door of the Lodge, far less any Quarrels about Religion, or Nations, or State Policy, we being only, as Masons, of the Catholick Religion above-mention'd; we are also of all Nations, Tongues, Kindreds, and Languages, and are resolv'd against all Politicks, as what never yet conduc'd to the Welfare of the Lodge, nor ever will. This Charge has been always strictly enjoin'd and observ'd; but especially ever since the Reformation in Britain, or the Dissent and Secession of these Nations from the Communion of Rome.

3. Behaviour when Brethren Meet Without Strangers, but Not in a Lodge Form'd

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

4. Behaviour in Presence of Strangers Not Masons

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

5. Behaviour at Home and in Your Neighborhood

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

APPENDIX

THE CHARGES OF A FREE-MASON

6. Behavior Towards a Strange Brother

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

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

Finally, All these Charges you are to observe, and also those that shall be communicated to you in another way; cultivating Brotherly-Love, the Foundation and Capestone, the Cement and Glory of this ancient Fraternity, avoiding all Wrangling and Quarrelling, all Slander and Backbiting, nor permitting others to slander any honest Brother, but defending his Character, and doing him all good Offices, as far as is consistent with your Honour and Safety, and no farther. And if any of them do you injury, you must apply to your own or his Lodge; and from thence you may appeal to the Grand Lodge at the Quarterly Communication, and from thence to the annual Grand Lodge, as has been the ancient laudable Conduct of our Forefathers in every Nation; never taking a legal Course but when the Case can not be otherwise decided, and patiently listening to the honest and friendly Advice of Master and Fellows, when they would prevent your going to Law with Strangers, or would excite you to put a speedy Period to all Law Suits, that so you may mind the Affair of Masonry with the more Alacrity and Success; but with respect to Brothers or Fellows at Law, the Master and Brethren should kindly offer their Mediation, which ought to be thankfully submitted to by the contending Brethren; and if that Submission is impracticable, they must however carry on their Process, or Law Suit, without Wrath or Rancor (not in the common way) saying or doing nothing which may hinder Brotherly Love, and good Offices to be renew'd and con-tinu'd; that all may see the benign Influence of Masonry, as all true Masons have done from the Beginning of the World, and will do to the end of Time.

Amen So Mote It Be.

The origin of The Charges of a Free-Mason is found in the following extracts from the second (1738) Edition of Rev. James Anderson's Constitutions:

29 Sept. 1721 — "His Grace's Worship (Duke of Montagu) and the Lodge (Grand Lodge of England) finding fault with all the Copies of the old Gothic Constitutions, order'd Brother James Anderson, A. M., to digest the same in a new and better Method."

27 Dec. 1721 — "Montagu, Grand Master, at the Desire of the Lodge, appointed 14 learned Brothers to examine Brother Anderson's Manuscript, and to make Report."

25 March, 1722 — "The said Committee of 14 reported that they had perused Brother Anderson's Manuscript, viz., the History, Charges, Regulations and Master Song, and after some Amendments has approv'd of it: Upon which the Lodge desir'd the Grand Master to order it to be print'd."

12 January, 1723 — "G. Warden Anderson produced the new book of Constitutions now in Print, which was again approv'd, with the addition of the ancient Manner of Constituting a Lodge."

These Charges herein printed as they appear in Rev. James Anderson's 'Constitutions' (1723 Edition), have always been held in the highest veneration by the Craft, as embodying the most important points of the ancient Written as well as Unwritten Law of Masonry.

APPENDIX

Part 6

LANDMARKS

THE FOUNDATIONS OF MASONIC LAW

The Ancient Landmarks have been controversially debated since the beginning of organized Masonry and no full agreement has yet been reached on just how many Landmarks there are and which ones are the basis of our unwritten laws. Nevertheless, the Landmarks are universally recognized as the fundamental laws of the fraternity and they are generally held to be universally unalterable and unrepealable. They have been so intimately woven into the fabric of Masonry that no one may detract from them or do anything else but to live by and obey them.

Some Grand Jurisdictions have adopted the twenty-five Landmarks of Albert G. Mackey, others more and others less. We in Wisconsin have never officially adopted any of the Landmarks but we do say in our Constitution of the Grand Lodge that we are the supreme Masonic authority in the State of Wisconsin subject only to the Ancient Landmarks.

In recent years students of Masonic jurisprudence have given considerable weight to the Ancient Landmarks as defined by Roscoe Pound, Past Honorary Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, Past Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts and Dean of Harvard Law School.

We present in this revised edition of the Masonic Code of the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin the Ancient Landmarks according to both Mackey and Pound.

APPENDIX

THE LANDMARKS, OR THE UNWRITTEN LAW

By Albert G. Mackey

Sir William Blackstone commences his Commentaries on the Laws of England with the succinct definition, that “law, in its most general and comprehensive sense, signifies a rule of action, and is applied to all kinds of action, whether animate or inanimate, rational or irrational.” It is in this sense that we speak of the laws of a country as being those rules, whether derived from positive enactment of the legislative authority, or from long-established custom, by which the conduct of its citizens or subjects is regulated.

So, too, societies, which are but empires, kingdoms, or republics in miniature, are also controlled by rules of action which are, to their respective members, as perfect laws as the statutes of the realm. And hence Freemasonry, as the most ancient and universal of all societies, is governed by its laws or rules of action, which either spring out of its organization, and are based upon its long established customs and usages, or which are derived from the enactment of its superintending tribunals.

This difference in the origin of the Laws of Masonry leads to a threefold division of them, as follows:

1. Landmarks
2. General Regulations
3. Local Regulations

The writers on municipal law have made a division of all laws into unwritten and written — the “leges non-scriptae” and “leges scriptae.”¹ Applying these terms to the threefold division of Masonic Law, we should say that the unwritten laws or customs of Masonry constitute its Landmarks, and that the written law is to be obtained in the regulations made by the supreme Masonic authority, and which are either general or local, as the authority which enacted them was either general or local in its character.

Of the nature of the Landmarks of Masonry, there has been some diversity of opinion among writers;² but perhaps the safest method is to restrict them to those ancient, and therefore universal customs of the Craft, which either gradually grew into operation as rules of action, or if at once enacted by any competent authority; were enacted at a period so remote, that no account of their origin is to be found in the records of history. Both the enactors and the time of the enactment have passed away from the record, and the Landmarks are therefore “of higher antiquity than memory or history can reach.”

The first requisite, therefore, of a custom or rule of action to constitute it a Landmark is, that it must have existed from “time whereof the memory of man runneth not to the contrary.”³ Its antiquity is its essential element. Were it possible for all the Masonic authorities at the present day to unite in a universal congress, and with the most perfect unanimity to adopt any new regulation, although such regulation would, so long as it remained unrepealed, be obligatory on the whole Craft, yet it would not be a Landmark. It would have the character of universality, it is true, but it would be wanting in that of antiquity.

Another peculiarity of these Landmarks of Masonry is, that they are unrepealable. As the congress to which I have just alluded would not have the power to enact a Landmark, so neither would it have the prerogative of abolishing one. The Landmarks of the Craft, like the laws of the Medes and the Persians, can suffer no change. What they were centuries ago, they still remain, and must so continue in force until Masonry itself shall cease to exist.

¹ Blackstone defines the “unwritten laws” as those whose “original institution and authority are not set down in writing, as acts of parliament are, but receive their binding power and the force of laws by long and immemorial usage, and by their universal reception throughout the kingdom.” And he defines the “written laws” to be the “statutes, acts or edicts made by and with the advice and consent of the lords spiritual and temporal and commons in parliament assembled.” — Comment, Introd., §3. The civil law of the Romans made a similar distinction into the “jus scriptum” and the “jus nonscriptum,” the latter or unwritten law being also called the “jus moribus constitutum,” or the law rounded on “consuetudo inveterata,” or immemorial custom. The Hebrews, too, had their double set of laws, the written, which are found in the Pentateuch, and the oral, said to have been given by God to Moses, to be by him orally communicated to Aaron and the elders, and thence traditionally handed down to future generations.

² “With respect to the Landmarks of Masonry, some restrict them to the O. B., signs, tokens and words. Others include the ceremonies of initiation, passing and raising; and the form, dimensions and supports; the ground, situation and covering; the ornaments, furniture and jewels of a Lodge, or their characteristic symbols. Some think that the Craft has no Landmarks beyond its peculiar secrets.” — Oliver, Diet. Symb. Mas. All these are loose and unsatisfactory definitions, excluding things that are essential, and admitting others that are non-essential.

³ Blackstone says, (Introd. §3) “the goodness of a custom depends upon its having been used time out of mind; or in the solemnity of our legal phrase, time whereof the memory of man runneth not to the contrary. This it is that gives it its weight and authority.” All this may be applied in the precise terms to the Landmarks of Freemasonry.

APPENDIX

MACKEY'S LANDMARKS

It is fortunate for the stability of Masonry, that Landmarks so unchangeable should exist; they stand in the way of innovations controlling and checking them,⁴ and if sometimes inadvertently violated, are ever bringing the reflective and conscientious Mason back again under their influence, and preserving that general uniformity of character and design which constitutes the true universality of the institution. But it is equally fortunate for the prosperity of the Craft, and for its capacity of keeping up with the progress of the age, that these Landmarks are few in number. They are sufficiently numerous to act as bulwarks against innovations, but not sufficient to stand in the way of needful reform⁵

The Landmarks of Masonry, so far as I have been enabled to compute them, after the most careful examination, amount only to twenty-five in number, and are as follows:

Landmark First

The modes of recognition are, of all the Landmarks, the most legitimate and unquestioned.⁶ They admit of no variation; and if ever they have suffered alteration or addition, the evil of such a violation of the ancient law has always made itself subsequently manifest. An admission of this is to be found in the proceedings of the late Masonic Congress at Paris, where a proposition was presented to render these modes of recognition once more universal⁷ a proposition which never would have been necessary, if the integrity of this important Landmark had been rigorously preserved.

Landmark Second

The division of symbolic Masonry into three degrees,⁸ is a Landmark that has been better preserved than almost any other, although even here the mischievous spirit of innovation has left its traces, and by the disruption of its concluding portion from the third degree,⁹ a want of uniformity has been created in respect to the final teaching of the Master's degree; and the Royal Arch of England, Scotland, Ireland and America, and the "high degrees" of France and Germany, are all made to differ in the mode in which they lead the neophyte to the great consummation of all symbolic Masonry.¹⁰ In 1813, the Grand Lodge of England vindicated the ancient Landmark, by solemnly enacting that Ancient Craft Masonry consisted of the three degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason, including the Holy Royal Arch.¹¹ But the disruption has never been healed, and the Landmark, although acknowledged in its integrity by all, still continues to be violated.

⁴"The preservation of the ancient customs is a very considerable point in respect to manners. Since a corrupt people seldom perform any memorable actions, seldom establish societies, build cities or enact laws; on the contrary, since most institutions are derived from people of simple or severe morals; to recall men to the ancient maxims is generally recalling them to virtue." — Montesquieu's Spirit of Laws, V. vii.

⁵"The fundamental principles of Freemasonry are, it is true, the same now that they were in the very beginning of the institution, and must always continue the same. And yet there can be no doubt that, like every other science, Freemasonry is progressive in its character. It must of necessity be influenced by the progress of the age. Even now it is in a transition state in this country, passing from the simple social condition which it presented less than half a century ago to the character of scientific and philosophical association. For proof of this, look to the Grand Lodge proceedings of 1815 and 1858. With the progress of literary improvement, the Landmarks do not interfere.

⁶Smith says that at the institution of the Craft to each of the degrees, "a particular distinguishing test was adopted, which test, together with the explication, was accordingly settled and communicated to the fraternity previous to their dispersion, under a necessary and solemn injunction to secrecy; and they have been most cautiously preserved and transmitted down to posterity by faithful brethren ever since their emigration." — Use and Abuse of Freemasonry, p. 46.

⁷That proposition is contained in the 7th resolution of the Congress, and is in these words: "Masters of Lodges, in conferring the degree of Master Mason, should invest the candidate with the words, signs and grips of the Scottish and Modern rites." If the Landmark had never been violated, the resolution would have been unnecessary. The symbolic degrees being the foundation of all Masonry, should never have been permitted to differ in any of the rites.

⁸Smith thus accounts for this Landmark: "Though there were no apprentices employed in the building of the temple, yet as the craftsmen were all intended to be promoted to the degree of Masters, after its dedication; and as these would receive a succession by receiving apprentices, who might themselves in due time become Masters, it was determined that the graduations in the science should consist in three distinct degrees." — Use and Abuse of Freemasonry, p. 46, Lond., 1783.

⁹Dr. Oliver says that "the difference between the ancient and modern systems (that is, between the ancient and modern Lodges in the 18th century) consisted solely in the mutilation of the third degree." See "Some Account of the Schism." etc., which contains a full relation of this disruption of the Royal Arch from the Master's degree.

¹⁰The true word, which is the symbol of divine truth, is the greatest object of Freemasonry. Any system without it must be imperfect; and therefore in all the various rites, and I might almost say that their name was legion, this true word is sought for, but the search is in each prosecuted in a different way, which really constitutes the essential difference of the Masonic rites.

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¹¹ It is declared and pronounced that pure ancient Masonry consists of three degrees, and no more; viz.: those of the Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft and the Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch. — Articles of Union between the two Grand Lodges of England, 1813. Art. ii.

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Landmark Third

The legend of the third degree is an important Landmark, the integrity of which has been well preserved.¹² There is no rite in Masonry, practiced in any country or language, in which the essential elements of this legend are not taught. The lectures may vary, and indeed are constantly changing, but the legend has ever remained substantially the same. And it is necessary that it should be so, for the legend of the Temple Builder constitutes the very essence and identity of Masonry. Any rite which should exclude it, or materially alter it, would at once, by that exclusion or alteration, cease to be a Masonic rite.

Landmark Fourth

The government of the fraternity, by a presiding officer called a Grand Master, who is elected from the body of the Craft, is a fourth Landmark of the Order.¹³ Many persons ignorantly suppose that the election of the Grand Master is held in consequence of a law or regulation of the Grand Lodge. Such, however, is not the case.¹⁴ The office is indebted for its existence to a Landmark of the Craft. Grand Masters are to be found in the records of the institution long before Grand Lodges were established: and if the present system of legislative government by Grand Lodges were to be abolished, a Grand Master would still be necessary. In fact, although there has been a period within the records of history, and indeed of very recent date, when a Grand Lodge was unknown, there never has been a time when the Craft did not have their Grand Master.¹⁵

Landmark Fifth

The prerogative of the Grand Master to preside over every assembly of the Craft, wheresoever and whensoever held, is a Fifth Landmark. It is in consequence of this law, derived from ancient usage, and not from any special enactment, that the Grand Master assumes the chair, or as it is called in England, "the throne," at every communication of the Grand Lodge;¹⁶ and that he is also entitled to preside at the communication of every Subordinate Lodge, where he may happen to be present.¹⁷

Landmark Sixth

The prerogative of the Grand Master to grant dispensations for conferring degrees at irregular times, is another and a very important Landmark. The statutory law of Masonry requires a month, or other determinate period, to elapse between the presentation of a petition and the election of a candidate. But the Grand Master has the power to set aside or dispense with this probation, and to allow a candidate to be initiated at once. This prerogative he possessed in common with all Masters,¹⁸ before the enactment of the law requiring a probation, and as no statute can impair his prerogative, he still retains the power, although the Masters of Lodges no longer possess it.

¹²"After the union of speculative and operative Masonry, and when the temple of Solomon was completed, a legend of sublime and symbolic meaning was introduced into the system, which is still retained, and consequently known to all Master Masons." — Oliver, *Landmarks*, vol. ii., p. 169.

¹³"No brother can be a Warden, until he has passed the part of a Fellow Craft; nor a Master, until he has acted as Warden; nor Grand Warden, until he has been Master of a Lodge; nor Grand Master, unless he has been a Fellow Craft before his election." — *Old Charges*, iv. 14

¹⁴"The mode and time of his election is, in modern times, prescribed by a regulation of the Grand Lodge, it is true, but the office itself exists independently of any such regulation. When installed into office, it is not as the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, but as the "Grand Master of Masons."

— See Anderson's *Constitution*, 2d edit. *passim*. The earliest references to the office in English Masonry is in the time of the Emperor Carausius, in the third century, who, as Preston states, "granted the Masons a charter. and commanded Albanus to preside over them in person as Grand Master."

— Preston *Illustrations*, p. 125. Oliv. edit.

¹⁵"The Grand Master is not a creation of the General Regulations, the Ancient Charges or Written Constitutions. He existed when all those that we know anything of were made." — *Corn. of Correspond*, G. L. N.Y. 1851.

¹⁶The Thirty-nine General Regulations, adopted in 1721, acknowledged this Landmark in the following words: "The Grand Lodge consists of and is formed by the Master and Wardens of all the regular particular Lodges on record, with the Grand Master at their head." — Twelfth Regulation.

¹⁷Thus, in the first General Regulations, "The Grand Master, or his Deputy, hath authority and right, not only to be present in any true Lodge, but also to preside wheresoever he is, with the Master of the Lodge on his left hand."

¹⁸Preston says: "A sufficient number of Masons met together within a certain district, with the consent of the sheriff or chief magistrate of the place, were empowered at this time, (i.e. anterior to 1717) to make Masons and practice the rites of Masonry without warrant of constitution. The privilege was inherent in them as individuals; and this privilege is still enjoyed by the two old Lodges now extant, which act by immemorial constitution." — *Illustrations*, p. 182, note.

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Landmark Seventh

The prerogative of the Grand Master to give dispensations for opening and holding Lodges is another Landmark. He may grant, in virtue of this, to a sufficient number of Masons, the privilege of meeting together and conferring degrees. The Lodges thus established are called "Lodges under Dispensation." They are strictly creatures of the Grand Master, created by his authority, existing only during his will and pleasure, and liable at any moment to be dissolved at his command. They may be continued for a day, a month or six months; but whatever be the period of their existence, they are indebted for that existence solely to the grace of the Grand Master.¹⁹

Landmark Eighth

The prerogative of the Grand Master to make Masons at sight, is a Landmark which is closely connected with the preceding one.²⁰ There has been much misapprehension in relation to this Landmark, which misapprehension has sometimes led to a denial of its existence in jurisdictions where the Grand Master was perhaps at the very time substantially exercising the prerogative without the slightest remark or opposition.²¹ It is not to be supposed that the Grand Master can retire with a profane into a private room, and there, without assistance, confer the degrees of Freemasonry upon him. No such prerogative exists, and yet many believe that this is the so much talked of right of "making Masons at sight." The real mode and the only mode of exercising the prerogative is this: The Grand Master summons to his assistance not less than six other Masons, convenes a Lodge, and without any previous probation, but on sight of the candidate, confers the degrees upon him, after which he dissolves the Lodge, and dismisses the brethren. Lodges thus convened for special purposes are called "occasional Lodges." This is the only way in which any Grand Master within the records of the institution has ever been known to "make a Mason at sight." The prerogative is dependent upon that of granting dispensations to open and hold Lodges. If the Grand Master has the power of granting to any other Mason the privilege of presiding over Lodges working by his dispensation, he may assume this privilege of presiding to himself; and as no one can deny his right to revoke his dispensation granted to a number of brethren at a distance, and to dissolve the Lodge at his pleasure, it will scarcely be contended that he may not revoke his dispensation for a Lodge over which he himself has been presiding, within a day, and dissolve the Lodge as soon as the business for which he had assembled it is accomplished. The making of Masons at sight is only the conferring of the degrees by the Grand Master, at once, in an occasional Lodge,²² constituted by his dispensing power for the purpose, and over which he presides, in person.

Landmark Ninth

The necessity for Masons to congregate in Lodges is another Landmark.²³ It is not to be understood by this that any ancient Landmark has directed that permanent organization of Subordinate Lodges which constitutes one of the features of the Masonic system as it now prevails. But the Landmarks of the Craft always prescribed that Masons should from time to time congregate together, for the purpose of either operative or speculative labor, and that these congregations should be called Lodges. Formerly these were extemporary meetings called together for special purposes, and then dissolved, the brethren departing to meet again at other times and places, according to the necessity of circumstances. But warrants of constitution, by-laws, permanent officers and annual arrears, are modern innovations wholly outside the Landmarks, and dependent entirely on the special enactments of a comparatively recent period.

¹⁹If according to the preceding note, the privilege of meeting and conferring the degrees was originally inherent in all Masons, as individuals, then it must also have been inherent in the Grand Master, and was therefore his prerogative, as well as that of every other member of the Craft. But at the reorganization of the Craft in 1717, the Masons, as a body, surrendered this prerogative to the Grand Lodge; (see Preston, as above,) but they could not surrender the prerogative of the Grand Master, for it was not theirs to surrender. Consequently he still exercises it, and may assemble Masons together either personally or by proxy; in such cases, the Lodge meets, as of old, without a warrant of constitution; and to enable it to do so, the Grand Master issues his dispensation; that is, he dispenses with the law enacted in 1717, which requires such warrant.

²⁰"We think this to be the rule because we do not think the regulation of June 24, 1717, restricting the future assemblage of Masons, except in the four old Lodges in London, to Lodges held under warrant, was intended to apply to the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge in session, but rather to the craft in other respects." — Com. of Correspond, G. L. of N.Y., 1851. Of course not; for if it did, supposing that it legally could, then the Grand Master would be deprived of the power of granting dispensations to open Lodges, for his prerogative of making Masons at sight and of opening Lodges are rounded on the same principle.

²¹That is, whenever the Grand Master granted his dispensation to an unchartered Lodge to dispense with the necessary probation, and was present and presiding at the conferring of the degrees, he was virtually making a Mason at sight.

²²These occasional Lodges have been often called by the English Grand Masters since 1717, and frequent records of the fact are to be found in Anderson's Constitutions. Almost all of the princes of the royal family, when made Masons, were initiated, passed and raised at sight, and in occasional Lodges.

²³"A Lodge is a place where Masons assemble and work; hence that assembly or duly organized society of Masons is called a Lodge, and every brother ought to belong to one, and to be subject to its by-laws and the general regulations." — Old Charges, iii.

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Landmark Tenth

The government of the Craft, when so congregated in a Lodge by a Master and two Wardens, is also a Landmark.²⁴ To show the influence of this ancient law, it may be observed by the way, that a congregation of Masons meeting together under any other government, as that for instance of a president and vice-president, or a chairman and sub-chairman, would not be recognized as a Lodge. The presence of a Master and two Wardens is as essential to the valid organization of a Lodge as a warrant of constitution is at the present day. The names, of course, vary in different languages, the Master, for instance, being called "Venerable" in French Masonry, and the Wardens "Surveillants," but the officers, their number,²⁵ prerogatives, and duties, are everywhere identical.

Landmark Eleventh

The necessity that every Lodge, when congregated, should be duly tiled, is an important Landmark of the institution, which is never neglected. The necessity of this law arises from the esoteric character of Masonry. As a secret institution, its portals must of course be guarded from the intrusion of the profane, and such a law must therefore always have been in force from the very beginning of the Craft.²⁶ It is therefore properly classed among the most ancient Landmarks. The office of Tiler is wholly independent of any special enactment of the Grand or Subordinate Lodges, although these may and do prescribe for him additional duties, which vary in different jurisdictions. But the duty of guarding the door, and keeping off cowans and eavesdroppers, is an ancient one, which constitutes a Landmark for his government.

Landmark Twelfth

The right of every Mason to be represented in all general meetings of the Craft, and to instruct his representatives, is a twelfth Landmark.²⁷ Formerly, these general meetings, which were usually held once a year, were called "General Assemblies," and all the fraternity, even to the youngest Entered Apprentice, were permitted to be present. Now they are called "Grand Lodges," and only the Masters and Wardens of the Subordinate Lodges are summoned. But this is simply as the representatives of their members. Originally, each Mason represented himself; now he is represented by his officers. This was a concession granted by the fraternity about 1717, and of course does not affect the integrity of the Landmark, for the principle of representation is still preserved. The concession was made only for purposes of convenience.²⁸

Landmark Thirteenth

The right of every Mason to appeal from the decision of his brethren in Lodge convened, to the Grand Master or General Assembly of Masons, is a Landmark highly essential to the preservation of justice, and the prevention of oppression.²⁹ A few modern Grand Lodges, in adopting a regulation that the decision of Subordinate Lodges, in cases of expulsion, cannot be wholly set aside upon an appeal, have violated this unquestioned Landmark, as well as the principles of just government.

²⁴ The Old Charges allude to the antiquity of these officers in the following language: "In ancient times no Master or Fellow could be absent from the Lodge when warned to appear at it, without incurring a severe censure until it appeared to the Master and Wardens that pure necessity hindered him." — Charges, iii.

²⁵ The number, three, of these officers, is essential to the symbolism of the Craft, because they refer, as corresponding officers always did, in the ancient Mysteries, to the sun at its rising, its meridian height, and its setting. So long as Masonry preserves its symbolic character, these officers must be retained, and their peculiar positions preserved.

²⁶ The appointment of a Tiler is so evidently a Landmark, and the necessity of such an officer so apparent, from the very character of the Masonic institution, that neither the Old Charges nor the General Regulations make any allusion to him, except that the latter refer to the qualifications of the Grand Tiler of the Grand Lodge.

²⁷ This Landmark is recognized by the General Regulations in these words: "The majority of every particular Lodge, when congregated, shall have the privilege of giving instructions to their Master and Wardens before the assembling of the Grand Chapter or Grand Lodge." — Gen. Reg., Art. x.

²⁸ See a full relation of the history of this concession in Preston. (Oliver's edition, pp. 182-184.) The result of the concession is given in these words: "Matters being thus amicably adjusted, the brethren of the four old Lodges considered their attendance on the future communication of the society as unnecessary, and, therefore, like the other Lodges, trusted implicitly to their Master and Wardens, resting satisfied that no measure of importance would be adopted without their approbation." — Illust., p. 183.

²⁹ The Old Charges recognize this right of appeal in these words: "If any complaint be brought, the brother found guilty shall stand to the award and determination of the Lodge, who are the proper and competent judges of all such controversies, unless you carry it by appeal to the Grand Lodge." — Charge vi., 1.

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MACKEY'S LANDMARKS

Landmark Fourteenth

The right of every Mason to visit and sit in every regular Lodge is an unquestionable Landmark of the Order.³⁰ This is called “the right of visitation.” This right of visitation has always been recognized as an inherent right, which inures to every Mason as he travels through the world. And this is because Lodges are justly considered as only divisions for convenience of the universal Masonic family. This right may, of course, be impaired or forfeited on special occasions by various circumstances; but when admission is refused to a Mason in good standing, who knocks at the door of a Lodge as a visitor, it is to be expected that some good and sufficient reason shall be furnished for this violation of what is in general a Masonic right, rounded on the Landmark of the Craft.

Landmark Fifteenth

It is a Landmark of the Craft, that no visitor, unknown to the brethren present, or to some one of them as a Mason, can enter a Lodge without first passing an examination according to ancient usage.³¹ Of course, if the visitor is known to any brother present to be a Mason in good standing, and if that brother will vouch for his qualifications, the examination may be dispensed with, as the Landmark refers only to the cases of strangers, who are not to be recognized unless after strict trial, due examination, or lawful information.

Landmark Sixteenth

No Lodge can interfere in the business of another Lodge, nor give degrees to brethren who are members of other Lodges.³² This is undoubtedly an ancient Landmark, founded on the great principles of courtesy and fraternal kindness, which are at the very foundation of our institution. It has been repeatedly recognized by subsequent statutory enactments of all Grand Lodges.

Landmark Seventeenth

It is a Landmark that every Freemason is amenable to the laws and regulations of the Masonic Jurisdiction in which he resides, and this although he may not be a member of any lodge.³³ Non-affiliation, which is, in fact, in itself a Masonic offense, does not exempt a Mason from Masonic jurisdiction.

Landmark Eighteenth

Certain qualifications of candidates for initiation are derived from a Landmark of the Craft.³⁴ These qualifications are that he should be a man shall be un mutilated, free born, and of mature age.³⁵ That is to say, a woman, a cripple, or a slave, or one born in slavery, is disqualified for initiation into the rites of Masonry. Statutes, it is true, have from time to time been enacted, enforcing or explaining these principles; but the qualifications really arise from the very nature of the Masonic institutions and from its symbolic teachings, and have always existed as Landmarks.

³⁰The MS. in possession of the Lodge of Antiquity, and which contains charges written in the reign of James II., between 1685 and 1688, recognizes this right of visitation in the welcome which it orders every Mason to give to a strange brother: “Thirteenthly, that every Mason receive and cherish strange Fellows, when they come over the country, and set them on work, if they will work, as the manner is; that is to say, if the Mason have any mould stone in his place, he shall give him a mould stone, and set him on work; and if he have none, the Mason shall refresh him with money unto the next Lodge.” All this implies the right to claim and the duty to extend hospitality to a visiting brother.

³¹Reference is made to this important Landmark in the Old Charges, vi. 6, in the directions for “behavior to a strange brother,” where we find the following language; “You are cautioned to examine him in such method as prudence shall direct you, that you may not be imposed upon by an ignorant pretender, whom you are to reject with contempt and derision, and beware of giving him any hints of knowledge.”

³²Thus in the MS. charges of the Lodge of Antiquity: “That no Master or Fellow supplant others of their work; that is, if he hath taken a work or else stand Master of any work, that he (i.e. any others) shall not put him out, unless he be unable of cunning to make an end of his work.” 33

³³The same charges recognize this Landmark in these words: “Tenthly, that every Master and Fellow shall come to the assembly, if it be within fifty miles of him, if he have any warning. And if he have trespassed against the craft, to abide the award of Masters and Fellows.” And again, “Eleventhly, that every Master Mason and Fellow that hath trespassed against the craft, shall stand to the correction of other Masters and Fellows to make him accord, and if he cannot accord, to go to the common law.”

³⁴Thus in the same MS. charges these qualifications are referred to: “Thirdly, that he that be made, be able in all degrees; that is, free born, of good kindred, true, and no bondsman; and that he have his right limbs as a man ought to have.” And the Old Charges, collected in 1717, give the qualifications as follows: “The persons admitted members of a Lodge must be good and true men, free born and of mature and discreet age, no bondsmen, no women, no immoral or scandalous men, but of good report.”

³⁵In the regulations adopted by the General Assembly, 27th December, 1663, the age is placed at twenty-one years: “That no person be accepted unless he be twenty-one years old or more.” — See Anderson, 2d edit. p. 102.

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MACKEY'S LANDMARKS

Landmark Nineteenth

A belief in the existence of God as the Grand Architect of the universe, is one of the most important Landmarks of the Order.³⁶ It has been always deemed essential that a denial of the existence of a Supreme and Superintending Power is an absolute disqualification for initiation. The annals of the Craft never yet have furnished or could furnish an instance in which an avowed atheist was ever made a Mason. The very initiatory ceremonies of the first degree forbid and prevent the possibility of so monstrous an occurrence.

Landmark Twentieth

Subsidiary to this belief in God, as a Landmark of the Craft, is the belief in a resurrection to a future life.³⁷ This Landmark is not so positively impressed on the candidate by exact words as the preceding; but the doctrine is taught by very plain implication, and runs through the whole symbolism of the Craft. To believe in Masonry, and not to believe in a resurrection, would be an absurd anomaly, which could only be excused by the reflection, that he who thus confounded his belief and his skepticism, was so ignorant of the meaning of both theories as to have no rational foundation for his knowledge of either.

Landmark Twenty-first

It is a Landmark, that a "Book of the Law" shall constitute an indispensable part of the furniture of every Lodge.³⁸ I say advisedly, a Book of the Law, because it is not absolutely required that everywhere the Old and New Testaments shall be used. The "Book of the Law" is that volume which, by the religion of the country is believed to contain the revealed will of the Grand Architect of the universe. Hence, in all Lodges in Christian countries, the "Book of the Law" is composed of the Old and New Testaments; in a country where Judaism was the prevailing faith, the Old Testament alone would be sufficient; and in Mohammedan countries, and among Mohammedan Masons the Koran might be substituted. Masonry does not attempt to interfere with the peculiar religious faith of its disciples, except so far as relates to the belief in the existence of God, and what necessarily results from that belief.³⁹ The Book of the Law is to the speculative Mason his spiritual Trestleboard; without this he cannot labor; whatever he believes to be the revealed will of the Grand Architect constitutes for him this spiritual Trestleboard, and must ever be before him in his hours of speculative labor, to be the rule and guide of his conduct. The Landmark, therefore, requires that a Book of the Law, a religious code of some kind, purporting to be an exemplar of the revealed will of God, shall form an essential part of the furniture of every Lodge.

Landmark Twenty-second

The equality of all Masons is another Landmark of the Craft.⁴⁰ This equality has no reference to any subversion of those gradations of rank which have been instituted by the usages of society.⁴¹ The monarch, the nobleman or the gentleman is entitled to all the influence, and receives all the respect which rightly belong to his exalted position. But the doctrine of Masonic equality implies that, as children of one great Father, we meet in the Lodge upon the level that on that level we are all traveling to one predestined goal that in the Lodge genuine merit shall receive more respect than boundless wealth, and that virtue and knowledge alone should be the basis of all Masonic honors, and be rewarded with preferment.⁴² When the labors of the Lodge are over, and the brethren have retired from their peaceful retreat, to mingle once more with the world, each will then again resume that social position, and exercise the privileges of that rank, to which the customs of society entitle them.

³⁶ It were needless to cite authorities on this point. We might say, that the very first of the Old Charges begins by declaring that "a Mason is obliged by his tenure to obey the moral law, and if he rightly understands the art, he will never be a stupid atheist, nor an irreligious libertine."

³⁷ The whole scope and design of the third degree is, to teach the resurrection from the dead, as that of the Royal Arch is to inculcate the rewards of a future life. If the doctrine of the resurrection were false, then would the ceremonies of the third degree be simply a farce; and hence Hutchinson who had profoundly studied its symbolism, says, that the Master Mason's degree "testifies our faith concerning the resurrection of the body." — Spirit of Masonry, p. 101.

³⁸ The presence of a Book of the Law in a Lodge, as a part of its furniture, is strictly a ritualistic Landmark, and the authorities for it will be at once evident to every Mason.

³⁹ On the subject of the religious, or rather the doctrinal, requirements of Masonry, the Old Charges utter the following explicit language: "Though in ancient times, Masons were charged in every country to be of the religion of that country or nation, whatever it was; yet it is now thought expedient only to oblige them to that religion in which all men agree, leaving their particular opinions to themselves." — Charge, i.

⁴⁰ "Masons meet upon the level." — Ritual.

⁴¹ Though all Masons are as brethren upon the same level, yet Masonry takes no honor from a man that he had before; nay, rather it adds to his honor, especially if he has deserved well of the brotherhood, who must give honor to whom it is due, and avoid ill manners." — Old Charges, vi., 3.

⁴² "All preferment among Masons is grounded upon real worth and personal merit only." — Old Charges, iv.

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MACKEY'S LANDMARKS

Landmark's Twenty-third

The secrecy of the institution is another and a most important Landmark.⁴³ There is some difficulty in precisely defining, what is meant by a “secret society.” If the term refers, as perhaps, in strictly logical language it should, to those associations whose designs are concealed from the public eye, and whose members are unknown, which produce their results in darkness, and whose operations are carefully hidden from the public gaze a definition which will be appropriate to many political clubs and revolutionary combinations in despotic countries, where reform, if it is at all to be effected, must be effected by stealth then clearly Freemasonry is not a secret society. Its design is not only publicly proclaimed, but is vaunted by its disciples as something to be venerated its disciples are known, for its membership is considered an honor to be coveted it works for a result of which it boasts the civilization and refinement of man, the amelioration of his condition, and the reformation of his manners. But if by a secret society is meant and this is the most popular understanding of the term a society in which there is a certain amount of knowledge, whether it be of methods of recognition, or of legendary and traditional learning,⁴⁴ which is imparted to those only who have passed through an established form of initiation, the form itself being also concealed or esoteric, then in this sense is Freemasonry undoubtedly a secret society. Now, this form of secrecy is a form inherent in it, existing with it from its very foundation, and secured to it by its ancient Landmarks. If divested of its secret character, it would lose its identity, and would cease to be Freemasonry.⁴⁵ Whatever objections may, therefore, be made to the institution on account of its secrecy, and however much some unskilled brethren have been willing in times of trial, for the sake of expediency, to divest it of its secret character, it will be ever impossible to do so, even were the Landmark not standing before us as an insurmountable obstacle; because such change of its character would be social suicide, and the death of the Craft would follow its legalized exposure. Freemasonry, as a secret association, has lived unchanged for centuries as an open society it would not last for as many years.

Landmark Twenty-fourth

The foundation of a speculative science upon an operative art, and the symbolic use and explanation of the terms of that art, for purposes of religious or moral teaching, constitute another Landmark of the Order.⁴⁶ The Temple of Solomon was the cradle of the institution,⁴⁷ and, therefore, the reference to the operative Masonry which constructed that magnificent edifice, to the materials and implements which were employed in its construction, and to the artists who we reengaged in the building, are all component and essential parts of the body of Freemasonry, which could not be subtracted from it without an entire destruction of the whole identity of the Craft. Hence, all the comparatively modern rites of Masonry, however they may differ in other respects, religiously preserve this temple history and these operative elements, as the substratum of all their modifications of the Masonic system.

Landmark Twenty-fifth

The last and crowning Landmark of all is, that these Landmarks can never be changed.⁴⁸ Nothing can be subtracted from them, nothing can be added to them, not the slightest modification can be made in them. As they were received from our predecessors, we are bound by the most solemn obligation of duty to transmit them to our successors. Not one jot or one tittle of these unwritten laws can be repealed; for in respect to them, we are not only willing, but compelled to adopt the language of the sturdy old barons of England, “Nolumus leges mutari.”

⁴³ There are abundant cautions in the Old Charges which recognize the existence of this Landmark, and the necessity of preserving it. Thus in the direction for the behavior of brethren who meet without strangers, it is said: “You will salute one another in a courteous manner... freely giving mutual instructions as shall be thought expedient, without being overseen or overheard”; and in the presence of strangers: “You should be cautious in your words and carriage that the most penetrating stranger shall not be able to discover or find out what is not proper to be intimated.”

⁴⁴ The Leland MS. containing the answers of the Masons to the questions of King Henry the Sixth gives a long list of the secrets which the Masons “conceal and hide,” the catalogue of secret sciences ending with “the universalle longage of Masonnes,” that is, the peculiar modes of recognition.

⁴⁵ “Finally, keep sacred and inviolable the mysteries of the Craft, as these are to distinguish you from the rest of the community, and mark your consequences among Masons.” — Charges to an Ent. Apprentice.

⁴⁶ “We work in speculative Masonry, but our ancient brethren worked in both operative and speculative.” — Ritual of F. C. Degree.

⁴⁷ “As this temple (Solomon’s) received the second race of servants of the true God, and as the true craftsmen were here proved in their work, we will crave your attention to the circumstances which are to be gathered from holy writ, and from historians, touching this structure, as an illustration of those secrets in Masonry, which may appear to such of our brethren as are not learned in antiquity, dark or insignificant, unless they are proved from “thence.” — Hutchinson, Spirit of Masonry, p. 83.

⁴⁸ Our “first most excellent Grand Master” has declared with a significance which Masons will understand — “Remove not the ancient Landmarks which thy fathers have set.” Dr. Oliver remarks — “It is quite clear, however, that the order against removing or altering the

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Landmarks was universally observed in all ages of the craft.” —Dict, of Sym. Mas.

POUND’S LANDMARKS

Belief in God.

Belief in the Persistence of personality.

A “Book of the Law” as an indispensable part of the furniture of every lodge.

The legend of the third degree.

Secrecy.

The symbolism of the operative art.

That a Mason must be a man, free born and of age.

APPENDIX

Part 8

ANNOTATIONS

These annotations are primarily decisions of former Grand Masters, as approved by Grand Lodge. They are edicts, judicial not legislative action of the Grand Lodge, and while they apply only to the instant case, they are helpful in understanding the law and may overrule a previous edict.

Not all edicts are shown here. Some have been made obsolete by revision of the Code or incorporated in it, and some seem to merely restate the Code section. Those set out hereafter may apply to other sections than the ones cited, but an attempt is made to relate the edict to some section or sections of the Code.

In some cases, an annotation is an interpretation by someone other than a Grand Master. In such case, the author of, or authority for such interpretation is expressly stated.

3.01 O.E.S. member of Wisconsin Lodge must be governed by laws of another state while there if Mason in that state cannot attend O.E.S. meetings. 1958.

9.01 If Temple owned by several bodies, lodge must obtain dispensation to meet there. 1949.

22.02 Grand Master may require trial record not to leave Grand Secretary's office. 1947.

22.03 Grand Master may suspend Junior Warden of Lodge. 1956.

22.03 Women's organization requires dispensation no matter what the ownership is of the Temple. The three lodges using the Temple will all have to ask for the dispensation. 1955.

22.03 (h) The Grand Master may revoke a dispensation to a ladies organization to meet in the Temple and may deny one. 1948.

22.04 (Second) Grand Lodge, by adoption of Resolution 2, 1972, authorized the Grand Master to designate the place of holding the June 1974 Communication of the Grand Lodge if done in writing prior to July 1, 1973.

22.04 (Second) Grand Lodge, by adoption of an Amendment to the Report of the Special Committee on Taxation, 1978, authorized the Grand Master to take such action on behalf of the Grand Lodge with respect to the current membership practices as the Grand Master may determine appropriate. Similar authority given to Grand Master by adoption of Taxation Report, 1979 and Executive Committee Report, 1980.

22.04 (Second) By adoption of Executive Committee Report, 1980, Grand Master was given certain authority with respect to proficiency of candidates and serving of wine/beer in Masonic Temples. (Repeated in 1981). The authority with respect to proficiency of candidates was repeated in 1982.

22.04 (Fourth) Grand Master cannot grant dispensation for another ballot. 1946 and 1957.

28.01 Number and Qualifications. There shall be three Grand Trustees of this Grand Lodge who shall be Master Masons residing in the State of Wisconsin and each shall be a member of a lodge therein. A Grand Trustee is a statutory, not a Masonic officer.

The following memorandum spelling out of the qualifications, responsibility and authority of the Grand Trustees was prepared by Attorney Thomas Godfrey, Elmbrook Lodge No. 354.

Qualification, Responsibility & Authority of Trustees

Grand Lodge Free & Accepted Masons of Wisconsin

I. QUALIFICATION OF TRUSTEES

Number: Three (3).

A. Qualification: Resident of Wisconsin. Member of a Wisconsin Lodge. Elected at annual communication or appointed by Grand Master if vacancy occurs.

B. Length of Office: One term plus any appointed time to fill a vacancy. A term is five years.

C. The three Trustees terms are scattered - only one is elected at each annual communication resulting in no more than one Trustee retiring in a given year. Cannot be re-elected for more than two successive terms.

D. Vacancy: Grand Master may fill vacancy until election.

E. Chairman: At first meeting following annual communication trustees shall elect a chairman.

Sources: Sec. 188.04 Wis. Stats.; Art. 6, Sec. 6.02, 6.03 and 6.07 Constitution of the Grand Lodge; Sec. 28.01, 28.02, 28.03 and 28.07, Laws of the Grand Lodge.

II. NATURE OF THE POSITION (Chapter 188 Wis. Stats.)

Trustee is a statutory office, not a Masonic office. (Sec. 28.01, General Laws of Masonry.) As such, the Trustees have the following statutory authority:

A. General Authority - Sec. 188.01, Wis. Stats.

a. ". . . to take care of the property, real and personal, belonging thereto and transact all the business relating to the investment and disposal thereof."

B. "[The Trustees]... in pursuance of the rules and regulations of such society and in conformity with the rules and regulations of the Grand Lodge."

1. ". . . may take possession of, manage, control, purchase, lease, receive, recover, hold, sell, convey,

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mortgage, demise and improve all the property thereof or necessary therefore, real and personal... erect and keep in repair all buildings necessary therefore . . .”

2. “. . . may sue and be sued in all matters pertaining to such property and the debts, claims, demands and liabilities thereof... [in the name of... the trustees of the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin.]”

C. Corporate Status - Sec. 188.02, Wis. Stats.

- a. “[The Trustees]... may have a common seal... and for all purposes for which they are authorized to act, they shall be deemed a corporation.”

III. SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITY

A. The Laws of the Grand Lodge provide these duties and limitations of authority:

1. **General Supervision of Grand Lodge Property.** (Sec.28.05, Laws of the Grand Lodge) They shall “...exercise a general supervision over the property, both real and personal, including the trust funds of the Grand Lodge and receive and hold title thereto” (although law provides “unless otherwise provided by regulation of the Grand Lodge,” that is probably invalid as contrary to Sec. 188.02 Wis. Stats.)

2. **Execution of Contracts and Conveyances.** (Sec. 28.05, Laws of the Grand Lodge) They shall “. . . execute all conveyances for and on behalf of the Grand Lodge and to make contracts, leases and agreements in their names, as they may be authorized by the Grand Lodge or by law.”

3. **Prosecution of Legal Proceedings.** (Sec. 28.05, Laws of the Grand Lodge) “. . . whenever in their judgment ... it shall be necessary to institute and prosecute legal proceedings in their own names for the preservation and protection of the property or rights of the Grand Lodge, to do so.”

4. **Investing of Funds.** (Sec. 28.05, Laws of the Grand Lodge; Chapter 33, Laws of the Grand Lodge) The Trustees are authorized to invest the trust funds and surplus cash funds of the Grand Lodge. Investing of funds shall be subject to the “prudent man” rules; and the Trustees shall not be liable in the absence of gross malfeasance or nonfeasance in all other matters. Appreciation in assets shall be treated as principal. For investment purposes, funds may be commingled, although doubtless where a gift specifies otherwise, this would not be authorized.

5. **Custody of Securities** - Reports to Annual Communication. (Sec. 28.04, Laws of the Grand Lodge) “The Trustees shall have custody of all bonds, obligations and securities belonging to the Grand Lodge and shall submit to the Grand Lodge at each annual communication a report on their official acts.”

B. **Implied Powers** - Sec. 28.05 (4), Laws of the Grand Lodge

Hiring of Personnel. The Trustees doubtless have implicit power to hire personnel where reasonably necessary to perform their duties, although not expressly set out.

C. The above powers are subject to the following limitations - Sec. 28.05, Laws of the Grand Lodge

The Trustees must obtain approval of the Grand Lodge or Grand Master before:

1. “The purchasing, selling, leasing or mortgaging of any property having a value of more than \$10,000.00.”
 2. “The purchasing, selling, investing, lending, borrowing or pledging of any personal property having a value of more than \$25,000.00.”
 3. “Participating in litigation determining any rights of the Grand Lodge of a value in excess of \$10,000.00.”
- “Employing any personnel for a period of more than one month at a rate of compensation in excess of \$1,000.00 per month.”

IV. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER MASONIC PERSONS OR BODIES

A. **Grand Master** - Since the Grand Master “exercises the function of the Grand Lodge when not in session,” the Trustees must obey all lawful rules and regulations promulgated by the Grand Master. The Trustees, for example, may not lawfully obey a rule of the Grand Master (or Grand Lodge) that in their reasonable view would unreasonably jeopardize the safety of the property under their care, or which would lay waste assets of the Grand Lodge. It is also probable a Grand Master cannot discharge a Grand Trustee.

Sources: Chapter 22, 28, Laws of the Grand Lodge; Chapter 188, Wis. Stats.

B. **Grand Treasurer** -

1. The Trustees may compel the Grand Treasurer, or other Grand Officer, to issue and sign checks in pursuance of the Trustees’ responsibilities and authorities above stated.

Sources: Sec. 32.05, Laws of the Grand Lodge; Implicit in Chapter 28

2. The Trustees may also order such financial reports from the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer it deems necessary, and in any event the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary shall report to them in detail “all money by them respectively received, where and from what source, and what disposition has been made thereof, since the commencement of their current term of office up to and including the 1st day of May. . .”

Sources: Chapter 34, Laws of the Grand Lodge

C. **Grand Secretary** - The Trustees shall receive from the Grand Secretary at the expiration of his term of office an accounting for and possession of “all monies, securities and property in his possession, custody or control belonging to the Grand Lodge which have not been theretofore duly accounted for.”

Source: Sec. 25.04, Laws of the Grand Lodge

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ANNOTATIONS

D. **Wisconsin Board of Masonic Service and Assistance -**

1. Custody and Disbursement: The Trustees have custody of these funds and “The Charity Fund shall be kept in a separate account and disbursed by order of [the Grand Lodge or Grand Master] with the advice and approval of the Board of Masonic Service and Assistance.

Source: Sec. 40.07 Laws of the Grand Lodge

2. Monthly Statements: The Trustees must provide the Grand Master and Chairman of the Wisconsin Board of Masonic Service and Assistance a monthly statement of balances in the fund.

Source: Sec. 40.08 (4), Laws of the Grand Lodge

E. **Wisconsin Masonic Foundation -** The Trustees have no legal authority over the Wisconsin Masonic Foundation, a Wisconsin corporation, as presently structured. (It has its own Board of Trustees, appointed by the Most Worshipful Grand Master.)

Sources: Articles of Organization, Wisconsin Masonic Foundation: Red Cedar Lodge I.O.O.F. Bldg..

Ass’n v. Trustees (1959) 7 is. 2d 500

F. **Wisconsin Masonic Home Inc. -** The Trustees have no responsibilities over the Wisconsin Masonic Home, Inc. which is a separate corporation with a separate Board of Directors. However, the property on which the Home is operated is owned by the Grand Lodge and therefore is the responsibility of the Grand Trustees, to the same extent other Grand Lodge Masonic property is their responsibility.

G. **Constituent Lodges -** Since each constituent lodge has its own Trustees who have supervision over their own property, the Grand Trustees have no authority or responsibilities with respect to property of any of the constituent lodges.

Sources: Chapter 60, specifically Sec. 60.05, Laws of the Grand Lodge; Red Cedar Lodge I.O.O.F.

Bldg.. Ass’n. v. Trustees (1959) 7 Wis. 2d 500

V. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

A. **Voting Power at Annual Communication**

A Trustee has one vote at Grand Lodge on every question.

Source: Art. 8. Sec. 8.01, Constitution of the Grand Lodge

B. **Suspension for Misconduct**

The Laws indicate the Grand Master may “. . . for misconduct, neglect or malfeasance” suspend from office a Trustee and appoint a successor. (This is questionable since in seeming conflict with Art. 6, Constitution of the Grand Lodge and Sec. 188.01, Wis. Stats.)

Source: Sec. 22.02, Laws of the Grand Lodge

C. **Meetings**

The Grand Trustees shall meet upon call of the Grand Master, the chairman of the Grand Trustees, or any two Grand Trustees or oftener if necessary. Any two Trustees can call a special meeting and a majority of them can transact all business.

Sources: Sec. 188.04, Wis. Stats.; Sec. 28.06, Laws of the Grand Lodge

D. **Compensation**

1. No compensation as such is provided Trustees. Source: Sec. 30.02, Laws of the Grand Lodge

2. Grand Trustees making an official visit authorized by the Grand Master or Grand Lodge to a constituent lodge are entitled to receive actual necessary expenses. Source: Sec. 30.04, Laws of the Grand Lodge

3. For attendance at an annual communication, a Trustee is entitled to receive \$30.00 per day plus .20 per mile (must be called for within six (6) months). Source: Sec. 30.05, Laws of the Grand Lodge

29.13 Research Committee – eliminated at the 162nd Annual Communication., June 2006

37.02 Under the Councilor System, a council of Royal and Select Masters cannot furnish councilors. Sole control must be in Grand Lodge no matter how laudable a purpose of the assisting council. 1960.

37.03 Secretaries of local lodges should not handle matters of alleged discourtesy in another state. It is better to let the Grand Lodge handle such matters. 1947.

37.04 Prince Hall Recognition Expanded, June 2008

39.01 Note: The Wisconsin Masonic Home is now operated by a separate corporation. Former annotations do not apply very well, but some are left here, without specific section numbers shown, for such information as they may impart. Checks to “Wisconsin Home Foundation” memorials to a deceased Mason may be turned over to the Wisconsin Masonic Foundation. 1960.

The Schlitz Foundation can make a gift to the Masonic Home. 1949.

If a widow of a lodge member is a member of O.E.S., the lodge should sponsor the guest at the Home, unless financially unable to do so. 1960.

“Mother” eligible to Home even if not a blood relative. 1945.

Guest at Home got a legacy and distributed part to relatives. Should be dismissed from Home if competent. If not, sponsoring lodge should take steps to set aside distribution. 1949.

Masonic Home residents can accumulate money for funerals; if they have money when they die it should be

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ANNOTATIONS

- delivered to the Grand Trustees. 1945.
The trustees are authorized to sue if necessary to obtain from an estate an interest in a joint account of a Masonic Home guest. 1960.
- 41.00** Chapter 41 removed by Decision of Grand Master Van Hollen. 2007.
- 51.01** Lodge under dispensation cannot consider newly raised Masons Charter members. 1959.
- 52.01** Centennial of lodge interrupted for two years by surrender of Charter starts from date of new Charter. 1958.
- 52.11** The amount of mortgage must be approved by the Grand Master.
- 52.20** A Masonic Lodge is not a collection agency and cannot be expected to adjust matters of a secular nature between its members. Such matters should be settled outside the lodge by the parties in interest. 1909.
- 52.20** A lodge is forbidden to put on a drive for membership. 1938.
- 54.08** See Annotation at 52.01.
- 55.02** An Illinois member cannot be plural in Wisconsin. Would have to demit and apply for affiliation. (At this time Illinois did not permit plural memberships). 1950.
- 55.05** A 50-Year Member still must pay dues, unless lodge takes specific action. 1954.
- 55.05** By-laws rejected because they set up two classes of members with dues for life members different. 1945.
- 55.05** By-laws as to life members must work retroactively if a change is made. Cannot be based on age or lodge vote. 1949.
- 55.05** Lodge cannot remit dues of 50-Year Members, unless "undue hardship." 1957.
- 55.05** A life member must have 50 consecutive years to be eligible. 1956.
- 55.05** If life membership laws are changed by the By-laws, the change works retroactively. 1949.
- 55.05** Life members must all be treated alike. 1952.
- 55.08** If members excluded for a period, this time does not count toward a 50-Year Certificate. 1958. (Now changed; See 1971 Revision giving Grand Master discretion to grant.)
- 56.03** Except as above excepted, the Senior Deacon cannot be elected Worshipful Master if he had not been a Master or Warden. 1949.
- 56.05** No vacancy if Worshipful Master moves during term. 1957.
- 56.06** So long as he is within the jurisdiction of the lodge, whether it is in session or not, the Master may issue an order and perform such official acts as are permitted by law. 1923.
- 56.06** An appeal cannot be made to the Grand Lodge from a ruling of a Master prohibiting debate on a question before the lodge since he has absolute power to allow or to prohibit it. For an abuse of the exercise of this power, he is accountable to the Grand Lodge, and the only remedy of a member dissatisfied with such ruling is to prefer charges against him to the Grand Lodge. 1894.
- 56.06** A Master of a lodge identified as such may participate in Brotherhood Week community observance. 1948.
- 56.06** The lodge cannot select the members of a committee. 1949.
- 56.06** The Master may declare no meeting to be held on Good Friday. 1955.
- 56.06** A ballot is valid even if taken out of the regular order of business. 1952.
- 56.06** A Master can prohibit smoking in lodge room at all times. 1960.
- 56.10** The Senior Deacon destroyed the ballot after the Master announced it not clear. The result is final. 1959.
- 57.01** The By-laws cannot require Master to appoint Chaplain or Organist. 1949.
- 57.01** No dispensation is necessary for special elections for Treasurer who dies. 1957.
- 57.02** See Annotation Sec. 56.05.
- 57.02** Secretary cannot resign. 1954.
- 57.02** Master cannot resign. Vacancy only by death, suspension or expulsion. He may move to another state. 1954.
- 57.02** The Master of a lodge has not the power to remove an appointive officer. 1897.
- 57.02** Senior Deacon elected Junior Warden but moves away. Master can order an election. 1958.
- 57.04** Chaplain need not be a member of the lodge. 1955.
- 57.04** A member living outside the jurisdiction of the lodge may be elected to office. 1949.
- 57.04** A lodge cannot disqualify for office such of its members as had not been Master Masons a specified number of years nor those who are or may be officers in another Masonic body. 1933.
- 57.07** Treasurer cannot be appointed Steward. 1966.
- 57.08** An installed officer, either elected or appointed, may at all times perform the duties of his office which may not be filled with a pro tempore appointment without his consent. 1938.
- 57.10** An officer of a lodge against whom a judgment of suspension or expulsion shall be rendered is ipso facto suspended from the function of his office, and if such judgment is not reversed by the Grand Lodge his office shall be vacant. Trial Code 108.03.
- 57.10** A vacancy is not created by the removal of a Master or Warden to another state. 1897.
- 57.10** When the Master, Junior Warden, Secretary and Senior Deacon all leave the jurisdiction for an indefinite period as by enlistment in the U.S. Army, a vacancy is not created in any of these offices. 1918.

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- 57.10** Junior Deacon may demit if permanently removed from jurisdiction; otherwise not.
- 57.10** A vacancy in any of the three ranking offices of a lodge can only occur by death or final judgment of suspension or expulsion or when the incumbent is installed into another office; in any other office by demission in addition to the three causes above named.
- 57.10** If Treasurer refused to be installed (because he wants to continue in the lineup of officers) old one holds over or Master could appoint Treasurer pro tempore for year. 1955.
- 57.11** The Master, Junior Warden, Secretary and Senior Deacon having all enlisted in the U.S. Army, the Senior Warden assumes the duties of the Master and fills such offices by pro tempore appointment. 1918.
- 57.11** If the Junior Warden declines to be installed and the present Junior Warden is ill and unable to act, a vacancy in that office is not created.
- 57.12** See 57.10 Annotation.
- 58.03** Senior Warden died before election. Dispensation must be obtained. 1949.
- 58.05** See Annotations for 58.03. 1949.
- 58.05** Should the office of Master become vacant, the Grand Master upon application of the Wardens may grant a dispensation to a lodge to hold a special election to fill the vacancy. 1906.
- 58.05** Vacancy through death of Junior Warden. Election could be had but other officers elected or appointed could not be eligible. 1947.
- 58.05** Junior Warden died. There is no provision for election. 1952. Law since changed, so this edict is not effective.
- 58.05** If Secretary is elected but neither accepts or rejects office, the election is void and old Secretary continues unless a dispensation is given for a special election. 1945. (The law has been changed now to permit the Master to order a special election.)
- 58.05** Worshipful Master became ill. All others were installed. Old W.M. continues, unless elected W.M. advises he cannot act. Then new election on dispensation. 1949.
- 58.05** Man who was acting as Senior Deacon but refused to be installed could be elected Secretary. 1945.
- 58.05** Elected Master died before installation. The old Worshipful Master does not serve. Election must be had. 1949.
- 58.05** If Secretary elected and installed without his consent, the office is vacant, and new election should be held after notice to members. 1961.
- 58.07** All ballots cast at an election of officers of a lodge on which there does not appear in a legible manner the name of some member of the lodge, are blank ballots and not votes and a blank ballot shall not be counted or considered in determining the result. 1889-1902.
- 58.08** An informal ballot is not permitted in the election of officers; the one receiving a majority of the votes cast on any one ballot is elected. 1879-1883-1889.
- 58.08** The Secretary did not receive majority of votes cast. Election is void. 1951. (See tabulation table of votes)
- 58.08** There must be individual ballots for officers. No collective ballot. 1952.
- 58.08** A motion to declare a member elected to an office in a lodge is clearly out of order. 1879.
- 58.08** In the election of an officer of a lodge if there are more ballots cast including blanks than members present, the ballot is illegal and shall be declared void. 1902.
- 58.08** At an election of officers the fact that a ballot was cast by a member after the Master had declared the ballot closed and without objection by anyone, cannot be set up after the close of the communication to invalidate the election. 1886.
- 59.01** The installation of any officer who is chosen by election or appointment to succeed himself is not necessary, but is recommended. 1860-1906.
- 59.01** Secretary need not be reinstalled. 1954.
- 59.01** At the order of the installing officer the charge to the Master-elect may be given by the Master or by a Past Master. The charge to each of the other officers shall be given by the installing officer.
- 59.06** At a public joint installation of a lodge and a chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, the latter is present only by courtesy of the lodge and in a sense is its guest, and accordingly has no right to object to the presence of a member of a Mason's family who is permitted by the lodge to be present. 1909.
- 59.07** A lodge of Masons and chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, if the latter is duly authorized to use the lodge room of the lodge, may hold public or private installations of officers in the lodge room on the same evening, provided the lodge is regularly opened and closed. 1902.
- 59.07** The neglect to open a lodge prior to a public installation of officers is an error though not grave enough to invalidate the proceedings, and the officers installed are legally in their positions. 1894.
- 59.07** At installation there should be both the lights and Masonic clothing. 1956.
- 59.09** Past Master of a Canadian Grand Jurisdiction may install officers in a constituent lodge in Wisconsin provided proper dispensations are obtained from the Grand Master of the Canadian Jurisdiction and the Grand Master of Wisconsin. 1960.

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- 60.01** By-laws could require a trustee to attend four meetings a year, but if he failed to do so could be removed only by trial. Could not be declared ineligible for re-election. 1947. (The Committee on Jurisprudence disapproved this ruling indicating that it has always been the right or privilege of a Mason or officer to attend lodge or not at his pleasure. This was confirmed by the Grand Lodge.)
- 60.01** Trustees must be members of that lodge. If he demits, he ceases to be a trustee. The Master cannot appoint. 1950. (But see 60.03)
- 60.03** A Trustee dies. Master cannot appoint. Can have election with no dispensation. 1953. (now obsolete)
- 60.03** Trustee dies; new election can be held. 1954.
- 60.05** Trustees have no authority to lease or grant the use of property owned by the lodge or to notify tenants of the cancellation of leases without authorization of the lodge. 1924.
- 60.05** It is the duty of the Trustees to loan the funds of the lodge in their name and when directed to do so by a vote of the lodge. 1891.
- 60.05** Trustees have no authority to prevent an appropriation of funds which has been voted by the lodge. 1936.
- 61.01** A Mason raised in a lodge or elected to membership therein is a member thereof although he does not sign its By-laws. 1880; 1887; 1888 and 1894.
- 61.01** See Annotation to 60.01 as to By-laws attempting to govern Trustees.
- 61.01** See Annotation to Sec. 57.01 that By-laws cannot require Master to appoint Chaplain or Organist.
- 61.01** Meetings in Summer. By-laws control. 1945.
- 61.01** By-laws should not fix dues and special assessments of Grand Lodge. 1947.
- 61.02** Vote to amend By-laws must be in accordance with law. Informal ballot on the amount of dues is not effective. 1947.
- 61.03** To call off or suspend meetings for a period of months when the By-laws provide for two stated communications each month is a suspension of the By-laws and is illegal. 1909; 1918.
- 62.01** Member died after first of year after paying dues. Lodge cannot vote to remit. 1961.
- 62.01** Remitting dues is not a “charity” and should not come from Charity Fund. 1962.
- 62.01** Lodge cannot pay a note at a bank given for dues, but because the bank paid the dues, the brother is in good standing. 1956.
- 62.01** Lodge can pay dues of officer in Blue Lodge Officers’ Association. 1955.
- 62.01** A Masonic Lodge may not reduce the debt of a corporation owned by various bodies. 1949.
- 62.01** Payment toward an appeal for funds from a Blue Lodge in Puerto Rico is not permitted. 1955.
- 62.01** A lodge or the Grand Lodge cannot contribute to a committee of American industry of national fund for medical education. 1954.
- 62.01** Blue Lodge Officers’ Association can give to a hospital if the lodge does not appropriate money and may raise money among Masons for it. 1961. (The law changed in 1978 to permit use of lodge funds for certain non-Masonic charities.)
- 62.01** The budget of the lodge should not contain an item “fair return on investment.” 1960.
- 62.01** Lodge cannot cancel interest on a note given by Trustee of a Temple owned one-half by lodge and half by R.A.M. chapter. Each should bear half the cost. 1960.
- 62.01** Even if title of building is in several bodies, Lodge cannot delegate authority to pay bills nor have anyone but a Trustee act. 1957.
- 62.01** A Lodge may not appropriate funds for University Scholarships. 1951, but 1978 revision changes.
- 62.01** The Worshipful Master cannot participate in a local organization to help handicapped children. Masonry must remain independent. 1942, but 1978 revision changes.
- 62.02** Lodge cannot give appropriation to Eastern Star for a Christmas Party. 1949.
- 62.02** Lodge cannot give a \$10 prize for perfect attendance. 1962.
- 62.02** Lodge cannot contribute toward a community hospital. 1958, but 1978 revision changes.
- 62.02** Lodge cannot give charity to a German Mason without dispensation. 1949.
- 62.03** See Annotation to two previous sections including that made in 1942 when it was decided the Worshipful Master cannot participate in a local organization to help handicapped children. Masonry must remain independent.
- 62.03** A lodge cannot endorse the building program of a public school system. 1948.
- 62.03** A lodge cannot participate in a “Skywatch” of civic nature. 1954.
- 62.03** A lodge cannot join a Community Council. 1950.
- 63.01** See Annotations under 62.01.
- 63.01** Remitting dues is not a “charity” and should not come from charity funds. 1962.
- 63.02** It is the duty of the Secretary of each lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction to report to the Wisconsin Board of Masonic Service and Assistance the names, condition and needs of any destitute orphan children of Masonic parentage within the jurisdiction of his lodge. 1906.
- 63.04** It is the duty of the Wisconsin Board of Masonic Service and Assistance by personal effort and by correspondence

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- with the officers of lodges, to endeavor to find homes for any destitute orphan children of Masonic parentage in this Grand Jurisdiction in respectable families willing to adopt, care for and educate them, and to make all legal and needful regulations regarding such adoption. At the request of the Wisconsin Board of Masonic Service and Assistance, the Grand Master and Grand Secretary shall draw orders on the Grand Treasurer to be paid out of the Charity Fund for the necessary expenses in carrying out the foregoing provisions. 1906.
- 63.06** Masonic Foundation for Charity cannot use the word "Masonic" but it could use the word "Acacia." 1957.
- 64.01** A lodge meeting cannot be held in a natural amphitheatre protected from observation on all sides and some little distance from the highway since a lodge is not complete without a lodge room ante or Tiler's room and a preparation room. 1926. (This is no longer the law. It was changed by edict in 1964 and 1966.)
- 64.01** The ante or Tiler's room is not part of the lodge room. 1896.
- 64.01** A lodge is permitted to construct its lodge room on the ground floor of its new temple or use the ground floor of a building for lodge purposes, provided adequate protection is made against eavesdroppers and outside interference. 1913; 1921.
- 64.01** If access may be had to the dining room and kitchen of a lodge without making use of any of the lodge rooms, the lodge has a right to lease them to other than a Masonic body without a dispensation. 1898.
- 64.01** A lodge has no right to permit a chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star to use its lodge rooms without a dispensation. 1898.
- 64.01** A dispensation having been obtained permitting a chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star to occupy the rooms of a lodge, another one is not needed to enable it to use the rooms of such lodge in new quarters into which it has moved. 1927.
- 64.01** A lodge cannot permit a chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star to place anything on the walls or floor of the lodge room which is of a permanent nature. 1928.
- 64.01** A lodge may permit a chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star to place its electric star emblem in the lodge room during its meeting, but never to place it over the letter "G". 1909.
- 64.01** A lodge cannot permit a chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star to fasten its star carpet to the floor of the lodge room in such a way that the Masonic altar will rest permanently thereon. 1904.
- 64.01** Ownership by several bodies, lodge must obtain dispensation to meet there. 1949.
- 64.01** Grand Lodge School of Instruction has priority over other meetings in a Temple. 1967.
- 64.01** Can hold an outdoor communication. 1966.
- 64.01** Eastern Star emblem may remain in lodge room if not permanently affixed and is not placed over the letter "G". 1954.
- 64.01** Lodge may meet in open field within a town, village or city where the lodge is located. Dispensation is required. 1964.
- 64.01** A Masonic Union runs a Temple. The lodge must vote on bills for upkeep "unless each of the organizations occupying the Temple pay its proportionate share of the expense in accordance with its use of the Temple." 1960.
- 64.01** Other bodies can retain ownership but permit drapes owned by them to be used by the lodge, the same rule applies to furniture. 1954.
- 64.01** Grand Master must approve use of the lodge room even if Temple is owned by a separate corporation. 1960.
- 64.01** A lodge may designate a person to vote stock in Masonic Temple organization. 1946. -
- 64.01** Lodge meeting place not regulated as to ground level. 1960.
- 64.02** Centennial Ladies may meet but not in Temple without dispensation. 1952.
- 64.02** Lodge may rent dining room to church for Sunday meetings without dispensation.
- 64.02** There is nothing to prevent the use of a dining room of a Temple for blood bank purposes. Whether or not it should be so used is a question of policy to be decided by the local lodge or its duly authorized committee. 1954.
- 64.02** Part of temple may be leased for school purposes if access not through lodge room.
- 64.02** Temple should not be used for political gatherings for pay. 1960.
- 64.02** All lodges in a Temple must ask for a dispensation for a women's organization. 1955.
- 64.02** Lodge may accept chairs bearing a name plate from Masons or wives of Masons. 1960.
- 64.02** Temple may not be used for controversial political meeting. 1960.
- 64.02** A Shrine club can use the dining room without a dispensation. 1948.
- 64.03** NOTE: There were many edicts prior to the amendment of this section in 1966 which limited the use of Temples drastically. They were not repeated here as it is clear that the use of Temples has been liberalized by the 1966 change in the law.
- 64.03** A lodge may permit its lodge rooms to be used by its members either alone or with their families or by other bodies lawfully occupying said premises under dispensation for social gatherings or entertainment, the character of which is not in conflict with Masonic law or the teachings of Masonry. 1887; 1899.
- 64.05** Section 64.05 was revised in 1966 and previous Annotations do not seem to be helpful. All subsequent edicts are listed, although the later ones liberalize and probably repeal the earlier ones. A Sunday Open House is approved.

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- 1959.
- 64.05** An installation cannot be held on Sunday. 1960.
- 64.05** A Sunday party for Job's Daughters in the Temple is approved. 1966.
- 64.06** See Annotation for Section 22.04 (second), 1980. Action by Grand Lodge.
- 64.07** The Worshipful Master can prohibit smoking in lodge room at all times. 1960.
- 64.08** A lodge cannot lease land for sale or dispensing of intoxicating liquor. 1959.
- 64.08** A lodge may rent the first floor of its building but not for dealing in liquor. 1960.
- 64.08** A lodge cannot rent out part of its building for a cocktail bar. 1964.
- 65.01** See Annotations under 61.01.
- 65.01** A lodge cannot dispense with regular communications. 1948.
- 65.01** The Grand Master cannot give a dispensation to change a stated meeting. 1955.
- 65.01** The Master may declare no meeting to be held on Good Friday. 1955.
- 65.03** If a lodge is opened at the regular hour and closed, a stated communication is unquestionably had, and if the lodge is again opened that same day, the communication then held would be a special. 1880.
- 65.04** See Annotations as to 62.03 as to certain things which cannot be done even at a stated communication.
- 65.04** Books in the library need not be regulated, but union matters should not be discussed in lodge. 1952.
- 65.06** At a special communication the lodge may open on the Master Mason degree if occasion requires or it may open and close on the Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft degree, without first opening on the Master Mason degree, when convened for the purpose of working in such degree or other purpose. 1858.
- 65.06** When the stated communication of a lodge is opened on the Master Mason degree and is closed, the communication is at an end, and if the lodge is then opened on the Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft degree such communication is a special one called by the Master. 1913; 1915; 1916.
- 65.15** Master or Warden must be present for valid business to be done. 1954.
- 65.16** Junior Deacon acted as Master. This was not legal unless a Warden or Master was present and approved. 1958.
- 66.01** Note: Since 1957 the lodge has been the judge of physical qualifications as outlined above, but certain earlier edicts may be helpful.
- 66.01** A dwarf 4'6" is not disqualified. 1951.
- 66.01** A member of a lodge in Bolivia with which our Grand Lodge was not in fraternal relation could petition a Wisconsin lodge as a profane. 1960.
- 66.01** If after receiving the E.A. Degree a man becomes so crippled that he cannot do the work, he cannot advance. 1949.
- 66.02** A person having removed from another Grand Jurisdiction to this one need not be twenty-one years of age during the two years required for residence in this state before presenting his petition. Hence, if he comes to Wisconsin when nineteen years of age, he may petition a lodge for the degrees immediately upon reaching his majority. 1887. (Present law requires six months' residency and applicant must be at least 19 years of age).
- 66.02** An applicant for the degrees who is seventy-four years of age, is eligible for the degrees if he is mentally sound. 1894.
- 66.02** A lodge cannot receive a petition for the degrees of one who resides without the state though he resides nearer to such lodge than to any other. 1899.
- 66.02** A minor cannot petition. 1955.
- 66.02** A man 100 years old can petition. 1952.
- 66.02** A man 84 years old can petition a lodge. 1949.
- 66.03** A lodge cannot receive a petition for the degrees of one who has removed from its jurisdiction. Residence is lost the day he moves away from the avowed intention of becoming a resident elsewhere. 1897; 1902.
- 66.03** The question of residence is one largely of intention. If a petitioner leaves home with the intention of returning and does not gain a residence elsewhere, he does not lose his residence even though he is absent for years. 1879; 1880; 1894; 1906; 1919.
- 66.03** The residence of one who enlists in the U.S. Army and serves outside the state does not terminate by such enlistment and service. 1920.
- 66.03** The Grand Master may give a dispensation waiving length of residence. 1961.
- 66.03** Residence is largely a matter of intention and is not lost necessarily because of military service and a later long absence. 1964.
- 66.03** A college student may be a resident where going to school. 1948.
- 66.03** Even though an applicant who lived in Illinois obtained a waiver from Illinois, he cannot petition here. 1950.
- 66.03** A member rejected in North Carolina when actually a Wisconsin resident is eligible. 1945.
- 66.03** An E.A. of another state which has lost jurisdiction because of its law of five years must re-petition as a profane. 1961.
- 66.03** Residence not changed by military service or by nomadic airplane work in other states. 1960.

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- 66.03** A Wisconsin lodge has no jurisdiction over a man who was a soldier for 4-1/2 years and used his wife's Wisconsin address, but on discharge moved to another state. 1946.
- 66.03** A man on business for six years in Washington, D.C., may still maintain residence in Wisconsin. 1948.
- 66.03** The residence requirement may be met even though the petitioner was in military service. 1948.
- 66.03** A jurisdiction of lodges in Washington, D.C., is different from Wisconsin. A petitioner there temporarily can join in Washington, but it is recommended that a candidate petition in Wisconsin, ask the Washington lodge to confer courtesy work, then could demit and join a Washington lodge. 1947.
- 66.03** A military man must still be a resident one year to petition. 1959.
- 66.03** If petitioner establishes a home elsewhere, petition cannot be received. 1956.
- 66.03** If intention is to move to another state, and the man does so, the lodge loses jurisdiction. 1954.
- 66.03** Residence is largely a matter of intent but physical presence is also important. 1961.
- 66.05** A year must pass before rejected material can be voted on. Lodge cannot change this. 1949.
- 66.05** Even if no fee accompanies petition, if ballot is dark, lodge has jurisdiction and ballot stands. 1956.
- 66.06** A Christian flag should not be displayed at meetings of the lodge. 1950.
- 66.09** Clandestine Mason. The petition of a member of a clandestine lodge may be received by a lodge, but the applicant should not be elected to receive the degrees unless it is first ascertained that he joined such clandestine lodge in the honest belief that it was a regular lodge of Masons and that he is now sincere in his desire to become a regular Mason.
- 67.01** A Masonic club with rooms and liquor is not permitted. 1944.
- 67.01** In 1976, Code Revision Committee expressed the view that this section, read with Chapter 64, prohibits liquor anywhere in the temple or its grounds, notwithstanding this section, which seems less restrictive, than Sec. 64.06 and 64.08, especially as the Grand Lodge in 1970 defeated a resolution to permit the use of fermented malt beverages in the Temple.
- 68.02** An Entered Apprentice, not being a member of a lodge, is not qualified to recommend a petitioner. 1924.
- 68.03** If a petition becomes lost after it is received, the lodge may proceed upon a duplicate thereof. 1875; 1927.
- 68.03** A petition is merely the visible evidence that a request for the degrees is made and his request must stand until it is granted or denied by action of the lodge. Hence if a petition has been reported on adversely by a committee and the Master, thinking that such report amounted to a rejection, returned the fee, and two years later a second petition from the same applicant is received and referred, the first one having become lost, the original petition is the only one the lodge can recognize and ballot on, since it has never been disposed of and its loss does not alter or nullify the request of the applicant for the degrees which is evidenced by such petition. 1928.
- 68.03** Removed by Decision of the Grand Master, Adopted at the 174th Annual Communication June 2018
- 68.05** Removed by Decision of the Grand Master, Adopted at the 174th Annual Communication June 2018
- 68.06** After a petition has been received and referred, it is too late for the Master to recall it from the committee, even though facts may have come to his knowledge, which, if known at the time the petition was presented, would have induced him not to receive it. 1922.
- 68.06** Removed by Decision of the Grand Master, Adopted at the 174th Annual Communication June 2018
- 68.07** After a petition has been received and referred to a committee, it must be balloted upon whether the report on it is favorable or unfavorable. It cannot be withdrawn unless it is discovered that there is a want of jurisdiction. 1894; 1895; 1928.
- 68.07** A petition having been received and referred; an objection will not stay the proceedings. The petition must go to ballot. The objector has recourse to the black ball and also the right of objecting during the six days which must intervene between election and initiation. 1893; 1908; 1921.
- 68.07** Petitioner, after paying \$25.00, asks for its return before ballot. It should be returned. 1962.
- 68.09** Added by Decision of the Grand Master, Adopted at the 174th Annual Communication June 2018
- 69.02** A lodge cannot amend its By-laws to permit those who have served in the U.S. Army or Navy to pay a fee of only fifty dollars for the degrees while all other applicants are required to pay a fee of seventy-five dollars. 1920.
- 69.02** A lodge cannot make a Mason and then donate to him the fees he has paid for the degrees.
- 69.02** The degrees cannot be conferred upon a clergyman except upon the payment of the regular fees, and a donation to him of the amount of such fees after he has received the degrees is practically a refunding of the same and a violation of the law. 1894.
- 69.06** A candidate presented himself for a degree but claimed to be ill and then died. Fees should be refunded. 1952.
- 69.06** Candidate refuses to remove wedding ring. Fees should be returned to avoid interference of profit motive. 1955.
- 70.01** A lodge is not permitted to employ a paid investigator on applicants for the degrees or membership; one investigator whether paid or not does not constitute an investigating committee. 1927.
- 70.01** Should the investigating committee learn that the applicant is an atheist, it is its duty to report the fact to the Master who, upon satisfying himself that such is the case, shall order the petition returned for want of jurisdiction. 1906.
- 70.01** The investigating committee must be of own lodge. 1949.

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- 70.01** All members of investigating committee must interview candidate. 1951; 1955; 1956.
- 70.01** Investigating committee which does not personally interview the candidate makes any further proceedings void. 1944.
- 70.01** Investigating committee may get a credit rating from a Chamber of Commerce or established credit rating bureau. 1950.
- 70.01** If investigating committee cannot personally interview petitioner it should so report and no more. 1944.
- 70.01** See Annotation for Section 22.04 (second) 1978, 1979 and 1980 actions of Grand Lodge.
- 70.04** A member of an investigating committee, who has removed from the jurisdiction of the lodge without signing the report, may sign the same should he return temporarily. 1926.
- 71.03** It is not required that petitions be balloted on in the order in which they are received. 1893.
- 71.03** Master need not read the petition if Secretary did. 1950.
- 71.05** A ballot box is irregular if it has a movable center and contains, in addition to white balls, two black cubes and a number of plain wooden cubes of natural color. 1926. See Annotation for Section 22.04 (second) 1978, 1979 and 1980 actions of Grand Lodge.
- 71.07** A member cannot vote by proxy. 1901.
- 71.07** A member may retire from the lodge room during a ballot and should he return before the same is closed, he may be permitted to vote. 1895.
- 71.07** A ballot which is reported “not clear” cannot be reconsidered if challenged on the ground that all the brethren had not voted. 1936.
- 71.07** A member not voting does not void a ballot after W.M. declares result is final. 1960.
- 71.07** Not all members must vote. 1952.
- 71.07** Each member should ballot, but if one does not, it does not invalidate the vote. 1954.
- 71.07** If member unintentionally fails to vote, the ballot is legal. 1958.
- 71.07** Not all members must necessarily vote on a petition. 1950.
- 71.07** A ballot upon a petition for the degrees is legal though the Tiler stationed at his post is not given an opportunity to vote; he should however not be denied that right. 1901.
- 71.07** A ballot had on a petition of a different form than that prescribed by the Grand Lodge is legal since the form of petition has no influence on the result. 1910.
- 71.07** If a demitted Mason, present at a meeting of the lodge of which he was formerly a member, by an oversight should cast his ballot on a petition for the degrees which is not challenged at the time, and the Master declares the result of the ballot, the Secretary records the same and the lodge is closed, the ballot must stand. 1925.
- 71.09** If ballot is passed in the lounge room to Tiler and dark, and at the next meeting an announcement of “irregularity” is made, and the ballot is passed again and clear, the second ballot is not valid, as it must be immediate. 1956.
- 71.10** The Grand Master cannot grant a dispensation to rebalot.
- 71.10** If ballot is dark although unintentionally declared clear, the vote is void, and another ballot should be taken. 1966.
- 71.10** If error made in name, re-ballot may be had. 1955.
- 71.10** When on a ballot for the degrees a single black ball was cast and the Master then installed his successor, but during an intermission he became satisfied that the black cube was cast by mistake and his successor declined to act in the matter, the ballot cannot be reconsidered. While it is sometimes customary, when there is but one black cube, for the Master before he declares the result, to order a new ballot thinking there may have been a mistake, in this case the Master declared the candidate rejected and that ended the matter. 1898.
- 71.10** When a single black cube appeared in a ballot on a petition for the degrees and the Master declared the applicant rejected but an instant later announced that if there was no objection he would spread the ballot again, which he did, and the same was clear, the declaration of the result of the first ballot was manifestly an error or inadvertent declaration, and no objection being made by any member present and no one having left the lodge room, the Master was justified in passing the ballot a second time, and the result of the second ballot should stand. 1893.
- 71.10** A Master announced to the lodge that it is to vote on the petition of William Jones when in reality the name of the applicant was Walter Jones and so appeared on the petition. The ballot proved to be dark. The Master, having discovered his mistake, may order a ballot on the petition of Walter Jones, at a subsequent communication, provided that there is another person living within the jurisdiction of the lodge with a name so similar to that of Walter Jones that it may be fairly presumed the lodge was misled by the mistake in names. 1903.
- 71.10** After white balls and black cubes in balloting, for ten years or more, it was discovered after the close of a communication at which a candidate for the degrees was rejected, that unknown to the officers or members someone had substituted black balls for black cubes, many members stating they were unable to tell if they had cast a white or a black cube. The presiding officer at the next stated communication was right in declaring the substitution a fraud on the lodge and in ordering another ballot, for though fraud may not have been intended, yet the result was the same as if there had been a deliberate intent to practice deception. 1898.
- 71.10** If it is afterwards discovered that a ballot on a petition for the degrees is illegal and void for any reason whatever,

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- another ballot may be had at the same or a subsequent communication, provided such new ballot will cure the illegality of the former one. 1891; 1897; 1900; 1915.
- 71.10** A ballot on a petition for the degrees had at a special communication of a lodge is null and void and the Master should order such petition to be balloted on at a subsequent stated communication. In such case a new petition is not required. 1891.
- 71.10** If a lodge is opened by a Past Master, the Master and both Wardens being absent, and a candidate is balloted on and elected, the ballot is void and another must be had. 1897.
- 71.10** Cannot have re-ballot after rejection and debate. Must be immediate without discussion. 1968.
- 72.01** Although the Master is informed, by a member who cast the only black cube against a petitioner for the degrees, that his objection has been removed, still the lodge cannot receive another petition from the applicant at once, for in no case can a lodge receive the petition of one who has been rejected within one year after such rejection, unless by dispensation of the Grand Master. 1892.
- 72.01** Senior Warden destroyed ballot after Master declared result not clear. The result is final. 1959.
- 72.01** Grand Lodge cannot order a re-ballot where a lodge rejects. One year must elapse. 1947.
- 72.02** See Sec. 65.06 (h).
- 72.02** A lodge retains jurisdiction of its rejected material for five years and may surrender jurisdiction to another state by proper ballot. 1956.
- 73.02** If the full twenty days have not elapsed, the degree cannot be conferred. To illustrate: a candidate initiated at a special communication on June 29th cannot be advanced at a regular communication held the following July 18th. 1909.
- 73.03** Objection good even if after six day waiting time for degree. 1953.
- 73.07** While the proper place for the charter of a lodge is in the lodge room, its literal presence is not indispensable to a valid communication. If a lodge for temporary purposes should meet in another hall not taking its charter with it through an oversight, any work it might do in the absence of the charter would be legal.
- 73.08** Courtesy work for person in armed services can be given in English lodges for F. C. and M. M. degrees, soldiers should not petition an English lodge. 1943.
- 73.09** The Master Mason degree cannot be conferred upon three candidates by giving the first section to each separately, the second section to one in the presence of the others, and the remainder together. 1895.
- 73.09** F. C. cannot be conferred on more than one at a time so far as obligation is concerned. May receive lectures together. 1947.
- 73.10** At a special communication called in the afternoon, a lodge may confer part of the Master Mason degree, call off for refreshment and complete the degree in the evening, but if in the evening a stated communication is to be held, the work commenced at the special in the afternoon must be completed before the time fixed for the stated communication. 1906.
- 73.10** When the work of conferring a degree is interrupted by a sudden illness of the candidate or other unavoidable cause, it is the prerogative of the Master in the exercise of which he is accountable only to the Grand Lodge, to determine when such an emergency exists and to complete the work at a subsequent communication. 1930.
- 73.10** When a candidate had arrived at the east gate in the second section of the Master Mason degree, refused to proceed further and on his demand was taken from the lodge room, and a few months later asked to proceed, it is the prerogative of the Master to finish the work he has commenced even against the objection of a member of the lodge. 1889; 1931.
- 73.10** A dispensation is needed to have members of a chapter of R.A.M. confer the work. 1949.
- 73.11** Degree team can only work by permission, but officers of lodge can fill in. 1945.
- 73.11** Degree team cannot use robes in second section M. M. 1948.
- 73.11** Officers of R.A.M. chapter and members could confer degree if not a degree team. 1966.
- 74.01** A candidate who has the lectures thoroughly committed to memory but is afraid to stand the ordeal of an examination in open lodge cannot be examined in the anteroom in the presence of the Master. 1917.
- 74.01** An examination in the E. A. degree not only must be satisfactory to the Master but must conform to Sec. 74.03. 1955.
- 74.01** The examination in the Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason degrees will be on the posting keys written by Grand Lecturer Craig S. Campbell and approved by Grand Master Bruce S. Sim as of November 1, 1997, by virtue of a decision of Grand Master Sim dated October 15, 1997, and adopted by the Grand Lodge at the 1998 Annual Communication.

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- 74.02** The requirement that a Master Mason pass a suitable examination before he can petition another Masonic body was eliminated by a decision of the Grand Master and approved by the Grand Lodge in session in 1989.
- 74.02** A member without posting lecture in M. M. is entitled to dues card. 1949.
- 74.02** If a lodge makes a gift of an apron, it may withhold the same until candidate has been examined. 1952.
- 74.02** The examination in the Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason degrees will be on the posting keys written by Grand Lecturer Craig S. Campbell and approved by Grand Master Bruce S. Sim as of November 1, 1997, by virtue of a decision of Grand Master Sim dated October 15, 1997, and adopted by the Grand Lodge at the 1998 Annual Communication.
- 74.03** The posting criteria was changed to require that all future candidates for the degrees of WI Freemasonry be required to memorize the obligation of each degree to the satisfaction of the Master of the Lodge. By Decision of Grand Master John W. Wilke and approved at the Annual Communication in June 2009.
- 74.03** If a candidate can explain the meaning of the obligation in the manner alid out in the 2016 Wisconsin Program for Candidate Posting, such explanation given in open lodge as part of the examination shall be considered a suitable substitute for giving the entire obligation from memory. By Edict of Grand Master Donald W. Hensiak June 4, 2016.
- 74.03** Because the Grand Lodge Planning Committee has redesigned the Wisconsin Program to align candidate posting closely to the lessons taught in the Masonic degrees, and has developed an interactive study guide, and has carefully explained the importance and meanings of the Masonic Obligations, it is my order on this 4th day of June, 2016 that all lodges shall adopt the redesigned 2016 version of the Wisconsin Program for Candidate Posting, no later than September 1, 2016. By Edict of Grand Master Donald W. Hensiak.
- 74.04** Proficiency cannot be waived. 1952.
- 75.01** An objection to initiation, if not withdrawn within six months, operates the same as a black cube, and the candidate becomes rejected material of the lodge over whom it will lose jurisdiction at the expiration of five years from the time he moves from and resides out of its territorial jurisdiction. 1891; 1903; 1904.
- 75.01** The right of objection is as much a personal matter as a ballot and must be exercised in a person's own behalf. 1880.
- 75.01** Objection can only be made to an eligible man. If he is in default, he must be voted on before objection can be made. 1952.
- 75.01** Conditional objection becomes absolute if not withdrawn within six months even though the objector is tried and suspended indefinitely. 1948.
- 75.01** Any number of conditional objections are permitted. 1954.
- 75.03** A favorable ballot on the application of a rejected petitioner being void because it was had before the expiration of one year after his rejection, an objection then made to his initiation is likewise void, and unless renewed, is ineffective to prevent his initiation should he be elected by a legal ballot taken after the year shall have elapsed. 1908.
- 75.03** If objection to advancement is made to the Master in the interim between two communications, he shall report the same to the lodge at the next stated communication and order a ballot taken at the following stated communication. 1932.
- 75.03** When the candidate has been elected for advancement after objection, the Master shall omit the phrase before conferring the degree, "If there be no objection," since no further objection can be entertained. 1936.
- 75.03** When the ballot after objection is favorable and the candidate neglects for one year after such ballot to present himself for advancement but on his application is thereafter elected, since he has permitted himself to become in default he has forfeited the benefit of the first ballot and objection may again be made to his advancement. 1895.
- 75.03** After objection, after a ballot is ordered and passed by a three-fourths vote, no other brother can make objection on the same degree. 1939.
- 75.03** If there is an objection to advancement, there must be a ballot which must be three-fourths clear. 1947.
- 75.06** A ballot upon the advancement of a candidate after objection in which the members voted "yes" and "no" on slips of paper, which were counted by tellers who announced the result, is illegal for the reason that such a ballot is not secret. 1930.
- 75.09** An objection addressed to the lodge, mailed to the Secretary and by him handed to the Master, shall be regarded. 1911.
- 75.09** An objection made to the Secretary of a lodge to be by him communicated to the Master is legal though not in writing. 1938.
- 75.09** In case of the absence of the Master, an objection should be left with the Acting Master or made directly to the presiding officer. 1882.
- 75.09** An objection need not be in writing and is not required to be made at a communication of the lodge. 1938.

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- 75.09** An objection to initiation or advancement made over the telephone should not be disregarded by the Master on that account alone. The use of the telephone for such purpose is highly improper unless knowledge comes to the objector at such a late date as to make this means of communication imperative. If, however, objection is made in this manner, the Master should satisfy himself as to the identity of the objector, and if he finds that the objection comes from one who is entitled to object he should heed the same. 1932.
- 75.10** An objection to the advancement of a candidate who, after receiving the first section of a degree, refused to proceed further and on his demand was taken from the lodge room and who some time thereafter asked to proceed, is ineffective for the reason that the candidate has already advanced to the degree by assuming the obligation thereof and such objection comes too late. 1889.
- 75.10** An objector being in good standing at the time he makes an objection, his subsequent suspension or expulsion does not invalidate the objection. 1885.
- 76.01** An applicant for initiation or advancement to avoid being in default must present himself and receive the degree on or before the day prior to the anniversary of his election, initiation or passing, as the case may be. 1902.
- 76.01** A Fellowcraft having been suspended and restored after several years is in default. 1895.
- 76.01** Time in service is not part of year for default. 1945.
- 76.02** A candidate in default may make application to receive the work verbally or in writing. 1922.
- 76.02** If candidate presents himself within year for advancement, he is not in default. 1953.
- 76.02** Candidate not in default if one year passes through no fault of his own. 1948.
- 76.03** Petitioner was elected and five years passed. Then petitioned for initiation and was rejected now petitions again. Can do so year after year, no fee, no committee. 1950.
- 76.05** If one year elapses before E. A. advances, must be ballot. 1947.
- 76.05** Neither the lodge or the Grand Master can extend time to attain proficiency. 1949.
- 76.05** After lodge acquires jurisdiction even after numerous rejections for advancement if a three-fourths ballot is attained, candidate is entitled to advancement. 1962.
- 76.05** An E. A. can petition for advancement after year and must be balloted on. Three-fourths required. 1964.
- 76.06** A ballot taken by a lodge concerning an extension of time for advancement is null and void. 1950.
- 78.02** A member of a Wisconsin lodge who is also a member of O.E.S. cannot attend O.E.S. meeting in a state which prohibits a Master Mason from attending O.E.S. meetings. 1958.
- 78.04** A Grand Master can permit a lodge to do non-jurisdictional work. 1949.
- 79.01** An Illinois lodge cannot obtain waiver of jurisdiction from a Wisconsin lodge where no petition has been filed. 1954.
- 79.01** Jurisdiction acquired only when profane petitions for degrees. 1949.
- 79.01** Surrender of jurisdiction can only be given after petition is received. 1949.
- 79.01** Under the Code an E. A. of another state may obtain a demit and proceed in Wisconsin. 1955.
- 79.01** A Wisconsin lodge which has not received a petition cannot waive jurisdiction to Missouri. 1956.
- 79.01** If a petition is received and candidate moves, the lodge still has jurisdiction. 1951.
- 79.01** Lodge cannot waive jurisdiction to another state unless petition filed. 1956.
- 79.01** If petitioner claims residence and then after rejection of petition claims he did not intend to be a resident the lodge has jurisdiction and the petitioner is rejected material. 1944.
- 79.01** Lodge cannot waive jurisdiction to Illinois before petition. 1950.
- 79.02** A lodge does not acquire jurisdiction over a petitioner for the degrees as rejected material if the ballot rejecting him is void. 1905.
- 79.02** An applicant for the degrees rejected by a lodge under dispensation, remains the material of such lodge after it has been granted a charter. 1923.

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- 79.02** A lodge may surrender jurisdiction of a candidate whom it has elected to receive the degrees, to a lodge in another Grand Jurisdiction in whose territory he now lives temporarily but indefinitely, although retaining his legal residence in the territory of the lodge granting surrender. 1919.
- 79.02** Once balloted on, lodge has jurisdiction even if erroneous. 1949.
- 79.02** If lodge ballots, even though jurisdiction not had, petitioner becomes the material of the lodge which should then surrender jurisdiction. 1952.
- 79.02** E. A. received degree, then 21 years later petitioned another lodge and received three degrees. Waiver of jurisdiction by first lodge required.
- 79.02** A petition was approved but man went into service, then got work in Puerto Rico. Ruled that they invaded our jurisdiction, but the work was legal. Puerto Rico should properly reimburse Wisconsin lodge for fees. 1945.
- 79.03** After five years jurisdiction is lost after rejection. No waiver by former lodge is required. 1964.
- 79.04** After lodge acquires jurisdiction even after numerous rejections for advancement if a three-fourths ballot is obtained, candidate is entitled to advancement. 1962.
- 79.04** Once E. A. degree is given, the lodge has exclusive jurisdiction and if candidate desires to proceed with work in another state should obtain surrender of jurisdiction. 1946.
- 79.05** A lodge may surrender to Florida a petitioner who was rejected within five years. 1956.
- 80.01** A lodge cannot remit a portion of the dues of those of its members who reside outside the county in which it is located, for this would create a favored and preferred class within its membership. 1927.
- 80.01** A member who pays dues, which are several years in arrears, for which receipts are given, is not by such receipts absolved from the payment of dues for a year ante-dating the period for which the dues are paid. 1909.
- 80.01** Remission of dues must be by lodge not delegated to officers. 1952.
- 80.01** A lodge could accept a bequest to pay dues of a Mason's son. 1961.
- 80.01** Petitioner was in war and a prisoner but waited over six months to advise after the war. The lodge raised fees. He must pay the higher fee. 1951.
- 80.01** Cannot have two classes of members. 1945.
- 80.01** Lodge cannot have prepaid dues at a discount. 1945.
- 80.01** Cannot have dues for resident and non-resident different. 1947.
- 80.01** Life members must all be treated alike. 1952. (Note: No life memberships can now be granted.)
- 80.02** A receipt in full of dues paid in advance to a given date does not absolve the holder of such receipts from liability for additional dues occasioned by a change of the By-laws. 1897.
- 80.08** See 56.07 "A Master shall not levy an assessment against the members of his lodge."
- 80.08** A lodge cannot levy or collect an assessment upon its members to purchase real estate, to build a Temple, to furnish a lodge room, or to pay debts incurred in any of such undertakings. Funds for these purposes must be collected as dues which may be increased to meet expenditures of this kind. 1902.
- 80.08** A voluntary pledge to a building fund or toward the liquidation of the fixed charges of a Masonic Temple is not an assessment. 1935.
- 80.08** No assessment for carpeting. 1956.
- 80.08** A special assessment to pay for a building is not allowed. Dues must be raised. 1955.
- 80.08** A member part of a year is liable for assessment of members when bills for dues and assessments are sent out. 1945.
- 81.07** A Mason lacking a paid-up dues card or holding demit may have Masonic privileges until suspended. 1955.
- 81.08** Procedure changed by Grand Master Siewert's recommendation and adoption at the 169th Annual Communication.
- 81.09** Procedure changed by Grand Master Siewert's recommendation and adoption at the 169th Annual Communication. Form 81 added, requiring Grand Master approval for any suspension.
- 81.10** Remitting dues is not a charity and should not come from charity funds. 1962.
- 81.14** To be reinstated after suspension for nonpayment of dues, member can be required to pay all arrearages including current dues. 1959.

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Note: Chapter 83 was repealed and rewritten in 1972. The old annotations are largely omitted but some are included for what information they may impart — with section numbers omitted.

A lodge may receive a petition for affiliation accompanied by a demit issued by any lodge in Wisconsin, although the petitioner resides without the state. 1916.

As evidence of non-affiliation a lodge may accept a demit, accompanying a petition for affiliation, which is issued by a military lodge operating under the charter of a Grand Lodge with which this Grand Lodge has fraternal relations, or if it has ceased to exist, the lodge may accept in lieu of such demit a certificate in the nature of a demit from such parent Grand Lodge. If neither such demit nor certificate can be obtained, the applicant must petition as a profane. 1920.

An E. A. from Ohio three years in default and having had no examination may petition a Wisconsin lodge for affiliation. 1960.

E. A. from Texas may proceed with examination and degrees without petitioning for degrees in Wisconsin lodge. 1956.

A ballot should be had upon a petition for affiliation accompanied by a demit or certificate of affiliation and reported upon by the investigating committee, although the demit or certificate has become lost. 1903.

If other state will not grant a demit until member joins another lodge, lodge may obtain a certificate of good standing and accept petition for affiliation. 1958.

An applicant for affiliation may withdraw his petition and demit although charges are then pending against him, but the lodge may nevertheless proceed to a trial of the charges. 1865.

An election of a non-affiliate is void if at a single communication his petition and demit are received but not referred to a committee, no examination of the applicant is had, and a motion is made and carried to accept his petition and thereupon the Master declares him elected. 1909.

A Mason who is regularly elected to membership in a lodge on his petition for affiliation becomes by such election a member thereof although he does not sign its By-laws. It is proper and desirable that he sign them and he should be given an opportunity to do so, but signing the By-laws does not make him a member; it simply furnishes evidence of his membership. 1894.

84.05 If the question of admission arises between a visiting Mason and a member, the Master should regard the wishes of the member in preference to those of the visitor. 1903.

84.05 If a member of a lodge objects to sitting with a visiting Mason and the latter is asked to leave, he cannot as a right demand the name of the objector or the grounds of his objection. 1900.

84.05 The Master cannot require a member to give his reasons for objecting to the presence of a visiting Mason. 1903.

86.01 A candidate to whose initiation objection has been made but which was not made known to the newly elected Master who initiated and passed him, is a Fellowcraft in good standing and entitled to all the rights and benefits of a Fellowcraft. 1894.

86.02 If posting an examination is not satisfactory, the newly elected Master may before advancement require further examination. 1947.

86.06 An excluded Mason can have an emblem on grave. 1949.

87.02 Widow of Wisconsin Mason marries a Mason of another jurisdiction. She relinquishes her claim for assistance in Wisconsin Grand Jurisdiction. 1944.

88.05 See Section 73.11.

88.05 Lodges cannot have joint degree work and dramatization of second section. 1947.

88.05 No robes. 1948, 1966.

88.05 Grand Master cannot approve changes in work. Drama and prologues. 1947.

88.05 Cannot use costumes. 1949.

89.01 Christian Science Monitor article could be distributed to the Craft. 1956.

89.01 Catholic Priest wrote book attacking Freemasons. Each member of the fraternity is entitled to express his opinion about the matter, but the fraternity should take no action. 1960.

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- 89.01** Publications on Masonic subjects prohibited unless permitted by Grand Lodge or Grand Master. 1953.
- 89.01** Job's Daughters cannot advertise "Baby sitters for Masonic families." 1947.
- 89.01** Solicitation of non-Masons by one claiming to be affiliated with the Masonic Order not permitted. 1960.
- 89.03** A directory may be published giving names of Masons, Chapter Members, etc. but is frowned upon. 1949.
- 89.04** Acacia Foundation may not solicit Masons as there are business implications. 1960.
- 89.04** Secretaries cannot supply list of lodges and area administrators to Shrine. 1966.
- 89.04** No list of members to appendant bodies. 1955. (This probably is superseded by the 1956 edict.)
- 89.04** Secretary can send list of members suspended by lodge for nonpayment of dues to appendant bodies. 1956.
- 89.04** Secretaries cannot furnish list of members for business or political purposes. 1953.
- 89.04** Solicitation for pictures of a commercial nature even if sent out by Secretary of lodge not approved. 1959.
- Note: In 1974 the Grand Lodge approved the Grand Master's Edict which provides: "It is therefore the Edict of the Grand Master that in matters of statewide policy, in the event that any individual action or communication is requested of a constituent Lodge, the constituent Lodge shall promptly notify the Grand Master. Further, in such event, no individual action or communication should be taken by the constituent Lodge, without the consent of the Grand Master.
- 90.01** Masonic clubs not permitted even if for giving Masonic talks. 1962. (But permitted after 1971 — Resolution 5, 1971.)
- 90.01** No Masonic club overseas can confer degrees. 1945.
- 90.01** Masonic club with rooms and liquor not permitted. 1944.
- 90.01** Masonic clubs cannot act for lodge and cannot take a candidate to another lodge and confer degrees. 1952.
- 90.01** Social clubs not permitted but gathering of Masons inviting profanes to attend is proper. 1961.
- 90.02** It is illegal for a lodge to prepare and present an act in a public vaudeville show the proceeds of which are to go to the Red Cross. 1918.
- 90.02** Talks on the Communist threat may be made in lodges.
- 90.02** Drunkometer demonstration not proper in a temple even if demonstrated on a profane. 1958.
- 91.01** Colored aprons or name of club not approved. 1952.
- 91.01** Aprons with blue edging for visitors not prohibited. 1950.
- 91.01** Masons may wear Masonic clothing where service is held for member killed in foreign land.
- 91.01** No Fez, no reversed DeMolay Robe. 1968.
- 91.06** Excluded Mason can have emblem on grave. 1949.
- 91.06** A member of the Craft cannot sell Masonic ornaments. 1961.
- 91.06** A lodge cannot have its name on a highway sign. 1964 but see 1968 Annotation below which changes this.
- 91.06** A Masonic charitable foundation could use the word "Acacia." 1957.
- 91.06** Masonic emblem on industrial bowling team of Masons disapproved. 1948.
- 91.06** Congregational Church may use Masonic dishes if no advertising intended. 1959.
- 91.06** An emblem on a lodge cemetery lot is approved. 1954.
- 91.06** An emblem of a Fellowcraft or Entered Apprentice or combination can be placed on monument of a deceased Fellowcraft by his widow. 1967.
- 91.06** Sign at edge of community permitted Re. L. 1968.

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- 91.06** Private insignia not permitted. 1968.
- 91.06** In 1972, the Committee on Masonic Education determined that any place on the exterior of the car is a suitable place to display the official emblem (to be obtained only from the Grand Lodge office) providing it does not interfere with the vision of the occupants of the car.
- 92.01** See Annotation for 91.01.
- 92.01** Lodge room need no longer be dark during a Masonic funeral held elsewhere. 1967.
- 92.01** Reasonable expenses for funeral conducted by courtesy by out of state lodge should be paid.
- 92.01** Lodge had California bury a member. Each sent flowers. The Wisconsin lodge should have paid for those furnished by California lodge but to resolve the problem the Wisconsin Board of Masonic Welfare paid the California lodge. 1960.
- 92.01** There should be no payment for courtesy funeral services.
- 92.01** At funeral White aprons not R.A.M. apron is to be used but R.A.M. may appear in aprons as an escort. 1957.
- 92.06** See Annotation to 91.06.
- 92.06** Apron can be worn by deceased brother without a Masonic funeral. This is true even if family declares it will not have a Masonic funeral.
- 94.00** New applications to the Perpetual Fund will be immediately suspended pending further financial review and recommendation. Grand Master Donald W. Hensiak January 1, 2017.
- 94.00** New applications to the Perpetual Fund will be immediately suspended pending further financial review and recommendation. Grand Master L. Arby Humphrey June 3, 2017.
- 94.06** Perpetual Membership Plan Restored; 1. Factor changed to 31 across the board, and 2. Elimination of annual allocation of funds to Grand Lodge under the Plan if an accumulated deficit will exist.
- 101.** Examples of actions which were at one time included in the Masonic Code's definition of unmasonic conduct are: To issue or publish in any manner, form or character whatever, or cause the same to be done, any book, work, pamphlet, document or instrument whatever upon the subject of Masonry, without first having obtained permission in writing of the Grand Lodge, or the Grand Master, under the seal of the Grand Lodge and countersigned by the Grand Secretary.
- To make any false statement in a petition.
 - To have committed any heinous offense before he was made a Mason.
 - To arrest the legitimate work of the lodge, as by blackballing, etc., from captious, sinister or unworthy motives.
 - To pretend to withdraw from the Craft.
 - To fail to discharge his duties as a Mason.
 - To use intoxicating liquors intemperately.
 - To be a professional gambler, or keep a gambling house.
 - To use or allow the use of a lodge room for gambling purposes.
 - To use profanity habitually.
 - To improperly solicit a non-Mason to become a Mason.
 - To inform a non-Mason, directly or indirectly, of the business transactions of a lodge, or what is spoken therein, except as required by Federal and State law.
 - To disclose, directly or indirectly, to any person not a Master Mason that any person has been rejected for the degrees or membership or objected to for any of the degrees.
 - To use Masonic emblems on personal sign boards, business cards, circulars, or in any way as an advertisement.
 - To disclose the color of any ballot cast by him, except as provided in Sec. 71.13, or as may be required by Federal or State law.
 - To inquire of another the color of any ballot cast by him, except as required by Section 71.13.
 - To make any threat or declaration which, if put into action, would unlawfully retard the work of a lodge or disturb its harmony.
 - To communicate to a person not a Master Mason objections, or any remarks made within the lodge or elsewhere, relative to the standing, qualifications or character of a petitioner, except as required by Federal or State law.
 - To recognize as a Mason one who has been suspended or expelled, or to converse with him upon the subject of Masonry, or of lodge business while he is under such sentence.
 - To use a cipher or key of the work except as authorized by the Regulations for Lodges.
 - To solicit votes to promote his election to any office in his lodge or in the Grand Lodge.
 - To try in any manner to influence the vote of another either for or against any person for a Masonic office, but he may state whether or not, in his judgment, a particular person is well qualified by good character and

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- Masonic knowledge to discharge the duties of a specified office.
- To send out cards and circulars in his candidacy for a civil office, calling attention to the fact that he is a Mason.
- To try to induce any person to join or become interested in any insurance company or mutual benefit association called Masonic by making representations that the Grand Lodge has in any manner authorized it or is responsible for its creation or is legally or morally responsible for any agreement, contract or other act thereof.
- To declare to non-Masons that he has withdrawn from his lodge and renounced Masonry, while at the same time maintaining his lodge membership and stating to members of his lodge that he intends to remain a member.
- To play cards for money in a lodge room.
- To disclose to a non-Mason the results of a ballot on a petition, except as required by Federal or State law.
- To discuss lodge business with a non-Mason, except as required by Federal and State law.

Such enumeration is not meant to exclude other acts which may have constituted unmasonic conduct.

- 101.01** Petitioner rejected three times in Wisconsin and then applied to Michigan and was raised. Wisconsin has jurisdiction to try him but deferred to Michigan. 1947.
- 101.06** Grand Master may suspend Junior Warden of lodge. 1956.
- 101.17** Fellowcraft with police record not discovered may not be tried unless a false answer to the investigating committee. 1952.
- 101.17** If member who cast a black cube must disclose it to establish an error in announced ballot, he is not guilty of unmasonic conduct. 1966.
- 107.07** Grand Master cannot reduce Trial Code sentence nor can trial commission grant new trial. 1950.
- 107.09** See Annotation to 107.07.
- 108.02** A Mason found guilty of unmasonic conduct and suspended filed a petition with a lodge. Ruled that he could only apply for restoration to the Grand Lodge. 1946.
- 108.05** Lodge cannot collect dues for time Mason was suspended when he is restored. 1950.
- 108.07** There is no time limit for petition or re-petition for restoration. 1943.

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Part 9

EFFECTIVE DATE OF CODE

This Code shall become effective as the Masonic Law of Wisconsin at the close of the 124th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin, 1968, or thirty days after distribution of the printed Code, if later.

(With respect to revisions since 1968, see Preface to this Code, page 1. Changes in the Code may be made by the Grand Lodge. Unless the effective date of such change is specifically designated by Grand Lodge, such change has traditionally been held to be effective at the conclusion of the Annual Communication at which the change is made. See the 1980 Report of the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence.)

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The Numbering System

The Index refers you to section numbers. They relate to the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge and Regulations for Lodges. The chapter number (or article number for the Constitution) is to the left of the decimal point, and the section number to the right. 6.01 means Article 6 of the Constitution, Section No. 1. With the decimal system it is possible to insert new sections in their proper place. If it is necessary to put a new section between 6.01 and 6.02, the new section can be numbered 6.011. This is because in the decimal system 6.01 is the same as 6.010, and 6.02 the same as 6.020. Thus 6.011 comes in between 6.01 and 6.02. This system is basically that used by the Wisconsin Statutes. Certain of these section numbers in the Wisconsin Statutes in the appendix are sections of the Wisconsin Statutes.

INTRODUCTION

We have tried by cross references and key words to enable those not experts in Masonic Law to find what they are looking for with promptness, ease and accuracy.

Abbreviations

(For the sake of space saving, several abbreviations are used throughout the index.)

(All Grand Lodge and Lodge Officers abbreviations are abbreviated as follows:)

Officers — Grand Lodge

G.M.	—	Most Worshipful Grand Master
D.G.M.	—	Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master
S.G.W.	—	Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden
J.G.W.	—	Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden
G. Treas.	—	Right Worshipful Grand Treasurer
G.S.	—	Right Worshipful Grand Secretary
G.C.	—	Worshipful Grand Chaplain
G. Lect.	—	Worshipful Grand Lecturer
S.G.D.	—	Worshipful Senior Grand Deacon
J.G.D.	—	Worshipful Junior Grand Deacon
S.G. St.	—	Worshipful Senior Grand Steward
J.G.St.	—	Worshipful Junior Grand Steward
G. Mar.	—	Worshipful Grand Marshal
G.O.	—	Worshipful Grand Orator
G.Ti.	—	Worshipful Grand Tiler
D.D.	—	Worshipful District Deputy

Officers — Lodges

M.	—	Master or Worshipful Master
S.W.	—	Senior Warden
J.W.	—	Junior Warden
Treas.	—	Treasurer
S.	—	Secretary
S.D.	—	Senior Deacon
J.D.	—	Junior Deacon
S.St.	—	Senior Steward
J.St.	—	Junior Steward
Ti.	—	Tiler

(W.M. is not used — See M.)

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Other Abbreviations

A. — Annotation
Com. — Communication
D. — Deacon
Disp. — Dispensation
G. — Grand
G.L. — Grand Lodge
G.T. — Grand Trustee
G.Ts. — Grand Trustees
Invest. — Investigation
Juris. — Jurisdiction
L. — Lodge
L.U.D. — Lodge Under Dispensation
M.M. — Master Mason
N.P.D. — Nonpayment of Dues
O.E.S. — Order of Eastern Star
Pet. — Petition
Sp. — Special
St. — Stated
T. — Trustee
Ts. — Trustees
W. — Warden
Ws. — Wardens

Explanation of Index

You will find the Annotations (Part 8) indexed in the General Index with the reference to the section of the Regulations for Lodges followed by an “A.”

A Table of Definitions and Table of Votes (Parts 2 and 3), a Time Table and a Cross Reference Table (Part 10), all in the Appendix, may be helpful.

Several resolutions which have the force of law are indexed and included in the Appendix (Part 4).

The Ancient Charges and Landmarks (Parts 5 and 6) are not part of Wisconsin Masonic Law although included in the Appendix, and are indexed only to a limited extent herein, not indexed in detail as to content, just where referred to in the Code. Thus Landmark Eighteenth (Mackey) as to qualifications of candidates for initiation is not indexed as such — otherwise the index would be just too bulky.

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GEORGE WASHINGTON MASONIC

NATIONAL MEMORIALASSOC.

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Note: In 1972 the G.L. approved a separate corporation to operate the Masonic Home. The administrator of the Home at Dousman or G.S.'s office has the information needed as to applications, guests, operation and qualifications for prospective guests. It is still the largest charity of Masons in Wis. and supported by the membership but for tax reasons is not a part of the G.L. itself. Accordingly only a few references to it are set forth in this index. There are various sources of income for the Wis. Masonic Home such as direct gifts, per capita tax, gifts to G.L. for the Home or guests, income from endowment funds, etc., but not spelled out in the Code. They can only be found in the reports of the Board of Directors, or Reports of the Expenditures Committee. This is also true of some expenditures for guests, such as funeral payments.
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Revision Notes

At the first “Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin, begun and holden at the city of Madison, on Monday the 18th day of December, A. D. 1843, A. L. 5843,” a constitution and a code of bylaws was adopted for the government of the Craft.

A constitution in pamphlet form appeared in the year 1869 under the title “Constitution of the M. W. Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Wisconsin.” This revision was adopted June 9, A. D. 1869, A. L. 5869.

Between 1869 and 1897 amendments to and revisions of the Constitution were made, and in several instances the Constitution was ordered incorporated in and printed with the Proceedings.

A complete revision was adopted at the annual communication of Grand Lodge held in June 1897, A. L. 5897, under the title of “Constitution Law and Edicts of the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Wisconsin.” The Landmarks, or the Unwritten Law, by Albert G. Mackey were ordered published with this revised edition for the information of the Brethren.

A codification of the Constitution was directed by the Grand Lodge in 1906. The Committee continued through 1907 and 1908. A revision was adopted with which there was published a Trial Code, Approved Decisions of Grand Masters, Forms For Use of Lodges and The Foundations of Masonic Law.

By resolution adopted June 9, 1920, a committee was appointed and directed to compile and incorporate with the 1908 edition all amendments and additions thereto and republish the same.

A Committee on Revision was appointed in 1937. The Committee presented its report at the 1939 annual communication, which report, with some alterations and amendments, was adopted on June 12, 1940, A. L. 5940. It was named “Masonic Code of Wisconsin.” The 1940 Code superseded the 1908 edition as compiled, amended and republished in the year 1920.

In the fall of the year 1950, with a ten year accumulation of amendments and Grand Masters’ Decisions, a Committee on Code Revision was appointed. The Committee set itself to the task of revising the Code with certain controlling ideas in view. Two courses of action were presented.

First: To republish the 1940 revised edition by adding thereto only the enactments of Grand Lodge since the adoption of the 1940 Code, including both the changes and additions. Second: To make a revision, seeking to improve, if possible, the form as well as the substance of our Masonic Law, eliminating such matters as seem to be contradictory and classify as to relative importance the several parts of the Code.

The Committee chose the latter course. It sought with utmost care to publish a Code of laws worthy of the fraternity.

This Revised Edition of the Masonic Code of Wisconsin was adopted by the Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of Wisconsin at the Annual Communication held on the 9th day of June A. D. 1954, A. L. 5954, and superseded the edition known as the 1940 Code.

In 1966, A. L. 5966, a Committee on Revision of the Masonic Code was appointed by Grand Master William J. Kahlenberg to “bring our 1954 Code Revision up to date, to correct the conflictions and errata, to revamp the index to a more useful structure, recommend and introduce such legislation to the Grand Lodge as may be necessary to clarify and eliminate conflictions and, finally, to produce for the Grand Lodge a loose-leaf printed revision.” It was anticipated that this would require two years of effort. Norman H. Smith, P.G.M., Chairman; Orrin H. Larrabee, P.G.M.; Lewis A. Stocking, P.G.M.; Charles E. White, then J.G.D. and Eugene G. Williams labored for a year; then Orrin H. Larrabee, P.G.M., Chairman; William J. Kahlenberg, P.G.M.; Charles E. White, then S.G.D.; James L. Stocking and Eugene G. Williams continued the work and the Grand Lodge on June 14, A. D. 1967, A. L. 5967, adopted a new Masonic Code, repealing the old Code, and authorized printing a loose-leaf Code to contain a new numbering system, the inclusion of certain Statute Law relating to Masonry,

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changing certain parts of the previous Laws to be placed in the Appendix, the preparation of a comprehensive index and bringing the Annotations up to date. Grateful recognition is also given to Past Grand Master Willard S. Griswold who assisted in codifying the then law and the earlier “Annotations.”

The loose-leaf Masonic Code of Wisconsin was completely reprinted in 1972. Annually, new pages were printed as changes were made in Grand Lodge Communications of 1973 through 1980.

The current 8-1/2 x 11 inch loose-leaf format was adopted in 1981. Since then it has been updated annually by replacing or adding pages as necessary. The entire code was reviewed by the Code Revision Committee during fiscal 1995-1996 and a thorough updating, including computerizing, in accordance with the current practices, was accomplished and approved by the annual communication on June 11, 1996.

In 2004 the entire Wisconsin Code was again reviewed by the Code Revision Committee, consisting of Archie E. Simonson, George A. Wallinger, PGM, PGS; James H. Olson, PGM; Bruce S. Sim, PGM, PGS; and Michael A. DeWolf, PGM, GS. Up-dates and corrections were made. The Code was converted to MS-Word and Adobe PDF to allow publication on the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin Web Page. For the first time the Code was published and distributed in a CD-Rom format.

In 2006, 2007 & 2009 the Wisconsin Code was revised to reflect the revisions passed at the respective Annual Communications by Grand Secretary Michael A. DeWolf, PGM.

In February of 2011 revised Code Forms were added.

In 2014 the Wisconsin Masonic Code was revised to reflect the resolutions adopted at the annual communication on June 6, 2014. A Membership Committee was added to the Standing Committees and the Resolutions Committee and the Masonic Code Committee were combined to form a new Standing Committee called Resolutions and Masonic Code Committee. Additionally, the Committee on Lodge Charters and Consolidations and the Committee on Temple Plans and Finance were combine to form a new Standing Committee called Lodge Facilities, Charter and Consolidations Committee. Changes were also adopted in 94.22 & 94.23.

2016 The entire Masonic Code was reformatted and print style changed to increase readability. Updates from the resolutions of 172nd Annual Communication were included. The Table of Contents was revised and Code Forms were removed.